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May 24, 2023

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Members of the 2022-23 Crete High Chapter of National Honor Society pause for a photo outside the high school. Members are (\* indicates they were an officer) Miguel Alarcon Chavez, Camille Andelt\*, Giovanna Balli-Avelar, Jeffrey Barrientos Acabal, Reagan Bessler, Mary Blackledge, Theo Bohling, Sierra Bond, Yesire Carbajal Romero, Juan Cardona Mendoza, Emily Chavez Mendoza, Hallie Clarke, Mason Crumbliss, Sofia Dimas\*, Garrett Dittmer, Barrett Eggerling, Samantha Escobar, Bret Fulton, Kiya Garrelts\*, Ariel Guerra Salazar, Addison Harrifeld, Jacob Harrington, Kolton Henkel, Caraline Higgins, Sarah Hoesche, Jedidiah Krael, Alexa Kraus, Connor Krumme, Ansley Kuntz, Caydence Kuss, Kenny Le, Litzzy Lima, Abigail Linares, Maricela Lopez Miguel, Elizabeth Lu, Mary Lucas Lucas, Cassidy Meinke, Le Nelson, Noelle Osbahr, David Penate, Marin Rasgorshek, Erandy Rodriguez Herrera, Genesis Romero Adame, Ashaya Steele, Mackenzie Steuer, Marli Stones, Kenner Svitak, Florinda Tercero Lucas, Velinda Valdez Garcia, Emmanuel Valdovinos Euyoque, Reece Vertin, Quinlan Vondra, Maggie Wohl and Brayton Zeibig\*.

# Crete High seniors win scholarships

Crete High seniors received a variety of scholarships to use for college. Recipients and scholarships include:

- ANGELY ADAME ORTIZ:** Smithfield Foods Scholarship, Ruby Stastny Paul Scholarship
- MIGUEL ALARCON CHAVEZ:** Crete Masonic Lodge Scholarship, Michael Krantz - Doane University Scholarship
- LESLIE ALMAZAN FLORES:** Helen Vasatka Scholarship
- CAMILLE ANDELT:** Lohmeyer Brothers Memorial Scholarship, Crete Booster Club Scholarship, Rotary Club Scholarship (PALS)
- HAYES ANDELT:** FFA Alumni Scholarship
- GIOVANNA BALLI-AVELAR:** Rose & Joseph Zumpfe Scholarship, Band Parent Booster Scholarship, Doane University Perry Scholarship
- EVELYN BECERRA:** Marina Havranek Rezabek Scholarship - Business in NE 2-4 yrs
- DOMONIC BETTS:** TeamMates Scholarship
- MARY BLACKLEDGE:** American Legion Post 147 Scholarship-Doane Scholarship, Denton Dollars, Doane University Cheer Scholarship, Doane University Music Scholarship-Vocal, Doane University Presidential Scholarship
- CALEB BRUGGER:** Nebraska Career Scholarship
- YESIRE CARBAJAL-ROMERO:** Donald Fix Agriculture/Music Studies Scholarship, Lohmeyer Brothers Memorial Scholarship, Smithfield Foods Scholarship
- KIARRA CORNING:** Barbara Kuzma Memorial Scholarship
- MASON CRUMBLISS:** Brian Carnes Baseball Memorial Scholarship, Ruby Stastny Paul Scholarship, Crete Booster Club Scholarship, Ed Hammond Memorial Baseball Scholarship
- SOFIA DIMAS:** Lohmeyer Brothers Memorial Scholarship, Bernie Ludvik Scholarship, Crete Chamber of Commerce/FBLA Scholarship, UNO Duffy Family Scholarship



New members of Crete High's National Honor Society chapter take a photo to commemorate the occasion. New inductees are Britney Alarcon Panzi, Brock Bohling, Corbin Coe, Sierra Crist, Trace Egge, Alex Eltze, Nick Eltze, Bryan Garcia Ramos, Vivian Kirkpatrick, Lauren Maly, Alex Martinez Lopez, Trinity McMillan, Tina Nguyen, Joshelin Perchez, Alondra Valdovinos, Ruby Van Horn, Caitlynn Boyle and Leslie Kratochvil.

- MAX DONOHUE:** Band Parent Booster Scholarship
- ZAYLYN ENAMORADO:** Emil Pomajzl & Lucille Belka Scholarship (acad trans), Smithfield Foods Scholarship
- SAMANTHA ESCOBAR:** Barrera Lohmeyer Brothers Memorial Scholarship, Smithfield Foods Scholarship
- BRET FULTON:** Dean and Deanne Memorial Prochaska Scholarship, Bernie Ludvik Scholarship, Husker Traditions Scholarship
- KIYA GARRELTS:** Crete Public Schools Foundation Scholarship, Bernie Ludvik Scholarship, Crete Booster Club Scholarship, Jacob

- Harders Reach-Out Scholarship, Rotary Club Scholarship, UNK Board of Regents Scholarship, Honors Program Cash Scholarship, Honors Program 2 Year Housing Scholarship, Cheerleading Scholarship, Mike and Tami Hoffman Scholarship, Geneva Berns Lewis Scholarship
- ARIEL GUERRA SALAZAR:** Bernie Ludvik Scholarship, Ruby Stastny Paul Scholarship
- ADDISON HARRIFELD:** FFA Alumni Scholarship, Husker Power Scholarship

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

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# Cerny: It’s OK to not have answers

BY JACOB CERNY  
Dorchester High Valedictorian

Friends, family, and random audience members, I am extremely grateful to be able to speak to you all before I leave Dorchester Public School.

I would like to begin with just a few thank yous, scratch that, a lot of thank yous. I’d like to first thank the teachers and administration who are the entire backbone of our school. You keep our school running, our kids educated, and I have the highest respect for you.

I’d also like to thank the coaches and people who run our sports and arts programs. Our extracurricular activities are some of the most fun I’ve had in high school, and it is because of you



Jacob Cerny

guys that I am able to enjoy myself.

Next I’d like to thank the custodial staff at our school, you keep our school clean. Without you guys I’d be the one cleaning the bathrooms, and after all the things I’ve seen and heard in the Dorchester bath-

room, I am eternally grateful for you.

Finally, I’d like to thank my friends and family. To my classmates, with you guys there is never a dull moment, and sometimes it’s even a little too exciting. I will always be there for you.

And to my family, there are not enough words to express my gratitude to you. You have provided me with a home, warm food, life skills, and the ability to think on my own. Thank you for everything you’ve provided me.

It has been quite a four years, guys, and I know that this last month has been long for us. So I’d share with you some memories that sit fondly with me.

Fernando, Brett, and I have had some interest-

ing moments to say the least. In one instance, we were playing a scary game on Fernando’s iPad on the couch. The game was called Five Nights at Freddy’s, and if you’re never heard of it before it’s not very scary.

So there we are watching Fernando play on the iPad, and after a while a jump scare happens. So what do you do when you get scared? Do you jump, scream, cry?

Well, I’ll tell you what Fernando did. He decided the best idea... was to throw the iPad across the room and ended up breaking a “love and peace” statue. Now being the super intelligent kids we are, we decided that “Hey, we’ll just glue it and pretend nothing happened.” As far as I’m aware, Fernando’s par-

ents still don’t know.

Another thing we did was this thing called the “cow game.” In this game, Brett would be covered with a blanket and he would be the “cow.”

Now this cow was no ordinary cow, this was a super cow. This cow would eat people, and sometimes the SWAT team would get involved, helicopters, and nuclear bombs. I don’t know what we were thinking as kids, but it happened.

There are two pieces of advice I’d like to give you. If there is anything that I’ve learned while growing up in high school it’s that it’s OK to not know. We do not know all the answers, and we never will. Do not think that you’re required to know everything.

I’m sure you’ve all heard this one before. It’s OK to make mistakes. No matter how many times you’ve heard it, it is true. Of course, it’s not as easy as saying, “Don’t worry about it.”

My advice to you underclassmen is when you make a mistake it is OK to think about it, but when you wake up the next day, remember that you are only human. Mistakes are what make the future.

I’d like to leave you with a quote I made up. “No one may remember the words of yesterday, or today, or tomorrow, but everyone will remember your actions. So let your actions speak ten times louder than your words.”

Thank you.

## Crete scholarships

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

**JACOB HARRINGTON:** American Legion Post #294 Hallam, NE, FFA Alumni Scholarship, Leroy Smith Memorial Scholarship, Walter Scott Jr. Career Pathway Scholarship, SCC Foundation High School Scholars

**KOLTON HENKEL:** FFA Alumni Scholarship

**BROCK HEUSINKVELT:** Julius Misle Scholarship

**SARAH HOESCHE:** Saline County 4-H Council Scholarship

**BAYLI KRATOVIL:** Edward Belka Memorial Scholarship (health)

**ALEXA KRAUS:** Alene Lothrop BSN Scholarship Alt #1, Senior Citizens Club Scholarship, Crete Area Health Foundation Scholarship, Denton Dollars, Saline County 4-H Justin Kunc Memorial Scholarship, Farmer’s Cooperative Scholarship, Mary Kay Owens Portrey Scholarship

**AUSTIN KRUMME:** Jackie Cink Memorial Scholarship, Blue Valley Post 4959 VFW Auxiliary Scholarship, Blue Valley Post 4959 VFW Scholarship, Fraternal Order of Eagles No. 3909 Scholarship, Wildcat Promise Scholarship, Wayne State College Music Achievement Scholarship

**CAYDENCE KUSS:** Crete Fire Department Ben Clement Memorial Scholarship, Smithfield Foods Scholarship

**BETZAIDA LASTOR:** Smithfield Foods Scholarship

**KENNY LE:** Board of Governors Scholarship, N.W.U. Achievement Scholarship, MU Scholar Athlete

**LITZY LIMA:** Leanne Manning Memorial Scholarship, Crete Education Association Scholarship, Rotary Club Scholarship

**MARICELA LOPEZ MIGUEL:** Smithfield Foods Scholarship, Teammates Mentoring Al Papik Memorial Scholarship, Teammates Dr. Larry & Jan Stuckey Scholarship, TeamMates Scholarship, Teammates Mentoring Al Papik Memorial Scholarship, TeamMates Mentoring Mentoring Dr. Larry & Jan Stucky Scholarship, Crete Wrestling Club Scholarship

**JESSICA LOPEZ-ALVIS:** Smithfield Foods Scholarship, TeamMates - Lenord Krenk Scholarship, TeamMates Scholarship

**MARY LUCAS LUCAS:** Alene Lothrop BSN Scholarship Alt #2, Bryan Health 'Acts of Kindness' Scholarship, Smithfield Foods Scholarship, TeamMates Scholarship, Board of Governors Scholarship, N.W.U. Achievement Scholarship, Campus Visit Scholarship, TeamMates Scholarship, Youth Salute Scholarship, Susan T. Buffett Foundation Scholarship

**KARYME MARTINEZ:** Crete Area Health Foundation Scholarship

**CASSIDY MEINKE:** Emil Pomajzl Memorial Scholarship (agriculture) - WELDING, Richard Vlasin Memorial Scholarship, Crete Fire Department Ben Clement Memorial Scholarship, Crete Booster Club Scholarship, Crete Diamonds Softball Scholarship, Crete Order of the Eastern Star, FFA Alumni Scholarship, Farmers Cooperative Scholarship

**ANTONIO ORTIZ REGALADO:** Black & Gold Scholarship, N.W.U. Achievement Scholarship, Campus Visit Scholarship

**NOELLE OSBAHR:** Smithfield Foods Scholarship, Husker Power Scholarship, We are Nebraska Commitment Scholarship

**CESAR RAMIREZ:** TeamMates Scholarship

**ERANDY RODRIGUEZ HERRERA:** Lohmeyer Brothers Memorial Scholarship, Crete Area Health Foundation Scholarship, Smithfield Foods Scholarship, Susan T. Buffett Foundation Scholarship

**YESIRE ROMERO:** Husker Traditions Scholarship

**GRACE SAWTELLE:** American Legion Post 147 Scholarship, SCC Foundation High School Scholars

**SHAYLENE SEGURA:** Milton & Gerry Stehlik Memorial Scholarship (ag/nursing/edu), Smithfield Foods Scholarship, TeamMates Scholarship

**MACKENZIE STEUER:** Alene Lothrop BSN Scholarship Winner, Crete Lions Club Scholarship, Ruby Stastny Paul Scholarship, Crete Area Health Foundation Scholarship, Crete Booster Club Scholarship, Exeter’s Feeders and Breeders Scholarship, Dr. Russell and Zhanna Semm Family Scholarship, Farmers Cooperative Scholarship

**MARLI STONES:** Crete Lions Club Scholarship, Lohmeyer Brothers Memorial Scholarship, Bernie Ludvik Scholarship, Crete Booster Club Scholarship, Crete Eagles 3909 Auxiliary Scholarship, Fraternal Order of Eagles No. 3909 Scholarship, Rotary Club Scholarship

**TADD TEBRINK:** Crete Booster Club Scholarship, Denton Dollars




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Perez: Work hard, be your best

BY FERNANDO PEREZ  
Dorchester High salutatorian

Everyone’s been asking me these past several weeks, how does it feel?  
Every time I would say, “It hasn’t hit me just yet,” and that was the response until five minutes before this ceremony. Then it all hit me. Just like it would after Jayana would tell me, “Do you want me to be honest or not?” You knew every time she said that she was going to scold you about something. She would hit you with what she would call “needed truth,” and sometimes you couldn’t tell if she was being helpful or just being mean.  
My name is Fernando Perez, and it is my distinct honor to be addressing you all today. Before I dive deep into the memories we had as a class, it’s important to acknowledge the people who allowed us to have these memories.  
Thank you to the students, teachers, parents, staff, and community who made these past 13 years everything that they were. I would like to give special recogni-

tion to my family. My mother, who has given me so much love and care, who still calls me her “Little boy” even at 18 years old, and my brother who has shaped the way I look at the world, and to my father, who came to the United States at the age of 13, leaving Mexico with nothing, just to give me and our family everything. Papa, I wish to one day be half the man you are today; this accomplishment is for you.  
Now, the class of 2023 many would say was... unique... but in a good way. One thing I’ll say is, we’ve been so close for 13 years, doing everything together, whether it was asking Mr. Wiese to call off school because it snowed not even half an inch or getting kicked out of Mrs. Choyeski’s room 8th period to sit on the couch, together.  
As I look back over the years, these memories feel like just yesterday. Like when we had a sub for Mrs. Nerud in fourth grade and got in trouble when we had a substitute and the sub notes said students took off their shoes and put them in the air while singing, “A potato flew



Fernando Perez

around my room,” we couldn’t stop laughing.  
Or in fifth grade on a field trip when Kiarra Corning was told not to run down the steps outside, she did just that and tripped over a log and rolled down the steps. Kiarra’s pants partially fell down and I haven’t been that shook since.  
Fast forward to freshman year, entering high school thinking the next four years would go by slowly. Over the past few years, a lot has changed. We sit here today acting like we haven’t experienced once-in-a-lifetime events especially over the past three years, including Covid-19 and

the aftermath of it, and hearing Mr. Kotas yelling from two classrooms away.  
However, over the past four years specifically, we’ve paved our own paths and identities but we all have a common sense of commonality coming from Dorchester.  
I now speak directly to you, the class of 2023. As we come to the end of this phase of our lives we wonder what’s next, feeling optimistic, sad, and scared. However, whatever may come next in our lives, your future needs you, your past doesn’t. Work hard, and be the best version of yourself. You will fail over and over, but that’s how you know you’re winning because you’re trying.  
I leave you with one quote from Kanye West, “Nothing in life is promised except death. If you have the opportunity to play this game of life, you need to appreciate every moment. A lot of people don’t appreciate their moment until it’s passed.”  
Congratulations to the Class of 2023. This is our moment!

EM seniors get scholarships

Seniors at Exeter-Milligan were honored with the following scholarships:

**HANNAH BALLER:** Denise Mahoney Memorial, First Bank of Utica - Milligan, Milligan American Legion, Clara Manning Memorial, EM Foundation, Mary Tous Charitable Foundation, EM Community Scholarship, Masonic Lodge, Susan Buffet

**SOPHIA GILLIAM:** EM Community Scholarship, Lauritsche Peterson American Legion Post #359, Entourage Institute of Beauty and Esthetics

**JOZIE KANODE:** Exeter American Legion, Exeter-Milligan Education Association, Betty Jane Plettner Memorial, EM Foundation, Mary Tous Charitable Foundation, Jim Zeleny Memorial, Kiwanis Club of Beatrice, EM Community Scholarship, Manhattan Christian College President’s schlsp, Manhattan Christian College Timothy Days, Manhattan Christian College COTW, Manhattan Christian College Thunder Merit, Manhattan Christian College Ministry, Kansas State Wildcat nonresident award D, EM Network Scholarship Athlete of the Year

**CHRISTOPHER KELCH:** Wilfried & Ruth Ekeler Memorial, EM Foundation, Kristen Engle Memorial, Fillmore County Foundation At Large, EM Community Scholarship

**CADE KRESAK:** Kubicek Trust, Harre Seed & Services, EM Foundation, Kristen Engle Memorial, Richard Michl Memorial, Robert & Irma Dinneen Memorial, Neil F. Hassler Memorial Scholarship, Farmer’s Cooperative, EM Community Scholarship, Cody Cattle Company, EMF FFA, Milligan Insurance Agency

**MARCUS KRUPICKA:** Kubicek Trust, Harre Seed & Services, EM Foundation, Joe Sadlo Memorial, Rosa Novacek Memorial, Fillmore County Foundation - Milligan Community, Mary Tous Charitable Foundation, Jim Zeleny Memorial, Kiwanis Club of Beatrice, Knights of Columbus, Farmer’s Cooperative, EM Community Scholarship

**DAYSAN TASKAL:** Kubicek Trust, Exeter American Legion, Harre Seed & Services, EM Foundation, Milligan Legion Auxiliary, Dr Ray & Jean Steinacher Endowed, Robert Kassik Memorial, Fillmore County Foundation, Henry Wagner Memorial Farm, Farmer’s Cooperative, Ricenbaw Farms, Dwayne & Cheryl Luzum family, EM Community Scholarship, EMF FFA

**OLIVEA SWANSON:** Exeter American Legion, Wilfrid & Ruth Ekeler Memorial, EM Foundation, Kristen Engle Memorial, Lori Ruhl-Walford Memorial, Marlene Gallup Memorial, Fillmore County Foundation - Exeter Community, Mary Tous Charitable Foundation, Crossroads Conference Activity Scholarship, EM Community Scholarship, Erma Burch Nursing Scholarship Trust

**JASMINE TURRUBIATES:** Exeter American Legion, EM Foundation, Milo & Agnes Stych Memorial, Robert Zeleny Memorial, Knights of Columbus, Farmers and Merchants Bank - Beaver Crossing, EM Community Scholarship

**CHASE VNOUCEK:** Kubicek Trust, Harre Seed & Services, Milligan American Legion, EM Foundation, George & Barbara Hendricks, Lauritsche Peterson American Legion, EM Community Scholarship

**MORGAN WHITE:** EM Foundation, Milligan Legion Auxiliary, Dr Ray & Jean Steinacher Endowed, Dixie Guthrie-Krejci Memorial, Fillmore County Foundation, Historical Essay - 2nd place, Fillmore County Development Corporation, Warren & Velda Wilson, EM Community Scholarship, Mary Tous Charitable Foundation, York University Choir, York University Cheer, York University Merit Scholarship, Generations Bank

Scholarships go to DHS seniors

Members of Dorchester’s 2023 graduating class received the following scholarships:

**JACOB CERNY:** Blue Valley Post #4959 V.F.W. Scholarship, Blue Valley Post #4959 V.F.W. Auxiliary Scholarship, Brad Kasl Memorial Scholarship, Crossroads Conference Activities Scholarship, Dorchester American Legion Family Scholarship, Dorchester Community Foundation Scholarship, Galen Lee Johnson Memorial Scholarship, Senior Citizenship Award

**JAYANA DUCHEK:** Dorchester American Legion Family Scholarship, Dorchester Education Association Scholarship, Doris Kohout Memorial Scholarship, Evelyn E. Novak Memorial Scholarship, First State Bank Nebraska Scholarship, Susan T. Buffet Scholarship, SCC Foundation High School Scholar Scholarship, SCC - Larry Cerny Kaspar Scholarship

**HARLEY HAGEN:** Dorchester American Legion Family Scholarship, Dorchester Guidance Department Scholarship

**FERNANDO PEREZ:** Dorchester American

Legion Family Scholarship, Dorchester Insurance Agency Scholarship, Galen Lee Johnson Memorial Scholarship, UNL - Husker Power Scholarship

**GARRETT TACHOVSKY:** Brad Kasl Memorial Scholarship – Alternate, American Red Cross Scholarship, Dorchester American Legion Family Scholarship, Dorchester Community Foundation Scholarship, First State Bank Nebraska Memorial Scholarship, Lois Williams Memorial Scholarship, Ronald & Mary Ann Sehnert Memorial Scholarship, CCC – Lindsey Welding Scholarship



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# Krupicka: Graduation celebrates past, future

BY MARCUS KRUPICKA  
Exeter-Milligan High Valedictorian

Dear fellow graduates, teachers, parents, and guests,

It is an honor to stand before you today as the valedictorian of our graduating class of 2023.

First, I would like to express my thanks to our teachers, who have worked to teach and

shape our characters throughout the years. Thank you for your patience, and dedication to our education. We could not have come this far without you.

I would also say thank you to our parents, who have supported, encouraged, and believed in us. We could not have achieved this milestone without your support.

But today is not just a celebration of our past accomplishments. It is also a celebration of our future.

As we leave this place and go on our own ways, we will face new challenges, make new memories, and write new stories. Some of us will go on to college, some will start careers, and some will travel the

world. But no matter where we go, what we do, or who we become, we will always be a part of this community.

So, my fellow graduates, let us embrace this moment. Let us honor the past, and embrace the future.

Let's go and make our mark on the world, knowing that we have the knowledge, the

skills, and the character to succeed.

In closing, I would like to quote the words of a wise man named Andrew Tate, "Whatever you are doing in life, make sure to stay focused and stay purposed; but make sure you are enjoying yourself at the same time. Go out and have fun, because we only get one go around at this thing called life, so live your life to the fullest." Thank you.



Marcus Krupicka

# White: Time, its use important

BY MORGAN WHITE  
Exeter-Milligan High Salutatorian

From 12 years to today. We had our timers going since the second month of the first semester. Some of us would argue about if it was better to show just the month and the day or show the month, day, hours, minutes and seconds. During these arguments, the time was still going.

"What are consumers scarce resources?" "Time and money." We all should take heed the wise words of Mr. Marr. We only get 24 hours in a day. Make the most out of it. Even in 30 seconds, you can change someone's life. Being there for them, sharing a word of wisdom from Mr. Marr, or going out of your way to do something special.

Do you think that Albert Einstein's ideas flashed a loading screen in his brain before they came to him? No, they came in a flash of milliseconds. Our bodies can process information in the matter of milliseconds, take advantage



Morgan White

of that. Go out and take advantage of time. Don't let time run against you, run against time.

"The two most powerful warriors are patience and time." -Leo Tolstoy, War and Peace.

Patience is truly a virtue. Spending time with each other throughout these 12 years made us develop a lot of patience. For this reason, I think we should all know Tolstoy's words and put them in the back of our heads. For those coworkers we don't really like, to helping our kids with their math homework at the kitchen table. We are

already two steps ahead of the other kids our age.

The second part, again, is over time. A lot of activities, relationships, promotions, take time. That's where patience comes into play with time. If you use your patience wisely, you will become unstoppable. The success that will come your way is uncountable.

"Better three hours too soon than a minute too late." -William Shakespeare.

Punctuality is a very important aspect of society today. As we go out on our own, please remember to be punctual. Bosses and teachers will love students and employees who show up 10 minutes early. I remember my principal in eighth grade would get so mad at my class for packing up two minutes early. He explained to us how much time we were wasting packing up before the bell.

Thinking about what he said now, it makes sense. Imagine if you show up 10 minutes early, you can get your questions answered,

set up for the shift your working, and help others if you can. Punctuality makes the person.

"Lost time is never found again."- Benjamin Franklin.

Let that sink in, lost time is never found again. Don't waste your time with meaningless and improper activities. Time is money, and time can bring about memories that you can never get back. We all know the country song "Til You Can't by Cody Johnson. Don't wait to hangout with your dad, because someday you can't. Don't wait to tell that someone that you can't live without them, because someday you won't be able to. Lost time can be dangerous.

Once again, our time in high school has ran out. I hope we all made the best of it and can tell our kids someday that high school was the best time of our lives. I know this is cliché, but look back on what happened within these walls. Take lessons from your time here. And remember to run against time.

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# Lawver: Remember good times as you move on

BY SHELBY LAWVER  
Friend High Valedictorian

Hello again! Thank you for attending the Friend High School Class of 2023 Graduation Ceremony! It is an honor to stand up here today as the class valedictorian. Before I share with you some of our memories throughout high school, I would like to say thank you to those who helped me get to where I am today.

Mom and Dad, thank you for being my biggest supporters throughout the years. Though you have taught me many lessons, there is one that sticks with me the most. Nothing in life is ever given. In order to succeed and accomplish goals you have to be willing to put time and effort into whatever you're trying to achieve.

Thank you for guiding me through tough times and pushing me to do my best in everything. Thank you for dealing with me when I wasn't the most pleasant person to be around. Especially my early-morning attitude, late-night rants, and my constant stress about things that weren't worth stressing over. I have become the person I am today because of you two. I couldn't be more grateful to have such wonderful parents like you!

I also want to thank my other family members that are here today to help me celebrate this accomplishment in my life. The long talks, messages, and phone calls put a smile on my face every time. I am so grateful to have you all here as I celebrate this time of my life.

Thank you, faculty and staff, for helping me accomplish many goals over the years. Not only have you pushed me to do my best, but you have also helped me to be successful throughout my years here at Friend High. As all of us sitting up here today know, life isn't easy, and it's not something you can do on your own. Thank you for the constant support and encouragement you have given me. Today most definitely wouldn't be possible if it wasn't for you.

I would also like to



Shelby Lawver

thank the administration for all the hard work and dedication they put into helping us be successful. Thank you to the office staff and custodians for keeping the school running smoothly. I wouldn't want to know the mess we may have here if it wasn't for you guys.

Thank you to my coaches and sponsors over the years who dedicated long hours to helping me better my skills in whatever sport I was playing. I want to especially thank Mr. Arp because I'm sure teaching me how to golf was frustrating at times.

Thank you to our escorts and attendants who helped make today possible. Thank you, Lilly Ellison and Jacob Weber, for leading us in today and helping our family members or close friends find their seats on the floor. Thank you to our wonderful attendants, Spencer Eberspacher, Breckan Schluter, Jordon Lawver, and Preston Knollenberg, for greeting everyone with your kind hearts.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to my fellow classmates sitting behind me today. You all have brought me an incredible amount of laughs and memories over the years that five years from now I will still be reminiscing on.

When I think of high school, I think of it as a climb toward the overall end goal of graduation. By the time our sophomore year was over, we were almost to the very tip of the mountain. Our entire junior and senior years were dedicated to working hard in order to reach the peak of the mountain.

During these four long years of high school and our even longer seven years of elementary school, we had many experiences and situations that took place along the way. Nothing stopped us from reaching the peak, but they did allow us quite a few laughs along the way.

Zoeey experimented with bringing a sugar glider to school. After a few days, she learned that it probably wasn't the best thing to do. One thing about Zoey that I have learned over the four years of high school is how opinionated she is. We all learned that she is not afraid to tell you how she feels about a certain situation, whether it hurts your feelings or not. This will be a great quality to have as we enter the real world next year.

Nick's favorite thing to do during our time in high school was, jamming out to Metallic and giving people a big pat on the back. The way Nick jams out you could probably give yourself a concussion. Every dress-up day we had for sports, I could always count on Nick to be standing at the door when I walked in. The first words that left his mouth were, "wow you look nice today." His kind heart and thoughtful words helped get me through those four years of high school. The friendship we developed will never be forgotten and I hope that after today, we will continue being best buddies like the past eight years.

Emily experienced a situation that broke her excellence attendance award our junior year. Sometimes, when your

appendix ruptures out of nowhere, taking care of yourself is more important than keeping the excellence attendance award. Similar to Austin, Leah, and Shelby Steyer, Emily and I have been together since we were 3 years old. For most of our elementary years, we were two peas in a pod. On our fourth-grade field trip, we even bought matching stuffed animals that were purple owls. And I can guarantee you that we probably both still have them to this day.

Leah's favorite and most important day of the week was throat-chop Thursday because she got to tease Mr. Arp all day without getting in trouble. We all know that Mr. Arp is always teasing us kids with his crazy fart noises and the tap on the shoulder with a quick head turn trick. Through my years of knowing Leah, I have loved watching her build a connection with little kids. I know I sound like an old lady when I say this, but it's true. Her compassion and loving heart she has for both the preschoolers and her nephews will continue with her as she moves on past high school.

Austin's favorite hobby here at school was sleeping during class, especially government or anything that involved watching a video. We all know that he was just resting up for work after school. As I mentioned earlier, Austin and I have been together since preschool. My memories are not very good, but I can still remember going to Colby's house every day after school to play "Survival" together. We spent multiple hours

climbing trees, collecting leaves and sticks, and building forts as our shelter. I guess you could say that our time here together at Friend has been nothing but adventurous.

Shelby, no not me Shelby, the other Shelby. If there was one goal that Shelby and I accomplished together over our four years of high school together, it was finally getting teachers to call on us with our first AND last name. For many years Shelby and I were distinguished by Shelby S and Shelby Jo. But after we grew out of the kiddie phase, people weren't really sure how to distinguish us. Every time someone would call on "Shelby" we would always look at each other and then back at the teacher and say in unison, "which one." Finally, they got the hang of it by using our first and last names, or even just sticking to our last name. No matter where our paths take us in life, we will always be the two Shelseys in a class of 10 kids.

Andrew, from the time I met you, I thought there was no way you were going to be able to stick it out with this crazy class. But hey, you did! Andrew is the most kept-to-himself kid in our class. There are very few things we know about him unless you're in Physics class. I've heard there are some pretty interesting discussions that have taken place there. But there is one thing I think Andrew has learned over his four years in high school. If you ever need help with something we may think of as simple like spelling, Andrew is

not the person to go to. But if you need help with what can be the most difficult thing for some people, like technology, then Andrew is the perfect resort.

Kylie, an expert at being involved in as many activities as she possibly can be. From dance practice at 6:30 in the morning to volleyball practice till 6:00, then to one-act until 9:30. She really did it all. I got to enjoy walking to the elementary for our T.A. period just about every day with Kylie. Our conversations usually consisted of something a kid did the day previously, good or bad, or just about how much we hated weights class, the period prior (sorry Mr. Baber). I have enjoyed discussing what we want our future classrooms to look like and certain activities we want to do with our kiddos one day. Kylie, I know you haven't been here with us since kindergarten, but I couldn't think of a better addition to this class.

Chase, I think everyone knows by now that you have picked on me since day one. You seem to think that getting under my skin is the best thing ever, while sometimes I think of it differently. Some days you were like that annoying fly that just keeps buzzing around your head but no matter how much you swat at it, it never seems to go away.

In third grade, Chase had a fun experience right before heading to get our pictures taken. Somehow he managed to trip over his own feet, hitting his head on the corner of a desk, leaving

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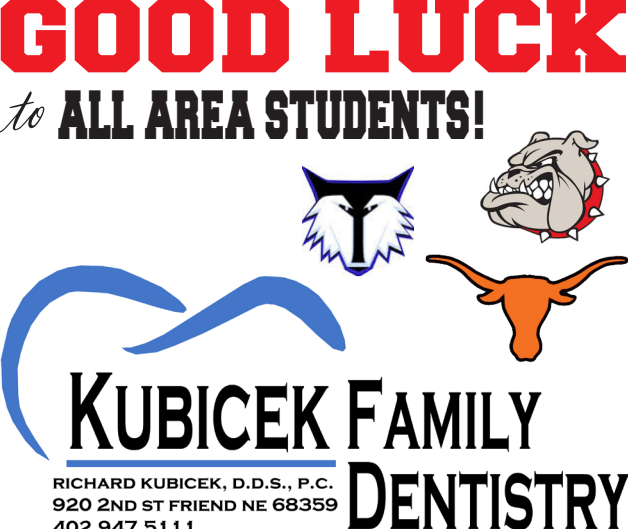
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# Weber: High school like 800 – finish strong

BY KYLIE WEBER

Friend High School Salutatorian

Thank you everyone for being here to support the 2023 graduates. I also wanted to thank Mrs. Stutzman, Mr. Anderson, and Ms. Hottovy for keeping us going through the year, even when it seems to drag on toward the end of the year, and for all the teachers being patient with us from our first step in, to our last step out of this building.

Now, I have only been with these 10 people since fifth grade, and there has probably been a whole other group of 10 who have come and gone, but they have helped our class grow even if they are no longer here. Speaking of growing, I think most of



Kylie Weber

our class stopped growing by seventh or eighth grade, excluding Chase, of course.

Every one of us has grown in maturity though. As we each step into a new chapter of our lives, I hope we can use what we have already

learned, learn new things, and never forget the little things. I hope we never forget playing Cherry Cherry on the playground, digging holes in the grass with a lunch spoon, or learning all about history at Rock Creek Station with Mr. Martin sophomore year.

The 10 of us have learned how to keep ourselves busy over the years by joining anything and everything that even slightly piqued our interests like volleyball, softball, football, FCCLA, and electric car to name a few. In and out of these many activities, I have seen these kids go through bad times and good times like the time we went to Camp Kitaki in fifth grade with Mrs. Vyhnaek and had a bonfire and we laughed

as we ate snacks and told funny stories. These snacks weren't provided by Mama Emily and her famous snack bag though.

If I had to compare the high school experience to anything, it would probably be running a race like the 800-meter run. Freshman year is like the first 200 meters. You have to get out strong and settle in a nice spot or you'll be stuck in the back of the pack. As Mrs. Klooz would say, "if you get out in a medal place in the beginning, you'll end in a medal place if you keep working."

Sophomore year is like the next 300 meters. It's about keeping that place from freshman year and not letting up. Junior year is the next 200 meters. You're tired,

but you're over halfway done. It's harder to push through, but you know the end will be worth it.

Senior year is the last 100 meters. You see the end, what you've been working towards for the last three years. You really kick it into gear, writing papers, filling out scholarships, applying for colleges. You run as fast as you can towards that diploma and feel the rush of relief and joy when you finish the race.

I know some of us think after today we never have to see each other again. I know that some of us will realize that we were a lot closer than we thought and maybe we'll reach out and come back together sometime.

I know that everyone here is so proud of these

graduates and I know those who could not be here today would feel the same way. I personally know my Grampy would find me after the ceremony and say, "welp I guess you made it after all, I'm proud of you kid," and we would laugh because he always knew I would get here no matter how hard of a time he gave me.

Finally I wanted to thank our parents. The other day I had this crazy thought that maybe we should start listening to you guys because you tend to have some pretty good ideas, but then I decided we couldn't give you guys that kind of satisfaction. I encourage everyone to go visit the graduates at their parties and travel safe! Thank you!

## Lawver

(CONTINUED FROM 6)

a nice red bump. Probably not our smartest idea to be racing back from the bathroom, but hey we were in third grade! Though we have definitely had our differences and have spent most of our high school years bickering with each other, I can't think of anyone else to have by my side through it all.

As for myself, I have juggled a lot throughout my climb here at Friend High. I always took on way too much, never said no, and thought

I could do just about everything on my own.

This was the year where I encountered some of the toughest obstacles. I said goodbye to playing softball that I have been playing since I was eight years old. I danced my last homecoming. I played my last basketball game and hosted my last blood drive. I hung my FFA jacket and danced my last prom. I turned all my social media platforms over to the younger classmen and stood before the community at hon-

ors night one last time.

Finally, the toughest and hardest goodbye I encountered was saying goodbye to my fourth graders. This group of students opened my eyes to what the education world really is. We shared many laughs and smiles together. But it wasn't all perfect, there were tears along the way as well. Four years from now when I am graduating college they will be starting their journey up the mountain together. I look forward to seeing their

faces pop up on the school's Facebook page when they are accomplishing an abundance of great things.

This year was one of the hardest obstacles I faced on my journey here at Friend High, but it will forever be my favorite year. We did it class of 2023, we reached the peak.

My fellow classmates, as we graduate today, we have successfully reached the top, but only for a short while. Tomorrow we begin our journey back down, but this time a

little differently. We will all be taking separate paths. Our future awaits at the bottom. Some of us will arrive sooner than others. This climb wouldn't have been possible if it wasn't for these nine individuals sitting behind me today.

Class of 2023, let's go accomplish our goals for I know that we can and we will! As Hannah Montana once said, "a chapter ending, but a story's only just begun."

Thank you!

# Bulldog seniors earn scholarship money

Members of the Friend High Class of 2023 earned the following scholarships:

**ZOEY BORGMAN:** Friend Public School Foundation, EMF FFA Boosters

**EMILY BRAHMSTEDT:** Friend Public School Foundation, Wake Charitable Foundation & Jones Bank - alternate, Citizens State Bank - alternate, Farmers Union Coop, Concordia University Dean's, Concordia University Departmental

**SHELBY LAWVER:** Friend Education Association, Wake Charitable Foundation & Jones Bank, Citizens State Bank, FPS Staff Jeans, Masonic Academic, FPS Foundation Valedictorian, Shirley Gautreaux Memorial, UNL Husker Power, UNL University Foundation, UNL Equitable Excellence, UNL Nebraska Promise, EMF FFA Boosters, Friend Community Club, Blue Valley Community Action Partnership, Judy Weber Memorial, Red Cross

**SHELBY STEYER:** FPS Staff Jeans, Friend Public School Foundation, Losh Family, Shirley Gautreaux Memorial, Melvin & Phyllis Cornell, Concordia University Dean's, Concordia University Departmental

**CHASE SVEHLA:** Farmers Cooperative, Friend Public School Foundation, UNL Husker Power, UNL CASNR, First Bank of Utica, Grange, Citizens State Bank, FPS Staff Jeans, Masonic Academic,

Sam Shutts Memorial, Norman Kohout, Friend Community Club, EMF FFA Boosters

**ANDREW WARNER:** Minnesota State University of Moorhead Fire Up, Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry

**KYLIE WEBER:** Eastern Star, Blue Valley VFW, Blue Valley VFW Auxiliary, UNL Emerging Leaders, UNL Husker Power, Ford Banka SAL, FPS Foundation Salutatorian, Melvin & Phyllis Cornell, Jodi Lawver Memorial, Knights of Columbus

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# Baker: Graduation both sad, exciting

**BY TYSON BAKER**  
Tri County High School

My fellow graduates, As we gather here today to celebrate our graduation, I am filled with a sense of both sadness and excitement. Sadness, because our time together has come to an end and we must say goodbye to each other and the memories we have made. Excitement, because we are about to embark on a new journey and enter a new phase of our lives. The past few years have been a time of growth and learning, both inside and outside the classroom. We have learned to work hard, to persevere in the face of challenges, and to support each other as a community. We have made friendships that



Tyson Baker

will last a lifetime, and we have discovered our passions and interests. But now it is time to move on, to take the skills and knowledge we have gained and use them to make a difference in the world. Whether we go on to further education or to start our careers, we

must never forget the lessons we have learned and the people who have helped us along the way. I want to thank our teachers and mentors for their guidance and support, our families and friends for their love and encouragement, and most of all, I want to thank each and every one of you, my fellow graduates, for making these past few years unforgettable. As we say farewell to each other and to this chapter of our lives, let us remember the good times we shared and the challenges we overcame. Let us take with us the knowledge and skills we have gained, and let us use them to create a brighter future for ourselves and for those around us. Congratulations, Class of 2023! We did it!

# Holtmeier: Ceremony not end but beginning

**BY CARTER HOLTMEIER**  
Tri County High School

Hello, I would like to welcome and thank all of you for being here with us today to celebrate our high school graduation. It truly is an honor to be surrounded by so many significant people who have impacted our lives immensely throughout our high school years. We would like to thank the wonderful people here tonight that we have the privilege to call our parents. To our board members, administrators, and teachers, beloved parents, friends, ladies and gentlemen. We wouldn't be here today without the support of all of our communities. Well, Class of 2023. We made it. We have gone through every year of school being one year closer to this day. I honestly never thought it would come. I have sat through many ceremonies being so ready for it to be my turn, and now



Carter Holtmeier

that it is here I wish for one more day with you all. Graduation is not the end for us. It is all part of the larger journey of life. Some will stay close, and others will go afar, but wherever your future takes you, let it take you somewhere. Life is a journey, and this my friends is only the beginning. Let each and every one of your accomplishments be a starting point for further achievements. I never thought I

would be saying this but if I could do it all over again, I would. I stand here before you, looking back on four years of legacy we've all made together. A good beginning is a good ending. A good ending is a worthwhile experience. I would like to end this speech off with a little comparison between what parents think and what we, being the teenagers, think. It is well known that parents and teenagers have not been always been known to agree on everything. Whether it was that haircut you got or that meal they made. Sometimes we just don't agree on everything. But parents, they're great, I mean, it is an huge understatement to say that you guys are awesome! Whether you are a mother a father, grandma or grandpa, or an aunt or an uncle; we are here, graduating today because of all of you. Thank you.

# TC seniors receive money for college

Seniors graduating from Tri County High School earned the following scholarships:

**JURGEN BAKER:** (2.74 GPA) SCC Beatrice for Criminal Justice; Farmers Cooperative Scholarship, Tri County Wrestling Club Scholarship, Tri County Foundation Scholarship,

**TYSON BAKER:** (3.57 GPA) University of Nebraska - Omaha for Aviation; L.E. & Bethel Heist Memorial

**COLTON BALES:** (4.0 GPA) SCC Milford for Electrical; D & K Agri Sales Inc Scholarship, Willard Waltke Memorial, TCEA Demin Dollars for Scholars, NHS Scholarship, Youth Basketball Scholarship

**SOPHIE BURGESS:** (3.72 GPA) Metropolitan Community College for Creative Writing; Swanton Community Club Scholarship, Kiwanis MUDECUS Scholarship, TCEA Demin Dollars for Scholars, Thespians, One-Act, Speech Team Lenine Williams Memorial Scholarship

**CAMDON CLINE:** (3.37 GPA) SCC Beatrice for Academic Transfer; Tri County Foundation Scholarship,

**SKYLAR HEIDEMAN:** (3.37 GPA) Kansas City Art Institute for Illustration; Merit Scholarship from KCAI, Tri County Foundation Scholarship, Open Studio Grant

**MEGAN HENSON:** (3.0 GPA) SCC Beatrice for Early Childhood Education, Farmers Cooperative Scholarship, Learn to Dream Scholarship, Tri County Foundation Scholarship

**CARTER HOLTMEIER:** (3.68 GPA) University of Nebraska Lincoln for Agronomy/Animal Science; Farmer Cooperative Scholarship, Elks Teenager of the Month, Kenneth Reed Scholarship, Plymouth American Legion Post #243, L.E. & Bethel Heist Memorial, Plymouth Improvement Association Scholarship, Ellen M. Runty Scholarship, George & Clara Plucknett Memorial, Harold & Harriet Fort Memorial, Tri County Foundation Scholarship, Kevin & Paige Yost Scholarship, Aurora Cooperative Scholarship, Merlyn Anderson Scholarship, FFA Alumni Scholarship

**JCHRIS JANSSEN:** (3.48 GPA) SCC Milford for Plumbing and HVAC; VFW Auxiliary #1077 Scholarship, Marvin & Gladys Heist Memorial, Tri County Foundation Scholarship, SCC Foundation High School Scholars, Youth Basketball Scholarship

**AMES KERNS:** (3.37 GPA) SCC Beatrice for Criminal Justice (Homeland Security); Tri County Wrestling Club Scholarship, Sam Lindley Memorial

**TAYLOR KOCH:** (3.28 GPA) SCC Lincoln for Nursing; Farmers Cooperative Scholarship, Susan Buffett Scholarship, Shopp-Ewing-Nispel Plymouth Legion Auxiliary Unit #243, Nora J. Bubbs Memorial, Tri County Foundation Scholarship,

**JACKSON MCNIFF:** (4.0 GPA) University of Nebraska - Lincoln for Chemical Engineering; Elmer & Anna Selk Memorial, TCEA Demin Dollars for Scholars, Thespians, One-Act, Speech Team Lenine Williams Memorial Scholarship

**ANDREW SASSE:** (3.7 GPA) Doane for Data Analytics; Farmers Cooperative Scholarship, Tri County Foundation Scholarship, Doane Men's Basketball, Doane Board of Trustees Scholarship, Youth Basketball Scholarship

**KARLI SCHERLING:** (3.29 GPA) Bryan College of Health Sciences for Nursing; Farmers Cooperative Scholarship, DeWitt Sportsman Club Scholarship, Janice Buhr Scholarship, DeWitt

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 11)

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# McNiff: Failures lead to successes

BY JACKSON MCNIFF  
Tri County Hlgh School

Good afternoon, teachers, family, friends, and my fellow graduates of the class of 2023. It is an honor to be speaking with you here today.

Now, I fully understand that I am a barrier to my classmates going and celebrating and the roadblock to all of the parents worrying about if their slow cookers are going to overcook the nacho meat. But let me ease your mind and tell you all that I've shortened the speech to an 80 page manifesto and it should come in at a little under 4 hours..... Kidding of course!

But, truthfully, this is one of those moments that I'm not really sure I want to end. I'm going to miss this place...the people...the memories. Many of us have been with each other for 12 years or more. We've laughed together, we've cried together, we've celebrated successes and fought through failures.

But, as they say, change is inevitable. In some ways, I think that the change will be good. For instance, there will rarely be another occasion that we need to ask to use the restroom. What a great feeling that will be.

Once we leave this gym, the likelihood of having to play dodgeball is going to be remarkably low. Come to think of it, we probably will never be asked to put our phone in a pouch



Jackson McNiff

again. We may never have the need or desire to play a recorder again, and most of us will probably never use algebra in real life.

Honestly, as I was working on this speech, I asked myself, what lessons did I really learn in school? And, strangely enough, the academic lessons weren't the ones that stuck out to me, but it was the skills we gained from the classes that came to my mind. For instance, English and Spanish taught us how to interpret the world around us. Music and art classes taught us how to express ourselves. History taught us how to analyze our current world through the lens of our past. Industrial arts and ag classes taught us how to create something more from something less. My favorite, math and science, taught us to take a step back, think logically, and find the solution. PE taught us the joy of chucking a ball at our friend's face!

But you know what

else I learned? I learned that I am a complete failure. Now, given what you have heard from my speech so far, you may think that this is quite obvious. Let me explain.

Since I was born, I have been in the process of failing. But I am not the only one. Everyone in this gym is a failure. We have all failed over and over and over again. When we took our first steps, we stumbled and fell. But we got back up.

And that, I believe, is the secret to being successful. Getting back up. The only time that we truly fail, is when we give up. We can let failure control the decisions that we make or we can try again until we see success. Failure is a certainty. Giving up is not. It is important to relish in our failures because that's where the greatest lessons are learned.

Teachers, I want to thank you on behalf of our class because, for years, you have taught us that failure is a lesson to be learned. Some of you took the whole "fail that kid" more seriously than others, but I am sure that was an accident. You gave us the grace and space to make mistakes, learn from them, and try again. Because of the care and support that you gave us, many of you in this room will have the great distinction of forever being a favorite teacher. Thank you for being such an important part of our lives.

The class of 2023 is

a great example of this idea that failure creates greatness. Carter Siems scored over 18 points a game in basketball this year. He did that, because he has shot thousands of shots that didn't go in so that he could perfect how to release the ball. Skylar Heideman is now a talented artist who can emotionally transport people with her paintings and drawings but only because she made mistake after mistake on her other canvases. Tyson Baker has played thousands of wrong notes on the guitar. I know because I had a front row seat to many of those wrong notes. But it was the hours of practice to figure out the right sequence of finger movements that amazes people when he pumps up the crowd with his rendition of Joker and the Thief. Taylor Koch is a talented runner but only because she has run mile after mile perfecting her stamina and stride. Every single one of my classmates have stories exactly like this.

I know that failure has a bad connotation. We associate it with giving up or not being successful. Probably the better word for what I am trying to explain is perseverance. I believe that our class is the way that it is because we have persevered.

At the end of our freshman year, our school shut down because of Covid. No one had ever been in this

situation before - no one - so it was tough trying to figure out exactly what we needed to do. But we persevered and continued to learn. Some of us learned how to pretend like we were learning something over zoom - some became masters of that skill! We learned how to come back to school with masks on every day. We learned that if we sneezed in those masks, it would create a snot seal that we couldn't get off of our face. Nobody knew what they were doing during that time in our lives - not teachers, not parents, not kids. Yet, we persevered.

The class of 2023 has persevered through school and classes and sports. We learned about friendship. We learned about joy. We learned about sadness and grief. We learned about heartbreak. We learned how to take a loss and how to celebrate the wins. We learned how to be leaders and how to be followers.

Class of 2023, I want to thank you for the journey that we have shared together. I want us all to take a moment and set this memory in stone. This will be the last time that we will ever be together as one. Some of us may see each other outside of school or bump into each other again or even venture back for class reunions, but the likelihood of all of us being together in the same room again is very slim. So please

set this picture in your mind.

As soon as we are done shaking hands, we will all go to our graduation parties and begin the transition toward our new lives. We will be fragments of a broken puzzle. We may get together in small groups but this puzzle will never again be complete. Be excited for the new journey that we are about to embark on but never forget the time that we had together.

As we close the book on this chapter of our lives, our new chapter begins and the stories that we will create are going to be interesting and profound. Our futures will be dotted with times of drama and humor and romance and breakups and tears and laughter. We will see many failures on our paths to the great successes that will unfold for us. But as part of our life story, we will always have each other and Tri County Public Schools to thank for it. Class of 2023, I am grateful for the memories that we have shared.

The diploma that we receive today proves that we learned the curriculum. The failures that we endured gave us experience. But the memories we keep, the really good ones that will sneak into our brain years from now and give us a smile, we gave to each other.

Congratulations again - class of 2023! Thank you.

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# WCHS seniors announce plans, scholarships

The Wilber-Clatonia Class of 2023 earned the following scholarships and announced the following plans for next year:

**ERIK ANAYA:** starting a family business with his Dad

**ZANDER BAKER:** Wayne State College, majoring in Pre-Health/Medicine

**SCHOLARSHIPS EARNED:** UNL Husker Traditions Scholars Scholarship, DJ Hero's Scholarship, Wayne State College Dean's Commitment Scholarship, Albert S. Chmelir Memorial Scholarship, Ladislav Rezabek Memorial Scholarship, Elsie Sukovaty Cauble Gibson & Allen Lee Cauble Memorial Scholarship, Clatonia Cardinal Club Scholarship ALTERNATE

**ALEKSA CHAMBERS:** Concordia University, majoring in Computer Science

**SCHOLARSHIPS EARNED:** Robert & Eleanora Houser Memorial Scholarship, Raymond Lohmeyer Memorial Scholarship, Arlen Lohmeyer Memorial Scholarship ALTERNATE

**CALEB DRAKE:** SCC-Milford, majoring in Ag Diesel Technology

**SCHOLARSHIPS EARNED:** Security First Bank Scholarship, Huneke Family Memorial Scholarship, Steve & Lynn Wiese Scholarship ALTERNATE, Keith Homolka Memorial Scholarship ALTERNATE

**EMILY EHLENS:** Doane University, majoring in Social Sciences, participating in Track & Field

**SCHOLARSHIPS EARNED:** John Chrastil Memorial Scholarship, Doane University Van Hoy Scholarship, Doane University Women's Track scholarship, Doane University Legacy Award, Nebraska Opportunity Grant, Walter & Helene Baer II Memorial Scholarship, William & Albina Musil Memorial Scholarship ALTERNATE, Abbie & Adolph Trousil Memorial Scholarship ALTERNATE

**ANN HEGWALD:** SCC-Beatrice, majoring in Academic Transfer-Math

**ITZEL HERNANDEZ:** Employment as a Nanny/Childcare Giver

**PEDRO HERNANDEZ:** SCC-Milford, majoring in Construction Technology

**SCHOLARSHIPS EARNED:** Southeast Community College Walter Scott Pathway Scholarship

**DEAGEN HOOVER:** SCC-Milford, majoring in Electro/Electromechanical Technology

**SCHOLARSHIPS EARNED:** Friends of W-C Scholarship, ZCJB/WFLA Lodge Libuse Scholarship ALTERNATE

**GAVYN HORMANDL:** UNO, majoring in Cyber Security

**SCHOLARSHIPS EARNED:** UNL Husker Power Scholarship, Walter & Helene Baer I Memorial Scholarship, Robert & Eleanora Houser Memorial Scholarship, Arlan Lohmeyer Memorial Scholarship, Raymond Lohmeyer Memorial Scholarship ALTERNATE, Charles F. Mundil Memorial Scholarship ALTERNATE, Farmers and Merchant's Bank Scholarship ALTERNATE

**CASE JECHA:** Employment with Big Blue Diesel Repair, LLC, Wilber

**SHAYLEE KESLAR:** Hesston College, majoring in Ag Business, participating in Softball

**SCHOLARSHIPS EARNED:** Farmers Cooperative Scholarship, Hesston College Deans Scholarship, Hesston College Softball Scholarship, Hesston College Academic Competition Scholarship, Merlyn Anderson Memorial Scholarship, FBIA Chapter Scholarship, Brian Mager Memorial Scholarship, John Chrastil Memorial Scholarship, Tucson Community/Kathy Massahos Kinney Scholarship, Clatonia Cardinal Club Scholarship, FFA Alumni Betterment Scholarship, Gage County Agricultural Society Scholarship, Hoffman-Ideus Memorial Scholarship, Huneke Family Scholarship ALTERNATE

**AMY KOZAK-JENSEN:** UNL, majoring in Accounting/Business

**SCHOLARSHIPS EARNED:** Eastern Star Scholarship, Wilber Garden Club Scholarship, VFW Post #4959 Auxiliary scholarship, Nebraska Czechs of Wilber scholarship, Susan Buffett Thompson Scholarship, UNL Husker Power Scholarship,

Nebraska Opportunity Grant, FBIA Chapter Scholarship, W-C Teammates Scholarship, Michael Hroch Memorial Scholarship I, Valarie J. Rezabek Memorial Scholarship, Otto & Antionette Smith Memorial Scholarship, Michael Hroch Memorial Scholarship II ALTERNATE, Tucson Community/Kathy Massahos Kinney scholarship (ALTERNATE)

**TYSON KRESHEL:** SCC-Milford, majoring in Deere Construction & Forestry

**SCHOLARSHIPS EARNED:** First State Nebraska scholarship, Farmers and Merchant's Bank Scholarship, Keith Homolka Memorial Scholarship, Louis Trnik Memorial Scholarship, Friends of W-C Scholarship ALTERNATE, Lad & Dorothy Kastanek Memorial Scholarship ALTERNATE

**KADEN LUKERT:** Employment with Cropp Farms

**MELODY NOVOTNY:** SCC-Milford, majoring in Radiography

**SCHOLARSHIPS EARNED:** Brad Kasl Scholarship, SCC Freshmen Tuition Scholarship, SCC Foundation High School Scholars scholarship, Northwest Missouri State University Scholarship, Northwest Missouri State University Scholar Bearcat Advantage, Nebraska Czechs of York Scholarship, Lola Brolliar Memorial Scholarship, Louis Trnik Memorial Scholarship, W-C PTO Scholarship, Joe & Helene Steinacher Memorial Scholarship ALTERNATE, W-C PTO II Scholarship ALTERNATE

**ASHTON PULLIAM:** Doane University, majoring in Business Management, participating in Track & Field

**SCHOLARSHIPS EARNED:** Doane University Van Hoy Scholarship, Doane University Men's Track Scholarship, Randal Gray Memorial Scholarship, Marian & Eddie Rezabek Memorial Scholarship, Irene Pivonka Sololik Memorial Scholarship, Albert S. Chmelir Memorial Scholarship ALTERNATE

**CARLY RAINS:** Doane University, majoring in Sports Psychology, participating in Cheer and Dance

**SCHOLARSHIPS EARNED:** Brad Kasl Scholarship, Doane

University Board of Trustees Scholarship, Doane University Cheer Scholarship, Doane University Dance Scholarship, FFA Alumni Chapter Scholarship, FFA Alumni Betterment Scholarship, Charles F. Mundil Memorial Scholarship, Herb & Sylvia Schmale Memorial Scholarship, Abbie & Adolph Trousil Memorial Scholarship, Wilber Czech Craft Shop Scholarship ALTERNATE

**MICHAEL RHODES:** Employment with Collins Aerospace in York

**GOY ROSENTREADER:** Concordia University, majoring in Business Management, participating in Football

**SCHOLARSHIPS EARNED:** Brad Kasl Scholarship, Concordia University Academic Scholarship, Concordia University Athletic Scholarship, Doane University Board of Trustees Scholarship, UNL Emerging Leaders Scholar Scholarship, Missouri Valley College Athletic Scholarship, Dakota State University Scholarship, Eagles Auxiliary & Aerie #531 Lee Mile Memorial Scholarship, Northwest Missouri State Northwest Merit Scholarship, Northwest MO State Green & White Advantage Scholarship, Michael Hroch Memorial Scholarship, FFA Alumni Betterment Scholarship, Michael Hroch Memorial II Scholarship ALTERNATE

**MARIE SLAMA:** SCC-Lincoln, majoring in Surgical Technology

**SCHOLARSHIPS EARNED:** T.J. Sokol Scholarship, Wilber Czech Craft Shop Scholarship, Emma Chaloupka Shramek Memorial Scholarship, W-C PTO Scholarship, Walter & Helene Baer II Scholarship ALTERNATE, Sertoma Service to Mankind Scholarship ALTERNATE, Betty & Alan Steinacher Memorial Scholarship ALTERNATE, W-C PTO Scholarship II Scholarship ALTERNATE

**BRIDGET SMITH:** Earning Pediatric CNA certification

**SCHOLARSHIPS EARNED:** FFA Alumni Betterment Scholarship,

**ALAYNA STEFFENSMEIER:** Concordia University, majoring in Psychology/Counseling, participating in Cheer and Dance

**SCHOLARSHIPS EARNED:** Con-

cordia University Academic scholarship, Concordia University Aid scholarship, Nebraska Opportunity Scholarship, Concordia University Cheer & Dance Scholarship, Northwest Missouri State University Merit Green & White, Scholarship, Kral Family Memorial Scholarship, Joe & Emma Vesely Memorial Scholarship, Mary A. Greer Memorial Scholarship ALTERNATE, Herb & Sylvia Schmale Memorial Scholarship ALTERNATE, Farmers and Merchant's Bank Scholarship ALTERNATE

**GAGE SULLIVAN:** SCC-Beatrice, majoring in Health Sciences

**LONDON VALENTA:** Northeast Community College, majoring in Agriculture

**JOSUE VAZQUEZ:** Entering the workforce

**MORGAN WATSON:** Bryan College of Health Sciences, majoring in Nursing

**SCHOLARSHIPS EARNED:** UNL Husker Power Scholars Scholarship, Midland University FBIA Scholarship, Doane Presidential Scholarship, Crete Area Medical Center Foundation scholarship, Wilber Lions Club Memorial Scholarship, Nebraska Czechs of Wilber scholarship, T.J. Sokol Scholarship, FBIA Chapter Scholarship, Farmers and Merchant's Bank Scholarship, Betty & Alan Steinacher Memorial Scholarship, Joe & Helene Steinacher Memorial Scholarship, Richard Mares & Helen Zach Memorial Scholarship ALTERNATE, Ladislav Rezabek Memorial Scholarship ALTERNATE, Emma Chaloupka Shramek Memorial Scholarship ALTERNATE

**ELIJAH WILLIAMS:** Northeast Community College-Norfolk, majoring in HVAC

**SCHOLARSHIPS EARNED:** Trinity Warranty HVAC Scholarship, UNK Board of Regents, UNL We Are Nebraska Commitment Scholarship, Richard Mares & Helen Zach Memorial Scholarship, FFA Alumni Betterment Scholarship, Walter & Helene Baer I Memorial Scholarship ALTERNATE, Wilber Garden Club Scholarship ALTERNATE

**ELSIE WOERNER:** UNL, majoring

in Animal Science/Pre-Vet

**SCHOLARSHIPS EARNED:** UNL Regents Scholarship, Exeter Feeders and Breeders scholarship, Farmers Cooperative Scholarship, Wilber Garden Club Scholarship, VFW Post #4959 scholarship, Nebraska Czechs of Wilber scholarship, Dave Kujath Memorial scholarship, Justin Kunc Memorial Scholarship, Pepsi Scholars Scholarship, UNL CASNR Scholarship, Frank & Shirley Siebert Scholarship, Elmer & Edra Broz Memorial Scholarship, Viola C. Jelinek Memorial Scholarship, Lad & Dorothy Kastanek Memorial Scholarship, Sertoma Service to Mankind Scholarship, Agnes Trnik Memorial Scholarship, Steve & Lynn Wiese Scholarship, FFA Alumni Betterment Scholarship, FFA Alumni Foundation Scholarship, FFA Chapter Scholarship, Otto & Antionette Smith Memorial Scholarship ALTERNATE, Joe & Emma Vesely Memorial Scholarship ALTERNATE, John Chrastil Memorial Scholarship ALTERNATE, First State Nebraska scholarship ALTERNATE

**HOLLY ZOUBEK:** Northeast Community College, majoring in Elementary/Early Childhood Education

**SCHOLARSHIPS EARNED:** Northeast Community College McIntosh Family Endowment scholarship, Mary A. Greer Memorial Scholarship, William & Albina Musil Memorial Scholarship, FFA Alumni Betterment Scholarship, Lodge Saline Center #389 Scholarship, Kral Family Memorial Scholarship ALTERNATE, Elsie Sukovaty Cauble Gibson & Allen Lee Cauble Memorial Scholarship, ALTERNATE

**NATALIE ZOUBEK:** SCC-Beatrice, majoring in Academic Transfer

**SCHOLARSHIPS EARNED:** Wilber Lions Club Memorial Scholarship, T.J. Sokol Scholarship, ZCJB/WFLA Lodge Libuse #54 Scholarship, FFA Alumni Betterment Scholarship, Lodge Saline Center #389 Scholarship, Lola Brolliar Memorial Scholarship ALTERNATE, Marian & Eddie Rezabek Memorial Scholarship ALTERNATE, Irene Pivonka Sokolik Memorial Scholarship ALTERNATE

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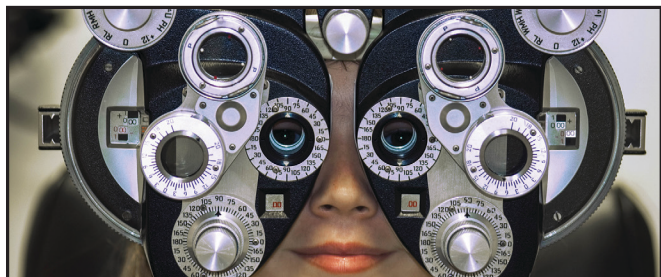


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# Woerner: Make world better for next generation

BY ELSIE WOERNER  
Wilber-Clatonia High Valedictorian

Class of 2023, we made it! I would like to say thanks to our parents, teachers, and faculty members that have helped us along the way.

Throughout my years in school, I have learned a lot of lessons - those which have been found in textbooks, reading materials, and equations, but also those that have been learned through life experiences. I don't want to bore you with my textbook knowledge, so today I am going to tell you about the experiences that have led to life lessons being learned.

The first lesson I learned dates back to preschool. It happened when Eli Williams depantsd Alexa Orf. That day I learned it is always important to wear a belt.

There are always people out there looking to drag you down, whether that is your confidence, your self-esteem, or in some cases, your pants. So, wear a belt or at least tighten your drawstrings, and do not let the negativity of others bring you down.

The next lesson learned was in sixth grade during the sixth-grade campout. Dan Novotny left a jar of peanut butter. This may not have seemed to be a big deal, but it had treacherous consequences. That night, Mr. Newmeyer and Mrs. Wagner courageously fought off a herd of angry raccoons who tried to snatch our peanut butter. It wasn't until Mr. Chambers started fighting off the raccoons with a hot dog stick that they accepted defeat and left our peanut butter alone.

Life lesson learned? Eventually, we will face challenges where we need to fight for what we believe in. People, ideas, or raccoons will challenge our beliefs, but we must stand up for ourselves. So, class of 2023, fight for your peanut butter and your beliefs and do not let anyone take them from you.

During sophomore year, Bryatt gave us a memory that none of us will forget. I was doing homework then suddenly, our class group chat started blowing up. In the group chat was a picture of a leg with



Elsie Woerner

an arrow in it labeled "Bryatt shot himself in the leg." Bryatt was carrying an arrow and accidentally tripped and fell, falling on the arrow and piercing himself in the leg.

To this day, our class still debates if Bryatt fell on the arrow, or if his partner in crime, Deagen Hoover, accidentally shot him. Regardless of what happened, Bryatt had a hole in his leg for weeks.

Sometimes we will cause downfall upon ourselves, or in other words, we will end up shooting ourselves in the foot. We can pity ourselves for ending up

in a bad situation, or we can choose to rise above. So, class, when you end up causing your own downfall and shooting yourself in the foot, or in the leg, remember, rise above.

Another lesson learned was in ag class during junior year. Me, Eli, and Tyson, otherwise known as the neighborhood gang, decided to get in a water bottle fight in animal science. Eli decides to poke a hole in the top of his water bottle and then use the water bottle as a makeshift squirt gun and spray both me and Tyson. Tyson and I followed suit, creating our own weapons, which started a water fight. The class was about to end, so I used the remaining water in my water bottle to spray both of them one final time, ending the fight and becoming victorious, or so I thought.

Tyson was not satisfied with the loss in the water bottle fight and decided to take it out on me. As I was walking back into the building to go inside, he took the cap off of his water bottle and dumped the remain-

der of the bottle on top of my head, completely drenching me. Before you ask, yes it was cold outside, and yes, my next class was freezing as well. I spent the rest of the day wet and cold, which is not a good combination.

You might be wondering what I learned from this defeat. My takeaway - there will be times in life when we may have won the battle, but we need to continue the war. There are some battles that we will win - and some that we will lose in life, but the singular loss or victory should not be our focus. Instead, we need to focus on winning the long-term fight.

By the way Tyson and Eli, you may have won the battle, but the war is not over. Just saying ...

The final, and most important, lesson I learned was taught by Bryatt. Although his time here was limited, he was still able to make an impact on the people around him. Bryatt touched the lives of many, showing us all that although our time here is limited and not guaranteed, we can still

make the most of it by being a light of positivity and kindness. The world is full of many dark places, so be a light and bring positivity and kindness into the darkest of places. Just like Bryatt, use your life to make the world a little bit brighter.

Class, we learned many different things during our time spent in Wilber-Clatonia. We will now be entering the next stage of our life. Although it may seem scary, we will use the lessons learned to guide our way. People may try to drag us down or threaten our beliefs, but we cannot let that get to us.

Always fight for your beliefs and ideas, and do not let anyone take them from you. Even though we may cause our own downfall, or shoot ourselves in the foot, rise above the situation. Don't forget that sometimes we may believe we have won or lost a singular battle, but don't forget the big picture - the war isn't over. And lastly, the world can be a dark place, so make a positive impact and leave it a little brighter.

## TC scholarships

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

Community Club Scholarship, First State Bank of Dewitt Scholarship, Lawrence E. & Alberta E. Hermsmeier Memorial, Marvin & Gladys Heist Memorial, TCEA Demin Dollars for Scholars, Spanish Club Scholarship, Athletic Booster Club Scholarship,

**MEGAN SCHMIDT:** (3.57 GPA) Peru State College for Elementary Education; Plymouth Improvement Association Scholarship, First Tri County Bank of Plymouth, Graff Music Scholarship, Dee Reisen Memorial, TCEA Scholarship, Peru Career Scholarship

**CARTER SIEMS:** (3.75 GPA) Nebraska Wesleyan University for

Exercise Science; First Tri County Bank of Swanton, Wesleyan Presidents Scholarship, N.W.U Achievement Scholarship, Campus Visit Scholarship, Multi Student Scholarship, Athletic Booster Club Scholarship, Youth Basketball Scholarship

**SKYE WASHBURN:** (3.31 GPA) International Sports Science Association online program for Personal Trainer Certification; Elks Teenager of the Month, Tri County Foundation Scholarship,

**TYLER WELCH:** (3.43 GPA) University of Nebraska Omaha for Cybersecurity; Jeff & Karen Reynolds Memorial, Tri County Music Boosters Scholarship

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# Chambers: Be respectful, humble, fearless

BY ALEKSA CHAMBERS  
Wilber-Clatonia High Salutatorian

Good afternoon!  
First of all, I would like to thank everyone that has been a part of getting us to this point in life. Thank you teachers, for the immeasurable wisdom you have given, and the great patience you have kindly had with us. Thank you custodians, for taking the time to keep our school pristine and sanitary. Thank you administration, for making sure everything runs smoothly within the school. Finally, thank you parents for your never ending support and guidance. We would not be as successful as we are today, if it weren't for all these people.  
As we leave Wilber-Clatonia, and head out into the world, I have no doubt that all of us have the potential for success. Most of us will go to further our education. Some will go to



Aleksa Chambers

start a career. No matter what direction we go, we all have the ability to lead successful lives. However, success is not a guarantee in life. To be successful going forward in the future, there are three important things we must do.  
The first is that we must be respectful.  
As we go out into the world, we are bound to run into different cultures. It is important that we recognize that

everyone comes from different backgrounds and ways of life. Though we may not always agree with these lifestyles, we are obligated to give them the respect that we would expect in return. This means treating all people with kindness, enthusiasm, and grace. It means going through life with an open mind, and being accepting of everyone, no matter where they come from.  
Not only will we run into different cultures, but also different ways of thinking. Whether it be a disagreement about the right way to hang toilet paper, or a different political view, we are, again, obligated to be respectful towards those opinions. Don't misunderstand, I am not saying that we need to agree with everyone. Rather that we at least hear people out on their perspectives, and treat them with the same politeness we would want for ourselves.

I like what Jackie Robinson said. "I'm not concerned with your liking or disliking me...all I ask is that you respect me as a human being."  
The second thing is we must be humble.  
A brilliant man recently asked me, "Did you know that if a glass is full, you cannot put anything more into it?" The lesson learned from this question is that just when we think we know everything, we learn something new. To be successful, we need to have the humility to understand that we don't know everything. Whether it is new or old information, we need to humble ourselves, open our minds, and learn as much as possible.  
This also applies with careers. When we leave here, whether we go to work, or to college, there is always going to be someone who is more skilled at what we are doing. We need to have the ability to humble

ourselves enough to accept other's advice and help.  
As C.S. Lewis once said, "True humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less."  
The last thing we must do, is we must be fearless.  
No matter where we go, and what we do, we are going to experience feelings of fear, nervousness, and anxiety. However, it is these feelings that make life more rewarding in the end. The most successful people are not afraid to take chances. They take more risks than anyone else, and if they fail, they pick themselves up and try again. This is the kind of fearlessness we need to exhibit in our lives going forward. Whether it is taking on a leadership role, making an investment, or sharing a business product or idea with the world, we cannot be afraid to take risks in life, and try new things.  
It is the fearlessness of trying new things that give us more experiences to learn from throughout life. Elon

Musk didn't become the richest person in the U.S. without taking risks with his money. Thomas Edison didn't invent the lightbulb without years of failures first. Marie Curie would not have discovered treatment for cancer if she had played it safe in the science lab. All these people are known for their success, because of their fearlessness.  
In the great words of Mary Shelley, "I am fearless, and therefore I am powerful."  
In conclusion, I would like to encourage to all my classmates, that to be successful, we must be respectful, be humble, and be fearless. I want to leave you with a quote from "The Sword in the Stone", a childhood favorite of mine.  
"You must set your sights upon the heights. Don't be a mediocrity. Don't just wait and trust to fate, and say, 'that's how it's meant to be.' It's up to you how far you'll go, if you don't try you'll never know. And so my friends as I've explained: nothing ventured, nothing gained."  
Thank you.

# Rosentreader: We will miss you

BY COY ROSENTRADER  
Wilber-Clatonia High

I'd like to start by welcoming family, friends, faculty, and any others that may be in attendance today to help us celebrate the class of 2023's journey throughout high school and to thank you all for being here.  
I also would like to call out one classmate because he deserves special recognition, Pedro Hernandez.  
The kid that quite literally did not show up to first period the whole last week of his senior year. If you know anything about Pedro, we are all just thankful that he made it here on time today.  
As many of you sitting here today may know, we have overcome many challenges as a class. We have mourned together, cried together, but most importantly laughed together. Sure, we may not all be best friends, but it's fair to say that we will miss having each other around after spending the last 13 years together; we as

a class have helped to shape one another into our future selves. Who we are now is who will help us in our journey beyond Wilber-Clatonia High School and into the real world. Yes, we will change on this path, but the roots of where we grew up will always be a part of us.  
I would like to thank all the parents and guardians here with us today, the countless hours, the extra efforts made, the money spent, the tears shed, and all of the times we got our butts ripped. I can assure you that we all realize now how special you guys are to us and that without all of you, we wouldn't be as successful as we are now. Nobody supported us in the way that you guys have.  
To our teachers and staff, all of us in this graduating class are guilty of complaining about assignments, blaming you guys for our mistakes, and quote unquote "losing assignments" when we simply just didn't get them done; I'm not sure how



Coy Rosentreader

you guys do what you do day in and day out, but we appreciate all the extra time you put in and we thank you guys for sticking with us and pushing us to be the best students that we could be.  
To our coaches and advisors, you guys dedicate so much time away from your family and your home life to be with us and to help us in whatever it is that we are passionate about. Each one of you guys are different and taught us in your own ways to how us what it took to be successful, not just in

that sport or activity, but also for the future years of our lives. Thank you.  
Last but not least, the class of 2023... we made it guys. And Eli Williams, I hope you had that cherry pop tart this morning because the day has just begun. Whether it's a normal day of school, a Student Council Breakfast, an FFA Breakfast, or a Senior breakfast on the last day of school with eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes, the whole 9 yards, Eli was always sure that he had a cherry pop tart with him.  
This feeling of graduating is surreal, we've all been looking forward to this day for as long as we can remember. The kids that we always looked up to when we were younger, we are those kids.  
To the classmates that moved away, to the classmate that we lost, and to all of us sitting here today, you will always be a part of Wilber-Clatonia's Class of 2023.  
Thank you all again for taking time out of your busy schedules to help celebrate us.

## Thank you

The staff of the Crete News, Wilber Republican and Friend Sentinel would like to thank the commencement speakers for sharing their graduation speeches to be reprinted in this special edition.

We would also like to thank the school administrators and counselors who made sure we got all the information we needed for this section. We appreciate all the help you gave us, not just for this section, but throughout the school year.

Congratulations to all the scholarship winners, as well. We wish you the best as you step into the next phase of your lives.

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### Good luck, Cardinals & Wolverines!

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