

La Jolla Country Day School

Cum Laude Society 2022

Class of 2023 Inductees

Siddharth Das

Siddharth is a musician, a community servant and a Mock Trial star. Having played the violin for seven years, he is a member of the honors orchestra, the San Diego Youth Symphony and Musicians With a Purpose, a nonprofit that brings music to retirement homes and elementary schools around San Diego. Siddharth's ear for music has made him a strong linguist and a member of the Spanish Honor Society. He is also a member of the Student Council and served as a class officer last year. Finally, he is a crucial member of the Mock Trial team who earned near-perfect scores from the judges for his portrayal of a witness.

Akaash Doshi

As a member of the Mock Trial team, Akaash is a closing attorney and, according to his coaches, goes for the jugular in cross-examination. This takes preparation, analytical skills, being calm under pressure and a certain ruthlessness. This last descriptor belies, or perhaps balances, the calm, friendly, down-to-earth, reasonable young man described by his teachers, his advisor and even his Mock Trial coaches. Akaash is a member of the track and field team, participating in sprints, jumps and relays. His coach describes him as dependable, positive and always willing to try new events to ensure the team's success.

Catherine Gizzo

Catherine is a talented scholar with many interests who sees herself primarily as a humanities student. She is a member of the Spanish Honor Society and is an artist who enjoys painting and drawing a variety of subjects. Catherine's teachers describe her as enthusiastic and persistent, while her advisor says she is amiable, ebullient and delightful. She is a multi-sport athlete known for her speed on the soccer pitch and the track. She is both fast and quick, able to run a blazing anchor leg of the 100m relay and win any loose ball in her orbit. Both of Catherine's coaches describe her as highly coachable, a good communicator and one who perseveres through setbacks.

Madeleine "Maddy" Goldman

Maddy is an LJCDS lifer who loves to dance and sing. In addition to the many hours she devotes to ballet, she also takes her love of dance into the community, organizing events at a local memory care center. She is a five-year member of the choir program and a Madrigal. She is also a member of the Spanish Honor Society and is an attorney on the Mock Trial team. Maddy's teachers, coaches and advisor all comment on her thoughtfulness, intellect and positivity and how much they treasure her presence.

Xili “Cici” He

Cici is involved in so many clubs and interests; it’s a wonder she finds time to sleep. She is a member of the Community Service Board, the Green Team, Amnesty International and the French Honor Society. Cici plays the flute and is a member of the National Art Honor Society and the Tri-M Music Honor Society, where she is the marketing manager. Despite this, she is a major force in these areas, committed, engaged and forward-thinking. Plus, she has her own YouTube channel, Simply Cici, where she combines her interests in writing and film with her love of travel, fashion, lifestyle and makeup.

Jialin Li

Jialin plays the piano and the flute. She is a member of the Tri-M Music Honor Society and composed the “Fairy Lullaby” for LJCDS’ version of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. She helped revive the peer tutoring and language tutoring programs and serves as a school ambassador. Jialin has participated in the Science Olympiad, Physics Unlimited and the San Diego Diplomacy Council’s Home Hospitality program. She has taught English virtually to children in India. She is involved in the Student Diversity Leadership Conference and Flex Time. These activities carry the theme of caring and service to others, so it’s no surprise that Jialin would like to be a teacher.

Daniela “Dani” Mendoza-Diaz

Dani is a performer, and those who work with her describe her as dedicated and strong-willed. She is an actor, a singer, sometimes a dancer and a Mock Trial specialist. Dani is a Madrigal singer, a member of the National Arts Honor Society, and an LJCDS ambassador and Model UN participant. In Mock Trial, Dani took on the role of expert witness this year after being named Best Bailiff in not just San Diego but in all of California last year.

Oliver Nizet

Oliver has the mind of a scientist and most often applies it to computer programming. In addition to passing rigorous programming certification exams, he has worked as an intern on programming projects at the UC San Diego School of Medicine, processing different types of scientific data. Oliver created and ran a programming summer camp for Middle School students, is a member of the Spanish Honor Society, participates in the Science Olympiad and has his own dog-sitting business. Oliver’s teachers describe him as a deep thinker, highly engaged and eager to discuss things in class.

Julia Reed

Teachers describe Julia as a diligent powerhouse, thorough in her work and one who possesses a razor-sharp intellect. She is an accomplished dancer, a pianist and a battery leader for the drumline who is described as a confident and well-rounded world drummer. Julia is a member of the soccer team, and her coach characterizes her as a strong, solid defender, quiet and tough. She also plays soccer at the club level and will travel to Spain for a tournament this summer. Julia will get to put her language skills to good use on this trip as she

is a member of both the Spanish and French Honor Societies.

Lyle Steger

Lyle is an LJCDS lifer with an interest in the sciences, especially physics. He is involved in the robotics team and is interested in artificial intelligence. Lyle's teachers describe him as reserved but witty, diligent, deliberative and thorough with his work, friendly in an unassuming way, tenacious and honest with his writing, and ferocious in his critiques of injustice.

Eric Yang

Eric is a man of many diverse talents. He is a member of both the Spanish and Chinese Honor Societies, plays the piano and is an LJCDS ambassador. Eric founded the Torrey Startup Flex Time and owns a patent for a nanotech towel. On the Mock Trial team, he is both a team player, quickly learning roles and filling in where needed, and a team leader as a closing attorney this year. As a member of the swimming team, Eric is a CIF finalist in the 200 individual medley and the 100 breaststrokes and is part of three school-record men's relays. One of his teachers describes Eric as unparalleled in his courtesy and gratitude.

Zitao "Albert" Yang

Albert has been described as "Einsteinian" and that "everything he touches turns to gold" by his teachers. Curious and passionate about learning all there is to know about the natural world and its processes, this young man of many interests is truly dedicated to the sciences. Albert volunteers at the Fleet Science Center and in Mr. Lineback's lab. He is the leader of both the Physics Squad and the Future of Science, and he competes in physics competitions. As a member of the ultimate frisbee team, his coach labels him as a solid defender and great teammate. Albert is adept at cardistry, the impressive manipulation and flourishing of cards—not magic tricks—but physics.