



LA JOLLA
COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL
Inspiring Greatness for a Better World

Cum Laude Society 2019

Class of 2020 Inductees

Danielle Amir-Lobel

Danielle is multifaceted and multitalented. She impresses her teachers with her writing in two languages—Spanish and English—and has won awards for her writing. She is a member of the Spanish Honor Society, an editor and writer for *The Palette* and on the staff of *Pegasus*. She earned first place in the Sigma math contest and the California Mathematics League competition, performs in the Honors Orchestra and for *Basic Pitches* and is a member of the Tri-M Music Honor Society. She is a member of the Israeli Scouts and attended a leadership camp in Israel. Danielle is also quite comfortable in the pool, where she helped set two school records in medley events and last year was named to the All-Eastern League swim team. She is the swim team captain this year, and she also lifeguards at the La Jolla YMCA. When Danielle isn't swimming, performing, writing, studying or traveling with her family, she can be found organizing and leading community service initiatives with the Community Service Board.

Ariana Chadha

Ariana is an artist and competitive dancer who has worked with world-renowned tap dancers such as Savion Glover. In 2017 her tap group earned second place in a national competition, and last year her group won first place. Many have seen her amazing tap-dancing skills on the LJCDS stage at *Torreys Got Talent* or at one of the Community Service Board (CSB) events such as the fundraiser concert for *Banding Together*, a nonprofit that provides music education to people with developmental disabilities. Ariana participates in almost every CSB event and is on the organizing committees for *Coffee For a Cause* and the Senior Prom at the Vi assisted living facility. She is a member of the Spanish Honor Society, a photographer for *The Palette* and plans to intern at a neuroscience research lab this summer. Teachers appreciate Ariana's positivity, enthusiasm and dedication in class.

Julia Day

Julia is already making the world a better place. Here at LJCDS, she started the Red Cross Club, which raises funds for this organization. She started the San Diego chapter of *Running For Shoes*, which raises money for shoes for impoverished children, and she is involved with *Picturesque Change*, which focuses on funding literacy programs for underprivileged youth. Two summers ago, Julia randomly met a child street vendor in her hometown in China and was inspired to start *Support Kids For All*, which raises funds for an orphanage. Last summer, she participated in a research internship at Emory University, and she is a member of the Spanish

Honor Society. She is also an accomplished piano player, reaching a level-10 certificate of merit, and an accomplished dancer as well.

Nicholas Doupsas

Several teachers commented that Nicholas must be the nicest student at the school. This sentiment was echoed by his supervisors at the Fleet Science Center, where he volunteered last summer and worked with young campers. He also started the Future of Science club, participated in the Science Olympiad for two years and is a member of the Future Doctors and Scientists of America club. Nicholas also shares his kindness and energy on the tennis court where he has been a varsity player and supportive teammate for three years. He is a member of the Spanish Honor Society and a three-year member of the Concert Choir, where he serves as a leader for the younger members. Perhaps most notable this year, and emblematic of this inductee: Nicholas brought back recess and nap time as he reimagined the Upper School schedule as interim Head of School for a day.

Jacob Kagnoff

Jacob is a three-year varsity tennis player, who loves the strategy of the game and how the lineup can dictate it. His coach describes him as a selfless teammate and a competitor who rises to challenges. His participation is also evident in the Model United Nations arena, where he is an avid participant who has traveled to Berkeley and Panama, among other locations and has received awards for his research. Jacob has also been a member of the Academic League team for three years and is in the Spanish Honor Society. He has already taken all the levels of Spanish offered at LJCDS, and last year he put his Spanish to use on the Dominican Republic experiential education trip. His teachers describe him as naturally inquisitive and insightful, and generous with his knowledge.

Revyn Kim

"I hope one day she is my doctor!" This is not the usual praise a teacher gives a student, but it is fitting for Revyn. She has her eyes clearly fixed on a medical career. She is a leader of the Future Doctors and Scientists of America club and volunteers for Fresh Start, an organization that provides free surgeries for disadvantaged youth. Last summer she participated in the Rady Children's Summer Medical Program and is continuing with the Advanced Medical Academy. This inductee is also a member of the Lab Tech Flex Time that helps set up and break down chemistry labs. She is an accomplished ballet dancer, a member of the K-Pop Dance club and was in the chorus of the *Les Misérables* production. She is a math and science tutor and also volunteers at a library. In addition to her incredible work ethic and intellect, her work is often used to check over an answer key. Revyn's teachers all comment on her humility and willingness to help others.

Nikita Nair

Nikita is everywhere on campus. You might see her performing as a Madrigal singer, dancing to celebrate the Lunar New Year, competing for track and field, parrying with her fencer's épée, helping students as a peer tutor, making an announcement for the Astronomy Club, or

organizing something for Student Council. She even had a brief cross country career. Nikita has also been very involved with Mock Trial and Model United Nations for three years and has earned numerous accolades, such as Best Witness and Best Delegate. She is a member of the Mandarin and Tri-M Music Honor Societies and performed in *Les Misérables*. She somehow also finds time to play the piano and guitar and to volunteer at a hospital. Those who know her and work with her extoll her friendliness, grace and intellect.

Elizabeth Thorell

Elizabeth is a three-year varsity cheerleader who leads the younger girls with her dedicated and often loud example. She has also served as a student ambassador for three years and participated in Model United Nations for two. Elizabeth is a staunch individual thinker prepared to defend her opinions with eloquence and reason. She is a lover of Paris and all things French and is a member of the Société Honoraire de Français. In the last two years, she took courses in Cognitive Psychology and Madness & Insanity (a social history) during the summer. Last year, she started the Lab Tech Flex Time to help set up and break down chemistry labs, one of the many ways she involves herself with the material she enjoys. She is also SCUBA certified, plays the piano and works part-time at a music studio.

Cassidy Wechter

Cassidy commits herself to all that she does, sometimes to the point of breaking bones. She has been a competitive tennis player for almost a decade and is a three-year varsity player. LJCDS varsity tennis has been an Open-Division team (top-eight in San Diego) all three of those years. She applies her love for tennis to other interests in her life, such as Spanish, travel and community service. Cassidy attended a tennis camp and lived with a host family in Costa Rica; she is the co-organizer of the Tanzanian Open fundraiser here at LJCDS; and she teaches tennis at the Jewish Community Center. She is an active member of the Community Service Board and regularly volunteers at an assisted living facility with her therapy dog. Cassidy participated in an architecture internship last year, is a member of the Spanish Honor Society and leads the Spanish club. Finally, her sense of justice and strong moral compass have helped her guide the Ethics Council for the last three years.

Juliet Welk

Juliet is passionate about the things that matter to her and zealous in her pursuit of knowledge and creating change. Interested in history and government, she went on the Inauguration trip in 2017 and worked at Hall of Heroes, a private museum whose focus is military history, last summer. This fall at an agricultural association board meeting, Juliet gave an eloquent speech against the fairgrounds hosting the Del Mar Gun Show. She is also auditing government this year. A lover of languages, she is taking AP Spanish, serves as a teacher's assistant in Spanish II and is in the Spanish Honor Society. She is taking French I and auditing French II with the goal of advancing to French III next year, and, for fun, she's learning Catalan. As a member of the Community Service Board and the varsity volleyball team, she co-organized the Dig for the Cure and helped raise more money during pink month than ever before. Juliet has also contributed her thoughtful, steady voice to the Ethics Council for three years.

Matthew Wirtz

Matthew's musical involvement and accomplishments seem to leave room for little else. He is a Madrigal singer, the co-concertmaster of Honors Orchestra, the leader of Musicians With a Purpose and a member of the San Diego Youth Symphony. Not surprisingly, he's a member of the Tri-M Music Honor Society. This inductee is also extensively involved in Model United Nations and has received numerous awards for his MUN work at institutes and conferences at UC San Diego, Berkeley, UC Los Angeles, Yale, in Panama and others. He has also won awards for his debate skills, and he is a member of the Academic League and the Spanish Honor Society. He devotes more than 150 hours a year to community service and also works part-time at a cheese shop. Somehow, this young man also finds the time to excel in seven AP and honors courses.

Wendy Yang

Wendy plays the cello in the Honors Orchestra, participates in the San Diego Youth Symphony and recently participated in the CAIS Honors Orchestra Festival in Calabasas. She is a member of the Tri-M Music Honor Society and also participates in Musicians With a Purpose and other music-related community services events. Wendy is in the Spanish Honor Society and is a two-sport athlete. She recently won the Most Improved Award for junior varsity volleyball, and she is a varsity player and manager for the softball team. Teachers describe Wendy as an academic powerhouse with a zen-like personality, and this summer she plans to attend a science-related research program at StonyBrook University.

Lauren Ziment

Lauren is the embodiment of the scholar, artist and athlete of character. She is a member of the Spanish and Tri-M Music Honor Societies and participates in Musicians With a Purpose. She is an enthusiastic participant in Model United Nations and has won numerous awards, including Best Delegate in Panama. Lauren volunteers at the Helen Woodward Animal Center and with the Miracle League of San Diego and is considered a go-to student for admissions when they need a student to help tour a family. This year she represented the school at the NAIS Student Diversity Leadership Conference and helped to organize the student walk-out to honor the victims of school gun violence. Lauren is also a three-year varsity softball player and her team's MVP the last two years. One teacher called her a role model for his young daughter, which might be the highest praise any student can currently receive. In the words of her coach, Lauren "genuinely wants to be the best at everything and has the drive to get there, but she takes people with her on the journey."