

Questioz Researcher Profile

Emma Drake

High School: Williamston High School Math and Science Academy

Class: 11

Research area: Early causes for gender bias in STEM fields

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A few lines about yourself: I am a junior at the Williamston High School Math and Science Academy. I am very interested in math and science and specifically the societal effects of these fields. I am currently part of the Williamston High School Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam developing a device aiding students with disabilities in opening their school lockers. I am also a member of the Williamston chapter of Mu Alpha Theta, the treasurer of the Williamston National Honor Society, and part of the LINKS Peer to Peer START Program working with students with disabilities at my school. Outside of school I am an avid competitive dancer and pianist.

This is what she has to say about her interest in early causes of gender bias in STEM fields:

“I was initially interested in studying the trends of gender bias in STEM fields overall, but as I conducted my literature review I became increasingly interested in the causes for the gender disparity across math and science fields. Specifically, I was interested in studying what happens early on, in elementary and secondary math and science courses, that causes female students to veer away from STEM paths and eventually STEM related degrees and careers. This research focuses on the disparity between female and male students’ interest and participation in their math and science courses at the sixth grade level.”