



# alexis B. chambers

Don't mess with Alexis B. Chambers. At the age of 15, she's a first-degree black belt in tae kwon do.

Her introduction to the Korean martial art came abruptly. While she and her mother were out for lunch, her mom saw the school and bought Alexis a uniform.

"We've got to try this out," her mother said. "And if you don't like it, you can just wear the uniform as a Halloween costume." Alexis, then in the sixth grade, loved it. She liked the physical and mental focus, she says, and it brought balance to her life.

She's in the demanding IB program at Thomas Jefferson High School, aiming to get a diploma that will give her the status of a sophomore in college. Alexis' crowning project was writing and printing a children's

book about the environment. "I really like writing, in my free time -- which I don't have much of," she says.

She's not kidding. Alexis plays tennis on her school's team, serves on the Student Council Association and the Parent Teacher Student Association, and plays two instruments: violin and flute. She volunteers at annual fundraisers for the Faison School for Autism and the American Heart Society's Heart Ball, among other causes. She's also training to become a professional model.

She wants to major in advertising and minor in business and marketing, so she can eventually open her own agency. "Because when I get up there," she says, "I want to be up there up there."

If she could add anyone to Mount Rushmore, it would be: "My mother. Because she is the strongest woman I know, and she teaches everyone, and she tries to help everyone she can."