

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Rumson Students Recognized as National Junior Honor Society Outstanding Achievement Award Winners

Congratulations are in order for **Audrey Redling and Elena Sheinin**, seventh grade students at Rumson's Forrestdale School for being recognized as winners of the **National Junior Honor Society Outstanding Achievement Award!** According to the NJHS Website, "The National Junior Honor Society Outstanding Achievement Award recognizes middle-level students for their commitment to the five pillars of NJHS: scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship. The 500 NJHS students selected for the Outstanding Achievement Award receive a \$500 college savings plan to support their educational aspirations."

Annually, there are 500 students in the entire United States recognized with this award. In 2024, **Elena and Audrey represent two of only four total students in Monmouth County, NJ** chosen as recipients of this competitive award.

In addition to her academic excellence and leadership within Forrestdale's school community, **Elena Sheinin** worked tirelessly with three other Rumson NJHS members to plan, create, and implement a service project in coordination with Count Basie Center for the Arts in Red Bank, NJ. In preparation for the *Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour Film* debut, the girls made over 200 charm bracelets that they then sold throughout the weekend of October 13-15 at Count Basie's showing of the Taylor Swift's movie. The girls made over \$1,000 and donated that money to the Count Basie Academy of the Arts, to be used to provide scholarships for children who cannot afford theater classes. Elena's dedication to helping others extends to her volunteer work at Rising Treetops at Oakhurst Special Needs Respite Camp, where she creates homemade decorations for holiday-themed parties, leads dances, and provides companionship and assistance to campers during various activities. Her initiative and efforts are well recognized through this award.

**Audrey Redling** is a shining example of both academic excellence and selflessness in service to our community. In October, 2024, Forrestdale School's NJHS Chapter partnered with Monmouth County's Bridge of Books Foundation to benefit children who otherwise would not have books to call their own. Audrey took on a leadership role, bringing in books from donation sites, counting the nearly 6,000 books collected, and organizing them for transport to the Bridge of Books Foundation location. Audrey has worked this school year in leadership roles through Forrestdale's Student Government Association and as a Junior Coach for Figure Skaters and library volunteer in her community. Audrey has gone above and beyond for her school and local communities this school year, and we applaud her efforts.

In February 2024, Rumson's chapter of NJHS also partnered with the American Heart Association's Kids' Heart Challenge for the first time, and **both Elena and Audrey** were off and running in their tireless work for the organization. Audrey and Elena spent every single day for three months during their lunch and homeroom periods organizing, preparing, and delivering materials for the Heart Association Campaign. They have been an integral part of Forrestdale's success in bringing awareness to kids' heart health.

**Both Audrey and Elena** have demonstrated the five pillars of NJHS through their leadership, scholarship, and service this school year. Mrs. Sommer VanDeBoe and Mrs. Kristen Downs, advisers of Forrestdale School's Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society, as well as the entire school and Rumson communities, are so proud of the accomplishments of both girls.