
STUDENT OF THE WEEK: EMILY BYRNE, PORTSMOUTH ABBEY SCHOOL

PORTSMOUTH — Emily Byrne has a flair for the dramatic.

The Portsmouth Abbey School senior immerses herself in theater productions. She'll play Flounder in the school's February production of "The Little Mermaid."

In the school's fall production of William Shakespeare's "The Tempest," Byrne played the lead.

"I think it has completely changed who I am as a person," Byrne said of her involvement in the theater. Her confidence and public speaking skills have soared as a result, she said.

"I'm really grateful that the program here is so good," Byrne said.

She's also involved in Enharmonix, the jazz ensemble on campus. "I spend a lot of time in the arts department," she said with a smile.

Born in New York City but raised in a New York suburb, Byrne moved with her family to Portsmouth when she was 12. What she loves most about living in Portsmouth is the ocean, she said.

In school, the 17-year-old's favorite school subject is English. "I just love how universal it is," she said. The

ABOUT EMILY

Favorite food: Grilled cheese with extra butter.

Favorite movie: 'Casablanca.'

Favorite TV show: 'Friends.'

Favorite book: 'A Wrinkle in Time' by Madeleine L'Engle.

"themes and the relevance of literature transcends time."

"Fathers and Sons," also translated as "Fathers and Children," by Ivan Turgenev, a Russian novel originally published in 1862, is Byrne's favorite assigned reading thus far.

"I just thought it was an absolutely breathtaking book," she said.

Byrne read the book in her humanities course, an English class with philosophical and religious undertones.

◆ Laura Damon

The Newport Daily News solicits suggestions for Student of the Week from Newport County principals.



Portsmouth Abbey School senior Emily Byrne is regularly involved in theater and the arts. She performed the lead in Shakespeare's 'The Tempest' last fall.

Laura Damon
Daily News photo