



Najiba is 18 years old. She missed two years of schooling at the refugee camp but is determined to finish high school before she turns 21. Despite two years of school interruption, she has performed well beyond expectations. Her current teachers enjoy having her in class and admire her persistence and drive. At GHS, she has been recognized as student of the month two consecutive times. Najiba is an active learner, prioritizing tasks and deadlines. She likes to participate in household chores, from cooking to cleaning and babysitting. She is also very open-minded and creative. Her favorite subject is biology, and she wants to become a doctor one day. Najiba is sociable. She is not allergic to cats and dogs and likes them. Her favorite pet is a cat. Here is a quote from Najiba:

"I prioritize my commitments, for example, I always do my schoolwork first, then I eat and do other things. I am so focused on working hard at school because I have so much to learn. By learning I can get into a good college and have a good job as a doctor where I can continue working hard to help other people."



Faramarz is 15 years old and is currently in 9th grade at Glenelg High School in Howard County. He is kind, friendly, and an astute student. At Glenelg High School, he has made a lot of friends, and he isn't afraid to walk over to a stranger and strike up a conversation. He is someone who remains positive all the time and refuses to be discouraged by negative events. In his first quarter, he received an award certificate from his teachers who wrote: "Faramarz has come into a new country, new home, and new school with a positive attitude, maturity, and openness to so many changes. He has enjoyed volunteering to feed people in Baltimore on Thanksgiving and assisting with a festival at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Glenwood on November 4th. He is likable, diligent and working so hard at making connections." Faramarz likes to learn new languages. He is currently in the indoor track and field team at GHS. He also likes to play soccer. Here is a quote from Faramarz:

"I am a friendly person. In my first quarter, I befriended almost everyone in my classes, including upper-level students. My friends are from all over the world. I also befriended administrators and teachers and people who are not my age. People in the US have described me as "never having met a stranger" because I am not intimidated when I do not know someone. In fact, when I see a new person, I am excited to meet them and learn their name and find out if they are funny and have a good personality."