

# Dakota's Pozios wants to help young cancer victims

- [By Don Gardner dgardner@medianewsgroup.com](mailto:dgardner@medianewsgroup.com); [@skeeoos](https://twitter.com/skeeoos) on Twitter



Zoe Pozios

Zoe Pozios is fascinated by how the human body works.

But, more importantly, Pozios is more fascinated by when the human body doesn't work correctly.

Pozios, a Dakota High School senior, is interested in pursuing pediatric oncology, but she's also developing an interest in human genetics. She wants to help kids. And she wants to make a difference so that they can be healed while they're young and develop full productive lives.

Pozio has already been accepted by the University of Michigan. But she's leaning toward her mother's alma mater, Michigan State University.

Zoe Pozios is TheMacomb Daily Student of the Week.

"I have an aunt who is in pediatric oncology. She said kids are the most positive patients ever," Pozios said. "They have the highest survival rate. And I would also be working with kids whose parents who had it in the past and I'm interested in developing care that can help save them early on."

Pozios has had several family members who have died from cancer, mostly notably her paternal grandmother. And while that is a factor in her career pursuit, her love of science, specifically

biochemistry, has also been a factor. She's also been involved in leadership roles throughout high school, something she'd like to continue in her career.

"I really found a love for science when I was in middle school," Pozios said. "I really wanted that to be part of my profession. The medical field also combines a lot of leadership skills. My passion for science is in biology, chemistry, biochemistry. I'm very interested in the chemical processes in the human body."

Pozios sees her biggest improvement as a potential medical school student is her development of empathy, something she said she's struggled with in the past. She's learned to put herself in other people's shoes and listen to different points of view and accept them. She's improved her communication abilities, too, verbal and non-verbal, which she sees as important when dealing with both patients and colleagues.

Pozios is a 4.0 grade point average student, ranking second in her class.

She has been involved in student government all four years of high school. She served as Student Government treasurer in the 11th grade and as vice president her senior year.

She has been a member of Link Crew for two years, the National Honor Society for two years, HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America), and a member of Mu Alpha Theta, a math honor society.

Pozios is a member of MyLead, a spring or summer leadership conference for sophomores across the state. She returned as a counselor. She has won the 2019 Optimist Award and is an AP Scholar with Distinction.

Zoe also has a job, working part time as a hostess/waitress at a coney island type restaurant.

"I'm not sure where Zoe finds the time to balance a rigorous AP schedule with the plethora of clubs she's involved in and, on top of that, have a job. However, she never appears to be over-burdened or stressed, and she still manages to commit her full effort to her involvements," teacher/student activities director Kyle Young said. "Zoe lives leadership as a lifestyle. Not only is she intelligent and hard-working, she has integrity and displays empathy and kindness to others. Zoe is a role model and an inspiration."