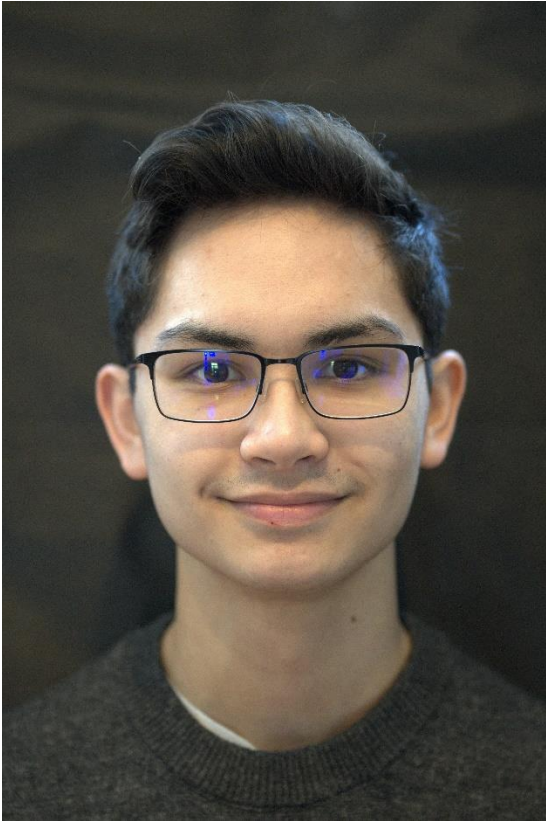




2023 Shirlee Lehnis Youth Literacy Champion Joey Fausto

Joey is a River Ridge High School Senior 2023, Valedictorian, who is passionate about reading literacy "I believe that stories and reading are fundamental to the development of young people, and I want to help directly and indirectly to facilitate that".



In 2021 Joey was one of nine students representing their schools across Southwest Washington in the 2021 Regional Final for Poetry Out Loud (POL). POL is a national program that encourages high school students to learn about poetry - classic and contemporary - through memorization, performance, and competition. And much like a spelling bee, participating students had to earn top scores during their school's Poetry Out Loud Competition to advance to the Regional Final.

Joey is an active Kiwanis Key Club member at his school. He is all about community service and has demonstrated that by volunteering at South Sound Reading Foundation, cleaning books, both as an individual and with River Ridge High School student work parties. Joey has volunteered at community events, helping South Sound Reading Foundation distribute books to children. He believes in the value of community service and has found his service with South Sound Reading Foundation helpful to matching his passion for learning and providing reading literacy to children.

He loves to create stories and tell them. He has done story time events at elementary schools and tries to lead other peers to do the same. He enjoys a little bit of a game development where he has to be creative and think of new ideas or mechanics.

His favorite kids' book is "Me and My Dad!" by Alison Ritchie.

Submitted by Deidre Pleasant, River Ridge High School teacher and Kiwanis Key Club advisor