



## News Release

### **Walter Murray graduate Amy Zhang named Saskatoon Public Schools' 2025 Award of Excellence recipient**

For immediate release: January 20, 2026 – 2:15 p.m.

Saskatoon Public Schools proudly announces Amy Zhang, a 2025 graduate of Walter Murray Collegiate, as the recipient of the SPS Board of Education annual Award of Excellence. The award recognizes the most outstanding graduate from the previous school year based on excellence in academics, character, leadership, and engagement. This is the division's highest honour for a graduating student.

Amy's accomplishments reflect remarkable intellectual curiosity, artistic distinction, and community-minded leadership. Now a freshman at Harvard University studying bioengineering and public policy, she graduated with high honours and a 99.5% average. Her academic record features top provincial math distinctions, national contest success, university-level coursework, and interdisciplinary STEM and AI research.

A nationally recognized pianist, Amy has earned provincial gold medals and national competition placements. She completed her Associate of the Royal Conservatory of Toronto (ARCT) diploma with a mark of 95, earning her First Class Honours with Distinction—something less than 5% of ARCT examinees achieve. She also shares her love for music as a teacher and mentor.

Her leadership extended throughout Walter Murray and the wider community. She contributed to Math Club and Computer Science Club, organized the school's first Math & Music Night, and supported TEDxYouth@WMC—a TEDx event that follows the TED format of “ideas worth spreading,” but is organized and presented by youth, for youth. Amy also acted as a volunteer in the areas of skating instruction, Chinese School tutoring, and community programming.

Walter Murray Principal Dave Fisher describes Amy as “the epitome of an academic... her determination, humility, and commitment to learning lifted every space she entered.”

Vice Principal Jonathan McKee says: “a student like Amy is rare... her integrity, creativity, empathy, and leadership put her in a category of her own.”

Amy was recognized at a luncheon hosted by the Board of Education, held today (Jan. 20), at the division board office.

## About the Award of Excellence

Established in 1990, the Award of Excellence celebrates the talent, dedication, and leadership of Saskatoon Public Schools students. Secondary school administrators nominate their top student based on excellence in academics, character, leadership, and engagement. From this pool of nominees, one student is selected as the Award of Excellence recipient; this student receives a \$5,000 cash award, certificate of achievement, and a commemorative installation in the division office. All other nominees receive a \$500 cheque in recognition of their nomination.

The other nominees for 2025 were as follows:

- Phoebe McNeill: Aden Bowman
- Emma Gatioan: Bedford Road
- Kadie Mansiere: Centennial
- Brynn Delainey: Estey
- Emily Sawatzky: Evan Hardy
- Sofia Kalyar: Marion M. Graham
- Asmaa Ghasoub: Mount Royal
- Olivia Otteson: Nutana
- Shelby Peacock: Tommy Douglas

Congratulations to our recipient and all our outstanding nominees.

Learn more about the Award of Excellence and see a list of past recipients by [clicking here](#).

*PHOTOS: (left) Board Chair Kim Strandén presents award | (right) award recipient, Amy Zhang*



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