

Meet CHS 2012 Valedictorian: Malaree Shields

Malaree excelled academically and will take many fond memories with her after high school.

By [Lauren Costa](#) | June 6, 2012



Malaree Shields, daughter of John and Donna Shields of Coventry, will be recognized during graduation Thursday for being the valedictorian for [Coventry High School](#)'s Class of 2012.

Aside from achieving her outstanding grades, Malaree participated in various clubs and activities during her time at CHS including Interact, Yearbook, History and World Language clubs, Envirothon, Show Choir and Concert Chorus. She loved Environmental Science and Physics, however her favorite class was Gym. "How awesome is it that you can get an A for throwing things?" she asked.

"It really is hard to narrow it down, though," she continued. "My experience here as a whole was just phenomenal."

Malaree plans to study secondary education and biology at [Salve Regina University](#) in the fall and may even attempt a degree in Environmental Science - a subject that she has earned multiple Early Enrollment Program (EEP) credits in from CHS. She has received several academic scholarships to begin her college career, as well as a Coventry Teachers' Alliance (CTA) Scholarship.



"There is a bird sanctuary a couple of miles away from campus and I would really like to volunteer there while I'm at school," she said. "I also joke with my family that I'm going to major in surfing at Salve."

In 10 years, Malaree hopes to be teaching somewhere on Aquidneck Island - an area that she has fond memories of after spending seasons at her family's beach house in Newport.

"Regardless of what I'm doing in ten years, I hope to just be happy," she said.

Describing herself as "tenacious and sarcastic," she explained that her key to success was simply trying to do her best on each individual assignment in each class.

"I don't want to say it came naturally because it was a lot of hard work," she explained. "But I didn't focus on my class rank, actually my friends usually knew my rank before I did. I thought I was third until a few days ago."

When asked what advice she would give another student looking to excel in school, Malaree urged students to take pride in their work and try to enjoy their time in school.

"You just have to love what you're doing and don't spend all of your time worrying about constantly excelling, forget about that and just do your best."