



# Shazray Akbar

The Meadows School Valedictorian Shazray Akbar, like so many of her peers, has had an interesting go of high school muddled by a pandemic and personal loss. Yet through it all, with the support and love of family, a positive attitude and an impeccable work ethic, she not only endured, but thrived. Now that she's graduating at the top of her class and prepared for pre-med, she is leaving the past in the rearview, focusing on being happy in the present, and remains curious about her future. Humble, empathetic and determined to make the most of every moment, Shazray Akbar is— A Step Above.

G.P.A.: 5.16

Sports/Theater/Clubs:

- Varsity Track and Field, 2020
- Varsity Cheerleading, 2020-2022; Junior Varsity Cheerleading, 2019-2020; Junior Varsity Cheerleading Captain, 2020
- *Mamma Mia!* (Featured Ensemble), 2020
- *Arsenic and Old Lace* (Dr. Harper and Lieutenant Rooney), 2022
- *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Gangster #2), 2023
- Key Club, 2019-2023; Treasurer, 2021-2022; Co-President, 2022-2023
- STEM Club, 2019-2023
- Cum Laude, 2022-2023
- National Honor Society, 2021-2023
- National English Honor Society, 2022-2023
- National Spanish Honor Society, 2020-2022
- Junior Classical League (Latin Honor Society), 2019-2020
- Mu Alpha Theta (Math Honor Society), 2022-2023

Scholarships/Awards/Community Service:

- Student of the Year, 2020
- AP Scholar with Distinction, 2022; AP Scholar, 2021
- National Merit Finalist, 2023
- Summa Cum Laude—National Latin Exam, 2020
- Silver Award—National Spanish Exam, 2020/2021/2022
- University of San Francisco Merit Scholarship, 2023
- George Washington University Merit Scholarship, 2023
- Summerlin Hospital, 2021-2023
- Opportunity Village, 2019-2021
- Atria Seville, 2021-2022
- Tutor with NHS, 2021-2023
- Make-a-Wish, 2019-2022

**How does it feel to be the valedictorian?** “It feels like I have been acknowledged for my hard work throughout high school, which is very fulfilling. It’s definitely surreal. While people are asking me about writing my graduation speech, I am still trying to believe that I reached this achievement, but I am very grateful for the title and the support I have received.”

**What are your plans for after high school?** “After high school, I plan to attend college on the pre-med track, studying biology. I will do various fellowships and internships to improve my portfolio, and study hard for my MCAT. I might take a gap year before I apply to med school. I hope to settle down in California once I get my MD, but that will not be until after many years of school.”

**Your ability to connect with others is important to you. How have you used it to your advantage?** “Inside the classroom, I can easily get along with and work well with my classmates, while outside of the classroom I have applied this quality to every aspect of what I do. Whether it be bonding with patients at the hospital, the cheer team, or recruiting members for my club, being able to get along with others has definitely helped me succeed in my endeavors.”

**Tell us about your experience volunteering at Summerlin Hospital.** “I have enjoyed doing a variety of shifts in areas such as antepartum, PEDS, the front desk, the lab, and more. It’s allowed me to have a firsthand experience at what life working in a hospital is like. I’ve definitely become more empathetic and kinder thanks to different encounters with patients that have really shifted my perspective on how important patient care is.”