



Celebrating Our **GRADUATES**

Meet the 2026 Graduates from our schools



ADDISON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
COLUMBIA SCHOOL DISTRICT
GRASS LAKE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
NAPOLEON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
ONSTED COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
VANDERCOOK LAKE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Presenting the Addison Community Schools Class of 2026

Editor's note: This year Addison chose to list their honors graduates rather than a Top 10.



Grace Olsofsky
Salutatorian
GPA: 3.8842
PARENTS:
Frank and Jennifer Olsofsky
FUTURE PLANS:
Attend Western Michigan University for nursing.



Jaden Davison
GPA: 3.8703
PARENTS:
James and Mandy Davison
FUTURE PLANS:
Attend Michigan State University for computer science.



Faith Pratt
GPA: 3.7205
PARENTS:
Michael and Jeni Pratt
FUTURE PLANS:
Attend Davenport University for business.



Lilah Davis
GPA: 3.6247
PARENTS:
Michael Davis and Rachel Link
FUTURE PLANS:
Attend Jackson College for sonography.



Abrianna DiDomenico Fowler
GPA: 3.2879
PARENTS:
Anne and Christopher Fowler
FUTURE PLANS:
Attend Jackson College to finish associate's degree then transfer to a four-year college.



William Wilkes
GPA: 3.0449
PARENTS:
William and Angela Wilkes
FUTURE PLANS:
Attend Jackson College for chemistry.

Addison Class of 2026

Kiana M. Aragon, Ava N. Beard, Josie N. Blackmore, Emma R. Brainerd, Derek C. Butler, Evelyn P. Cavill, Riley L. Cawthorn, Levi M. Chestney, Sarrah B. Cubberly, Rylie E. Curtis, Lilah A. Davis, Jaden J. Davison, Raymond K. Deel, Mark L. DeRossett III, Abrianna M. DiDomenico, Fowler,

Kessler K. Durkee, Nevaeh A. Edison, Mya J. Freeman, Olivia H. Frey, Eva Lynn Hubbard, Landon C. Hughes, Wyatt A. Jones, Sativa R. Keryan, Braylen J. Klein, Kalie M. Meyer, Pearl L. Morgan, Blake L. Newman, Chloe C. L. Ogden, Grace N. Olsofsky, Sloan M. Peters, Kayden T. Porter, Faith A.

Pratt, Abby R. Reynolds, Michael N. Shaw, Quincy M. Smith, Melissa M. Snyder, Ria R. Surratt, Heinz J. Szeve, Emma L. Taylor, Breckin R. Tedders, Aalicya M. Thompson, William G. Wilkes, Austin L. Wilson, Weston K. Wilson, Griffin M. Wipp, Sophia M. Wisdom, Jacob M. Wright



We're proud of our Panthers!

Ava Beard plans to become a dental hygienist

By John Hummer
Editor

Ava Beard, the Addison High School class of 2026 valedictorian, is the daughter of Michael and Misty Beard. She grew up in Addison and completed all her schooling at Addison Community Schools.

Ava plans to attend Jackson College and eventually become a dental hygienist. "I'm going to finish my prerequisites there and apply to some dental hygiene programs in the area," she stated. "I'm hoping to get into Jackson College's program, but theirs is very competitive – they only accept 10 students a year."

What drove Ava toward dental hygiene? "I got braces in middle school," she noted. "That kind of introduced me to the dental field. I was really interested in it. I wanted to become an orthodontist, but my ideas changed a little bit and I got interested in dental hygiene. I want to become a pediatric dental hygienist because I love kids. I think teeth and the dental field are really cool."

Ava recalled a couple teachers who made a significant difference in her life. In high school, it was Barb Brown, her English teacher and volleyball coach. "I got to know her a lot because I was in her class quite a bit," Ava said. "In volleyball, she saw something in me. She pushed me really hard – not just in volleyball – but also in school. She has high expectations for her students. I feel she really helped me go far in my educational path, as well as my athletic path."

From her early school days, one teacher who had a big influence on her was her kindergarten teacher, Sherri Day, who helped Ava learn to like school right from the start. "She is just the sweetest teacher ever," Ava shared. "I really liked her."

Ava had two favorite subjects throughout school. "I've always enjoyed English and science. Science just always interested me and it came easier than other subjects. I'll have to do a lot of science for college since I'm going into dental hygiene. English also seemed very easy to me. It might be because my older sister, Courtney, is going to be an English teacher. She might have helped with that path a little bit."

When she wasn't in class or studying, Ava played basketball for two years, and volleyball



Ava Beard
Valedictorian
GPA: 3.9739
PARENTS:
Michael and Misty Beard
FUTURE PLANS:
Attend Jackson College for dental hygiene.

and track for four years in high school. The pinnacle of her high school sports career was making it to the state track meet this year in the discus.

Ava was also involved in several extracurricular activities and groups including National Honor Society, Key Club, Student Council, Athletes in Action, and Young Life. Regarding Athletes in Action, she noted, "We try to

make our school a better place by being the leaders in our school."

Ava says she was remarkably busy throughout high school which made it challenging at times, but she had people to help her through it all. "I think it's good to have a support system around you," she explained. "With my best friend, Grace (Olsofsky), the salutatorian, I feel like us having each other kind of helped us, and my sister (Courtney) helped me a lot. Just having people to support your educational path helps a lot. Time management is also a big thing because you don't want your whole high school years to be spent studying. I think being involved in extracurricular activities and doing sports doesn't make [the studying] seem as bad because you're doing lots of fun things as well."

Ava has five siblings, including one older sister and four younger siblings. Her older sister was also Addison's class valedictorian in 2020. "I look up to her a lot," Ava says of Courtney (Flaws) Johnson. Her three younger brothers come next. One brother will be a senior in the 2026-27 school year, one will be a freshman, and one is going into seventh grade. Her youngest sibling, another sister, will be entering third grade.

And then there are the pets. "We have lots of pets in the family," Ava added. "We have one dog, Bear, and a lot of cats. There are a lot of strays and we take them in sometimes."

Ava left a few words of wisdom for others to follow from her high school experience. "I think it's very important to have a balance of everything throughout high school," she said. "Education is very important, but it's also important to have fun and enjoy high school. Be involved as much as you can. It's all worth it."

This summer you might find Ava working in the bakery section at Country Market in Brooklyn.

Presenting the Columbia School District Class of 2026

Class of 2026 Top 10



Evan DeOss
Salutatorian
GPA: 4.2346
PARENTS: Crystal Ostrander and Nicholas DeOss
FUTURE PLANS: Attend Bowling Green State University to study criminal justice.



Kolie Brown
GPA: 4.1852
PARENTS: Colt and Ashley Brown
FUTURE PLANS: Attend Adrian College to study exercise Science with hopes of one day becoming a sports medicine physician.



Eden Fassett
GPA: 4.179
PARENTS: Jill and Anthony Fassett
FUTURE PLANS: Earn an associate's degree in math and science in a 13th year at Jackson College and then transfer to Adrian College



Jonas Maki
GPA: 4.1667
PARENTS: Karen Kiss and Curtis Maki
FUTURE PLANS: Attend Michigan State University to study business and finance.



Garrett Denney
GPA: 4.1212
PARENTS: Meredith and Mike Denney
FUTURE PLANS: Attend Alma College to study sports management/pre-law and play football.



Kelsey Fausz
GPA: 4.1173
PARENTS: Courtney and Randy Fausz
FUTURE PLANS: Attend the University of South Carolina to study pharmaceutical science.



Catherine Goings
GPA: 4.1154
PARENTS: Amanda Gerhard, Scott Goings & Kara Lorenz-Goings
FUTURE PLANS: Attend Jackson College to study early childhood education and then transfer to a four-year University.



Madonna Chehade
GPA: 4.1132
PARENTS: Nisren Eldirany and Mark Chehade
FUTURE PLANS: Attend Michigan State University for one year then transfer to Boston University to study neuroscience.



Ava Free
GPA: 4.1111
PARENTS: Molly and Rob Free
FUTURE PLANS: Attend Lawrence Technological University to study robotics engineering.

Greyson Agnello to study engineering

By John Hummer
Editor

Greyson Agnello, the Columbia Central High School class of 2026 valedictorian, is the son of Danielle and Ryan Agnello. He grew up in Brooklyn and completed all his schooling in the Columbia School District.

"My mom and grandmother were both teachers here," he shared. Greyson plans to attend Michigan State University in their College of Engineering and major in computer engineering, with electrical and software engineering as focus areas as well. "Basically, I'll be making and designing computer systems," he explained. "I would love to work in the automotive industry – hybrid systems and stuff like that – but seeing how that's going as of late, maybe I'll go into another field."

Greyson enjoyed his math and science classes the most throughout his school years in the district. "I've always been a math and science guy for as long as I can remember," he stated. "Those have been my passions. That's what I'm good at."

His physics course in his senior year was the most impactful. "That definitely pushed me towards my career goal. I kind of took physics as an exploratory class, kind of thinking, 'Is this going to be the right fit for me?'" Indeed, it was.

Greyson had a couple teachers that were especially influential during his years in the school district. "Ms. [Wendy] Eastman inspired my love of math," he stated, noting that she taught at the junior high level.

Another teacher that meant a lot to Greyson was history teacher Cory May. "It was



Greyson Agnello
Valedictorian
GPA: 4.2564
PARENTS: Danielle and Ryan Agnello
FUTURE PLANS: Attend Michigan State University to study computer engineering.

always just a joy to be in his classroom," he said. "It was always so much fun in there."

Greyson's robotics coach and computer science teacher, Chris Holbert, also left her mark on him. "That was always a good classroom to be in. I learned a lot about my future and going into those professions," he noted.

When he wasn't in class or studying,

Greyson was an active participant on the school's FIRST Robotics team – the Columbia Central Golden Gears. He was on the team for five years and named team captain his senior year.

Greyson also participated on the school's clay target shooting team. "I competed at the state and national levels," he shared, adding that the team participates in the USA Clay Target League.

"In everything I did, I always did my best," Greyson said proudly about his method of achieving success. "I did the best I could in everything I tried to do – just doing the best I could to be the best version of me. It's a lot of work, but it's extremely fulfilling to know that what I've done is as good as I could make it. That's always felt good for me."

Greyson is an only child. His family does, however, have several pets including two dogs and five cats. "The pets are easier to maintain than me," he joked. "Three of [the cats] are outdoor, so that makes it more manageable."

Most of all, Greyson is a humble young man. "I'm valedictorian, but I hope I'm remembered as a good person."

Columbia School District Class of 2026

- Gwendolyn Parker

Mary Christopher

Adam Adams

Greyson Dagenais

Nevaeh Linn

Rebecca Ahrens

Bella Elizabeth Ruth Anderson

Jesus Miguel Perez Baez

Georgia Jean Beard

David Charles Bielby

Dylan Paul Boone

Kolie Jae Brown

Logan Patrick Brown

Mae Olivia Burnside

Kaitlyn Marie Campbell

Madison Lynn Carlson

Madonna Maria Chehade

Arianna Joy Cooper

Audrey Jean Corbett

Logan Alexander Cragin

Timothy
- Silven Creech

Hunter Steven Czubachowski

Noah Patrick Dankert

Garrett Harrison Denney

Brody Alan Denning

Evan Lee James DeOss

Chase Allen Dukate

Cole James Edmunds

Blake Layton Evans

Eden Grace Fassett

Kelsey Rae Fausz

Ava Joy Free

Emma Grace Free

Kaylee Alyssa Fulk

Tyson Gary Gaydosh

Catherine Ann Goings

Paige Olivia Gootee

Dylan John Hammond

Isaac Stewart Hammontree

Logan Michael Hannewald

Alexis
- Ann Henry

Riley Scott Hovater

Peyton Renee Huston

Zackary Jeffrey Johnson

Rylee Paige Knapp

Jaylen Raynae Lambka

Landon Daniel Lorenz

Jonas Dale Maki

Luke Baron Marks

Lauren Dee McClellan

Maya Lynn Mendez

Olivia Dell Mitchell

Kayleigh Marie Molnar

Bella Marie Munro

Lilah Gale Muterspaugh

Nathan Richard Allen Ostrosky

Lycan James Phelps

Olivia Nicole Poe

Nicholas Aiden
- Radford, Wyatt

Mitchell Maleea

Renee Thomas

Remus, Sarah

Elizabeth Rhodes

Alison Rose

Richardson, Avery

Lynn Marie

Richardson, Sophia

Jean Salter

Kennedy Rose

Emery Scheithauer

Tucker Nolan

Dray Schiel

Jazzmyne Duskanne-Marie

Schultz, Adam

Lee Senkewitz

Emma Nevaeh Shafer

Carter David Simpson

Cecelia Jesilyn Slat

Olivia Kay Spaulding

Jaxon Xavier Spence

Jack Matthew
- Stanfield, Derek

Robert Stanton

Kiley Nicole Swift

Mikaela Elise Talbot

Kyle Wayne Thompson

Avah Leone Torres

Joseph Allen Tracy

Wyatt Matthew Vowell

Jevon Courtney Watkins

Joseph Brighton Willaert

Alaina BellaLou Williams

Gabriel Landon Wilson

Adriana Sandi Lois Wittman

Aubrey Elyse Wyse

Presenting the
Grass Lake Community Schools Class of 2026

Class of 2026 Top 10



Brogan Salow
Salutatorian
GPA: 4.447
PARENTS:
Dan and Tina Salow
FUTURE PLANS: Attend Michigan Tech University to study chemical engineering.



Cooper Riddle
GPA: 4.427
PARENTS:
Sarah LaRock and Steven Riddle
FUTURE PLANS: Attend University of Michigan to study aerospace engineering.



Sophia George
GPA: 4.421
PARENTS:
Shawn and Ryan George
FUTURE PLANS: Attend University of Michigan to study nursing.



Zachary Hoppe
Valedictorian
GPA: 4.461
PARENTS:
Douglas and Stephanie Hoppe
FUTURE PLANS: Attend Michigan State University to study pre-med.



Taylor Hoppe
GPA: 4.399
PARENTS:
Douglas and Stephanie Hoppe
FUTURE PLANS: Attend Michigan State University to study nursing.



Katherine Million
GPA: 4.377
PARENTS:
Greg and Lisa Million
FUTURE PLANS: Attend University of Michigan to study nursing.



Alexander Holda
GPA: 4.366
PARENTS:
Chris and Sarah Holda
FUTURE PLANS: Attend University of Michigan to study chemistry and biology.



Lillian Gilbert
GPA: 4.364
PARENTS:
Marcus and Allison Gilbert
FUTURE PLANS: Attend Michigan State University to study nursing.



Madalynn Watson
GPA: 4.333
PARENTS:
Dan and Marissa Watson
FUTURE PLANS: Attend Western Michigan University to study elementary education.



Ethan Beattie
GPA: 4.325
PARENTS:
Stephen Beattie and Jennifer Heckler
FUTURE PLANS: Attend Michigan State University to study electrical engineering.



Sadie Tinsman
GPA: 4.325
PARENTS:
Kent and Marquita Tinsman
FUTURE PLANS: Attending Jackson College to earn an associate's degree in applied science to pursue computer networking.

Valedictorian planning to take pre-med track of neuroscience

Coffey. "I had him for seven out of my eight semesters here," he noted. "I got to know him really well and he just taught in a way that resonated with me personally. He was hard on me but knew the best way to teach me and helped me learn best. I don't have a great attention span at all – I get distracted very easily. In his class, you would be 'in the moment' and he would also give personal help. At the beginning, I don't know how much he liked me. But by the end, I hope I became one of his favorite students."

Zachary stated that he also loved science in school. "Since I'm going into pre-med, I plan to work a lot more with science-based subjects."

On the science note, Zachary acknowledged that his mom, Stephanie Hoppe, played a significant role in his education. "Not just as a mother, but as a teacher, she's helped me a lot with science, specifically. I had AP (Advanced Placement) bio with her and she made sure I was disciplined to the point where I was actually getting my class work done. I thank her very much for doing that."

Even though he is a math and science guy, Zachary noted, interestingly, that history was actually his favorite subject.

Zachary says the secret to his success is to have a calm mindset. "You can go into life and get stressed out by a lot of things," he said. "The way I like to see it is 'just calm yourself down and take it in.' I hear the saying a lot – you only live one life. For me, that's not how I see it. You live life every day – you only die once. Every day should be you just trying to live out your life and see everything. It really is beautiful, I believe."

When he wasn't in class or studying, Zachary played varsity soccer for four years. He played two years of junior varsity basketball, then switched to power lifting during the winter. "That was pretty tough – I'm not a big guy," he noted. "It's a great thing to be in – I was glad I did it those last two years."

Zachary was also involved with National Honor Society and Student Council.

By John Hummer
Editor

Zachary Hoppe, the Grass Lake High School class of 2026 valedictorian, is the son of Douglas and Stephanie Hoppe. He has been a Grass Lake Warrior from the start. His mom, Stephanie Hoppe, teaches biology at the high school. Zachary's twin sister, Taylor, also graduated in the top 10 at Grass Lake High School, finishing at #5.

Aside from his twin sister Taylor, Zachary has a younger brother, Michael. "Big Mike" we call him," Zachary shared. Big Mike will be a junior in the 2026-27 school year.

For his next step, Zachary plans to attend Michigan State University to study pre-med. "Right now I'm planning neuroscience, because for my career I plan to go into psychiatry and become a psychiatrist," he stated.

Zachary recalled from his early school years one teacher who had a considerable influence on him was his fourth- and sixth-grade teacher, Lisa Malmo. "I went into fourth grade absolutely hating math," Zachary shared. "Somehow, some way, she made me love it. It was so fun. It became one of my better subjects, even to this day I still do much better in math than any other subject. I think that will be the most help going forward."

Another teacher that had a big effect on Zachary was his high school math teacher, Brad

Grass Lake Class of 2026

Aiden Anthony Alexander, Nolan James Allen, Julian Rubicz Altvater, Daniel Yevgheniy Anderson, Zachariah Tye Anderson, Phoebe Elizabeth Artz, Eleanor Rose Bailey, Gabrielle Alexandra Bakun, Ethan Michael Beattie, Brynn Ryan Bell, Carter William Earl Bertke-Cavill, Cole Ian Burnett, Mason Alexander Busch, Mason John Chapo, Morgan Grace Conrad, Miranda Mazett Coppernoll, Ava Deanne Croley, Atilyn Louise Diedrich, Brady Dean Duke, Harmony Madelynne Faith Edie, Beckett Andrew Ferguson, Jacob Jude

Ferguson, Carter Joseph Frey, Sophia Jean George, Lillian Virginia Gilbert, Owen Andrew Gogol, Gianna Jordan Gould, Luke Thomas Guthrie, Myra Lynn Gutowski, Blake Stephen Harms, Benjamin Robert Hein, Addalynn Coe Hensen, Andrew Glen Herrell, Avery Davian Holcomb, Alexander Evan Holda, Taylor Ann Hoppe, Zachary Michael Hoppe, Anna Bell Johnston, Katelyn Nicole Jurney, Carter James Kaczorowski, Sydney Abigail Kellerman, Jack Wesley Kidder, Cooper Alexander King, Logan Michael Klink, Collin Michael

Knight, Nicholas Matthew Koncelik, Mariana Leon-Canales, Brandon Thomas Macomber, Joseph Lawrence Magos, Matthew Dylan Mannor, Timothy Ari Maynard, Lily Laurie McFarland, Brianna Skye McLeskey, Abigail Marie Meloche, Katherine Ann Million, Makayla Marie Moglovkin, Justice Austin Payne, Adrian Scott Pokryfky, Jace Michael Ponagai, Cayden Andrew Powers, Carson James Presson, Sarah Hope Rankin, Zachary Allen Rice, Cooper Jay Riddle, Carmen Louise Rodriguez, Nathanael Stephen

Rutz, Brogan Christian Salow, Manny Ronald Schafran, Connor Joseph Sherwood, Ashleigh Lynette Simon, Ben Thomas Simon, Leilah Jo-Lynn Smith, Jordyn Marie Snyder, Simon Pierre Steggall-Lewis, Seth William Swank, Gracie Lynn Swarthout, Sadie Lynn Tinsman, Benjamin Vincent Tippie, Emmet Michael VanCleave, Layla Elizabeth Vermeulen, Damien Christopher Vicory, Mya Lou Viegelahn, Madalynn Grace Watson, Brayden Joseph Glen Wayne

Presenting the
Napoleon Community
Schools Class of 2026
Class of 2026 Top 10



Griffin Keith
Salutatorian
GPA: 4.074
PARENTS:
Timothy and Nicky Keith
FUTURE PLANS:
Attend Michigan Technological University for a degree in mechatronics.



Allison Dillay
GPA: 4.032
PARENTS:
John and Melissa Dillay
FUTURE PLANS:
Attend Central Michigan University to pursue a degree in math and statistics.



Claire Steih
GPA: 4.029
PARENTS:
Yvette Steih and the late Richard Steih
FUTURE PLANS:
Attend University of Michigan to study general studies.



By John Hummer
Editor

Ethan Hays, the Napoleon High School class of 2026 valedictorian, is the son of Nicole and Anthony Hays. He grew up in Napoleon and completed all his schooling at Napoleon Community Schools.

Of note is that his older brother, Thomas, was the valedictorian of Napoleon High School in 2024.

Ethan plans to attend Michigan Technological University to major in materials science and engineering with a focus in metallurgy. "I've got a professorial assistantship with a professor at Michigan Tech," he noted. "I'm going to go up there and work with him and hope to work on a project they have on corrosion-resistant steel."

"Eventually I plan to work for the Department of Defense on corrosion-resistant steel for Navy ships," he stated. "It will reduce the cost of maintenance. The Navy spends almost \$3 trillion a year on maintenance of ships. So, helping reduce that at all will really help the Defense budget."

During his high school career, Ethan said his favorite subjects and those that helped prepare him the most for college were calculus, chemistry, and physics.

Ethan says that his mom, Nicole Hays, who teaches chemistry, physics, and computer science at Napoleon High School, was the teacher that influenced him the most throughout school. "She's really helped support me in finding opportunities and finding good ways to improve myself academically," he stated, noting that she also helps teach students good study skills and habits.

"All the teachers did really well at helping me figure out how to find my place in Napoleon and

what my best study habits are," he added.

When he wasn't in class or studying, Ethan participated on the track team in the spring doing shot put and discus. He was also part of the NHS Quiz Bowl team.

Additionally, Ethan tried his skills at acting in musicals for the school's performing arts program and participated in band. "I did percussion for the concert band, was a drum major in the marching band, and played piano for our jazz band,"

he shared.

Ethan pointed to his participation in one program that he says made a significant difference in his rise to the top of his class. "When I was in eighth and ninth grade, I participated in the Academically Talented Youth Program through Western Michigan University," he recalled.

The program is an advanced and accelerated educational opportunity for academically talented middle and high school students. It strives to teach students based upon their intellectual capacity, not their year in school.

"It helped me learn how to manage my time really effectively," Ethan explained. "We were writing four or five papers a week. Figuring out how to structure my time and motivate myself to get all those done in that amount of time really helped me learn how to get my schoolwork done and how to think about things critically."

Though he has plans to work for the Department of Defense and may end up in a big town like Washington, D.C., Ethan will always remember his roots in Napoleon, and who knows, may one day end up back there because of his love for the community.



Anna McCubbins
GPA: 4.028
PARENTS:
Donald and Katherine McCubbins
FUTURE PLANS: Attend Saginaw Valley State University.



Kaitlyn Fall
GPA: 4.018
PARENTS:
Joe and Jen Fall
FUTURE PLANS:
Continue education at Jackson College.



Makenzy Lindemann
GPA: 4.009
PARENTS:
Katey and Chris Lindemann
FUTURE PLANS: Attend Michigan State to study human biology, then go to PA school to work in dermatology.



Jocelyn Miller
GPA: 4.009
PARENTS:
Laurie and Shawn Miller
FUTURE PLANS:
Complete 13th year at JCEC then transfer to Eastern Michigan University.



Andrew Norman
GPA: 4.008
PARENTS:
Pete and Becky Norman
FUTURE PLANS:
Attend Spring Arbor University to study mechanical engineering and pole vault on the track team.



Aviah Latocki
GPA: 4.0
PARENTS:
Jen and Josh Latocki
FUTURE PLANS:
Attend Hope College to study biology.



Leevi Latocki
GPA: 4.0
PARENTS:
Jen and Josh Latocki
FUTURE PLANS:
Attend Ferris State University to pursue a Bachelor of Science in PGA Golf Management.



Olivia Rhodes
GPA: 4.0
PARENTS:
April Benoist and David Rhodes
FUTURE PLANS:
Attend Jackson College to pursue a cardiac sonography degree.

Valedictorian has sights
set on working for
Department of Defense

Napoleon Class of 2026

Turner W. Ahrens, Zachary N. Andrus, Cordae K. Austin, Bryce Elliott Bailey, Ellamae Lynn Bailey, Aubrieanne Rose Bayes, Alexis Marie Beever, Maikayla Cheri Bowers, Cayley Lynn Britton, Ayden J. Burroughs, Tyler W. Bush, Nolan H. Callahan, Aiden R. Carpenter, Kelsey Emma Chapman, Tyree Charles Clay, Lucas N. Conaway, Dylan M. Crum, Kyson J. Cudworth, Lukas W. Curylo, Jalynee K. DeLano, Romane Della-Valle, Allison E. Dillay, Landen Thomas Eagen, Makayla Marie Early, Aden John Eggleston, Kaitlyn Elaine Fall, Damian Michael Falls, Eva C. Fisher, Zakkary David Foley, Devin K. Fry, Leila Rae Gallatin, Janae Denyce Gooden, Olivia N. Goold, Hayden Elizabeth Graham,

Hannah Lucy Hamlin, Josiah William Hawkins, Ethan Mark Hays, Elvin Henriquez, Dominic Royal Hilliker, Keira Lee Dawn Hoard, Makayla J. Jackson, Maylin Jager, Griffin T. Keith, Victoria C. Kelley, Aviah L. Latocki, Leevi Cole Latocki, Avrey Kaelyn Leece, Makenzy N. Lindemann, Brayden Scott Maher, Gavon M. McCoy, Anna Lillian McCubbins, Kaitlynn Mataya McKittrick, Kaylin Victoria-Ann McLean, Jocelyn Hope Miller, Addison K. Morgan, Isabelle Rose Munson, Tyler David James Nall, Andrew David Norman, Braylon Mitchell Nykamp, Carter Joel Olds, Nathaneal Bradley Otto, Brenten S. Owen, James Joseph Perdue, Katanah L. Peterson, Laiken Ann Prescott, Hayden Olyvia Rendall,

Olivia Grace Rhodes, Alessia Romagnuolo, Lucas David Rowley, Chelsea A. Ruck, Cade O. Rugg, Shawn M. Russoy, Kora J. Sadler, Colin James Semmler, Tyler Steven Shong, Maria Caterina Siciliano, Greisha Ann Sloat, Lillian Grace Slugay, Emersyn Anne Smilowski, Erin Lynn Smith, Jordan N. Smith, Meghan Claire Smith, Jayden Marie Snyder, Claire Elise Steih, Julia Rose Stemen, Grant G. Straub, Troy Scott Styron, Corey J. Sutton, Jamison Timothy Swope, Peyton Thomas Thorne, Elle Vivianne Van Poppel, Dakota Adelle Waluck, Brady A. Warner, Hannah M. Welch, Madelyn Grace Wheeler, Nolan Joseph Williams, Olivia Grace Wood, Elliot Yu



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Brooklyn • 517-592-3989



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And
Brown Van Hemert Funeral Homes
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3050 W. Beecher Road • Adrian

Anderson - Rudd Funeral Home
9205 U.S. 223 • Blissfield

Eagle – Marry Funeral Home
40 S. Manning Street • Hillsdale

B & B Hardware

B & B Hardware
122 W. Brooklyn Road
Napoleon • 517-536-8696



Bank Michigan
417 S. Main Street
Brooklyn, MI 49230



Boater's Choice
12011 Brooklyn Road
Brooklyn • 517-592-3989

Booher's
Fresh Market & Café

Booher's Fresh Market & Café
3504 Brooklyn Road
Napoleon • 517-960-7419



Brooklyn Big Boy
329 S. Main St.
Brooklyn • 517-592-3212





BROOKLYN PARTY SHOPPE & SERVICE CENTER
188 S. Main St.
Brooklyn, MI 49230

Brooklyn Party Shoppe & Service
188 S. Main St.
Brooklyn • 517-592-6256

BROOKLYN PLUMBING HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

Brooklyn Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning
4017 Jefferson Road
Clarklake • 517-529-9437



Bundy Hill Offroad
9960 Chicago Road
Jerome • 517-917-0493



Clarklake Golf Course
5535 Wesch Road
Brooklyn • 517-592-6259



Clearwater Treatment Systems
47000 Industrial Drive
Clarklake • 517-529-9055



Decker & Sons Insurance Agency, Inc.
Addison • 517-547-7475
Onsted • 517- 467-6193
Jerome • 517- 688-4241



Designs by Judy
3250 Wolf Lake Road
Grass Lake • 517-522-5050



Eagle's Nest Bar & Grill
1200 Eagle Point Road
Clarklake • 517-529-7116



Eineder Funeral Home
137 S. Main Street
Brooklyn • 517-592-2280



Frank's Shop-Rite
401 Michigan Ave.
Grass Lake • 517-522-4161



Hometown Pizza
193 S. Main Street
Brooklyn • 517-592-3266



Irish Hills Acupuncture & Wellness
11999 Brooklyn Road
Brooklyn • 517-592-3030



Jerry's Pub
650 Egan Hwy.
Brooklyn • 517-467-4700



Lucero's Mexican Bar & Grill
6258 Jefferson Road
Clarklake • 517-529-7270
4243 Oaklane Road
Jackson • 517-686-8226



M - R Builders
6624 Brooklyn Road
Napoleon • 517-536-4300



Medicine Shoppe – Pharmacy
400 N. Main St.
Addison • 517-467-7225



Mid-America Machining Inc.
11530 Brooklyn Road
Brooklyn • 517-592-8988



JIM'S AUTO BODY & Service
7439 BROOKLYN RD
NAPOLEON
AUTO BODY & SERVICE • 517-536-8171

Napoleon Lawn & Leisure
6595 Brooklyn Road
Napoleon • 517-536-4256



Pegasus
171 S. Main St.
Brooklyn • 517-592-3227

Quality Glass
310 W. Brooklyn Road
Napoleon • 517-536-8202

Regal TIRE SALES

Regal Tire Sales
108 W. South St.
Jackson • 517-782-1413



Shady's Tap Room
110 N. Main Street
Brooklyn • 517-938-8733



IRISH HILLS Collision & Service
14221 US-12
BROOKLYN
AUTO BODY & SERVICE • 517-592-5987



Swiss Swirl
195 S. Main St. • Brooklyn



The Brokerage House
100 S. Jackson St., Ste. 102
Jackson • 517-788-8733



Tiny Pair Tree
132 N. Main St.
Brooklyn • 517-938-5132

Vic's
Vic's Market
101 Austin Road
Napoleon • 517-536-8686



Village Barber Shop
124 S. Main Street
Brooklyn • 517-592-6409



Village Peddler Gift Shoppe
118 N. Main St.
Brooklyn • 517-592-8027

Presenting the
Onsted Community
Schools Class of 2026
Class of 2026 Top 10



Ava Kurowski
Salutatorian
GPA: 4.085
PARENTS: Michael Kurowski
and Laina Webster
FUTURE PLANS: Attend
Western Michigan University



Hannah Hill
GPA: 4.000
PARENTS:
John and Jamie Hill
FUTURE PLANS:
Attend The University of Olivet



Karlle Kimerer
GPA: 4.000
PARENTS:
Matthew and Angela Kimerer
FUTURE PLANS:
Attend Michigan State
University



Sophie Kurowski
GPA: 3.994
PARENTS:
Michael Kurowski
and Laina Webster
FUTURE PLANS: Attend
Western Michigan University



Aron Noveskey
GPA: 3.992
PARENTS:
Andrew and Gina Noveskey
FUTURE PLANS: Attend
Michigan Technological
University



Sydney Keefe
GPA: 3.991
PARENTS:
Amy Keefe and
the late Chris Keefe
FUTURE PLANS: Attend
Central Michigan University



Lauren Millet
GPA: 3.991
PARENTS:
Chris Millet and Anita
Robertson
FUTURE PLANS: Attend
the University of Lynchburg



Raegan Brosamer
GPA: 3.990
PARENTS: Marc and
Danielle Brosamer
FUTURE PLANS: Attend
Michigan State University



Parker Briggs
GPA: 3.982
PARENTS: Michael and
Jessica Briggs
FUTURE PLANS:
College/university undecided



Aubrey Smith
GPA: 3.982
PARENTS:
Jeremy and Heather Smith
FUTURE PLANS: Attend
Ferris State University

Onsted School Class of 2026

Josie Izaboo Averitt, Alexis Paige Avila, Taylor Rose Bice, Alexis Mercedes Bolak, Drake William Bosse, Parker Raymond Briggs, Raegan Christine Brosamer, Xavier James Callahan, Lily Miriam Chamberlain, Mason James-Howard Chesser, Carley Elise Clack, Grant D. Cross, Logan James Cullen, Isabel Hailey Cundiff, Elizabeth Nadine Cunningham, Teagan William Cunningham, Isabelle Kathleen DeSandro, Alexander Steven Dolson, Alexis Catherine-Joy

Edwards, Valentin Esqueda, Alyssa Lee Fox, Isabella Patrice Gibbs, Mikaela L. Gray, Emma Christine Grulke, Alexandra Reagan Hall, Rylan Dashai Henagan, Hannah Elizabeth Hill, Rayne A. Holderman, Megan Grace Hunt, Elizabeth Marie Jeffreys, Landon Thomas Johnson, Hunter Ross Kangas, Sydney Olivia Keefe, Ellionna Marie Keene, Karter Michael Keil, Derica Marie Kern, Karlle Vena Kimerer, Molly Elizabeth Kordyzon, Ava Rae Kurowski, Sophie Kay Kurowski, Hailey M.

Libey, David Elliott Lofton-Stinger, Jonah James McKelvey, Dawson A. Miller, Lauren Anne Millet, Austin Thomas Moore, Kaelyn Marie Moore, MaKayla Grace Muckenstrum, Alek James Noveskey, Aron Andrew Noveskey, James Michael Overton, Patrick Rollo Pangborn, Oliver Mack Pettit, Sofia C. Priest, Miranda Leigh Ramsey, Keegan M. Ratz, Keegan Daniel Raymond, Dax Caelen Rober, Cole Lee Ruttkofsky, Juliette Rose Saunders, Jayden Rose

Schmucker, Aubrey Anne Shauger, Joseph Evan Shuster, Aubrey Paige Smith, Evan Reid Smith, Kaven L. Sundquist, Bryson Thomas Sutherland, McKenna Rae Szul, Landen Estol Thompson, Michael Jayden Robert Valasek, Hunter M. VanZandt, Chase Alexander Watkins, Cole Carlyle Wells, Landon Ryan Whitson, Mead Greyson Wicking, Jayleigh Marie Williams, Margurite A. Zellen

Bryson Sutherland to study
mechanical engineering at
University of Notre Dame

By John Hummer
Editor

Bryson Sutherland, the Onsted High School class of 2026 valedictorian, is the son of Tyler and Marisa Sutherland. He grew up in Onsted and attended Onsted Community Schools from the very beginning.

For his next step, Bryson plans to attend Bethel University in Indiana on a baseball scholarship and enroll in their Engineering 3/2 Program. Under that program, he will study primarily mathematics and physics for three years at Bethel followed by two years of engineering coursework at the University of Notre Dame where he will earn his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering.

"It's nice because I get to go to Bethel and play baseball and also get a higher degree of education from Notre Dame," he explained. Bryson will be a pitcher on Bethel University's baseball team.

One course that Bryson says helped prepare him for his future field of work as a mechanical engineer was his engineering, design, and CAD class at the Lenawee Intermediate School District Tech Center. "That helped me with blueprint reading and concepts of engineering and brought me to know what an engineer does," he noted.

Bryson's favorite subjects in school were math and physics, noting that physics teacher Dylan Thompson and mathematics teacher Bernard Schmit both had fun classes.

One person who Bryson says made a significant difference in his schooling was his high school football coach, Aaron Amthor, who also taught him social studies, world history, and current events. "He had a good approach to the classroom," Bryson said. "He tried to include everyone and made it fun while being in his class. He was always willing to have a conversation with you."

Another teacher that had a big effect on Bryson was Allison Howland, his Spanish teacher.



Bryson Sutherland
Valedictorian
GPA: 4.095
PARENTS:
Tyler and Marisa
Sutherland
FUTURE PLANS:
Attend Bethel University
and Notre Dame.

"She was always compassionate towards you," he shared. "She had fun projects for us and made the class engaging as well. She was someone you could always give a hug to."

A third teacher who Bryson says shined a light on his academic career was his class advisor and world history teacher, Mary Walters. "She just made the class fun, was always willing to crack a joke, and had us participate in group discussions as well."

When he wasn't in class or studying, Bryson played football in his freshman and sophomore years and basketball and baseball all four years of high school. He also played on traveling teams based in Adrian for both baseball and basketball and played baseball for the College Scouting Bureau (CSB) national team. "I got to travel to Texas, Arizona, and North Carolina to play baseball last fall," he shared.

On the extracurricular side, Bryson was a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society – a college honor society through Jackson College. He was also a member of the National Society for Leadership and Success, the Onsted Academic Club, the National Honor Society, and the National Technical Honor Society.

Bryson says his secret to success is balancing his academics and involvement outside the classroom was to keep it simple. "Don't try to overthink everything," he noted. "Know what you need to do next and just simply go do it. An acronym I used a lot that Coach [Amthor] told me was WIN – What's Important Now – not thinking too far in the future, not thinking about the past, just what's important now to win and achieve."

Bryson has two siblings – a little brother, Rosson, going into seventh grade and a younger sister, Lydia, who will be a freshman in the coming school year. His family also has two dogs – one named Dipstick – which Bryson thanks his dad for naming. They also have two cats.

Bryson thanked his family for all their support throughout his school days at Onsted Community Schools.

Presenting the Vandercook Lake Public Schools graduating Class of 2026

Class of 2026 Top 10



Marley Trowbridge
Salutatorian
Unweighted GPA: 3.981
PARENTS: Kristin Laurie and Kyle Trowbridge
FUTURE PLANS: Attend Jackson College then transfer to a university to pursue a degree in criminal justice.



Dahlia Arbogast
Unweighted GPA: 3.975
PARENTS: David Arbogast
FUTURE PLANS: Attend Jackson College then transfer to a university to pursue a degree in elementary education.



Abigail Hunt
Unweighted GPA: 3.94
PARENTS: Karen and Chuck Hunt
FUTURE PLANS: Attend Spring Arbor University to pursue a bachelor's degree in marketing.



Dallas Swaenepoel
Unweighted GPA: 3.914
PARENTS: Sarah and Chuck Swaenepoel
FUTURE PLANS: Attend the University of Olivet to pursue a bachelor's degree in sports medicine while competing on the track and field team.



Allison Watkins
Unweighted GPA: 3.83
PARENTS: Holly and Jeff Washburn
FUTURE PLANS: To attend Central Michigan University to pursue a bachelor's degree in business as well as studying photography.



Claire McKinney
Unweighted GPA: 3.768
PARENTS: Mindy and Derek Reeter
FUTURE PLANS: Attend University of Michigan to pursue a degree in biology on the pre-med track to become a physician.



Todd Atkins
Unweighted GPA: 3.727
PARENT: Amanda St. Charles
FUTURE PLANS: Attend Jackson College to pursue a degree in business administration.



Christopher Chase
Unweighted GPA: 3.647
PARENT: Rachel Samons
FUTURE PLANS: Attend Jackson College and compete on the eSports team and then transfer to a university to pursue a degree in cyber security.



Austin Hartle
Unweighted GPA: 3.612
PARENTS: Amanda and David Hartle
FUTURE PLANS: Attend Lincoln Tech in Indiana for training to become an electrician.

Vandercook Lake Class of 2026

Joslynn Marie Adams, Dahlia Gay Arbogast, Brian Lee Atkins, Todd Dean Atkins, Layten Bain Benjamin, Aden Dominik Berg, Christopher Philip Chase, Jared Dean Crittenden, Jay'Le Gale Fagan, Stephen Allan Fair, Bryant Edward Ferguson, Kylie Mae Fischer, Tony Maurice Hart, Austin Michael Hartle, Abigail Elizabeth Hunt, Alyssa Nicole Jones, Zander Jack Lee Jones, Christian Timothy Lee, Jacelynn Marie Long, Claire May McKinney, Autumn Kay Minix, Audrianna Lee Nelson, Aleigha Grace O'Dell, Clarence Junior Patton Carr, Jon William-Edward Powell, Erin Elizabeth Riddle, Timothy Jeffrey Rohde, Takoda Alan Romero, Amarily

Santamaria, Jacob Bennett Shepard, Taylor Lynn Sildack, Carinn Annjelina Sims, Darius Shai Stephens, Le'Shawn Dononique Sullivan-Landrum, Dallas Joseph Swaenepoel, Madalynn Josephine Thompson, Hannah Rose Toland, Kyle Andrew Trajnowski, Marley Marie Trowbridge, Allison Alizabeth Watkins, Anthony Brock Williams

Vandercook Lake Virtual Academy Class of 2026
Brandt Tony Jonathan, Tatiana Joyce Guy, Carlie Rose Hill, Nicholas Max Lee, Brady John Loar, Alyssa Katherine Riddle, Yury Stark

Alyssa Jones hopes to become criminal defense attorney

By John Hummer
Editor

Alyssa Jones, the Vandercook Lake High School class of 2026 valedictorian, is the daughter of Crystal and Craig Jones. She grew up in Jackson and spent her early school days at Paragon Charter Academy through fifth grade before transferring to Vandercook Lake Public Schools.

Alyssa has three brothers – two older and one twin brother. "I'm a minute older than my [twin] brother – that's **very** important!" she stressed. Her family also has one dog, an Australian shepherd, and two cats.

Alyssa is currently enrolled in the Jackson County Early College (JCEC) program taking most of her classes online. In her senior year, she took 12 college classes. "It was a lot," she said. She started taking college courses in her sophomore year of high school. "Right now I have 43 college credits."

"I'm focusing very highly on communications, as well as criminal justice," she continued. "I take more of the law classes and more of the history classes. I took every criminal law class they had."

Alyssa just obtained her certificate in law enforcement, noting, "By the end of next year I'll have my associate's in arts through my criminal law classes."

After completing her associate's degree, Alyssa plans to transfer to Ferris State University to earn her bachelor's degree in criminal justice. "I was accepted to Ferris State this year, but I'm going to hold off until next year so I can finish my 13th year [at JCEC]."

Alyssa is still debating her career goal. "Either I'm going to get my bachelor's in criminal justice and then become a criminologist or I'm going to transfer to a law school – preferably Michigan State – to become a criminal defense attorney," she stated. "I'm more focusing on being a lawyer. Criminology is more of my backup plan."

While thinking about high school classes in her earlier high school career, Alyssa stated her civics class with Shelle



Alyssa Jones
Valedictorian
Unweighted GPA: 3.994
PARENTS: Crystal and Craig Jones
FUTURE PLANS: Complete her 13th year at Jackson College for her associate's degree in art then transfer to Ferris State University to eventually become an attorney.

Spaulding was especially useful. "That really helped me choose this path," she stated.

Alyssa says that one teacher who had a substantial influence on her was her band teacher, Nate Courtright. "He helped me mature a lot," Alyssa shared. "For most of my hears here I felt like I wasn't being challenged enough. To have a band teacher challenge me that much made a huge impact."

Another teacher that Alyssa credits for her success was Mark Snyder, her

English teacher. "He taught me a lot of life lessons," Alyssa noted. "He helped me prepare for the real world. He was also my e-sports coach, so he has helped me become a team player, a better leader, and has just been an amazing help transferring into being an adult."

When she wasn't in class or studying, Alyssa was heavily involved in e-sports. "We play video games and compete with other schools," she shared, adding that they play schools from other regions of the country. Alyssa plays Marvel Rivals and is the captain of her team. "It's so fun playing with a bunch of people that actually want to be there. It's something I love – I've always liked playing video games. But being able to compete in something that I didn't even know was possible until a few years ago is magnificent."

Alyssa also participated in more traditional physical sports. Her freshman year she played basketball and played volleyball through her junior year. "For the past four years, I've been on the bowling and softball teams," she added.

Alyssa was also in band for four years playing the alto saxophone. "It's a lovely instrument," she said, adding that she played solos in some of her band concerts.

In thinking about her path to success, Alyssa admits she is a procrastinator. "Don't let procrastination stop you from being who you want to be," she advises. "Procrastination doesn't mean you can't do something. I'm proof that even if you procrastinate, you can still become valedictorian. I didn't think I could be in this position."

Congratulations
Jayhawks!

