

## George Washington High School Senior Earns 4-Year Navy ROTC Scholarship



George Washington High School senior Patrick Tapp recently learned he's been awarded a US Navy 4-year ROTC scholarship to study Civil and Environmental Engineering at CU-Boulder starting in the Fall. Patrick's time in DPS has been a record of solid achievement beginning with the Gifted and Talented program at Steele Elementary School, followed by Hamilton Middle School where he was in the International Preparatory Magnet program and in the Junior National Honor Society. Patrick has been in the International Baccalaureate program at GWHS for four years. From 2<sup>nd</sup> grade he was fully involved in scouting and is now an Eagle Scout.

Patrick is active in Army JROTC, currently serving as the Denver Brigade Training and Operations Officer, an "all-city" position. He is a Cadet Lieutenant Colonel.

The road to the scholarship has been more trying than most. Patrick suffered a shoulder injury playing football for GW, and was disqualified for admission to the US Naval Academy. After a long process of applying for a medical waiver, military medical authorities granted a waiver, and the US Navy ROTC was quick to offer Patrick this scholarship. As a result he will be able to study at his top choice of college and still earn the commissioning rank of Ensign, US Navy.

Patrick says of his scholarship: "Through JROTC and Boy Scouts I have learned leadership and patriotism. I really love my country and sought a way to say thank you to those who have given me the freedoms I enjoy every day, so when I was looking to my future I wanted to give back to my country. I am interested in engineering and decided that I wanted to be a part of an ROTC unit in college so I applied for a four year Navy ROTC scholarship to the University of Colorado at Boulder. It was a long application process and I just recently received a medical waiver for an injury I sustained while playing football my sophomore year. I was told not to play hard contact sports. That was a blow to me mentally because I loved playing football and was determined to serve in the military. I persevered and had to have a lot of patience to finally get a medical waiver."

Patrick is exemplary of successful melding of athletics, JROTC leadership and International Baccalaureate scholarship that is possible at George Washington High School.