

MVP Featured Athlete

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Ella Jo Piersma

Seven Hills School



Seven Hills School's Ella Jo Piersma entered her senior year having already won seven conference titles and four Ohio state championships in swimming, then she added two more state titles this past season.

At the state level, she was Ohio state Div. II champ in the 100 freestyle and 200 freestyle events both as a sophomore and as a junior. She won 2019 MVC titles in the 50 freestyle (25.16), the 400 freestyle relay (3:46.23) and the 200 medley relay (1:55.81), and added 2020 MVC championships in the 100 butterfly (57.71), 100 backstroke (1:00.95), 400 freestyle relay (3:46.25) and the 200 medley relay (1:55.73). At this season's Ohio state Div. II championships, she won the state title in the 100 butterfly with a state-record time of 53.43. She also won a third consecutive state championship in the 200 freestyle, finishing in 1:48.22. As well, she was on the fourth-place finishing 200 freestyle relay and 400 freestyle relay teams.

For her swimming excellence, Ella Jo has earned many honors over the years. She was 2019 MVC Swimmer of the Year, first-team all-MVC in 2019 and 2020, first-team all-city (Enquirer) in 2019 and 2020, plus was named Cincinnati Div. II Swimmer of the Year twice and all-Ohio three times. She was named USA Today Swimmer of the Year her junior year. Her time of 50.39 in the 100 freestyle in 2020 set a school record.

A Cum Laude Society student (4.55 GPA) who is active in community service, Ella Jo also swims for the Mason Manta Rays' club team. She will swim collegiately at the University of Michigan, where her parents, John and Rachel, swam in college and were members of the USA National Team in the 1990s. Her favorite athlete is Simone Manuel, favorite entertainer is Taylor Swift, favorite book is the Crazy Rich Asian trilogy, favorite movie is The Parent Trap and most-like-to-meet is Michael Phelps.



NAME: Ella Jo Piersma

GRADUATING YEAR: 2022

SCHOOL: Seven Hills School

SPORT: Swimming

ACHIEVEMENT: USA Today Swimmer of the Year

HEIGHT: 6'1" - 145 lbs.

PARENTS: John Piersma & Rachel Gustin

INFLUENCE: "My family."

GOAL: Ohio state relay title

"Ella Jo is passionate about the sport of swimming! She brings the same level of dedication to her academics as she does to the sport."

– Brandon Williams, Varsity Swimming coach

April 19, 2022