

Aspiring Author Advances at Her Own Pace

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

“To me, words are a powerful way of bringing others truth and hope and light,” says Eliana Duran. Ever since she first began writing fiction at a young age, Eliana has loved expressing herself through creative and non-fiction writing, even starting her own blog (elianathewriter.com) and working on a few novels in her free time.

A Visions student since kindergarten, Eliana has had years of experience as a **self-directed learner**, working with her family and credentialed teacher (Judith Flora) to create a **learning system that worked best for her**. As a student, Eliana managed to **work at her own pace** and balance her extracurricular activities, such as writing, serving as Girl Troop Shepherd for her American Heritage Girls Troop, and working as a communications specialist for her father’s business.

“All these experiences have taught me so much,” says Eliana when looking back at her experiences as a student. “I like to keep a planner and write down my short-term and long-term goals.”

Taking advantage of her flexible schedule, Eliana took classes online at [American River College](http://AmericanRiverCollege) with Visions’ support, including public speaking and marketing classes to begin exploring careers after high school. In 2022, Eliana’s writing was even acknowledged by the [California Charter Schools Association](http://CaliforniaCharterSchoolsAssociation) (CCSA) with the [2022 Bragato Scholarship](http://2022BragatoScholarship), a scholarship designed to help public charter school students like Eliana pursue their education after high school.

“I was so honored and grateful to be awarded the scholarship,” says Eliana. “I plan to put it to good use as I go to college and continue to develop both my education and my character.”

Moving On

Eliana is part of the **Graduating Class of 2022** set to walk across the stage on June 8th 2022! After college, she intends to accept an offer to [Purdue Honors College](http://PurdueHonorsCollege) but not before traveling out to the [Realm Makers](http://RealmMakers) writing conference with a long time friend! Whether she majors in Marketing or English as she plans to, writing seems like it will always be a part of Eliana’s life. When looking back at her school career, Eliana gives thanks to her teacher, parents, and her faith for helping her reach the next step in her educational journey.

“Keep learning and keep growing!” Eliana says as a parting message to her fellow high schoolers.

