Anithia Battle has always been curious about how she was raised and how her upbringing compared to the way her brothers were raised. She also wanted to study how siblings were parented differently within a family, particularly the different upbringing styles in African American families. Her project, *The Effects of African American Upbringing on Adolescents*, explores the effects of parenting methods on African American adolescents and determines which methods may be linked to success. Next year, Anithia hopes to attend the University of Maryland to study biology and future health sciences.

Pavan Bhat has been a vegetarian for the entirety of his life. His extended family, as well as many of his closest friends, are also vegetarian. For most of his life, he didn’t question his traditional diet, but as he began diversifying his friend group, he realized that being vegetarian was a significantly unique trait about him. This led to his senior research project, *Going Veggie: The Effects of a Vegetarian Diet*, where he explores whether there is any difference between the two diets, and if there are, where do these effects lie. In the future, Pavan plans to study engineering in college.

Anna Castro has always been concerned about the environment and the treatment of the planet. During one beach trip over the summer, she noticed the overwhelming amount of trash laying on the beach and the boardwalk. For her final Ulysses project, *Plastic Pollution*, Anna decided to further research the impact plastic has on our oceans. She hopes to educate more people about the benefits of reusing, reducing, and recycling plastic materials. In the future, Anna hopes to attend a four-year university where she will pursue either global health or biology.
Jarod Cheng has always been a child of the arts, exploring many different types throughout his student career in Montgomery County Public Schools. Starting out in instrumental music, Jarod added other disciplines such as dance when he joined Paso Fuerte, Northwest’s competitive Latin Dance Team. Through his project, *Music and Arts Falling Flat: Fine Arts Education in Danger*, Jarod investigates underfunding and a lack of support for arts education from the local to the state level. In the future, Jarod hopes to attend the University of Iowa to improve his craft before his debut as an author in the world of young adult (YA) fiction.

Helena Colborn grew up in a Mexican household and like any other family, their dinner discussions revolved around whatever went on in the world. But the topics of drug cartels stood out and for years, she was fascinated with the underground world crime and corruption. Her project, *Drogas o Muerte: A Study on Narco Violence in Mexico*, focuses on the ways drug cartels affect Mexican society. She hopes to spread awareness about the stigma around Mexican crime in America’s current political climate. In the future, she plans on studying communication and media.

Justin Crook was first introduced to the topic of space in 7th grade, and his interest has grown ever since, reading outside of class on the topic and watching movies like *Apollo 13* and *Interstellar*. When watching *Apollo 13*, he became interested in the incredible problem solving that NASA engineers used when saving the men aboard the Apollo 13 spacecraft. He then wondered: if humans can do that, then where can they travel in the future? The most plausible answer is Mars, so he decided to research the exploration of Mars in his project, *To Mars and Beyond*. He hopes to educate his classmates about a topic that is rarely touched on in school, and study engineering in college.
Cynthia Eapen has always had a deep interest in helping people. She spent a great amount of time in her youth with her grand aunt who eventually passed away due to Alzheimer's. While asking her dad why she had passed away at a young age, he had responded with, “she didn’t use any methods to cope.” This intrigued her to research more about coping methods for neurological disease, as well as ways to deal with mental illness. Her project, *The Effectiveness of Coping Methods on Mental Illness*, analyzes coping strategies for mental illness and focuses on methods that can benefit those with neurological diseases. Cynthia plans on studying political science in college.

Abo Ewimbi grew up with an inquisitive nature, constantly discussing theories, myths, and mysterious tales with a close friend. This nature led him to the world of conspiracy theories. His interests developed into his project, *Conspiracy Theories: A Thread*, as he wondered what drove people, himself included, to come up with such theories and stories. He hopes to go to the University of Southern California and one day pursue politics.

Samhita Ghorakavi has been fascinated with psychology and behavioral health since middle school. She was surprised by the many ways that the brain and the surrounding environment can cause behavioral changes in a person. For her project, *The Harsh Truth About Psychotropic Drugs*, Samhita focuses on how psychiatric medication can influence a person to be a risk to themselves. Through her research, she hopes to shed light on an important topic in mental health. In the future, Samhita plans to continue studying psychology and biology with the hope of being able to pursue a career in this field.
Arielle Golder loves keeping up with ever-changing fashion trends. When she was a younger, one of her nicknames was “fashion baby,” and as she grew older she realized that she loved to shop. After watching several shows and movies about fashion, for example, *Project Runway*, she discovered her strong interest in clothing and different styles. Her project, *It’s Not What It Seams: A Study of How Clothing Affects First Impressions*, Arielle examines how different styles of clothing portray different characteristics and influence perceptions. She hopes to pursue a future in business, while also being involved in the fashion industry.

Lilli Heineman has always had an interest in psychology and the ins and outs of secret service. While watching a *History Channel* documentary called, *In Search Of*, she stumbled upon the complex topic of psychological manipulation and how it has been used for decades. Curious, she began to delve deep into the subject, completing her senior Ulysses research project, *How Modern Science is Changing the Way You Think*. She hopes to spread awareness about the methods of psychological manipulation and how they are being used today. Next year, Lilli will go to Mount Saint Mary’s University and will pursue a career in cyber security.

Katherine Hshieh grew up watching a variety of movies and television shows from classic teen movies to dramatic thrillers. She always noticed the lack of diversity in her favorite shows and movies, especially among people who looked like she did. This curiosity led to her final research project, *Missing From the Big Screen: A Study of Asian American Representation in Hollywood*, exploring the misrepresentation of Asian Americans in the Hollywood industry. Next year, Katherine plans on attending a four year university with a major in Biology.

Hillary Lam became interested in cosmetic chemicals after a blemish emerged on her cheek. This experience drove her interest towards purchasing makeup that would benefit her skin while covering imperfections. Before splurging on more expensive cosmetics, she reviewed products online for chemical ingredients in order to prevent horrific reactions. Hillary’s project, *Chemicals in Cosmetics: A Study of Physical and Internal Effects on the Human Body*, combines her interests in science and cosmetics. Hillary plans to major in biochemistry and pursue her career in dermatology and cosmetic formulation.
Katie Li grew up noticing drastic differences of grit, the enduring determination to pursue long term goals among her classmates at her diverse high school. Her observation led her to continue to explore the concept of grit for her senior project, *The Luxury of Grit*. In her project, Katie hopes to determine associations between grit, socio-economic class, and gender, and bring awareness to possible factors that may determine an individual’s grit level. Next year, Katie will attend a nearby four year university and study public or global health.

Logan Loewenstein didn’t always love spending time outside. At the age of seven, a family hiking trip to Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming made him never want to go into an air-conditioned room again. As he got older, he came to realize that spending time in nature made him feel happier, healthier, and more motivated. His project, *Take a Hike: A Study of the Benefits of Immersion in Nature*, looks to pinpoint exactly what spending time in nature can do for the mind, body and spirit. In the future, Logan hopes to continue to take advantage of the benefits of nature while pursuing a degree in international affairs and global development.

Morgan Lowrey has loved dogs her whole life, and has always been fascinated by the relationships that exist between a dog and a human. She has had five dogs of her own and was intrigued by the impact that they had on her family. When one of her puppies passed away unexpectedly last year, she decided to study therapy dogs. Morgan’s project, *Healing is Pawsible With Pups: A Study of the Effects of Therapy Dogs on Hospitalized Children*, explores the relationship between dogs and children and the positive effects that dogs have on health. Morgan plans to major in kinesiology to become a physical therapist.
Janna Maddox has been interested in the adoption process since middle school. As an adoptee herself, she has primary experience with adoption stereotypes and adoption culture. This raised her curiosity about adoption, life as an adoptee, and life as someone who is part of an adoptive family. In order to truly understand adoption, she decided to research it for her project, *The Stereotypes and Stigmas Behind International Adoption*. She hopes to understand how people truly feel about international adoption and to have adoption be seen as an accepted concept in society rather than a misfortune. After high school, Janna plans to major in business management in college.

Nihar Majmudar was intrigued when he saw some of the world’s biggest companies start working on creating autonomous vehicles. However, he had also seen numerous articles and videos on deadly crashes and mistakes caused by semi-autonomous vehicles. In his final project, *Driving the World Forward: A Study of Autonomous Vehicles*, Nihar explores the technologies used in autonomous vehicles, the challenges autonomous vehicles face today, and the potential benefits autonomous vehicle possess. Nihar plans on continuing his interest in this technology by studying computer science and business in college.

William Maxwell has had an interest in aircraft since an extremely young age. When he was six, his favorite toy was a model American jet that he would pretend to fly around his house. As William grew in years, his fascination and understanding of aircraft began to grow as well, and his favorite shows on TV were *History Channel* broadcasts like *Dogfights* or *Battle 360*. His interest in aircraft has culminated in his project, *How Stealth Technology is Changing Warfare*. William plans to attend the University of Maryland and possibly join R.O.T.C., or the United States Air Force Academy, and pursue a career in the United States Air Force.
Damon Modarres has had a cell phone for several years and, like most high schoolers, relies on it a lot. One day, he just looked at his cell phone and asked himself why this “brick-like” thing had so much control of his life. That’s when an idea popped in his head that he could develop an entire project about cell phones and just how much of an effect they have on society. His project, *How Have Cell Phones Impacted Society?* explores the everlasting effects that cell phones have had in the lives of their users, stemming from a revolution in communication, to promoting antisocial behavior. Damon hopes to major in business and minor in music in college.

Ami Patel was inspired by the world in which she grew up. Coming of age in the 21st century meant exposure to technology from early childhood. This encouraged her to dig down to the roots of technology. She discovered that almost everything in this world exists because of STEM, and that inspired her project, *The Global Impacts of STEM*. Ami focuses her research on the impact of STEM on society, education, and professional life. Her project also includes some unique build components. She plans to use her passion for STEM to impact the world by studying engineering in the future.

Jamie Shegogue has been surrounded by music all of her life. She has played the cello in her school orchestras since 4th grade, and anyone who knows her knows that she never stops singing. She has always loved music class and began to wonder if there are benefits other than musical ones, so her Ulysses project, *Orchestrating Their Future*, studies music education’s mental, social, and academic benefits for students. Jamie plans on studying psychology with a minor in music in an attempt to reduce the stigma about mental illness in the US and improve the mental health system.

Whitney Snyder has been participating in sports since she was two years old. She has competed in soccer, swimming, gymnastics, diving, and pole vaulting. She had many state titles for USA Gymnastics, but was forced to stop due to injuries. Now she is a year-round pole vaulter and is working toward competing for pole vaulting in college. Her project, *Mind Over Matter: A Study of Sports Psychology*, analyzes the important steps that high-level athletes have taken to reach success. Whitney plans to continue her athletic career in college while majoring in Biomedical Engineering.
Ankur Talwar has been intrigued by the Autism Spectrum Disorder since his freshman year of high school. When he got the opportunity to volunteer with children who are on the Spectrum, his interest was sparked, as he wondered about the effects of this disorder on families. Ankur’s project, *The Effects of Autism on Families*, explores the vast impacts on families raising children on the Spectrum. Next year, Ankur looks forward to attending the University of Maryland and majoring in finance.

Ishan Vashi has loved cars from a very young age. He loved their design and structure, but his interest piqued when he saw Elon Musk’s plan for an affordable electric car. He started researching more about these cars with insane acceleration times and no engine in the front. He saw that Tesla made some of most futuristic cars available, yet the number of electric cars on the road was still minimal. This led to his project, *Cars of the Future: A Study of the Consumerism of Electric Cars*. In the future, Ishan would like to pursue a career in computer science.

Madison Yoest has always loved the water, especially the ocean. As a child, she would daydream about what could possibly be hiding in the deep (wishing it would be mermaids). During a *Planet Earth* documentary, she saw bioluminescence for the first time, becoming confused but completely infatuated with the glowing creatures. With a passion for wildlife and the ocean, it was clear to her that she should do her project on *The Bioluminescence of Deep Sea Marine Life* to research more about the phenomenon and educate others on the ocean’s glowing gems. In the future, Madison plans to study English and continue to educate and advocate for the ocean’s protection.