



SECTION A:
MENDOTA • OHIO

The Mendota Reporter
Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mendota High School Class of 2020

MHS Honor Students

The top students are, front row left to right, Hannah Ambler, Anna Bokus, Shayna Kerchner and Maren Wise; back row, Sean Dullard, Kevin Lewis, Cole Stremiau, Josh Wiley and Noah DeLong.



Good Friends. Good Tunes.
Good Times.



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prom and graduation.

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Res: (815)539-3709

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MHS Class President Anna Bokus

Dear Mendota High School Class of 2020,

We did it. We're finally done. We made it through high school after four long years. We entered high school as freshmen, not sure what to expect. We transitioned into sophomore year and became a little more sure of ourselves. We began driving and gained a lot more freedom and independence that year.

Junior year came and the stress of all our classes and the SAT loomed over us all, but we pushed through it. And then came senior year. Senior year was supposed to be a year of lasts, a series of things we would do together. The year started out great, everyone

working together to get through their classes and having fun in their last year of high school. But as we all know, the beginning was much happier than the end.

We missed out on so much in our last year: prom, spring sports, the senior picnic, and even a normal graduation. We lost the last few months in our high school when we were switched to e-learning. This separated us from our friends and teachers, and made things quite tough to manage at times. By overcoming this obstacle in our academic careers, we have proven that we have grown from the scared freshman we were four years ago. We have matured into young adults that are ready to take on the next step in our lives.

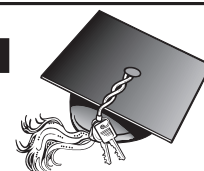
Although the future looks different

for each one of us, I know that no matter where we are headed, whether it's college, the work force, technical school, or the armed forces, each one of us can overcome any obstacle that is put in our path, because we have all done it before. So, although this senior year didn't go exactly how we wanted, it is unique to us. It is our story, and what we plan to do with the rest of it is completely up to us.

I'm proud of each and every one of you and I know you will all go on to do great things. Never forget the lessons you learned while in high school, and always remember to build up each other. Never forget that although we will not be classmates anymore, we will forever be the Class of 2020.

Anna Bokus

HATS OFF



to the class of 2020!
Best of Luck
in the Future!

Schimmer

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*You've put in the time and done the work, now
it's time to celebrate your achievements!*



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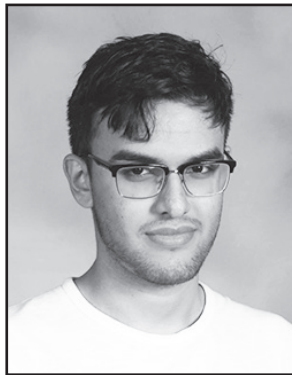
Mendota High School Graduates



Hannah Ambler



Blaze Anderson



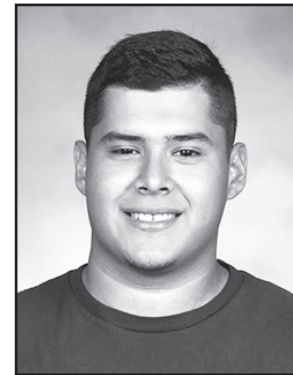
Uriel Arellano



Dailin Arteaga



Emiliano Arteaga



Oswaldo Arteaga



Victoria Arteaga



Quentin Bailey



Angelique-Ashli Baker



Tulinagwe Bakr



Kassidy Barkman



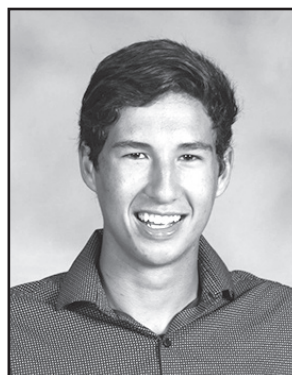
Keirsten Bentley



Anna Bokus



Emme Bottom



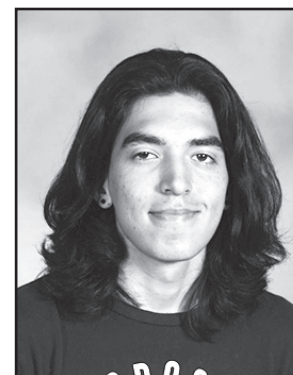
Aaron Brandner



Rachel Brandner



Mikayla Bryson



Jose Bustos



Savannah Christen



Ashleigh Collins



Adrianna Coronel




Lauren Dalton



Noah DeLong






Justin Donovan



Honoring Today's Graduates

You've come a long way, and we're very proud of your achievements. Keep up the great work, and we know you'll go far. Best wishes today and always!


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After such fine academic performances, we know you're destined for great things. Thanks for making us proud, and good luck!

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Many of the area's top students begin their college careers at IVCC. They include, left to right, 2019 IVCC Foundation 21st Century Scholars Society finalists Megan Brooker of Granville, Gena Fassino of Peru, Julianna Kitzmann of Marseilles, Devanshi Patel of La Salle and Gabriela Nanez of Mendota. Fassino and Patel plan to become physicians, Brooker an actuary, Nanez a nurse anesthetist and Kitzmann a mechanical engineer. Each received significant scholarship support at IVCC.

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ILLINOIS VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Mendota High School Graduates



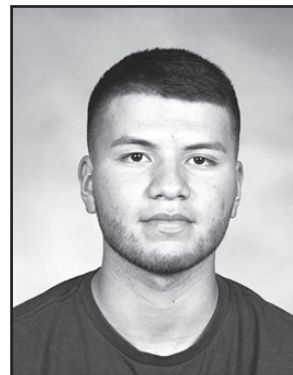
Sonia Duarte



Sean Dullard



Emily Elwell



Christopher Escatel



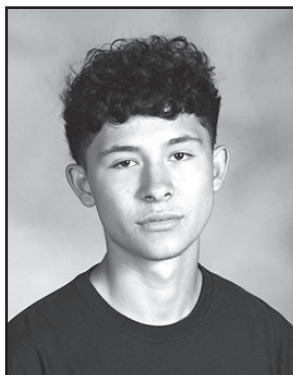
Mauricio Escatel



Yairret Esparza



Bianca Espinoza



Ivan Figueroa



Jaide Finley



Colleen Fitzgerald



Kaitlen Frey



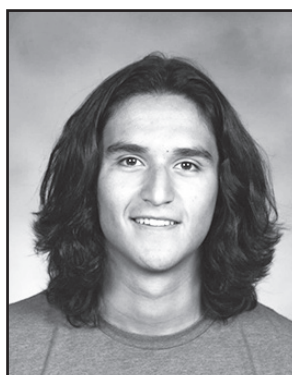
Logan Garcia



Gavin Glazebrook



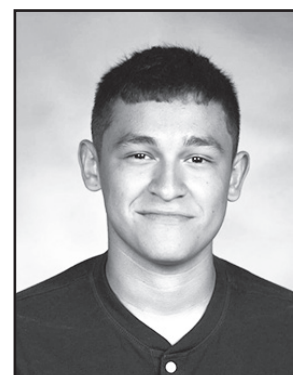
Angelica Godina



Juan Godina



Andres Guerra



Abraham Guzman



Gabriel Guzman



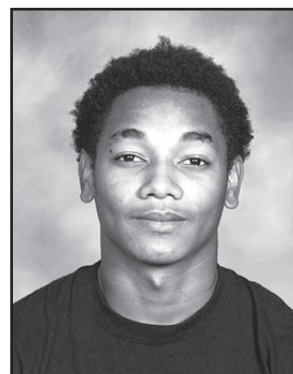
Benjamin Haas



Damien Hampton



Michael Heiting



Jae'Shaun Hughes



Cortnee Jones



Taylor Joyce



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Mendota High School Graduates



Jacquelyn Keeton



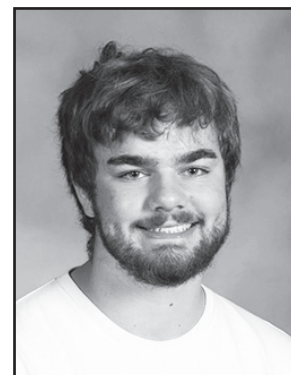
Jade Kerchner



Shayna Kerchner



Dria Kuntz



Kevin Lewis



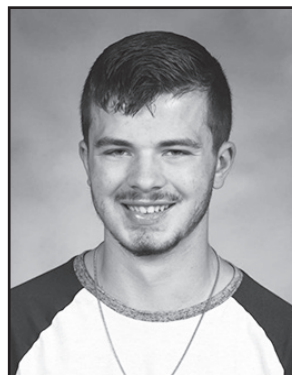
Antonio Mandujano



Jorge Mandujano



Kasandra Mandujano



Parker Manning



Briana Martinez



Hanna Mastny



Zanae Mayfield



Catalina Medina



Timothy Miller



Alivia Milus



Peyton Milus



Andrea Molina



Bryden Myers



Brayden Northcutt



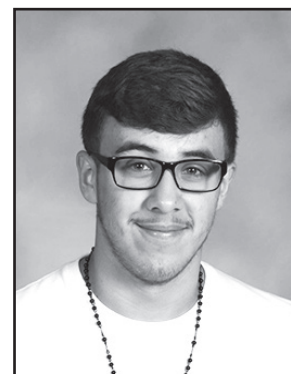
Esmeralda Perez



Karen Perez



Cole Pursell



Alexis Quintana



Sujely Quintana



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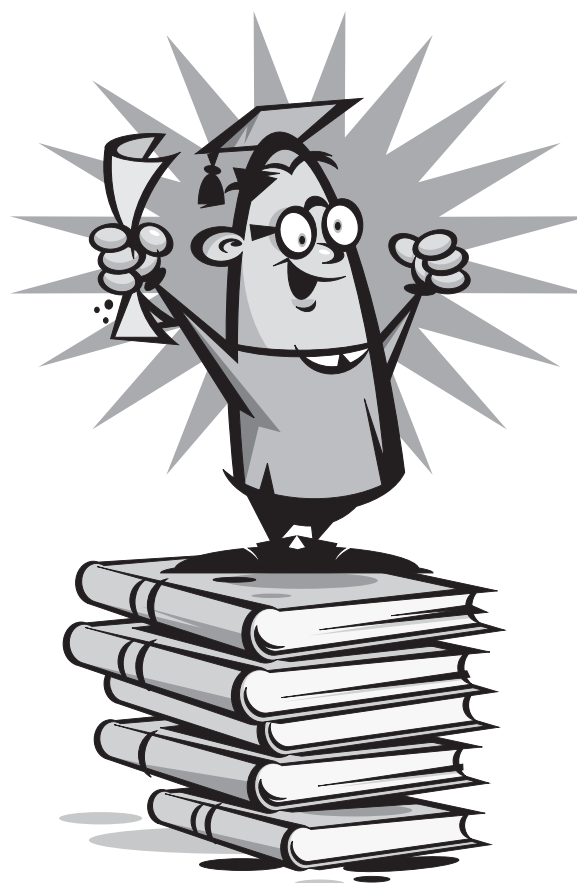
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Mendota High School Graduates



Abbey Rodriguez



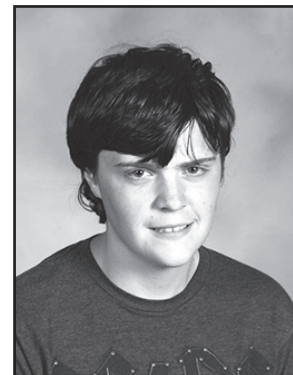
Noah Rodriguez



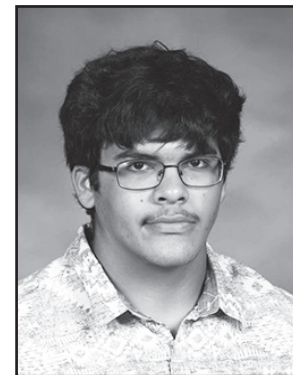
Alondra Romero



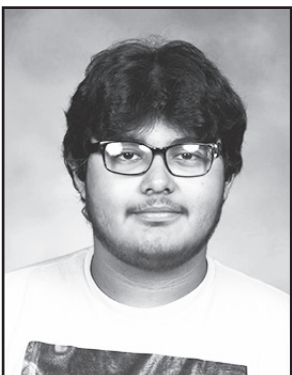
Luke Ross



Timothy Rummery



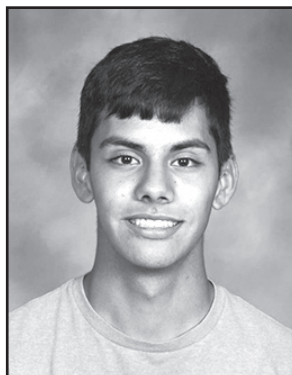
Gustavo Salinas



Joshua Sanchez



Christopher Sandoval



Jose Sandoval



Angela Saunders



Makenna Saylor



Colton Scheppers



Alison Schlesinger



Aaron Schmidt



Jonathan Schmidt



Noah Schulz



Jackson Sondgeroth



Brooklyn Sparks



Macy Stevenson



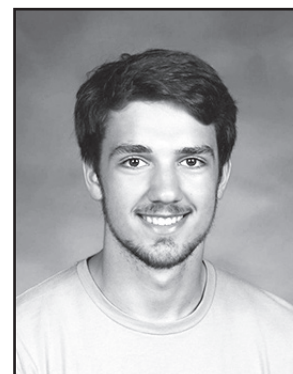
Aiden Stewart



Cora Stewart



Alli Stielow



Cole Stremlau



Megan Thibodeau

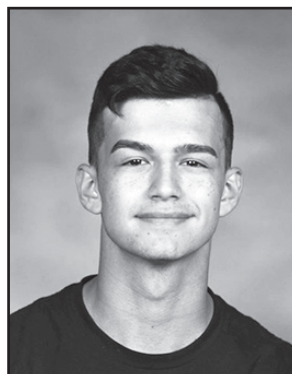
Mendota High School Graduates



Jayger Thorne



Sydnee Tillman



Anthony Tolentino



Dylan Tucker



Daisy Valdez



Jessica Valdez



Christina Vansickle



Joanna Vasquez



Harvey Vela



Carolina Velasco



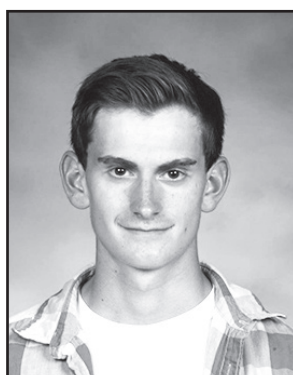
Devin Wade



Brayden Watkins



Haleigh Wendel



Joshua Wiley



Maren Wise



Coltyn Wright



Mendota High School graduates not pictured

Tyler Moore

Lucas Ramey

Laney Saylor





2020
Congratulations

Congratulations to our graduate Sean Dullard and the entire Mendota High School Class of 2020!

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You did it
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Congratulations
 TO OUR
GRADUATES

Quentin Bailey
 (Mendota)

Gavin Glazebrook
 (Mendota)

Michael Heiting
 (Mendota)

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Best Wishes To All Our Area Graduates



The Eureka Savings Bank wishes to each of you the fulfillment of your worthiest dreams, success in your most challenging projects, and mastery of all the lessons yet to be learned. We look forward to working with you in your new status as adults. And we stand ready to assist and guide you in the initiation and maintenance of a sound financial program to carry you victoriously through the good, the bad and even the ugly years ahead.

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 101 N. Columbia Ave. Oglesby, IL 61348 Ph. 883-3354
 2959 Peoria St. Peru, IL 61354 Ph. 223-9400

Ohio High School Graduates



Luke Anderson



Joshuwa Bornsheuer



Jacob Funderberg



Madison Funderberg



Katherine Henrikson



Brookelyn Matznick



Adisyn Pattelli



Lauren Ward

Ohio High School Top Students

Valedictorian
Katherine Henrikson
Salutatorian
Luke Anderson



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SECTION B:

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The Mendota Reporter
Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Earlville High School Graduates

Wishing the Class of 2020 a bright future.



Mendota Civic Center

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Wishing The Class of '20 A Bright Future!



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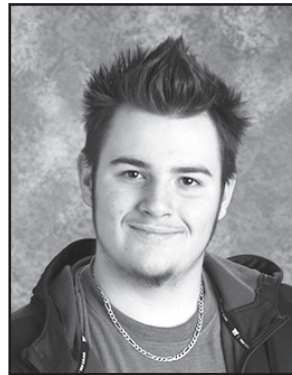
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Hailey Anderson



Evan Aviles



Christopher Bols



Hayden Bomstad

Congratulations Class of 2020!

"You may not always have a comfortable life and you will not always be able to solve all of the world's problems at once, but don't ever underestimate the importance you can have because history has shown us that courage can be contagious, and hope can take on a life of its own." – Michelle Obama



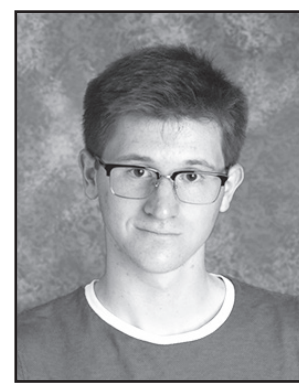
Kylie Congdon



Brandon Coomes



Melissa Decker



William Eckles



Makenzie Farley



Jarred Fries



Emmanuel Gomez-Sanabria



Meghann Harness

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Mickaela Hoaglund



Shelby Hoppis



Zackery Kerley



Alexandra Koontz

Earlville High School Graduates

EHS Class President

Landon Larkin & Branson Vahl

As the 2020 school year comes to an end, the senior class of 2020 would like to thank all of the people who have helped us along this 13-year journey. We would especially like to thank the teachers who have worked so hard to always make sure we are caught up with our school work and always on the right path. We would like to also thank the school administration and office staff for always being there to either collect our lunch money or having an

answer for our questions. We were always grateful for the lunch ladies who always made and served our food for the day with a smile. Last, but not least, we thank our custodial staff who always made sure the school was clean inside and out.

Our class has been through many tragic events together including the death of our beloved fifth grade teacher Mrs. Wajrowski, the death of such a young Earlville student, Dalton Ambler, and being the first class to graduate

during a quarantine. All of these events have made us stronger individuals, but brought us all together as one family. Our time at EHS has not always been filled with sorrow. We have had a lot of great times together, particularly in winning multiple regional and sectional titles from our soccer team, and being able to witness history with the first regional title win from our volleyball team.

As we sat in our chairs for our eighth grade graduation, we realized that our high school journey

was about to begin. The change from junior high and high school was only a hallway away but a huge step towards our future. Coming in as freshmen, we quickly learned we were the underclassmen and all looked up to the seniors. Our lives changed as we entered our sophomore year, as we slowly began to get our driver's license and realized our independence also came with more responsibilities. Junior year came fast and brought lots of stress through thinking about colleges, what career

paths we wanted, and the SAT. Many of us even started to mature more with getting our first jobs.

Walking the halls for the first time as a senior brought joy and excitement to all of us. It also brought the sad realization that this was the start to end of our high school journey. We all were looking forward to the memories that senior year brings. As the year quickly went by, we had no idea that the Fine Arts Festival was going to be our last day together. Ending our senior year with E-Learning and

no spring sports was not what we anticipated. The postponement of our senior trip, prom, and graduation makes us realize how precious our time will be when we can finally come back together as a family and celebrate our accomplishments. I am very proud of being a part of this class and I hope the best for everyone and what the future holds.

Congratulations to the Earlville High School Class of 2020!

*Branson Vahl
Landon Larkin*

Earlville High School Top Students

Valedictorian - Meghann Harness

The Top 2 students of the Earlville High School Class of 2020 are Meghann Harness, valedictorian and Kylie Congdon, salutatorian.

Harness is the daughter of Lisa and Brandon Harness of Earlville.

As a freshman, she participated in Student Council, Volleyball, School (JV Libero) and Club (Vision VBC), Softball, School and Travel (Redhawks), dance classes (JFK Mendota), Band, Little 10 band festival, Solo & Ensemble contest (got a 1 on her solo), high honor roll all year, Vacation Bible School (summer 2016) and Altar serving at church about once a month.

As a sophomore, Student Council, Volleyball, School (JV Captain and starter) and Club (Vision VBC Starter), Softball, School (Varsity starter) and Travel (Redhawks starter), Band, Little 10 band festival, Vacation Bible School (summer 2017), Altar serving at church about once a month, Northwestern Medicine Discovery program (once a month

until August 2018, year 2 until August 2019), HOBY ambassador (seminar in June 2018), attended leadership trip in October 2017 (Jostens Renaissance), volunteered for PTA Fun Fair 2018, Math team (went to state), high honor roll all year.

As a junior, Volleyball, School (Varsity starter, Most Improved) and Club (Vision VBC Starter),

Softball, School (Varsity starter) and Travel (Redhawks starter), Student Council, 2020 Class Secretary, Band, Little 10 band festival (1st seat), Solo & ensemble (got a 1 on her solo), Vacation Bible School (summer 2018), Rockford health care camp (June 2018), Northwestern Medicine Discovery Program (once a month until August 2019), Altar serving at church about once a month, National Honor Society, Feed My Starving Children Trip, Matthiessen State Park trip, Academic Bowl member, Fine Arts Club member, Math team (went to state), high honor roll all year, Junior Marshal.

Salutatorian - Kylie Congdon

As a senior, Student Council secretary, Class secretary, Volleyball, School: Varsity Starter and Team Captain, Club: assistant coach for 14s and 16s, Softball, School (on team, season canceled due to COVID-19), Vacation Bible School (summer 2019), Summer custodian at school (summer 2019), part-time custodian at school November 2019-February 2020, Band, ILMEA Senior band member, Solo & Ensemble - received 1, Little 10 band festival - 1st part, 1st seat, Yearbook Club, Math Team (qualified for state, state canceled due to COVID-19), Academic Bowl/Senior Team Captain, National Honor Society, Feed My Starving Children trip, Pioneer State Bank Children's toy drive, Teacher of the Month, Illinois State Scholar 2020-21, church work, Altar server, Helped create a presentation for the purchase of new windows for the church, November/December Student of the Month, high honor roll all semesters, and 2020 News Tribune All Academic Team.

She plans to attend Bradley University to major in nursing and minor in Spanish. Her goal is to work as a registered nurse in a trauma hospital in Illinois.

Salutatorian

Congdon is the daughter of Shawn and Kim Congdon of Earlville.

She participated in Softball, Yearbook club, Mentor club, Teachers Aid, ALA Illini Girls State, FFA Greenhand President, FFA Chapter Reporter, Student Council, Band and was on high honor roll. Vacation Bible School, Babysitting, and Waitress at Cracker Barrel

She plans to attend Aurora University to obtain a Bachelor degree in Health Science, studying on a pre-Occupational Therapy track. She then plans to transfer to study under a Master's program for O.T. to become accredited in the field. Her goal is to specialize in pediatrics and/or gerontology so she could work either in a school setting or in a rehabilitation center.

Earlville High School Graduates

Earlville High School graduates not pictured

Tyler Bank
Cale Ford



Loren Vazquez



Logan Wesson



Dawson Whittaker



Jacob Wilson

Ways technology may help students and adults with dyslexia

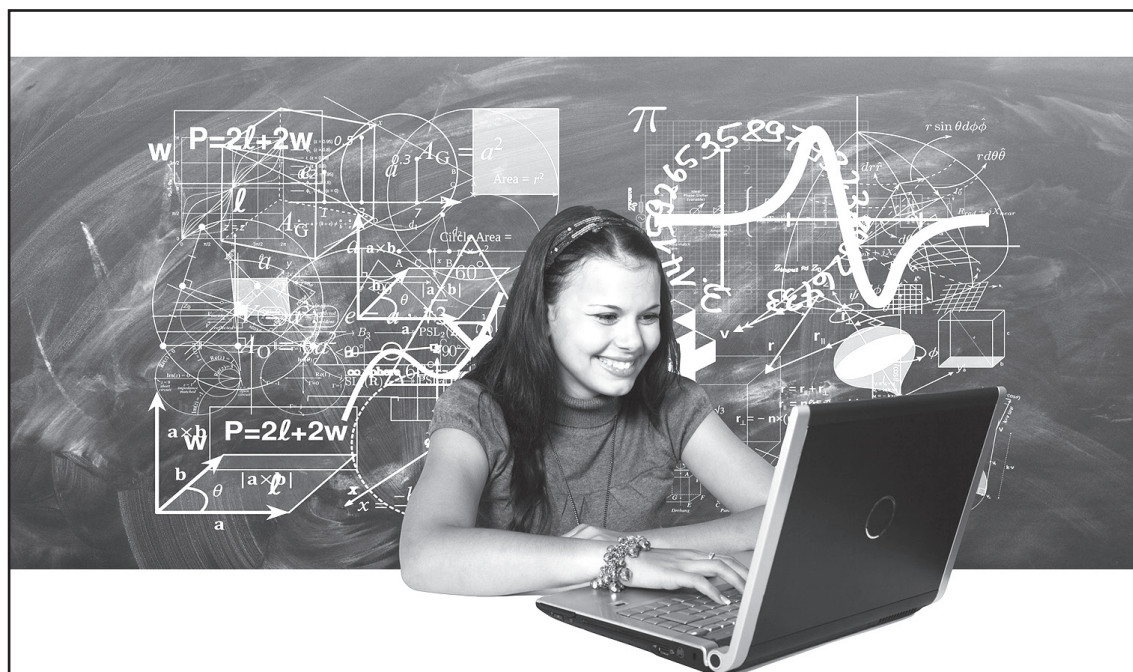
Dyslexia is a condition in which people have problems processing letters, symbols and words, potentially compromising their ability to read.

According to Kids Health, a medical information site powered by Nemours, research has shown dyslexia is a byproduct of how the brain processes information. Those with dyslexia actually use different parts of the brain when they try to read than those without dyslexia, and these parts do not work efficiently.

Contrary to popular belief, those with dyslexia do not necessarily see words or letters backwards. One of the more common problems people with dyslexia experience is struggling to recognize phonemes, or the basic sounds of speech. As a result, putting the sounds of letters together to make words can be tricky for those with dyslexia.

With widespread technology usage at home and in schools, assistive devices and apps can help change the game for children and adults with dyslexia.

The organization Dyslexic Advantage has found through their Dyslexia at School Study that denial of assistive technology in



People with dyslexia who opt to use assistive technology may find that they are able to showcase their intelligence and potential more fully.

American schools continues to be a large problem.

Of the respondents, 68 percent reported that their students weren't offered accessible text or technology supports for reading.

Assistive technology can help those with dyslexia save considerable time and overcome challenges.

People with dyslexia who opt to use assistive technology may find that they are able to showcase their intelligence and potential more fully.

The following are some tools that can be assets.

- **Speech recognition software:** Users can dictate to a device and have their voices converted into

text. Those with spelling or handwriting may find this helps dramatically with written communication.

- **Text-to-speech software:** This is essentially the reverse of speech recognition software. Text is turned into an audible voice that reads the words to the end user. This can help individuals understand written

material and check over their work.

- **Spellcheckers:** Some spell-check programs are designed specifically for dyslexics and look for common errors and automatically replace them.

- **Computer-based learning programs:** These platforms are designed and written for dyslexics. They can help to improve skills in reading, writing, numeracy, and touch-typing, offers the Dyslexia Association.

- **Smartpen:** The Livescribe smartpen takes a picture of notes as they are written on special paper. It also has a built-in microphone that enables the user to record what is being said in a classroom or meeting setting.

- **Digital/audio books:** Various providers offer online libraries of digital or audio books that can help with reading or print disabilities.

- **Special fonts:** There is some evidence that using specific fonts may make it easier for people with dyslexia to decipher words and letters. Helpful fonts include Dyslexie, OpenDyslexic and Comic Sans, according to Dyslexic Advantage.

Helping those with dyslexia may involve utilizing the various assistive technologies now available.

La Moille High School Graduates



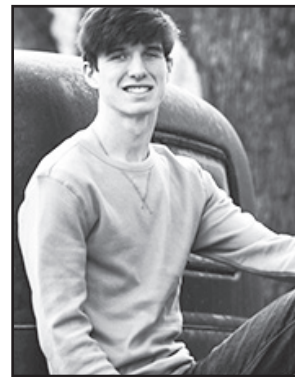
Abigail Berry-Smith



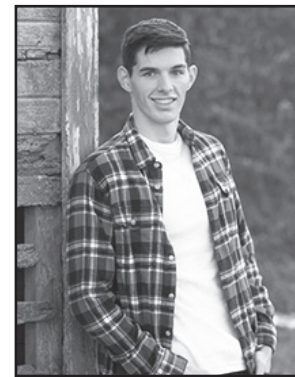
Mari Billhorn



Seth Browning



Carter Cherry



Casen Cherry



Kim Coffman-Searle



Alexandria Collier



Adam Dober



William Edwards



Luke Flanagan



Cassidy Geiger



Analise Karvonen



Kailee Keighin



Emma Lundquist



Emilia Mendez



Luke Moore



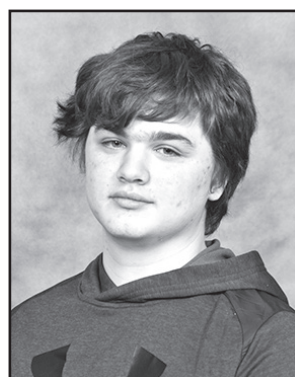
Brooke Motter



Collette Motter



Corey Pinter



Nathan Pond



Maxim Ryjov



Garreck Trent



Marcus Winn

LaMoille High School Top Students

The Top 2 students of the LaMoille High School Class of 2020 are Alexandria Collier, valedictorian and Marcus Winn, Casen Cherry and Garreck Trent, salutatorians.

Collier is the daughter of Jeannette Lopez and Zachary Collier (deceased), and the granddaughter of Carol and Richard Wheeler of LaMoille.

Her activities and awards include: Class President (sophomore-senior year)/being class president has allowed me to stick up for what's right and positively impact the student body; Class Vice President (freshman year); Student Board Liaison (senior year)/as Student Board Liaison, I am a voice for the student body that works directly with the board of education

to address student concerns. I have worked to bring a weighted GPA System to LaMoille High School; Student Council President (senior year); Student Council (freshman-junior year); STEAM Conference Planning Committee (junior-senior year); STEAM Conference keynote speaker and session leader (senior year)/I led a keynote with two other amazing LaMoille High School students, Emilia Mendez and Dylan Lovgren, about the importance of leadership in STEM and how life changing it can be to find your passion. I led two sessions on Women in Leadership and Women is Science. I am extremely passionate about women's rights especially in leadership and STEM roles; LaMoille Lions Volleyball

team manager (sophomore year); Valedictorian; Emperor Science Award winner/as an Emperor Science Award winner, I had the amazing opportunity to do cancer research in a Northwestern University research facility. I worked in the research lab for two summers researching melanoma and LAM. LAM is a rare lung cancer present

only in premenopausal women; National Honor Society; LaMoille High School High Honor Roll; IVCCAcademic Honors; HOBY Leadership Recognition; LaMoille High School Student of the Month; Elks Teenager of the Month-Princeton Lodge 1461.

She plans to attend Michigan State University in East

Lansing, Mich. to double major in Genomics and Molecular Genetics and Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. She hopes to go on to earn her Master's and Doctorate degrees and get a joint MD-PhD to become a medical researcher. She hopes to be on the front lines of cancer research and personalized medicine.

Winn is the son of Marcus and Karma Winn of LaMoille.

He was a member of National Honor Society, was unanimous 1st team All-Conference in football, and All-Conference Team in basketball.

He plans to continue his education at Southern Illinois University.



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Amboy High School Class of 2020

AHS Class President Nastasja Vaessen

Dear Class of 2020,
The past 13 years have been a pleasure getting to know each of you while we all moved toward the same goal. We are now about to achieve that goal – graduation. Although this is not the ending that any of us had pictured, I can assure you that the Class of 2020 will not be forgotten. Our small class has no doubt left a lasting impact on Amboy High School. We walked in the same doors

every morning making memories and leaving our mark together. I believe we will now walk forward through the door of the future and leave our mark together upon the world.

As we progress toward the final days as seniors, we have many memories that we can look back upon. Between the time we first walked into our kindergarten classroom until the last time we walk out the doors of AHS, there are many memories that I

will cherish. I will never forget the games where we sat side by side cheering on our classmates and the many laughs we've shared. All of these good times, and some not so good, have helped shape us into the people we are today. Some of us have grown from wanting to become princesses and cowboys to wanting to become doctors, scientists and leaders. There is nothing that can stop any of us from becoming successful

and making more memories to cherish.

The time is fast approaching that we depart and work toward new goals. Some of us may stay right here in Amboy to achieve our goals, while others of us may move far away to achieve these goals. Regardless of where your path leads you, I hope that in a few years you are able to look back with pride at your time in the Amboy school system and be able to call it your

foundation and starting place.

I am certain that the Class of 2020 will do great things that will make the world sit up and take notice. Take what you have learned here and go out into the world and make the most of it. It has been an amazing adventure spending these years with you all. I will definitely miss each and every one of you.

I want to leave you with a quote from our current

president – “No dream is too big. No Challenge is too great. Nothing we want for our future is beyond our reach.” I sincerely hope that you will remember these words as you move forward but don't forget to take some time to look back and remember all that you learned as a member of the Class of 2020 – “the one where they got quarantined.”

*Nastasja Vaessen
2020 Class President
Amboy High School*

Gift ideas for high school graduates

High school graduation is a significant milestone in the lives of teenagers. The moment a teenager receives a high school diploma marks the culmination of years of hard work, and many parents and extended family members reward that hard work with gifts.

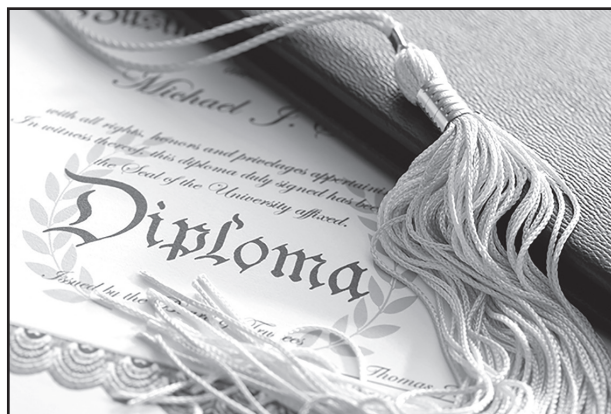
The transition from high school student to college student or working professional is significant, and various items can help make that transition go as smoothly as possible.

• Travel gear: Whether it is utilized during road trips with roommates or on those handful of occasions when students come home on holiday breaks, travel gear can be a very useful gift for new high school graduates. A sturdy backpack/duffel bag combo can be ideal. It is great for college students

who might not be ready for more expensive luggage, and also can be ideal for high school students taking gap years to do some overseas traveling before enrolling in college.

• Coffee machine: A pot of fresh coffee can make late-night cram sessions or hours spent typing research papers into the wee hours of the morning more manageable. For students who will be living in crowded dorm rooms, opt for small coffee machines that don't take up much space, such as those that are traditionally found inside hotel rooms.

• Television: Parents want to imagine their college-bound teenagers spending hours holed up in the library. But college kids watch plenty of television, too, so a new television can make for a great gift that figures to get ample use.



• Academic planner: College course loads tend to be considerably more demanding than high school coursework. An academic planner can help new college students manage the rigors of their coursework by encouraging them to plan their days and weeks, ensuring no classes are missed and no assignments go unfinished.

• Cash: Cash can make a great gift whether a grad

is heading off to college or entering the workforce. Cash can help college students pay for their books and help those entering the workforce purchase a reliable car that will help them get around.

Gifts for newly minted high school graduates can help them transition to the next phase of their lives, whether that will begin on a college campus or in the workforce

Amboy High School Top Students

Rachel Ackert
Ashley Althaus
Mercedes Bell
Bailey Bickett
Sidney Corcoran
Maddison Full
Alison O'Rourke
James Popovich
Kenzie Scudder
Avery Shaw
Tyler Stewart
Margaret Vaessen
Nastasja Vaessen
Joshua Yocum

Amboy High School Graduates



Rachel Ackert



Ashley Althaus



Desiree Badon



Brittany Barlow



Mercedes Bell



Bailey Bickett



Payton Blackburn



Sidney Corcoran



Kyleigh Donna



Abigael Ely



Matthew Friel



Nathan Friel



Maddison Full



**Anabel
Goluszka-Maxwell**



Tristan Graves



Jacob Grossman



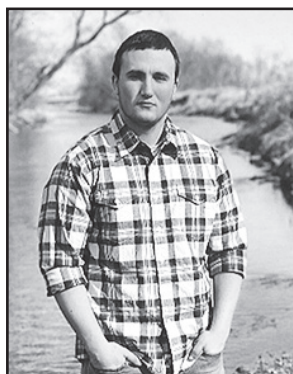
Trevyn Gunning



Jakob Highbarger



Justin Janssen



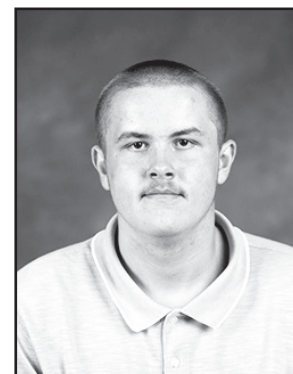
Daunte Kessel



Mackenzie Kessel



Rebekah Lewis



Justin Martinson



Austin Norman



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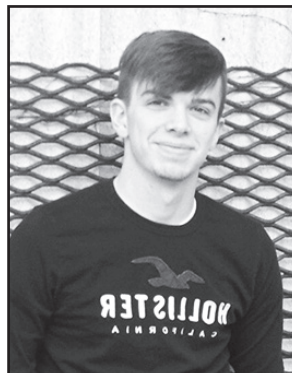
Amboy High School Graduates



Alison O'Rourke



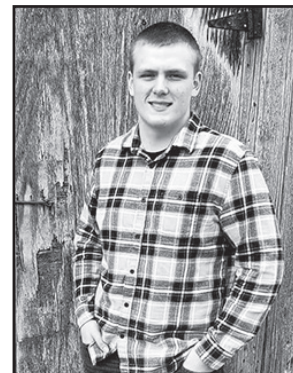
Ryan Phillips



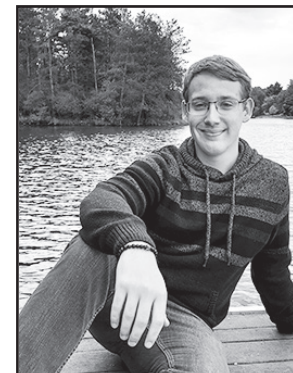
Tanner Schrock



Kenzie Scudder



Avery Shaw



Tyler Stewart



Riley Sus



Andrew Thier



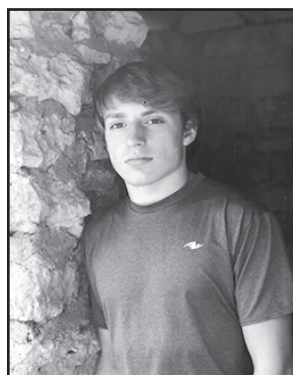
Summer Trenholm



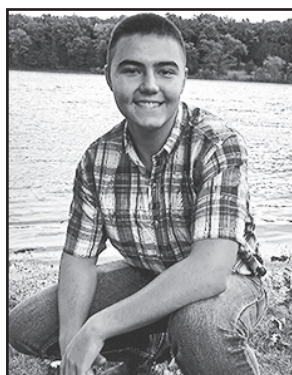
Margaret Vaessen



Nastasja Vaessen



Zachary Wicaryus



Joshua Yocum



Jade Zimmerly

Amboy High School graduates not pictured

Arian Fekolli

James Popovich

Mikael Zitelman

