

# Aultman Ambassador Program awards scholarships to 8 Rittman students

*One student also received the Ambassador of the Year scholarship.*

Staff Report

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RITTMAN — The Aultman Ambassador Program awarded eight scholarships to Rittman students during a recognition ceremony that recognized 121 students from seven area high schools for their efforts to engage their communities in healthy lifestyle habits. The ceremony was held at R.G. Drage Career Technical Center on May 6.

Assistant principal Keri Hamsher and Myra Pierce, school nurse, coordinated the Rittman High School program. Eight students from the school were recognized with Student Ambassador scholarships including Elizabeth Blythin, Miranda Brainard, Keshawn Clark, Sevi Garza, Jon-Luc LaBouf, Madison Like, Makenna Miller and Mariah Moss. Brainard also received an Ambassador of the Year scholarship.

Now in its seventh year, the program was created and launched to help youth create healthy habits. During the ceremony, 30 students received Student Ambassador scholarships, and six students received Ambassador of the Year scholarships.

The Aultman Ambassador Program empowers high school students by coaching them to serve as Aultman Ambassadors. These students use peer-to-peer mentoring to promote nutritious meals and snacks, hydration, active lifestyle in and out of school, good sleep habits and stress management.

Since its beginning, the Aultman Ambassador program has partnered with area colleges, universities and high schools. In 2018, the program provided an evidence-based curriculum to six Stark County high schools and one Wayne County high school. An Aultman wellness coordinator assists the initiative with high school and university teams by providing the framework, tools and resources.

The 2019-2020 school year will have 14 high schools participating including Alliance, Canton South, Fairless, Lake, Louisville, Marlinton, Massillon City, Minerva, North Canton Hoover, Orrville, Perry and Rittman school districts. The college and university partners include Aultman College, Walsh University, University of Mount Union and Kent State Stark Campus.