



Gilbert Senior Awarded \$2,000 Special Education Teacher Scholarship

Ames, Iowa—Senior Emily Roche, Gilbert Schools, has been awarded the 2026 Special Education Teacher Scholarship of Iowa in recognition for her academic accomplishments and educational goals. Within her time at Gilbert Schools, Roche has proven herself as a leader both in and out of the classroom. For the past four years, she has participated in a variety of activities, from softball and basketball to serving as a Teacher Academy Student Assistant in a kindergarten classroom.

After graduation, Manning plans to attend Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa where she will study early childhood education with an endorsement in special education. Roche gives special thanks to her church group leader, Judy, for her love and support throughout her high school career. “Because of her, I have gained confidence and grown into a better version of myself. One lesson I will carry with me for the rest of my life is to be myself,” she said.

After earning her degree from Iowa State University, Roche hopes to become an elementary school teacher in either a kindergarten or special education classroom. “Through my experiences working and volunteering with young children, I have seen how a supportive and inclusive classroom can shape a child’s confidence, curiosity, and love of learning,” Roche shared.

About the Award: The Special Education Teacher Scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior who plans to study education, with a focus on special education. Co-presented by ClaimAid Consulting Corporation and the Iowa Association of School Boards (IASB), the scholarship is awarded based on a number of requirements, including educational goals and academic accomplishments.

ClaimAid is a leading provider of comprehensive Medicaid eligibility and enrollment services, school-based billing and claims resolution for schools, hospitals, patients, individuals and their families. IASB is a nonprofit organization representing Iowa’s 325 public school districts, nine area education agencies and 15 community colleges.

