

résumé



Kealia Grace Smith

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Education

Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science (<i>MATES</i>) SAT: Math 740 Critical Reading 760 Score = 1500	Manahawkin, New Jersey 08050 Expected Graduation: June 2026 Unweighted GPA: 93.595
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Musical Career

<i>Philadelphia Youth Orchestra, Cellist (140+ hours annually)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborates with musicians and conductor, attends weekly rehearsals, receives mentorship from members of the <i>Philadelphia Orchestra</i>, performs at <i>The Kimmel Center's Marian Anderson Hall</i> (10+ times) 	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	2023-present
<i>Philadelphia Music Alliance for Youth (PMAY) Artists' Initiative, Scholarship Recipient (50+ hours annually)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practices musical repertoire daily, composes musical analyses and reviews, gains mentorship from college faculty and advisors, receives \$5,000+ in scholarships annually, performs in over 15 recitals and masterclasses 	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	2022-present
<i>Philadelphia Young Artists Orchestra, Assistant Principal Cellist (100+ hours annually)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooperated with musicians and conductor, attended weekly rehearsals, performed at <i>Perelman Theater</i> (5+ times) 	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	2021-2023
<i>Settlement Music School Advanced Study Chamber Ensemble, Cellist (75+ hours annually)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engages in weekly chamber and musicianship coachings from professional musicians and <i>Philadelphia Orchestra</i> members as a selected scholarship recipient, performs in recitals and masterclasses regularly; previously in a <i>Pre-Advanced Chamber Ensemble 2022-2024</i> 	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	2024-present
<i>Play On Philly, Selected Soloist (50+ hours)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performed in the world premiere of a double concerto by composer Kevin Day 	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	2025-present
<i>All Shore Orchestra, Principal Cellist (50+ hours annually)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Directed cello section and collaborated with the conductor 	Wall, New Jersey	2021-2024
Additional Affiliations: <i>From The Top, Project 440, Roxborough Orchestra</i>	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	2022-present

Summer Intensives

<i>Heifetz International Music Institute (6+ weeks)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selected among international applicants to receive daily training from soloists and college faculty, perform frequently, and gain networking experience 	Staunton, Virginia	2023-2024
<i>Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival (4+ weeks)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invited to receive daily chamber and solo mentorship, attend workshops and masterclasses, and perform regularly on a partial scholarship 	Colchester, Vermont	2025
<i>Ascent International Cello Festival at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music (1 week)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chosen among applicants to receive daily solo cello coaching, attend workshops and masterclasses, and perform in a recital and masterclass 	Cincinnati, Ohio	2023
<i>Credo Chamber Music Festival at the Oberlin Conservatory (2+ weeks)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selected among applicants to receive daily chamber and solo training, volunteer in Cleveland-area communities, and perform regularly 	Oberlin, Ohio	2022

Scholastic and Musical Awards

<i>MATES National Honor Society Inductee</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognized for academics, extracurriculars, community service, and character 	Manahawkin, New Jersey	2025-present
<i>The Union League of Philadelphia & Founding Forward Good Citizenship Award</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Honored for community involvement, a civics essay, and demonstration of good citizenship; selected to participate in the annual <i>Good Citizens Day</i> at the <i>Union League of Philadelphia</i> and <i>National Constitution Center</i> 	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	2025
<i>Veterans of Foreign Wars Voice of Democracy Scholarship</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awarded 1st Place Post and 2nd Place District with over \$500 in scholarships for a patriotism essay and speech, which was delivered at VFW monthly meetings 	Ocean County, New Jersey	2026
<i>National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Scholar</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognized for academic promise and standardized test scores 	Nationwide, USA	2025
<i>Bruce Montgomery Foundation for the Arts Springboard Grant</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awarded a \$2,500 grant to support the costs of pursuing a career in music following an application, live performance, and interview 	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	2025

Scholastic and Musical Awards, *Continued*

<i>Monmouth Symphony Orchestra</i> Concerto Competition Winner	Red Bank, New Jersey	2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Performed as a featured soloist with the <i>Monmouth Symphony Orchestra</i> for Pyotr Tchaikovsky's <i>Variations on a Rococo Theme</i>		
<i>WRTI</i> Young Artist Spotlight	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Selected and interviewed by Philadelphia's leading classical and jazz radio station discussing musical experiences and career		
<i>Young Writers USA</i> Published Author	Nationwide, USA	2023-present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Chosen to have works published in a writing anthology		
<i>College Board</i> National Recognition Program	Nationwide, USA	2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Honored for outstanding academic achievement on standardized tests		

Research Experiences

<i>MATES Freshman Year Independent Research Project (50+ hours)</i> Title: "The Effects of Sound Wave Frequencies on the Activity of Dinoflagellates"	Ocean County, New Jersey	2022-2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Conducted extensive testing and observations on Barnegat Bay water samples, performed data analysis using <i>ANOVA</i> to provide insight on the environmental impacts of excess underwater noise exposureAwarded First Place in environmental science at <i>MATES Research Symposium</i>, earned Honorable Mention at the <i>Jersey Shore Science Fair</i>		
<i>MATES Sophomore Year Independent Research Project (50+ hours)</i> Title: "The Effects of Sound Wave Frequencies on the Activity of Brackish and Saltwater Dinoflagellates"	Ocean County, New Jersey	2023-2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Continued prior research with additional parameters to compare the behavior of bay and ocean dinoflagellate species when exposed to environmental soundsShowcased at the <i>Jersey Shore Science Fair</i>		
<i>MATES Senior Year Independent Research Project (50+ hours)</i> Title: "The Impact of Advanced Musical Training on Enhancing Secondary Language Learning"	Ocean County, New Jersey	2025-2026
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ongoing survey analysis of an anticipated 100+ national participants		

Leadership Roles

<i>MATES Mock Trial, Vice President, Attorney (90+ hours annually)</i>	Manahawkin, New Jersey	2025-present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Coordinates weekly team meetings, analyzes evidence and statements to create a compelling case theory; attorney since 2024Named 2026 Ocean County Champions, New Jersey Southern Regional Champions, & Third Place New Jersey State Championship Team in the <i>Vincent J. Apruzzese High School Mock Trial Competition</i>Earned First Place in the 2026 <i>Brick Township High School Mock Trial Invitational</i>		
<i>MATES Spanish Club, Historian (30+ hours annually)</i>	Manahawkin, New Jersey	2024-2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Promoted club events, designed engaging flyers and social media posts, and managed social media accounts and public relations; member since 2022		
<i>MATES Research Assistance and Development, Mentor (10+ hours annually)</i>	Manahawkin, New Jersey	2024-present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mentors first-year <i>MATES</i> students, provides independent research guidance		
<i>New Jersey Youth Oceanic Initiative, PR Specialist, Ambassador (15+ hours annually)</i>	Ocean County, New Jersey	2025-present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Designs and creates announcements for regional ocean conservation events, maintains active website and social media accounts; communicates with national organizations for event sponsorships and advertising		
<i>Miss Stafford Township 2023 (15+ hours)</i>	Manahawkin, New Jersey	2023-2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Engaged in community impact initiatives for senior citizens and delivered speeches at town events alongside mayor and town council members; previously served as Junior Miss Stafford (2021) and Little Miss Stafford (2016)		
<i>BigFuture</i> Ambassador (10+ hours)	Nationwide, USA	2025-present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Shares college and career preparation resources to peers and social media		

Extracurricular Activities

<i>MATES Project Terrapin, Headstart Ambassador (25+ hours annually)</i>	Manahawkin, New Jersey	2022-2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Contributed to species conservation as an ambassador and caretaker		
<i>MATES Yearbook Club, Editor (10+ hours annually)</i>	Manahawkin, New Jersey	2023-present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Designs pages and proofreads content for annual yearbook publication		
<i>MATES Literary Magazine, Writer & Editor (15+ hours annually)</i>	Manahawkin, New Jersey	2024-present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Compiles submissions and contributes poetry and photography to annual publication "Message in a Bottle"		

Community Service

<i>Saint Francis of Assisi Youth Choir (50+ hours annually)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Performs music at church services, mentors and assists young choir members	Brant Beach, New Jersey	2014-present
<i>New Jersey Academy of Science Ambassador (15+ hours)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Assisted research fair participants, consolidated and tabulated entrant scoring assessments, provided event photography	Union, New Jersey	2024
<i>Schoolhouse SAT Tutor (30+ hours)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Taught four-week courses to prepare students for the English SAT, followed a rigid curriculum; invited to tutor by College Board and Khan Academy	Manahawkin, New Jersey	2024
MATES Spanish Tutor (10+ hours annually) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Mentors underclassmen in Spanish III and IV, provides 1-on-1 tutoring	Manahawkin, New Jersey	2025-present
<i>Little Free Library Charter Founder & Owner (15+ hours annually)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Maintains and curates books and activities for Charter #81558	Manahawkin, New Jersey	2018-present
Clean Ocean Action Environmental Instructor (10+ hours) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Educated over 250 middle school students on the coastal New Jersey ecosystem	Ocean County, New Jersey	2025

Work Experiences

Wedding and Event Musician (20+ hours annually) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Performs music at wedding ceremonies and community events	Manahawkin, New Jersey	2022-present
Piano Teacher (30+ hours annually) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Instructed young students in weekly one-on-one piano lessons	Manahawkin, New Jersey	2022-2023
Social Media Manager, <i>Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival (20+ hours)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Created and curated engaging content on social media platforms to promote student life as part of a paid work study scholarship	Colchester, Vermont	2025

Personal Attributes

- Awarded *American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Seal of Biliteracy* in Spanish after 3 years of intensive language studies
- Completed courses to obtain New Jersey **boating license**
- Trained classical musician: piano (11+ years), cello (8+ years), clarinet (4+ years), voice (10+ years)
- Actor's Equity Association* Membership Candidate, trained professional actress in musical theatre and film (6+ years)
- Dance background in classical ballet, jazz, tap, and Broadway (10+ years)
- Arranged and recorded the Ukrainian National Anthem to support fundraising efforts; performed in benefit concerts and prayer services; featured on Fox29's Good Day Philadelphia, NBC10, CBS3, and NJ101.5