

Siena students develop taste for TV

Mike Latona/Catholic Courier

BRIGHTON — Career experts often emphasize not only the need to attain good grades, but also for hands-on experience in a chosen field. Yet for the most part, such opportunities as internships don't arise until high school or perhaps even college.

In that regard, Emma Neylan and Victoria Waldron are well ahead of the curve. The eighth-graders at Siena Catholic Academy are already developing numerous broadcasting skills through their work at a cable television station in Rochester.

Beginning this past fall, Emma and Victoria have helped produce the show "Rochester Youth Voice, One Vision" that airs on Rochester Community TV (Channel 15). Thus far the two 13-year-olds have learned to use cameras, sound equipment, lighting and other broadcasting apparatus while also honing their on-air talents. They, along with a group of several other teens, go out in the community to cover stories and also do studio broadcasts from Rochester Community TV, a non-profit organization located on Gorham Street. Working under the guidance of paid staff members, the young broadcasting crew is encouraged to develop its own story ideas.

One of Emma and Victoria's favorite features was a piece on the Roland Williams Youth Lifeline Foundation, an organization that helps children develop skills they will need as an adult. Emma and Victoria assisted in interviewing Williams, the Rochester football star who won a Super Bowl ring with the St. Louis Rams in 2000.

"Rochester Youth Voice, One Vision" members hope to soon have a regular time slot on Channel 15. In regard to upcoming features, Emma said she's looking to develop a behind-the-scenes profile of TV crews



Mike Crupi/Catholic Courier

Emma Neylan (left) and Victoria Waldron, eighth-graders at Brighton's Siena Catholic Academy, have worked as on-air interviewers and behind-the-scenes camera operators while helping to produce "Rochester Youth Voice, One Vision," which airs on Rochester Community TV (Channel 15).



— focusing, of course, on her fellow members. Meanwhile, Victoria would like to compile a story featuring youth organizations such as Girl Scouts that reflects "how they're involved in the community," she said. Both she and Emma, incidentally, belong to the Youth Services Quality Council of Rochester and Monroe County, a collaborative effort to ensure quality services for youths and their families.

you — it's kind of overwhelming," said Victoria, from St. John the Evangelist Parish on Humboldt Street.

Emma, Victoria and other teen crew members learned of Rochester Community TV while taking part in "Biz Kids," a series of one-week camps available to city residents to enhance their career interests, mainly in the business world. Yet being involved in television now has Emma and Victoria leaning toward possible careers in broadcast journalism. Victoria said that she wouldn't mind someday working for WOKR Channel 13, which recently profiled the "Rochester Youth Voice, One.Vision" group.

Emma, also, tends to think big. Referring to the grant money her group is seeking to enhance their production resources, she remarked cheerfully, "We want to get director's chairs with our names on them ... but I don't think that's going to happen."

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