

Acrobat takes her talent to new heights

By Lydia Wellner

Homework, friends, band, theater...sounds like the normal life of a teenager, right? Well, sophomore Sarah Scanlon does something a little unusual. She's been acrobating for the past two years.

"I've been in gymnastics since I was three and a half," Scanlon said. "This just takes it to a new level."

When she was in eighth grade, her physical education teacher told her about a class she had taken, in acrobatics.

"From the very first day, I loved it! It was so awesome," Scanlon said. "There are so few people who do it. It totally makes my week."

She is now enrolled in two cir-

cus based classes: one that only focuses on circus aspects, and one that incorporates both circus stunts and theater. They meet two days a week at the Noise Cultural Arts Center at The Actors Gymnasium.

Scanlon uses a wide variety of apparatuses, including a trapeze, a Spanish web where the person is hung from their ankle and performs tricks, and a teeter board, which is similar to a see-saw.

"[The teeter board] is pretty cool because someone is on one end, and you get catapulted off of the other," Scanlon said. "But I really love the aerial acts. I like the sensation of flying."

Scanlon's parents are also really supportive of her.

"My family loves to come and watch me,"

said Scanlon. "My dad always jokes that we have really good insurance."

Over the summer, she enrolled in a circus camp for two weeks located in New Hampshire. According to Scanlon, her parents were all for it, despite the obvious risk of injury.

"The worst injury I ever got was a sprained ankle," she said. "Bruises are part of it, but broken bones aren't."

Scanlon also needs to dispel some myths.

"I don't wear big shoes and make-up," she said. "It's not that kind of circus. And there aren't any animals."

Scanlon doesn't know if this could be a possible career or not.

"Right now it's just something I love to do."



Sarah Scanlon