

# Student Ambassador Spotlight: Matilda Ventresca of Point Pleasant Beach



Matilda Ventresca is a three-sport athlete at Point Pleasant Beach High School, which gives her a unique perspective on more than just sports.

"It's very rewarding to be a three-sport athlete because it helps you become more self aware and respectful of other's people time, knowing just how valuable yours is," said the junior, who is a part of the cross country, bowling and lacrosse teams.

Matilda's involvement in a variety of activities also made her interested in becoming a NJSIAA Student Ambassador. She submitted an application last year, and was one of 19 student-athletes from throughout the state who were chosen to serve as an ambassador and act as a voice for the state's nearly 283,000 high school athletes, both through meetings and discussions with each other and NJSIAA administration.

"I was first interested in being able to learn more about the regulations, and reasons that they are in place in order to better educate my team," she said.



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Matilda has enjoyed the meetings so far, and is hopeful the current group can have a lasting impact.

"So far, the meetings have been very fulfilling and I have loved listening to the other ambassadors and their experiences," she said "I am hopeful that the group will be able to represent different sports, genders and perspectives in order to create a system that is best for everyone."

And all the while, she'll keep on enjoying her experiences as an active athlete at Point Pleasant Beach.

"For me, lacrosse is my 'main' sport, as I have played it my whole life," Matilda said. "So cross country and bowling are ways for me to relax and have fun."



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## Getting to know Student Ambassador Matilda Ventresca:

***Favorite subjects:*** “I have always enjoyed different forms of writing because it is a way to be distinct, expressive and invoke different emotions in the reader.”

***How do you spend time on the bus on the way to an away game?*** “My team and I love to listen to music and spend quality time together. I am typically braiding someone’s hair, which I love, too!”

***What’s the best quality in a teammate?*** “The best quality in a teammate is genuine compassion for their teammates, and also effort. The best games are played when the whole team is working together and putting forth the same level of effort.”

***If there were 25 hours in a day, what would you do with the extra hour?*** “I would probably spend the extra hour getting a little bit extra sleep.”

***Do you have any pets?*** “Yes! I have three dogs, one cat and a snake. All of them are girls, and I love them very much. My dog Lola is a doberman mix, Hazel is a mini dachshund and Junie is a beagle mix.”

***Do you have a career ambition yet?*** “I am interested in the field of psychology and I also enjoy creative writing.”



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