

HELP FOR GOOD

Emma



Stark County
Board of
Developmental
Disabilities



Emma

Meet Emma Lynn! Emma is 16 years old and the daughter of Traci & Keith Mogus, and Don Lynn. Emma has an undiagnosed syndrome, Traci said. Over the years she has had several hospitalizations, mostly for respiratory issues and several surgeries for a cleft palate, bowel resections, spinal fusions and eye surgeries.

Emma loves books, baking, jewelry, fuzzy blankets and pajamas and watching TV. Her favorite shows are Shimmer and Shine, PJ Masks, Dora the Explorer and Cat in the Hat. Her favorite food this year at school is pizza, bread, ketchup and oatmeal. She got new eye glasses this year, which she was very happy about.

Emma attends the Stark DD School Age program at Rebecca Stallman Southgate School. She is currently assigned to a high classroom as a 10th grader. "She has always loved school even if she doesn't always love waking up early in the morning," said Traci.

"Emma is able to walk with the assistance of a walker. She uses a manual wheelchair and is able to maneuver around the classroom and school building rather well! Sometimes they have a competitive race with a classmate.

Emma is very pleasant teenager; and "social butterfly" at the school, she enjoys social activities with peers and staff (taking attendance to the office and going to the "walking club" in the morning are her favorite things to do - she loves attention!). Emma will participate in structured activities, but needs prompting to remain engaged; she is encouraged by verbal praise.



According to her teacher, Kate Chaney, Stark DD Intervention Specialist, and Virginia Oliver, speech language pathologist, Emma is eager to do work! She often chooses job as an activity of a choice instead of sensory toys at free time. Emma is non-verbal, but the process of getting Emma her own device is in place; hopefully, it will happen soon and she would be able to enjoy having her “voice” at home as well and communicate to her family! “Her receptive communication is great and she understands what you are saying to her and shakes her head yes or no and can do some signs to respond back,” said Traci.

Emma is demonstrating a lot of typical teenager characteristics, such as being sarcastic and showing interest in older boys when she meets them in a hallway or walking club. She always waves to them and happy to socialize. Emma has a great sense of humor and loves a good joke! She smiles and laughs a lot, and generally appears to be a happy person. Emma loves books a lot. “She also enjoys painting, coloring and crafts very much and shows her creative personality quite a lot when we have our art lessons weekly,” said Ms. Chaney.

Her teachers believe that she has a lot of potential and can accomplish great things. “We are excited to have her in our class this school year, she is a pleasant, cooperative and fun member of our school community,” said Ms. Chaney.

“Emma has come such a long way with all the supports she receives through Stark County Board of DD, and we’re so thankful for everything they do,” said Traci.

