

## Hall's top scholar devoted this year to doing my absolute best?

By Bill Rea

Rose Ferrao's goal was to average at least 95 per cent average in her top six Grade 12 courses this year at Robert F. Hall Catholic Secondary School, and she got it.

She actually took eight courses, and the bottom two pulled her average down to 94.1.

But all things considered, her performance got her the Governor General's Award and the status of top scholar as she graduated as part of Hall's Class of '14.

'It was really nice,' she reflected. 'Getting this award was like a validation of all the work I had put in over the year.'

The results were impressive.

The 18-year-old received a grade of 98 per cent in her top course, which was business. Ferrao followed that up with 97 in French, 96 in film, 96 in religion, 94 in music (she plays the flute), 91 in math, 91 in English and 90 in writer's craft.

'I definitely put in a lot more work this year than I have in any other year in school,' she remarked, adding the process taught her the importance of getting an early start and better organizing her time. 'It was a lot of work, but it was definitely worth it.'

'One year, I wanted to do my absolute best,' she added.

When it comes to what the secret is to achieving academic success, Ferrao cited curiosity as a big factor.

'I've always been a really curious person,' she said. 'I was always interested in becoming invested in what we were doing in school.'

And through it all, she still found time for some extra-curricular activities, with her involvement in the student council, concert band and book club.

Ferrao's next academic exploits will be at Queen's University next year, in the honours BA program, in which she hopes to major in English and minor in film.

'My dream job in the future would be a screen writer,' she said, adding if she can do something that makes her and other people happy, she won't complain.

And for students who are embarking on the high school experience, she had some tips.

'Just make the most of it,' she said.

'It can be really nerve-wracking at first,' she added, but stressed the importance of putting effort into classes, extra-curricular activities and meeting new people. 'It will honestly be the best experience of your life.'

