

### **Jake Andrew**

Jake Andrew learned the value of hard work from, well, from working hard. A three-sport varsity athlete, Jake spent much of his high school career on the field or court, putting in both the hours and the love to improve. He also gained skills and passion from working in construction, framing houses, and laying concrete. So it's no surprise that when he attends Nazarene University in Idaho next fall, he will study business and construction management.

### **Aja Baker**

Had you asked Aja Baker about her passions a few years ago, she would have said tennis and soccer, without hesitation. However, her participation in clubs such as Equity Council and FBLA have given her leadership experience that has opened doors and new dreams. An officer of both clubs, Aja has learned that true passion pushes you forward. She will push herself even further next year as she pursues a career in entrepreneurship and management with a minor in fashion marketing at Pace University's Lubin School of Business.

### **Logan Baumgaertner**

Given the list of awards and accolades Logan Baumgaertner has amassed through his participation in athletics--four years in football and soccer and three years in wrestling, one would be adequately impressed. Despite being team captain of the soccer and football teams and earning the coaches' award in wrestling, Logan is more than sports. A senior class officer, his community service includes helping Kiwanis and Salvation Army for several years. Science teacher and senior class advisor Kristen Moore says Logan, "leads with authenticity, confidence and inclusion and is a powerful, compassionate student and leader." Logan's long term goals include the sports medicine profession, either as an orthopedic surgeon or a sports medicine physician. To start, he'll study kinesiology and biology at Texas Christian University.

### **Gage Beaner**

Gage Beaner, "consistently demonstrates exceptional work ethic, pushing through challenges with determination and resilience," says volleyball coach Kelsey Swapp. Gage shared her enthusiasm for volleyball with both younger children and middle schoolers at youth volleyball camps. Now, she is eager to put her enthusiasm and determination to work in another field: cosmetology, a long time dream. Next fall, Gage will study at Evergreen Beauty College with a focused goal of building a loyal clientele.

### **Holly Beierle**

Holly Beierle is convinced performing is in her blood. Her love of acting, singing and dancing started very early, and she's been active in theatre in one way or another ever since. She was also a member of the Dungeons and Dragons Club and Journalism Club. Even stronger than her passion for performing arts is her desire to give back, which is why she wants to study social work, specifically human services, at Skagit Valley College next year.

### **Josiah Blee**

Josiah Blee is captivated by many things including painting, woodworking, backpacking, fishing, archery, and camping. He also loves mechanics and is currently working to restore a classic Beetle. In school, Josiah was an athlete on the wrestling and cross country teams. Next year, he heads to Western Washington University to study business and to soak up learning everything he can.

### **Marley Broersma**

That Marley Broersma strives to better her community is evident in the 157 volunteer hours she has given to coaching youth soccer and mountain biking, to trail building in our forestlands and to fostering multiple litters of kittens for NOAH. When not in class at the high school or Northwest Career and Technical Academy, you will probably find Marley mountain biking, skiing, or playing soccer, as she's done all of those for a combined total of 26 years. Her love of being active is important to her, so much so that she wants to help others stay safe and healthy through their activities as well. To do this, she will study kinesiology at Montana State University with the hope of eventually going into physical therapy.

### **Brooklyn Bush**

Motivated. Self-reflective. Giver. These are all words math teacher Tonya Stout uses to describe Brooklyn Bush. Her compassionate giving can be seen in her middle school math tutoring or her summer tennis coaching. In addition to playing on the tennis team for four years, Brooklyn was also a member of FBLA, Green Club and Sports Medicine Club. To help others is one of Brooklyn's career goals, specifically to use her degree in marketing to help non-profits focus on community needs. To realize this goal, she will study marketing and leadership at Whitworth University in the fall.

### **Reece Carr**

Next year, Reece Carr will turn her dreams into reality by attending University of Oregon to study interior design and architecture. She will graduate not only from Anacortes High School but with an AA from Skagit Valley College as well. Reece has always gravitated toward art, whether it be coloring, sketching or painting, finding peace in creating.

### **Sara Coffey**

Sara Coffey has always loved taking care of others... whether by cleaning up trails and parks or more often through cooking or baking. But she doesn't want to pursue the culinary field for fear it will lose its appeal. Instead, she wants to continue caring for others by entering the healthcare profession, starting next fall at Skagit Valley College. Sara will focus on Allied Medical studies and then possibly transfer to continue learning in the healthcare field. Congratulations, Sara.

### **Abigail Cross**

"Abigail Cross is loyal, kind and compassionate with a quiet but mighty way of leading others," says PE teacher Marci Fankhauser. Captain of the tennis team and vice president of Sports Medicine Club, Abigail was also a member of Green Club and National Honor Society and earned a 3.97 GPA. Next fall at Western Washington University, she will work towards a biology degree to start the challenging path of earning a doctor of physical therapy degree.

### **Bryson Davis**

Bryson Davis comes from a service-oriented family where protecting wildlife and conserving natural areas ranks high in priority. Fishing, trap and skeet shooting or wildland firefighting, Bryson is most at home in the woods or water. But he's also very comfortable playing in the band, having been selected for State Wind Symphony and State Brass Ensemble. In fact, he will continue performing with concert and pep bands in college. An Eagle Scout, Bryson has volunteered 142 hours of community service, mostly in conservation. Next year he will study fish and wildlife management at Northwest College in Wyoming with the long term goal of earning a BA in the same discipline while also studying conservation law enforcement.

### **Morgan Dickison**

A jack of all trades, Morgan Dickison was successful and committed to many things: lacrosse, swim and dive, FBLA-state qualifier for three years, and Broadcast Club, of which she has been vice president and president. She's basically taking it all with her to Ottawa University in Kansas next year, as she will play lacrosse for the Ottawa Braves while studying broadcast journalism. Her career goal is to ultimately go into sports management or marketing. Digital Media teacher Evan Williamson says that Morgan, "consistently demonstrated professionalism, creativity and a genuine enthusiasm for storytelling while leading by example with the highest level of integrity." Morgan is graduating with her AA from Skagit Valley as well.

### **Courtney Doyle**

To jumpstart her lifelong goal of becoming a veterinarian, Courtney Doyle took the vet assistance course at Northwest Career and Technical Academy. She will continue pursuing her dream in the pre-vet track at Montana State University. Courtney's high school career was spent on the tennis courts for four years and in Green Club, Sports Medicine Club, and National Honor Society. NCTA teacher Laurie Barrett praised Courtney for being, "inquisitive, quick-witted and for frequently seeking additional challenges to deepen her understanding."

### **Mikiah Dunham**

If there's one thing valedictorian Mikiah Dunham has in spades, it's dedication. As in, she gives years to anything she touches, including Key Club, Green Club, Coding Club, Book Club, basketball, tennis and soccer. And that's just participation; her community service of 270 hours includes A Simple Gesture, Rotary YES, Dinner at the Brick, and several environmental organizations. Mikiah wants her profession to make an impact. She hopes to provide realistic solutions to communities that do not currently have access to sustainable environmental practices, and she strives to increase both human welfare and environmental protection. To do this, she will study environmental studies at Whitworth University in the fall.

### **Jackson Eckhardt**

Jackson Eckhardt's love of soccer, and the decade he has put into it, definitely paid off and will allow him to continue dedicating his time on the pitch next year at Eureka College in Illinois. His interest in politics will guide him in his studies of political science with a hopeful internship in Washington DC. One day, we may even see him on the political stage.

### **Sylvia Ellis**

Before she could walk, Sylvia Ellis was tickling the ivories. Not long after, she started swimming. Next came the wonder and curiosity of research. The valedictorian has been a student at Stanford Summer Camp studying biomedical engineering and astrophotography, and at MIT Splash, where she took courses in Philosophy of Perception Matrices. Her published research and internships include work on soil disturbance and superconductivity and on Y Carinae's pulsation period, a paper that will be presented at the Society for Astronomical Sciences. Sylvia looks forward to studying engineering next year at University of Washington where she can combine her love of physics and maths with real-world applications.

### **Trinity Erickson**

From the moment Trinity Erickson looked under the hood of her first car, she knew the pathway she was meant to travel. English teacher Ruth Masters describes Trinity as, "a productive collaborator with patience and determination who can take charge with confidence." She was a member of the bowling and golf teams all four years of high school. Trinity plans to take her determination and passion for mechanics to Spokane Community College where she will study automotive technology and give back to her community by providing diligent and efficient vehicle repairs.

### **Toby Esqueda**

As an athlete, Toby Esqueda has spent 12 years playing baseball, and all of his high school years playing football and basketball. So he knows a thing or two about not only the physical demands of athletics but the mental pressures as well. Inspired by the duality in sports, Toby seeks to become a sports psychologist who can help athletes achieve peak performance both physically and mentally. When he attends George Fox University he will study psychology, but he will also be continuing his sports careers on both the football field and the baseball diamond. Go Bruins!

### **Brian Falen**

Four-year soccer athlete, Brian Falen will take everything he learned on the pitch into his studies next year at University of Washington. He plans to study sports medicine and go into personal training or kinesiology because he is fascinated with problem solving injuries and helping others. Brian was a member of the National Honor Society and volunteered at the Anacortes Arts Festival.

### **Hanna Ferrario**

According to history teacher Ken Welk, Hanna Ferrario is, "a very ambitious individual who shows initiative, responsibility, and industriousness... a top notch student and leader." A four-year athlete of soccer and track and field, Hanna also volunteered with Link Crew and youth track and soccer. Her passion for young children and her connections with inspiring teachers throughout her own education have led her to pursue a teaching degree, specifically elementary education at Central Washington University.

### **Travis Follett**

While Travis Follett isn't certain what his specific career will be, he knows he wants to study finance or marketing as he has always enjoyed math and numbers. Another thing he's enjoyed immensely for the past eight years is lacrosse. Travis was a founding member of the Esports Club and was its number one player. Next year, he will take his love of numbers and games to Western Washington University where he also plans to study abroad.

### **Annika Fox**

Annika Fox knows she will follow her passions, but which of those will end up as a career is yet to be determined. She loves the business and creativity of marketing and interior design, which is what she plans to study at the University of Wyoming next fall. In fact, she is seriously considering graduate school to become a CTE teacher. But she also loves the business and marketing side of the lumber industry, having grown up in that family business. Annika, who played soccer for 4 years, was also involved with Link Crew and Yearbook.

### **Anna Friedrichs**

Anna Friedrichs learned many lessons from her four years on the softball field. Coach Jody Shafer says that Anna's, "maturity brought a sense of leadership, encouragement and expectations to the team, and that above all else, Anna was a student athlete... always student first." Discipline and determination were the rewards of Anna's softball and volleyball career, but her greatest love has been helping others, particularly the older generation. For this reason, Anna seeks to pursue her Bachelor of Science in nursing at Eastern Washington University next fall.

### **Gavin Garcia**

You'd think that the only passion in valedictorian Gavin Garcia's life would be sports, having played football, basketball and baseball for more than a decade and having now committed to play baseball at San Joaquin Delta College in California. But you'd be surprised. He also loves math and recently has developed an affinity for cooking and baking. PE teacher Scott Dickison says Gavin, "is gifted analytically and works well in hands-on situations and that his critical thinking skills are among his greatest strengths." These will surely serve him well as he competes and studies at San Joaquin Delta.

### **Carlo Gegen**

Carlo Gegen has a plan. It's detailed and well thought out. Linked Lives supervisor Alex Rodriguez says that Carlo, "has a sharp mind, discipline, and the drive to thrive in any challenge he takes on." The three-year soccer athlete plans to challenge himself to earn a pilot's license while studying business at Skagit Valley College next fall. All this to get him to a bachelor's degree and combine his business skills with the aviation industry.

### **Anne Gill**

Anne Gill's love of music is something she wants to share. From a very young age, Anne had an instrument of some kind in her hand and has always had a deep connection to music. She was an SJMEA solo and Ensemble winner, voted most inspirational band member, and was drumline captain. Anne will combine her own passion for music with her desire to share it when she studies music education at Gonzaga University. While there, she will also participate in the jazz and wind ensembles as well as the marching band drumline. Be sure to listen for her when watching March Madness next year.

### **Steven Goodwin**

Teacher Scott Dickison says that Steven Goodwin is, "the type of student who makes Anacortes High School a great place to teach and who always strives to get better." Steven, a varsity baseball and tennis athlete, was also a member of National Honor Society and will be graduating with an AA from Skagit Valley College as well. Next year he plans to study mathematics at Boise State with the eventual goal of becoming a math teacher and high school baseball coach.

### **Cate Griggs**

If you don't find Cate Griggs running on the track, cross country course, or basketball court, you'll probably find her coaching for youth soccer, youth basketball or youth track and field. Her love of sports has inspired her to pursue a career

in kinesiology at Western Washington University next year. But Cate is about more than just sports. She loves the Pacific Northwest, our proximity to the ocean and to our countless forestland trails. And she wants to work to protect these things for future generations as well. AP Lit teacher Ruth Masters has been impressed with Cate's humility, despite her having won great acclaim in cross country and track. She says Cate, "emanates a quiet confidence that makes her at once approachable and worthy of people's respect."

### **Morgan Gudmundson**

Despite having been on the bowling, swim, and tennis teams all four years of high school, Morgan Gudmundson still found time to read voraciously and write poetry and music. In addition to a love of travel, Morgan also loves animals, so much so that she intends to study animal science at Montana State College as the first step to becoming a large animal veterinarian. Her goal is to provide service to farmers, zoos, and anything in between.

### **Kylan Guinn**

Intrigued by interior design, architecture, and a love of nature, Kylan Guinn plans to weave his passions into a degree in engineering at Oregon State University in hopes of helping secure the world and protecting people from the rapidly changing environment. To him, architecture is one of the greatest testaments to human creativity and ingenuity. But he has other passions as well, including painting, creative writing, and basketball. PE teacher Marci Fankhauser admires Kyle's, "intelligence, kindness, integrity and grit."

### **Luke Hanson**

Luke Hanson has a plan. He will study kinesiology at Northwest Nazarene University and then move on to physical therapy. He was very active in sports and music including four years in track and field, seven years in band, and three years in football. At WMEA State Solo and Ensemble, Luke won straight superior in the large brass ensemble category. Tutor Jennifer Collins calls Luke, "mature, creative, and a deep thinker who has a knack for understanding the hearts and minds of individuals while also conceptualizing the big picture of the world."

### **Shizune Haratani**

Valedictorian Shizune Haratani finds joy in cooking. To her, it's a form of creativity. And even though she spent a good deal of her high school time in band, both performing and volunteering, she probably spent more time exploring all things culinary. Counselor Kara Fox was, "inspired by Shizune's academic drive, bright mind, and extracurricular engagement." In all she volunteered 87 hours for Link Crew, Green Club, and band. In addition to her high school diploma, Shizune earns her AA from Skagit with a 3.9 GPA this month. She will expand her learning of culinary arts next year at Bellingham Technical College.

### **Max Harrison**

From an early age, Max Harrison was intrigued by chemistry. And he has a love of creating new things. Add to that a passion for the environment and ecological issues and it makes sense that Max will pursue either chemical engineering or natural resources and conservation at Western Washington University next fall.

### **Violet Holson**

Take note of Violet Holson's name as you just might see it printed on a published work, as either an author or publisher. Outside of school, Violet spent her time in choir and drama and on the swim and dive team. Choir director Carole Leander says Violet has, "an intriguing combination of creativity and authentic compassion," and that she is, "consistently hard working and kind to all." Next year, Violet will take her love of storytelling to Western Washington University where she will pursue a degree in English.

### **Logan Horr**

From a young age, Logan Horr's curiosity was fueled by his grandfather who exposed him to the wonders of science and engineering. Add to this Logan's 3.98 GPA and his perseverance as seen in his improvements in track, cross country, and swim and dive over his high school career, and you've got a recipe for success. Swim coach and AP Lit teacher Ruth

Masters appreciated Logan's, "confidence, maturity, and ability to lead and encourage others in the pool and in the classroom." Logan will continue fueling his fascination with science by studying engineering at UC Santa Barbara.

### **Regan Hunt**

Regan Hunt has literally excelled using her brain, body, and heart. She was a competitive dancer for nine years and participated in track and field for three, while playing volleyball and basketball all four years. Her extensive volunteer hours include Boys and Girls Club, SABA, ASF, RAGNAR, and Link Crew. Ambitious and competitive, Regan enjoys learning new things and will take on the challenge of chemical engineering at Oregon State University next year. She intends to take full advantage of the Capstone Design Program to work with industry partners, potentially in manufacturing or production with an environmental focus.

### **Olivia Jacobson**

Olivia Jacobson dedicated 275 volunteer hours to our community through Green Club, Kiwanis Thrift Store, Varsity in Volunteerism, and Key Club. And she still found time to be president of FBLA and compete at the state level all four years, to be co-president of ViV, and maintain a 3.95 GPA with several AP courses. Both hemispheres of Olivia's brain get a workout as she is passionate about poetry and reading but also loves science, particularly human anatomy. So, it makes sense that she will study biology and neuroscience at Western Washington University next year as a stepping stone to medical school, her ultimate goal.

### **Maddie Johnson**

Helping others, particularly middle and high school students, is the ultimate goal for Maddie Johnson. Starting with a psychology degree at Western Washington University, they hope to then earn a Masters in Psychology. A member of Key Club, Broadcast Club, and marching band, Maddie was also on the swim and dive team.

### **Grace Johnston**

"What sets Grace Johnston apart is her character; she does not shy away from challenges but embraces them. She is an exemplary student and talented leader who blends creativity with inspiration." This from Anacortes Arts Festival Executive Director and School Board Director Meredith McIlmoyle. Whether in class, on the lacrosse field, or with a video camera, Grace excelled each and every year. Next year at the University of Washington she will begin her major in environmental studies, which will help her with her aspiration to study urban development and help communities prepare for positive change and sustainability in the future.

### **Talin Kerr**

More than material wealth, Talin Kerr is driven by the desire to give back. He was the only freshman to date to be placed in leadership class and teacher Spencer Andrich was impressed with his, "strong commitment to academics, innate leadership, and vigorous work ethic." That work ethic has played out on the wrestling mat over the years and on the ranch as Talin is a cattle runner when not at school or coaching youth wrestling. Talin's goal to become an electrician will start next fall at Bellingham Technical College. His larger goal, though, is to return to his hometown where he can serve his community and future students seeking to enter the trades.

### **Noah Ketner**

Choir director Carole Leander describes Noah Ketner as, "creative, driven, and responsible" and says, "through fun phrases of encouragement and obvious intrinsic motivation, he lifts up those around him and brightens the mood in the room on a daily basis." Noah also likes to step out of his comfort zone and try new things, like Sailing Club, Leadership, and Broadcast Club. His passions include singing, acting, and dancing and he has been in many musicals over the years. As for future career goals, Noah plans to study engineering, architecture or urban planning while minoring in French at University of British Columbia next fall.

### **Paige Kirby**

Does Paige Kirby sleep? We're not sure. As a Salish Sea School teacher, school board student representative, and community volunteer, she has given close to 400 hours to her community including Fidalgo Island and Skagit Gleaners, Skagit Conservation District, and the Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team. But she was also in choir, drama, and Key club all four years. Drama and history teacher Scott Burnett says Paige has, "leadership and service deep in her DNA and is a skilled leader who has sought opportunities to serve others in non-leadership roles as well." Paige's protective love of the environment has motivated her to learn about indigenous cultures and their care for the environment. But that's not even what she plans to study. Paige will major in the wildlife biology program at University of Montana with the goal of traveling to research animals, ideally elephants in Africa.

### **Emma Kretchmer**

Emma Kretchmer is one driven student, having harnessed her love of animals into an actual future career. After successfully completing the Veterinary Technician program at Northwest Career and Technical Academy, Emma has carved out the journey, starting with earning her AA at Skagit Valley and then transferring to Bellingham Tech to complete the Vet Tech/Assistant program. In addition to loving animals, Emma loves being creative and has a particular affinity for art, especially ceramics. Teacher April Lyons-Dixon describes Emma as having a, "strong work ethic and intellectual curiosity with an independence that allows her to take initiative and solve problems efficiently."

### **Connor Laisure**

When Connor Laisure arrives in Seattle to attend the University of Washington, he will seek to learn all he can about human civilization and cultures. His major in anthropology will help guide him in his other passion: helping others. In addition to band, Key Club, and National Honor Society, Connor also volunteered for Kiwanis and the Sunflower FUND.

### **Kai Lebowski**

A liberal arts school like St. Olaf College in Minnesota is the perfect school for Kai Lebowski, a student who loves all subjects and wants to learn it all. His love for math and music in particular are evident from his seven years in band and his time on the math team. He was awarded 1st in the region in Solo and Ensemble and Large Wind Ensemble for SJMEA and also was selected for WMEA All-State Wind Symphony. Kai was a member of GSA and Book Club all four years of high school. He will combine his love of math and music by double majoring in statistics and music. And while his career will focus on the math side of things, he is determined to continue playing in community bands or orchestras as long as he can.

### **Kaylee Lust**

Thinking about others has always been central to Kaylee Lust's life, whether it be cheering on athletes, performing in choir, or service projects for Girl Scouts. Kaylee has cheered for a total of ten years and was also a Girl Scout for a decade. She wants to continue giving to others as an elementary teacher who can make a difference in children's lives. Next year, Kaylee will attend Western Washington University to make her dream a reality.

### **Bo Mager**

When he's not at home, you will most likely find Bo Mager on the baseball field, having loved the sport since childhood. He will keep playing beyond high school at Palomar College in California, where he'll study business with the long term goal of transferring to a university and eventually owning his own business or going into real estate. This month, he not only graduates from AHS but also with his AA from Skagit Valley College. Chemistry teacher Jody Dylan says Bo, "consistently demonstrates hard work, respect, and helpfulness."

### **Finn McFarland**

For Finn McFarland, teachers have always served as an inspiration, whether it be his elementary teachers or a swim instructor. And he's already using that inspiration by working with youth teaching swim lessons. Finn, "understands the importance of commitment to confidentiality and integrity," according to high school administrative assistant Kellie Franklin. He will continue to help people learn and grow, including himself, next year at Adams State University in Colorado where he will pursue elementary education and compete on the mens' swim team.

### **Savanna McSpadden**

Savanna McSpadden loves the fine arts. Music, drawing, painting, choir; anything creative, Savanna is all in. She will channel this passion into her studies of cosmetology at Evergreen Beauty College next fall.

### **Aiden Miller**

Aiden Miller is, "an accomplished student with dedication and self-discipline who is both a self-motivated learner and a creative thinker," according to AP Lang teacher Brian Backman. A 12-season athlete, Aiden competed at the state level in both cross country and track in addition to playing basketball. While he is most at home with a pair of running shoes on, Aiden also spends time giving back to his community and wants to continue doing so after he earns a finance degree by helping small businesses, guiding individuals who are struggling with finances or simply being a part of his community. Next fall, Aiden heads to Spokane to attend Gonzaga University.

### **Reed Myers**

Valedictorian Reed Myers managed to balance rigorous academics, varsity sports, and a part-time job throughout his high school years. Anacortes Baseball Club development director Erik Saunders says that Reed is, "an accomplished student athlete who remains one of the most humble, kind and hard-working young men," he's even known. Reed has always been fascinated by government and the justice system and will pursue studies around political science and pre-law to narrow his post-graduate options. Next year at Beloit College in Wisconsin, Reed will also play on the baseball team.

### **Naomi Norgard**

That Naomi Norgard competed at the state level of Future Business Leaders of America three of her four years in the club is evidence that she's headed in the right direction as far as career choices go. Naomi was a class officer for two years, played soccer for four, and will earn her AA from Skagit Valley College this month as well. At Arizona State University, Naomi plans to earn a Bachelor of Science in economics in hopes of one day owning her own consulting firm.

### **Ella Ocampo**

Swim coach Leslie Mix says that Ella Ocampo's, "outstanding academic record, leadership skills and commitment to making a difference in the lives of others make her stand out." Ella shared those talents with others in drama, choir, National Honor Society and on the swim team. But storytelling is her true passion. And her dream is to be able to tell stories in the animation industry which is why she will head to DigiPen Institute of Technology to pursue a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree.

### **Tyler Olson**

Sports have always played a big part in Tyler Olson's life. A four-year football and baseball athlete, Tyler is most at home when playing sports with friends or coaching youth to be the best version of themselves. In fact, he may even end up owning his own sports business after he earns a degree in business from Eastern Oregon University.

### **Gabby Olson**

"Gabrielle Olson's ability to connect with people from diverse backgrounds is a testament to her inclusivity and cultural awareness." This from Superintendent Justin Irish who supervised Gabby's two-year work as a school board student representative. In addition to this time commitment, Gabby found time to cheer all four years, coach youth cheer, be a class officer, and be a member of Link Crew. From working with elementary students, Gabby realized she wants to pursue occupational therapy, which she will do next year at Eastern Washington University.

### **Chris Parks**

According to PE teacher Marci Fankhauser, Chris Parks, "brightened the classroom and increased everyone's sense of belonging." He was an active member of the track and field team for three years and is determined to pursue his lifelong dream of flying. At Florida Tech University, Chris will study aviation and hopefully end up traveling all over to soak up different cultures and experiences.

### **Joe Pestar**

An Eagle Scout, Joe Pestar is driven by a passion for hands-on work and problem solving. He also seeks to help those around him. Reverend Scott Peterson says that Joe, "has an innate leadership ability that makes him readily available to assist wherever needed, taking the initiative to get things accomplished." His participation in FBLA and even at Northwest Career and Technical Academy forged a desire to become an electrician with the long-term goal of owning his own electrical contracting business. He will take the first steps toward this goal at Bellingham Technical College next fall.

### **Aeden Peterson**

Aeden Peterson is skilled on both land and water. He participated in sailing for seven years and the martial art of Kenpo for eleven, including being an assistant instructor. He is a first degree black belt in Kenpo Karate and has attended WMEA All-State for tuba, brass solo, and jazz. He was also drum major for the AHS marching band. In addition to music, sailing and martial arts, Aeden is passionate about aeronautical and automotive design and engineering. Next year, he will attend Washington State University Honors College to double major in mechanical engineering and business with a minor in German language.

### **Will Peterson**

Will Peterson knows a thing or two about grit. Multiple injuries throughout high school did not stop him from showing up to team practices, whether it be mountain biking, swimming, or football. His involvement in robotics helped shape his love of auto mechanics, and next year at Washington State University, he will study business, majoring in international business with the hopes of earning an eventual MBA. His end goal is to own an automotive business and to make cars that everyone can afford.

### **Jenai Pittis**

At the heart of all she does, animals remain the focus for Jenai Pittis. In addition to studying Vet Assistance at Northwest Career and Technical Academy, Jenai has volunteered her time with 4-H and caring for a lame horse. Her biggest accomplishment was earning national and international titles, gold and silver, with her shy Covid puppy in dog obedience and handling. Her love of animals has inspired her to pursue a career in farriery and exotic hoof care at Heartland Horseshoeing School in Missouri.

### **Will Price**

A long time choir and drama participant, Will Price was in numerous musicals and was an avid player of Games Workshop's Warhammer titles. He was also active in Green Club. And just because he has narrowed down his future career to urban design, public administration or teaching social studies, it doesn't make him undecided. He is very clear in knowing that he wants to make a societal change on a tangible local level. And he's clear about how: once he earns his AA from Skagit Valley College, he plans to transfer to a four-year university to pursue one of his three career goals.

### **Wasu Pye**

Wasu Pye, according to history teacher Scott Burnett, "is an overwhelmingly capable young man, a voracious reader and consumer of information and able to marshal that content knowledge with a highly developed analytical framework to make sense of the world he lives in." He is passionate about music, having played the violin since the age of nine and sees it as a symbol of his drive and resilience. And he has big dreams. Wasu plans to explore the world of STEM at Bellevue College. He then hopes to transfer to a university to become a mechanical engineer.

### **Naomi Rabago Martinez**

Naomi Rabago Martinez knows exactly what she wants to do in her future and has the plan in place to make it happen. In high school, she competed all four years in cheerleading and also coached youth in summer cheer camps. She loves working with children and wants to combine that with her passion for helping others; in this case, expectant mothers. Naomi's goal is to first study diagnostic medical sonography and then become an obstetric ultrasound technician. She heads to California in the fall to attend Orange Coast College.

### **Aubrey Rittel**

To say Aubrey Rittel is creative is an understatement. A dancer for 16 years, she also loves sketching, drawing, writing, and playing guitar and piano. But she uses the other hemisphere of her brain as well, competing with the Math and Robotics teams. Robotics coach Ross Wilson says Aubrey, "demonstrates dedication and perseverance and consistently sets ambitious goals, stays focused and works diligently to achieve them, in all aspects of her life." She will graduate with her AA from Skagit Valley College and then head to Western Washington University to double major in education and dance.

### **Frankie Roberts**

History teacher Ken Welk describes Frankie Roberts as, "reliable and ready to help at any time, a student with great poise and character." She was inspired by the care she received from her own teachers and counselors throughout her schooling. She also has been a volunteer at Mt. Erie Elementary since 2018, so it's no surprise that Frankie wants to pursue a career in education, specifically to earn her masters in counseling degree. She will start this journey at Boise State next fall.

### **Gracie Schwabe**

When Gracie Schwabe sets her mind to something, you can rest assured, she will get it done and then some. Ever the competitor, Gracie was a three-season athlete all four years of high school: soccer, basketball and track and field. But she worked just as hard in her classes. She also worked at summer soccer camp for three summers and volunteered at Food to Go and at ASF's Science to Go. Counselor Ashlee Poggee calls Gracie, "deeply astute and compassionate, relentlessly operating from a place of authenticity." Gracie is excited to attend Evergreen Beauty School next year to learn cosmetology.

### **Naomi Scofield**

Naomi Scofield enjoys all aspects of the culinary world and has always found baking calming. She was inspired and challenged by the cooking classes at Northwest Career and Technical Academy and will graduate from that program this month as well. English teacher Corey McCartney says Naomi has, "quiet diligence and integrity along with adaptability and commitment to self-improvement," that will serve her well in the world of culinary arts. Which is where she's headed next fall. Naomi will attend Skagit Valley College to earn her AAS in baking.

### **Siriana Simonsen**

AP Calculus teacher Dan McLean describes Siriana as, "the type of person who cultivates a synergy and passion that makes a learning community thrive. She has an infectious propensity to engage and a deep willingness to collaborate." Active in basketball, tennis, and choir, Siriana Simonsen also gave much of her free time to others, as a counselor at Camp Huston and as a 5th grade mentor at Fidalgo Elementary. Her love of economics and math will be fueled as she studies accounting next year in the Honors College at Western Washington University. While there, Siriana also hopes to study abroad in Greece as part of the program.

### **Camden Smeltzer**

Next fall, Camden Smeltzer will travel south to San Diego State where he will begin the sports medicine path, a journey that was inspired by his involvement playing sports and as a member of the Sports Medicine Club. Camden will pursue a degree in Kinesiology with the long-term goal of earning a Doctorate of Physical Therapy. A member of Link Crew, Camden played soccer for four years and tennis for three. Math teacher Tonya Stout came to know Camden as a, "kind and dedicated student, self-reflective about his learning whose leadership shone through when helping others."

### **Ellie Snyder**

"Ellie Snyder is one of those students who makes a great impression without trodding on the agency of others," says English teacher Ruth Masters. Ellie, who has served in leadership roles for both National Honor Society and Varsity in Volunteerism, is an AP Scholar and was invited to take an advanced science course at MIT next year as a student

studying biochemistry at Wellesley College in Massachusetts. Her goal is to pursue a career in medicine, specifically as a doctor who not only treats patients but also contributes to the medical field through research. In fact, she wants to return to her home state to address healthcare disparities and blend science, service, and a commitment to helping others.

### **Natalie Stavropoulos**

Teacher Helen Lastovica says that Natalie Stavropoulos is a, "natural leader who leads by example and with compassion." She has used these skills to coach youth at Inspire Studios, teaching tumbling, stunts, and routine. A member of the high school cheer team, Natalie has competed for nine years and was the captain of Inspire's traveling team, competing on the national level. And she will continue using these leadership skills next year at Western Washington University where she'll pursue a degree in elementary education with a special education focus.

### **Caden Stephens**

Growing up on Guemes Island taught valedictorian Caden Stephens a deep sense of purpose and work ethic. He became passionate about creating and manufacturing things, including guitar design, tiny home welding, woodworking, and mega steel and glass door crafting. But he also played varsity tennis and found time to volunteer with Skagit Land Trust and the Guemes Island Fire Department. AP Lit teacher Ruth Masters says that Caden is, "driven, curious and passionate with the humility to know there's always more to learn and perspectives to be open to." He doesn't just dream big; he takes the steps toward success. He interned over 100 hours with a practicing engineer to learn more about his future career. Next year, Caden will study mechanical engineering at Seattle Central and then transfer to a four-year university.

### **Chloe Stunger**

According to chemistry teacher Jody Dylan, Chloe Stunger is, "an honest and compassionate individual, respectful and hard-working, who demonstrates determination and resilience when faced with academic or workplace challenges." Working at Chandler's Square for two years deepened Chloe's understanding of teamwork, empathy, and responsibility. These skills will come in handy as she heads to University of Nevada in the fall to pursue a nursing degree with the ultimate goal of becoming an obstetrics nurse. In school, Chloe was a member of Green Club, Varsity in Volunteerism and served as a National Honor Society officer.

### **Ty Swapp**

Ty Swapp likes math and English and wants to pursue both, focusing on secondary education as a major at Northwest Nazarene University. A varsity athlete in basketball, baseball, lacrosse, tennis, and track, he will join his university's track and field team next year in Idaho. Teacher Scott Dickison says that, "Ty is the type of person who makes everyone better around him, with a teachable spirit and truly unique charisma. He is positive and encouraging to his peers in the classroom, in the halls, and on the field of play."

### **Klein Szerlong**

According to counselor Ashlee Poggee, Klein Szerlong, "has an incredible work ethic, depth of self-responsibility and heart of service." The valedictorian was captain of varsity cheer and a Youth Board Member of the Guemes Island Community Center Association as well as an assistant neighborhood leader. Klein is passionate about nature and the environment and enjoys skiing, gardening, camping, and hiking. Her passion about making a positive impact in her community and the environment has led her to pursue a bachelor's degree or higher in public health and nutrition at the University of Washington next fall.

### **Michael Tabor**

When Michael Tabor heads to Oregon State University, he will do so with an AA from Skagit Valley College already under his belt. Fascinated by coding at an early age, Michael built his own computer in his sophomore year. This fascination has led him to pursue a computer and information sciences degree with the goal of a career in AI to advocate for its ethical use. Michael, an alto saxophone band member for six years, won third place in Regional Solo and Ensemble for sax solos and first place for large woodwind ensemble. In addition to music and computers, Michael also enjoys sailing and was a member of the high school team for two years.

### **Ganon Thomas**

Valedictorian Ganon Thomas hopes to jumpstart his career by taking advantage of an internship program at Clemson University, where he heads next fall. The BMW production facility will allow Ganon to use his passion for cars and motorcycles to learn automotive design, alongside pursuing a mechanical engineering degree. An eight-year lacrosse athlete and a member of SkillsUSA Metals Club, Ganon is also a student of mixed martial arts, including Muay Thai, Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, wrestling, and kickboxing. AP Physics teacher Casey Anderson says Ganon has, "incredible drive, intellect and emotional maturity and is in the top one percent of students she's ever taught."

### **Connor Thomas**

A leader, an athlete, a doer and a learner, Conner Thomas wants to continue giving back by going into the field of teaching when he attends Boise State next year. His involvement in leadership spanned all four years of high school, and Principal Erin Duez has been impressed over the years with Conner's, "commitment to improving the school experience for all students, focusing on building connections between them and instilling a sense of community and belonging." Conner also played baseball for four years, cross country for three years, and basketball for two years, in addition to being a Link Crew leader.

### **Riley Walgamott**

A four-year athlete in both soccer and football, Riley Walgamott enjoys working with his hands. He even repaired a ski boat. That desire to do hands-on work has led Riley to focus on marine science at Clatsop Community College where he will study vessel operations with the eventual goal of becoming a tug captain.

### **Maddie Ward**

Maddie Ward, "seeks out opportunities to serve others with inclusivity and compassion. Her altruism and intuition are woven deeply within her intelligence and capabilities." This from counselor Ashlee Poggee. She shared that inclusivity as ASB president and captain of the soccer and track and field teams. Maddie will study engineering at the University of Utah next year as a path to the medical field. She is passionate about healthcare, in particular, sports medicine, having played lacrosse, basketball, soccer, and track throughout high school, all the while maintaining a 3.98 GPA.

### **Marcella Warm**

Marcella Warm is a giver. In total she has close to 400 community service hours under her belt, 220 of those at places like the Anacortes Family Center and Tri-Parish Food Bank. And she wants to continue helping others as a career. AP Lit teacher Ruth Masters says Marcella, "has demonstrated an empathy and strong work ethic, spending time and energy doing things that matter." Next year at CSU Chico State, Marcella will pursue a degree in political science with a focus in international studies and a minor in Spanish. This, in hopes to specialize in immigration law or foreign policy analysis.

### **Sydney Wassom**

Sydney Wassom's journey to earning a Masters in Library Science will start with a creative writing degree from Western Washington University. She is captivated by reading, writing and creating and, according to counselor Ashlee Poggee, "understands the importance of practicality and rationale, in thoughtful balance with tremendous ambition and determination." Sydney was a member of the bowling team, National Honor Society, a dedicated volunteer at the public library and Food to Go. This month she graduates with her high school diploma and her AA from Skagit Valley College.

### **Amelia Waterbury**

Amelia Waterbury has always been passionate about art and according to art teacher Carl Dellutri, "she exemplifies the qualities of an ideal art student, understanding how art can be used in expressing emotions and communicating ideas." Amelia will take these skills to the University of Washington where she plans to study visual arts and eventually become an art teacher herself. Outside of classes, Amelia dedicated herself to art club all four years, serving as the President this year, and to Mental Health Club for four years as well.

**Gwen Welch**

Next year when Gwen Welch arrives at Evergreen Beauty School to study cosmetology, she will take her knack for hands-on learning to fulfill her dream of sharing her creativity with others. Northwest Career and Technical Academy teacher Laurie Barrett says Gwen was always engaged, ready to learn and has a natural ability to make others feel at home. And, she's no stranger to working hard having worked at 13 Moons, as an office assistant for a construction company, and at the ConneXtion.

**Victor White**

When Victor White arrives at University of Oregon in the fall, he will begin in earnest the search for a major. His interests in woodworking, engineering, and architecture may steer him to pursue a respective degree, though he is open to learning so much more. Having moved to Washington his junior year, Victor has tried to make the most out of his high school experience, including joining the soccer team, a sport he's played for twelve years. When he's not playing soccer, he also enjoys hiking, skiing, and being outdoors.

**Dylan Willingham**

Dylan Willingham's dedication goes both deep and wide. A talented athlete, she has done track and field for four years and lacrosse for six and has committed to play at the collegiate level at University of Colorado in Colorado Springs next year. But her interests also include leadership and giving back to her community as she's been in Green Club for four years, and has been a three-time state qualifier for FBLA. In fact, she has given 150 hours to her community through Transitions Fidalgo, Green Club, and Skagit Fisheries to name a few. Teacher Ruth Masters says, "it is obvious that Dylan enjoys helping others, doing so with kindness, patience and grace." She hopes to turn that giving spirit to a career in law by studying political science with an environmental science major, perhaps even working at the UN.