

Michael Wallace & Max Gabrielson

WILTON HIGH SCHOOL

In the future, expect to see ads and election signs declaring: "Vote for Michael Wallace!" With a passion for diplomacy and history, and well-honed leadership skills, the Wilton High School senior already seems to be planning for his election to public office.

Michael took his first steps toward that inevitability years ago as an award-winning

member of Model Congress, role-playing simulations which at times requires him to take on the role and opinions of U.S. congressmen with whom he does not necessarily agree. Involved with student government for years, he was most recently elected vice president of the student body. He is also captain of the debate team, which he leads in local

"Michael Wallace has a deep and very natural love of learning. His classmates admire him for his work ethic and expertise in so many areas, including debate, a field in which he has excelled. A quick study with superb people skills, he will be highly successful on whatever path he chooses to follow."

Max Gabrielson
Greek teacher

and national competitions. "I've realized that being a leader isn't just about having the best ideas and being able to act on them," he says. "It's really all about communicating with the people you lead."

Despite a demanding academic and extracurricular schedule, Michael finds the time to give back to his community. He volunteers at the Wilton History Room and is involved in the Wilton Library's "Poetry in Motion" arts program.

Additionally, Michael founded the middle school debate team at Middlebrook, which he hopes will help shape young minds. "Current events can help to inform their decisions, public speaking will give them the confidence to stand up for their ideas and the critical-thinking skills fostered by debate will encourage them to be more active and involved citizens."

Not surprisingly, he was immediately intrigued by the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Relations' International Student Essay Contest. The topic—nationalism's role in a modern society—drew on Michael's strengths. He took third prize in the high school division and first out of all entries from the United States. He argued that "no nation is independent of another, and the sooner we accept that fact, the sooner we will be able to thrive as an international community." »

