

CHARACTER COUNTS!



Diego Mora goes out of his way to help others, much like the nurses did when he was diagnosed with a brain tumor at 1 year old. LAUREN JENNINGS/VISALIA TIMES-DELTA

Responsibility

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Diego Mora is known to be a resilient son, brother, student and friend.

He goes out of his way to help others, much like the nurses did when he was diagnosed with a brain tumor at just a year old.

"He has not let the medical treatments limit his achievement in the classroom or limit his ambitions and aspirations," Tulare Western High School Counselor Michelle Gill said. "Diego is a respectful student who is always willing to help those around him. I see the joy on his face when he helps others."

Administrators, teachers and counselors at Tulare Western High School describe Diego as a responsible, respectful and resilient student. Gill said he "help[s] students who may be struggling in the classroom, especially those who are English Language Learners."

His willingness to help others extends outside of school hours. Diego's mother told his teachers during a parent meeting how he always assists around the house and looks after his younger siblings.

"It was no surprise to his teachers or myself that his incredible work ethic and responsibility is not limited to the classroom," Gill said. "Diego continues to impress his teachers and school staff with his work ethic and determination to always do his best."

At home, Diego loved to help his mother cook and prepare meals, something that has somewhat translated into his school day.

One of the jobs Diego has taken on while working with the Future Business Leaders of America this year includes serving student lunches each week from Monday through Thursday. This month, Diego was voted member of the month by the student association and was awarded a pin as a result.

The junior has big plans after he graduates high school in 2024. For now, Diego plans on studying medicine at Stanford University.

"Ever since I went to hospitals, to therapies, treatments and MRIs... I've seen all the efforts the nurses made for patients," Diego said. "For me, it was my personal decision. I told myself, 'That's what I want to be when I grow up. I want to help out my community... help out everyone.'"

Lauren Jennings covers education and news for the Visalia Times-Delta/Tulare Advance-Register. Follow her on Twitter @lolojennings. Get alerts and keep up on all things Tulare County for as little as \$1 a month. Subscribe today.