

## Beth Allyn Parker – nominated by Olivia Phillips-Waldorf

I decided to take Dr. Parker's senior-level forensics class as a Junior. As a result, I wound up being the youngest and only junior in a class full of, well, seniors. And let me say, as an introvert, that was quite possibly the worst thing ever. Despite my intense shyness, Dr. Parker always made me feel like I belonged in that class. Every day was interesting, with a new lesson or hands-on experiment, and Forensics quickly became my favorite class, all thanks to Dr. Parker. She was engaging, passionate, and taught with just the right amount of humor. I remember the first time we did a blood spatter lab. Dr. Parker gave us fake blood and a syringe to practice identifying arterial spurts and other spatter types. We walked up and down the hallway, creating the various spatters and attracting some odd looks from passing students. It doesn't sound like it would be fun, but it was honestly one of the best lessons I've too. In that moment, I felt like I could solve a crime. Since I was only a junior, I get the amazing opportunity to Intern with her in Forensics my senior year. And I can already tell that it'll be the highlight of my senior year.