



Shaping Alaska's Future



Academic Excellence in Choir

Nia Pristas

I have taught Nia for five years as a choral student in Kodiak Middle and High Schools. She is an absolute joy to work with and one of the best and brightest young musicians we have in Kodiak. Nia has enthusiastically participated in every vocal music opportunity possible throughout her middle school and high school years. She has performed in Kodiak school choral groups, in community groups, and has had lead roles in school and community musicals. She has competed in local and state competitions with great success. Nia has taken leadership roles in our high school choir council as well as working beside me this year as a teacher's aide with our middle school choirs. She is eager to take on new challenges and to assist with absolutely anything. She is an astute and conscientious learner, asking questions and always seeking to understand and learn strategies she can use in the future should she become a music teacher. She has developed a wonderful understanding of and rapport with the middle school students, and I can most certainly envision a bright future for her as a potential middle school choral director. Nia has been often involved in community leadership and other volunteer activities. She has organized and given presentations at state seminars in other academic disciplines. She serves with a smile, consistently gives her best, and is an encouragement and inspiration to everyone she encounters. Nia is a young woman of high integrity, she's trustworthy, dependable, organized, and a very diligent worker. She seeks counsel when needed and makes decisions thoughtfully. She is a strong friend to her colleagues and a role model for younger students. I would rank her in the top 5% of our high school students in terms of her character and commitment. Because of her talent, dedication, social skills, and work ethic, I believe she will be a highly successful professional in any area she chooses, whether performing, conducting, teaching, working in the music business, or working in any other field. She will be a priceless asset to the university program which is most fortunate to have her and a blessing to any future students she teaches. It is with highest enthusiasm that I award the Fall 2018 Choral Academic Excellence award to Antonia Pristas.

~ Laura Blackwood

Engaged in
Learning.

Prepared
for Life.

