

Student Spotlight

BY JAEI VEGA OLIVIERI



Meet: Sarah Jean Bynum

From High-Rise to High School Hero - A Teen's Journey to Social Media Wellness

Sarah Jean Bynum, affectionately known as Jay to her friends, is not your average 16-year-old. This Palos Verdes High School student is an only child with a mission to change the world, one social media post at a time. Her unique upbringing in the bustling urban environment of Brentwood and her subsequent move to the serene shores of Palos Verdes have shaped her into a vibrant and driven young individual.

Growing up on the 22nd floor of a high-rise in Brentwood, Sarah's daily elevator rides were mini-adventures, introducing her to a kaleidoscope of cultures and personalities. This diverse upbringing instilled in her a broad perspective and a keen sense of empathy. Moving to Palos Verdes brought a new kind of beauty and inspiration, with its quiet charm and close-knit community offering fresh opportunities and friendships.

Sarah's brainchild, Social Media Wellness for Teens (SMW), emerged from her personal experiences with the ups and downs of social media. Social media became a lifeline, connecting her with others and helping her feel less alone. This duality inspired her to create a platform that empowers teens to use social media positively and responsibly.

Eager to expand SMW, Sarah joined the Teen Entrepreneur program. She wanted to learn how to branch out, introduce branded products to sustain her nonprofit, and master the art of networking and event planning. The program taught her that starting small is okay

and every tiny step forward counts. Mentors and fellow entrepreneurs provided invaluable guidance, encouraging her to think creatively and independently.

One of Sarah's proudest moments was hosting the first SMW annual awareness event. The impact on attendees and their heartfelt feedback affirmed the importance of her mission. To young dreamers and aspiring entrepreneurs, Sarah's advice is simple: don't hesitate to start something you're passionate about. Be mindful of your social media use, follow accounts that uplift you, and surround yourself with supportive people. And remember, it's okay to ask for help and delegate tasks—teamwork makes the dream work!

Beyond her entrepreneurial pursuits, Sarah is a powerhouse in her community. She founded the PVHS SMW Club, serves on the PVPUSD Student Council, and represents Las Ninas De Las Madrecitas. She's also passionate about business, fashion, and art, exploring these interests through various certificate programs. When she's not working on SMW, you might find her riding horses, snowboarding, or showcasing her art at the Peninsula Library Art Show. Her diverse interests reflect her multifaceted personality and drive to excel in various fields.

Sarah Jean Bynum is a shining example of how one teen's experiences can inspire positive change. Her journey from high-rise adventures to high school leadership is a testament to her resilience, creativity, and unwavering commitment to making the world a better place for her peers.

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