

# Macomb County All-Academic 2025



## Class A

### CAIDEN O'DONNELL

#### Anchor Bay High School

**Principal:** Michael Mackenzie

**Parent:** Carrie O'Donnell

A 4.0 student at Anchor Bay, he earned a 1500 on the SAT. Future plans include attending the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor to major in climate and meteorology.

**Honors received include AP Scholar with Honor, Academic Awards:** Certificate, Letter "A" and Lamp of Learning, Course Awards: AP Government, Honors Western Literature and Honors Biology, Class Rank #1 and A's throughout high school.

He said, his mother, Carrie O'Donnell, has been the most influential in his academic career. "She has been through so much and is the hardest working person I know. She has always encouraged me to work hard like her, do great things and to never give up no matter what, which has helped me become the person I am today."



### RYN LUCKA

#### Anchor Bay High School

**Principal:** Michael Mackenzie

**Parents:** Jason Lucka and Wendy Lucka

A 3.943 student at Anchor Bay, he earned a 1500 on the SAT. Future plans include attending Lawrence Tech, Eastern Michigan or Wayne State University to major in civil engineering/architecture. Ryn has been involved with the community with Relay For Life and Releaf Michigan.



**Honors received include Honors Academy, Academic Awards:** Certificate, Letter "A" and Lamp of Learning; Course Awards: Honors Calculus and Honors Biology.

He said, "Ms. Osterland, my fourth grade teacher influenced me the most by helping me to a position where I could achieve and Mrs. Kleinke, my AP Calculus teacher, was also important."

### PAOLO ESCUDERO

#### Chippewa Valley High School

**Principal:** Todd Distelrath

**Parent:** Pamela Obra

A 4.0 student at Chippewa Valley, he earned a 1450 on the SAT. Future plans include attending the University of Michigan to major in aerospace engineering.

Paolo has been involved with the community serving food to the elderly, volunteering for the school craft show and making fleece blankets for charity. Honors received include AP Scholar with Honor, 5 on AP Calculus AB, 5 on AP Chemistry and 5 on AP Economics.

He said Irina Pospolova Mills, 12th grade teacher, has been the most influential in his academic career. "She taught me how valuable putting in hard work is. Her great teaching has turned me into a hard worker as I strive to do the best I can at any task."

### RILEY MABUHAY

#### Cousino High School

**Principal:** Andre Buford

**Parents:** Jamie Gibbons and Ronald Mabuhay

A 4.103 student at Cousino, he earned a 1500 on the SAT. Future plans include attending Michigan Technological University to major in computer science.

Honors received include National Indigenous Recognition



Program award and National Merit Scholarship Program finalist.

He said Dave Figurski, fifth grade teacher, was the most influential person in his academic career. "He was the first teacher who worked through my emotional issues at the time to help me along with getting me to enjoy reading for my sake with a voluntary book club as well as reading books for class that were genuinely interesting to me. I still have a Super Mario poster he gave to me at the end of fifth grade hanging on my wall since he knew I liked those games and just so happened to have a son that was like me in some ways with a poster he didn't want any more so the poster was given to me."

### AIDAN RATHNAW

#### Dakota High School

**Principal:** Kevin Koskos

**Parents:** Richard and Caroline Rathnaw

A 4.0 student at Dakota, he earned a 1450 on the SAT. Future plans include attending the University of Michigan to major in computer science.

Aidan has been involved with peer tutoring. Honors received include Michigan State Band and Orchestra Association All-State Orchestra Tubist and Michigan State Band and Orchestra Association Outstanding Soloist nominee. He said, "My mother, Caroline Rathnaw, has most influenced me academically by encouraging me to pursue my interests."

### LUKE JABLONSKI

#### DeLaSalle Collegiate

**Principal:** Ken Kalinowski

**Parents:** Tina Jablonski and



Keith Jablonski

A 4.0 student (weighted as 4.511) at DeLaSalle Collegiate, he earned a 1470 on the SAT. Future plans include attending the University of Michigan Ross School of Business or University of Notre Dame Mendoza College of Business to major in business administration.

Luke has been active as a member of Student council since his freshman year and as Student Council treasurer senior year, a member of National Honor Society since sophomore year and National Honor Society vice-president senior year and a member of DECA since sophomore year and DECA leader senior year. Honors received include Valedictorian, Academic All-State, Catholic High School league All-Academic, Mock Trial Team State Qualifier and Catholic High School League Scholar Athlete. He said, "My parents have influenced me the most in my academic career because they have always pushed me to achieve the best possible grades I could in school. They have supported me since I first began going to school when I was three years old and continue to do so to this day."

### NOLAN KAS-MIKHA

#### DeLaSalle Collegiate

**Principal:** Ken Kalinowski

**Parents:** Bon Kas-Mikha and Martin Kas-Mikha

A 4.0 student (weighted as 4.472) at DeLaSalle Collegiate, he earned a 1500 on the SAT. Future plans include attending Yale University to major in electrical engineering and computer science. Nolan has been active in the community with Kasmikha's Studio with piano lessons for minorities and raising \$600 for the Ted Lindsay Foundation, with St. George Summer Academy leading



students in classroom activities, teaching math and reading, improving grades and problems at home and planned more than 100 student games and S.A.V.E. Club leading clothing drive donated more than 2600 pounds of clothing and earned more than \$100. Honors received include Deca State Champion and International Qualifier, Harvard Prize Book Award, National Festival for Music Clubs Festival Superior Rating, Mock Trial third place and state qualifier and Salutatorian.

He said, "My older brother, Martino Kas-Mikha, a sophomore at the University of Michigan, has influenced me the most in my academic career. He has provided me with a strong framework for building well-rounded extracurricular experience while challenging me by suggesting a rigorous course load. Additionally he introduced me to countless clubs such as DECA, Mock Trial, Stock Market Club and more. He also guided me through applying to participating in activities outside of school such as my law internship and my non-profit organization. Finally he taught me how to write a resume, study for the SAT and ACT, learn how to effectively apply to college and help me balance academics and extracurriculars with enjoyable personal activities."



### GLENDIAN VASILI

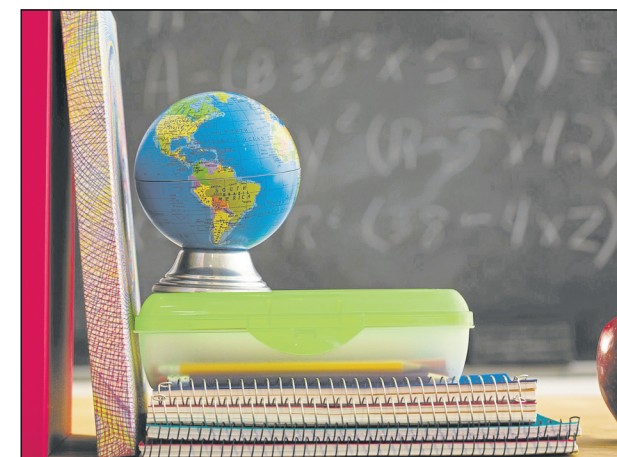
#### DeLaSalle Collegiate

**Principal:** Ken Kalinowski

**Parents:** Ariola Vasili and Eduart Vasili

A 4.0 student (weighted as 4.47) at DeLaSalle Collegiate, he earned a 1480 on the SAT. Future plans include attending the University of Michigan to major in biology.

Glendian has been active in the community as HOSA Service Project coordinator, Detroit Riverside Clean-Up volunteer and Detroit Church clean up volunteer. Honors received include All-Academic for swimming, HOSA regional qualifiers, honor roll, varsity swimming and honors French student for Alliance Francaise de Grosse Pointe. He said, "My mom, Ariola Vasili, has impacted me the most in my academic career. Throughout my school life, my mom has worked intensely and vigorously to earn her Masters in Education to eventually become a teacher, all while taking care of my brother and I. She is the most resilient, hard-working, ambitious person that I know, and I try to embody these qualities every day I can."





**ALAYNA AAMODT****Eisenhower High School****Principal:** Brandon Manzella**Parents:** Steve Aamodt and Nancy Aamodt

A 4.0 (Eisenhower GPA 4.28) student at Eisenhower, she earned a 1480 on the SAT. Future plans include attending the University of Michigan to major in biology, health and society.



Alayna has been involved with the community, coaching tennis to kids ages 4-16, tutoring Spanish kids in English, helping with the piano SAT. Honors received include Michigan Seal of Biliteracy, AP Scholar with Distinction, All-State for tennis, and National Merit Commended Scholar.

She said, "My parents, Steve and Nancy Aamodt, have been the most influential part of my academic journey so far. They have constantly encouraged me to reach for my dreams and never give up on doing what I want to do. They have always been an inspirational force in my life from an early age and are constantly supporting me in all my endeavors. No matter what I am struggling with or if I did advice for anything, I can always go to them and no matter the situation, they will help me with what I need and give me advice on how to solve my problems."

**PEYTON HOLMAN****Eisenhower High School****Principal:** Brandon Manzella**Parents:**

Nicolette Holman and James Holman

A 4.0 (4.14 Eisenhower GPA) student at Eisenhower, she earned a 1450 on the SAT. Future plans include



attending the University of Michigan to major in pre-med.

Peyton has been involved in the community, as President of Cancer Aid Reaches Everyone and as a hospital volunteer. Honors received include National Merit Scholarship Commended Student and AP Scholar.

She said, "The person who influenced me most is Melissa Minton, my general and AP chemistry teacher. If I had to say one teacher who has always believed in me, my answer would be Mrs. Minton every time. She established meaningful relationships with her students and always show how much she cared about us, not just inside, but outside the classroom as well. Her passion for teaching me was so eminent and sparked my love for chemistry. She was the most positive light and you would never know the challenges she was facing. Mrs. Minton was my biggest supporter when I told her I wanted to attend the University of Michigan on a track to become a doctor. I would not be doing that today without her."

**BENJAMIN KAPANKA****Eisenhower High School****Principal:** Brandon Manzella**Parents:** Heather Kapanka and Jim Kapanka

A 4.0 (4.16 at Eisenhower) GPA student at Eisenhower, he earned a 1460 on the SAT. Future plans include attending Oakland University to major in engineering.

Benjamin has been involved in the community, with the Michigan Animal Rescue League. Honors received include Academic All-American.

He said, "Heather Kapanka, my mom and Jim Kapanka, my dad have been the most



influential in my academic career. They have helped me academically my whole life. My dad helped me build a love for math and my mom helped me build a love for reading."

**MASON KIRSCH****Eisenhower High School****Principal:** Brandon Manzella**Parents:** Jennifer and Matthew Kirsch

A 3.96 GPA (4.22 GPA at Eisenhower) student at Eisenhower, he earned a 1450 on the SAT. Future plans include attending the University of Michigan College of Engineering to major in engineering.

Mason has been involved with the community volunteering for Elementary Science Olympiad and tutoring others in calculus. Honors received include Math department award, Science Olympiad "Da Vinci Award", AP Scholar with Distinction, German Honor Society and National Honor Society.

He said, My older brother Kyle has influenced me the most. He is two years older than me was a good role model academically for me to follow. Now I get to join him next year at the University of Michigan and I am thrilled!"

**SREEKAR KOMPELLA****Eisenhower High School****Principal:** Brandon Manzella**Parents:** Srinivas Kompella and Prapoorna Bhagavatula

A 3.963 GPA (4.23 GPA at Eisenhower), student at Eisenhower, he earned a 1470 on the SAT. Future plans include attending Oakland University to study biomedical sciences/pre-



medicine.

Sreekar has been involved with the community doing volunteer work at hospitals and tutoring.

Honors received include Presidential Scholar, AP Scholar with Distinction and UCMST graduate.

He said, "Prapoorna Bhagavatula (mother) and Srinivas Kompella (father) have supported me and provided resources and guidance to help me succeed. Sankarsh Kompella (younger brother), he looks up to me so I continue to push myself to be the proper role model he deserves."

**JUSTIN LOVEDAY****Eisenhower High School****Principal:** Brandon Manzella**Parents:** Jeremy and Brenda Loveday

A 3.95 GPA (4.14 GPA at Eisenhower), student at Eisenhower, he earned a 1510 on the SAT. Future plans include attending the University of Michigan College of Engineering to major in engineering.

Justin has been involved with volunteering for elementary Science Olympiad. Honors received include AP Scholar with Distinction and German honor society.

He said, "My parents have influenced me the most in my academic career by supporting my academic and extracurricular interests."

**SAMANTHA LUU****Eisenhower High School****Principal:** Brandon Manzella**Parent:** Janice Liu

A 4.0 GPA (4.17 GPA at Eisenhower) student at Eisenhower, she earned a 1520 on the SAT. Future plans include attending the University of Michigan to major in computer engineering.

Samantha has been involved

in the community with

National Honors Society, Head of Sound in theater and Spanish Club. Honors received include President's Award for Academic Excellence, International Thespian Society, AP Scholar with Honor, valedictorian.

She said, "My parents have influenced me most in my academic endeavors and they serve as my closest mentors. With constant encouragement and motivation, they have led me to set and achieve my goals. They showed me the value of hard work and perseverance, both in academics and life. My parents are the reason why I am able to be where I am today."

**DANA MERI****Eisenhower High School****Principal:** Brandon Manzella**Parents:** Nael Meri and Sundus Meri

A 3.962 GPA (4.02 GPA at Eisenhower) student at Eisenhower, she earned a 1450 on the SAT. Future plans include attending Oakland University to major in health sciences.

Dana has been involved with the community with clothing donation drives. Honors received includes President's Award for Educational Excellence.

She said, "My oldest brother, Malik Meri has been the most influential for me in my academic career. He is a second year dental student at the University of Michigan. Malik is intelligent, motivated and great at problem solving. He has taught me the importance of putting in the hard work to reach your goals and understanding that failures are a necessary part of the learning process."

**LENA MERI****Eisenhower High School****Principal:** Brandon Manzella**Parent:** Isra Meri

A 4.0 GPA (Eisenhower GPA 4.11 student at Eisenhower, she earned a 1460 on the SAT. Future plans include attending Oakland University to major in biomedical sciences.

Honors received include AP Scholar, valedictorian, Summa Cum Laude. She said, "My father, Nader Meri has influenced me the most in my academic career by always pushing me and motivating me to give my all and always do my best in school and outside of it."

**JULIA MYSLIMAJ****Eisenhower High School****Principal:** Brandon Manzella**Parents:** Adriana Myslimaj and Fatos Myslimaj

A 4.0 GPA (4.32 GPA at Eisenhower) student at Eisenhower, she earned a 1550 on the SAT. Future plans include attending University of Michigan to major in biochemistry.

Julia has been involved with Tutoring and babysitting. Honors received include National Merit Scholarship Finalist, AP Scholar, AP Scholar with Distinction, Macomb Science Olympiad scholarship and Top GPA Award

She said, "In my academic career, I have been most inspired by my older brother Bledar Myslimaj as he was the first to choose the best possible student he could be and he taught me how to find a love for learning through his own dedication."



## MADELYN WITULSKI

### Eisenhower High School

**Principal:** Brandon Manzella

**Parents:** Jeff Witulski and Amy Witulski

A 4.0 GPA (4.24 GPA at Eisenhower), student at Eisenhower, she earned a 1500 on the SAT. Future plans include attending either the University of Michigan and Michigan State University to major in biomolecular science.



Madelyn has been involved in the community with theater though Eisenhower's Drama Club, Science Olympiad and competitive solo piano. Honors received include AP Scholar with Distinction, Commended Student in the National Merit Scholarship program and 2025 MSU Alumni Distinguished Scholarship Commended Semifinalist.

She said, "The person who has most influenced my academic career is my UCMST science teacher of three years, Mr. Jason Lodsgon. As an early middle schooler, I likely would have ranked science near the bottom in terms of my favorite classes, but now I can easily say it's become my favorite subject. Especially at a time when I felt I had more spiraling queries than solid answers about the world, the experiences I have had in Mr. Lodsgon's classes taught me to appreciate the art of the question, the scientific method and have overall inspired me to pursue biomedical research in my future."

## TASEEN KHAN

### Fitzgerald High School

**Principal:** Gary Stevens

**Parents:** Mohammed Hogue and Jyotsna Khanam

A 3.9 student at Fitzgerald, he earned a 1320 on the SAT. Future plans include attending Wayne State Univer-

sity to study computer science.

Taseen has been involved with the community as a mosque custodian, tutor and robotics member. Honors received include All "A's" and Honor Roll.

He said, My two older siblings who set an example for me (Sahif, Samaign)

## JACKSON SINES

### Fraser High School

**Principal:** Ryan D. Sines

**Parents:** Ryan and Bianca Sines

A 4.0 student at Fraser, he earned a 1390 on the SAT.

Future plans include attending Trine University to major in pre-med Chemistry.

Jackson has been involved with the community with Student Council Charity Week and Canned Food Drive, Peer to Peer and Youth Football camp counselor. Honors received include Fraser High School Science Student of the Year, MHSAA Academic All-State, AP Scholar with Honors and second team All-County football.

"The person who most influenced my academic career was my father, Ryan Sines. Ever since I was little, he always pushed me to be the best version of myself possible. That meant making sure I had all "A"'s, also challenging myself in classes that were more advanced. He was not just challenging me academically, he supported me. Whenever there was a problem I couldn't solve he was there to help. My dad not only helped me succeed in my classes, but cultivated a mindset that gave me motivation to succeed in all walks of life. When I got to high school and was challenged the most academically and



physically I was able to succeed due to the mindset my dad helped me to develop. I cannot thank my dad enough for everything he has done for me, his influence on my life is unmatched."

## ISAAC KELLOGG

### Henry Ford II High School

**Principal:** Lori Singleton

**Parents:** Laldinpuui Kellogg and Philip Kellogg

A 4.22 student at Henry Ford II, he earned a 1530 on the SAT. Future plans include attending Michigan Tech or Kettering University to major in computer science.

Isaac has been involved with the FRC Thunder-chickens Number 217. Honors received include AP Scholar with Distinction and National Merit Letter of Commendation.

He said "My mother has influenced me the most. As a teacher at Macomb Community College, she has helped me understand math at a higher level. This really helped me excel my educational pathway and opportunities."

## RAHUL PADMANABHAN

### Henry Ford II High School

**Principal:** Lori Singleton

**Parents:** Bob Padmanabhan and Jayashree Umapathy

A 4.05 student at Henry Ford II, he earned a 1510 on the SAT. Future plans include attending University of Detroit Mercy to major in pre-dental.

Honors received include AP Scholar with Distinction, National Merit Scholarship Commended Student, Michigan State University Alumni Distinguished Scholarship Finalist, Global and state



seals for Spanish (AAPPL).

He said, "Since they are BOTH here, I have to say the greatest influences on my academic career are my mom and dad. When I didn't see it in myself, my parents reminded me of my potential to do well in school. Despite numerous difficulties as immigrants from India, my parents worked hard to secure a stable life filled with opportunities. And in terms of academics, they pushed me to become the best I could. While the expectations they set for me were high, they genuinely believed I was capable and in turn, believed in myself too. I would not be who I am today without both of my parents' devotion, not only to academics, but to my development as a person."

## JAMES THOMAS

### Henry Ford II High School

**Principal:** Lori Singleton

**Parents:** Jim Thomas and Shibi Thomas

A 4.28 student at Henry Ford II, he earned a 1480 on the SAT. Future plans include attending Oakland University to major in computer science.

James has been involved with the community with the Civil Air Patrol, as a puppy raiser for Leader Dogs of the Blind and assisting in the Arthritis Foundation Marathon and fundraising events. Honors received include Earhart Milestone Award recipient (Civil Air Patrol), Letter of Commendation on the PSAT/MNSQT, AP Scholar with Distinction, Falcon Scholar and National Federation of Music "45 Point" Trophy (Piano).

He said Joshua Thomas, his older brother, has been the most influential in his academic career. "He spent countless hours tutoring me in subjects/classes I struggled in, taught me more effective ways to take notes and introduced differ-



ent strategies to study for tests."

## RYAN BRANDOW

### International Academy of Macomb

**Principal:** Lori Singleton

**Parents:** John Brandow and Sheila Brandow

A student at International Academy of Macomb, he earned a 1530 on the SAT. Future plans are currently undecided.

Ryan has been involved with the IAM Robert #4810, the school's robotics team. Honors received include National German Exam Silver award, National German Exam Bronze, National Merit Scholarship finalist, FIRST Robotics Battle Creek Event District Champion (team 2023), FIRST Robotics Battle Creek Event Impact Award (team 2023).

He said, "Steve and Sandy Wright, my former Academic coaches have had a profound influence on my academic career. They helped show me there is more to intelligence than just knowing facts and gave me the academic and logical foundation I needed to succeed."

## BRENON HANSON

### International Academy of Macomb

**Principal:** Dr. Laura Strong

**Parents:** Shannon Hanson and Bryan Hanson

A 3.9792 student at the International Academy of Macomb, he earned a 1460 on the SAT. Future plans include attending the University of Michigan, Dearborn to major in physics.

Brenon has been involved with running the Dungeons and Dragons Club, and vocal directed a student led musical at school. Honors received include On the Board of the National Art Honors Society, first place award at the Michigan Music



Association singing competition, tested at the 95th percentile on the National Spanish Exam.

He said Addison Hanson, my little sister, has influenced me greatly by persevering through adversity and upholding a positive attitude throughout. She slipped a spinal disc while doing gymnastics and had to go through constant treatment and surgery. Addison missed months of her eighth grade year due to recovery and sickness but she still managed to finish the year strong and win her school's "Stellar Student Award." I am proud of and inspired by her tenacity, strength, and how she continued to be herself despite her health struggles."

## MATTHEW MCCREARY

### International Academy of Macomb

**Principal:** Dr. Laura Strong

**Parents:** Elena Arini and Matt McCreary

A 3.975 student at the International Academy of Macomb, he earned a 1530 on the SAT. Future plans include attending the University of Alabama to major in mechanical engineering.

Mathew is involved with Link Crew and Key Club. Honors received include National Merit Commendation, Science Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society. He said, "My parents influenced me a lot throughout my academics by always believing in me throughout school, even when I was nervous and by pushing me to be my best."





**NATHAN MUNOFO****International Academy of Macomb****Principal:** Dr. Laura Strong**Parents:** Mari Munifo and Nick Munifo

He earned a 1480 on the SAT. Future plans include attending the Cornerstone University though currently undecided on a field of study.



Nathan has been involved with theatre, volunteering and a youth group. Honors received include, member of National Honor Society, Sociedad Hispanica Honoria (SHH) membership, International Thespian Society membership, National Merit Scholarship commendation, National Spanish Examination Bronze Medal.

He said, Mari Munifo, my mother, and Nick Munifo, my father, have helped and encouraged me immensely with my high school journey and I would not be where I am without them. My siblings, Gabrielle, Lucas and Gianna Munifo and my uncle, Robert Dix, have always supported me and helped me through my academic career. I would like to thank all of them for how they have influenced my life. Finally Ryan Avery my youth group leader, has helped me grow both academically and in my faith."

**NOAH NOWACZEWSKI****International Academy of Macomb****Principal:** Dr. Laura Strong**Parents:** David Nowaczewski and Shannon Nowaczewski

A 4.3 student at the International Academy of Macomb, he earned a 1570 on the SAT. Future plans include attending Stanford to major



in engineering.

Noah has been involved in the community, volunteering for Open Hands Food Pantry and GotSneakers fundraiser. Honors received include National Merit Finalist and National German Exam Gold Medal.

He said, "My family has been the most profound influence on my academic journey, instilling in me a deep-seated appreciation for education, resilience in the face of challenges and an unwavering commitment to personal and intellectual growth."

**MCKENNA POISSON****International Academy of Macomb****Principal:** Dr. Laura Strong**Parent:** Natalie Poisson

A 4.0 student at the International Academy of Macomb, she earned a 1510 on the SAT. Future plans include attending the University of Alabama to major in chemistry.

McKenna has been involved with the community, as a volunteer at elementary Science Olympiad tournaments, Macomb READs Festival volunteer and organized Red Cross Blood drive. Honors received include National Merit Finalist, first place HOSA Community Awareness campaign, third place in HOSA Medical Terminology competition, International Academy of Macomb Chemistry Scholar Award and valedictorian.

She said Natalie Poisson, her mom, is the most influential in her academic career. "My mom confidently believed in me even when I didn't believe in myself. She gave me the love, empathy and patience to grow while always motivating me to achieve more. She taught me the importance of showing everyone care and generosity so I want to give back to the world by becoming a doctor. I want to use my education to support



her in the future the way she has always supported my siblings and I. She deserves the world so I work to give her that."

**BENJAMIN RANIERI****International Academy of Macomb****Principal:** Dr. Laura Strong**Parents:** Lenore Ranieri and Michael Ranieri

A 4.401 student at the International Academy of Macomb, he earned a 1480 on the SAT. Future plans include attending the University of Michigan to major in engineering.

Benjamin has been involved with the community having delivered food to homebound senior citizens of Detroit at Christmas time through Focus: Hope, running a week long STEM camp focusing on accessibility for local Mount Clemens students and participating in a STEM expo with his robotics team at Selfridge Air Base during their open house. Honors received active member of International Academy of Macomb's National Honor Society Science National Honor Society, FIRST Robotics Impact Award Winner for impressive STEM outreach efforts in 2023, trumpet section leader for Chippewa Valley Marching Band, National Spanish Exam and Robotics Industrial Design award and Quality Award as senior member of robot design team.

He said, "Both of my parents, Michael and Lenore Ranieri have influenced me during my academic career. They both introduced me to a world filled with science from the first moment I can remember. We've visited science centers, planetariums, watched lunar eclipses at night and solar eclipses during the day. We've also constructed working volcanoes at the kitchen table, put skelton puzzles together on the



family room floor, and learned chemistry from science kits. We've visited the Kennedy Space Center together, met with NASA astronauts and watched a rocket launch from the bleacher seats. I owe my passion for science to both of them for enriching my life with all of these eye opening experiences."

**DUNCAN WOODS****International Academy of Macomb****Principal:** Dr. Laura Strong**Parents:** Sheila Carrier-Woods and Brian Woods

A 3.9415 student at the International Academy of Macomb, he earned a 1520 on the SAT. Future plans include attending the University of Michigan to major in political science.

Duncan has been involved with the school as a Student-Written and Student-Led musical performance producer, Student Council Public Relations officer, and National Art Honor Society secretary. Honors received include National Merit Scholarship Program Commendation.

He said his parents, Sheila Carrier Woods and Brian Woods have been the most influential in his academic career.

**MEGAN MORELL****Lake Shore High School****Principal:** Jenelle Bross**Parents:** Paul and Shannon Morell

A 4.3 student at Lake Shore, she earned a 1510 on the SAT. Future plans include attending Princeton to major in public and international affairs.

Megan has been involved with the community with National Honors Society. Honors received include State Qualifier in the pole vault, varsity soccer captain, track and field captain and final round

of judging at the Detroit Science Fair. She said, "My second grade teacher, Ms. Joan Grassi encouraged me to work above and beyond as a student, challenging me past my limits and shaping me into a better person. I took those lessons I learned early on in her class and I have used them to excel in my academic career."

**EVA WILKS****Lake Shore High School****Principal:** Jenelle Bross**Parents:** Amanda Wilks and Ken Wilks

A 4.232 student at Lake Shore, she earned a 1450 on the SAT. Future plans include attending the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor to major in engineering.

Eva has been involved with the community as a volunteer with American House Senior Living. Honors received include Michigan State Band and Orchestra Association Division I rating, four year Honor Roll and AP Scholar with Honors. She said, "My two older brothers, Kristian and Gavin, play a large role in how I have gotten as far as I have. They've taught me plenty throughout my life and I've always looked up to them. They exemplify the person I want to be. Both are incredibly brilliant and have pushed themselves. I don't know where I would be if I didn't have such great role models."

**HAILEY TARTAGLIA****Lakeview High School****Principal:** Scott Kapla**Parent:** Stephanie Tartaglia

A 3.897 student at Lakeview, she earned a 1420 on the SAT. Future plans include attending Western Carolina University to major in English

Education and Spanish.

Hailey has been involved as a Teacher Cadet and National Honor Society service. Honors received include Academic Letter (honor roll), Lamp of Learning (honor roll), Silver Bar (honor roll and Gold Bar (honor roll).

She said Stephanie Tartaglia, her mom, has been the most influential in her academic career. "She always encouraged me to do well and always celebrated my achievements (even small ones). She helped me to stay focused and not dwell on my mistakes but look to future opportunities."

**JULIA PUZZUOLI****L'Anse Creuse High School****Principal:** Alysia Samborsky**Parents:** Amy Puzzuoli and Adam Puzzuoli

A 4.0 student at L'Anse Creuse High School, he earned a 1410 on the SAT. Future plans include attending the University of Michigan to major in nursing.

Julia has been involved in the community as the Girl's Golf captain, Mu Alpha Theta tutoring, and Student Council Executive Board member. Honors received include Four Year MST Achievement award, Top Scholar graduate, Macomb County First Team doubles award in tennis, four year Scholastic Award recipient.

She said, "My older brothers have influenced me most in my academic career. Luke and Ben set an example throughout high school and college of a successful life like one that I hope to achieve."



## NOLA GEDDES

### L'Anse Creuse High School North

**Principal:** Meredith Beard

**Parents:** Timothy and Julie Geddes

A 4.0 student at L'Anse Creuse High School North, she earned a 1440 on the SAT. Future plans include attending the University of Michigan to major in secondary education.

Nola has been involved with the community as an assistant catechist, concessions seller and charity donor. Honors received include AP Scholar award, AP Scholar with Distinction, certificate of Scholastic Achievement, MST Achievement Award and Celebration of Excellence.

She said, "I have been significantly influenced by both of my siblings. My brother, Jarrett Geddes and my sister, AnnDee Geddes have both been role models for me throughout school. Even as an elementary schooler, I always looked to my siblings for help with homework, studying, etc. They have been so incredible to me and they have such a big influence on my academic career."



## RYLAN MINKIEWICZ

### L'Anse Creuse High School North

**Principal:** Meredith Beard

**Parents:** Michael Minkiewicz and Rose Dubai

A 3.973 student at L'Anse Creuse High School North, she earned a 1490 on the SAT. Future plans include attending Michigan Tech University to major in environmental engineering.

Rylan has been involved with the community volunteering



at Mount Clemens Montessori Academy's summer camp, a tutor for L'Anse Creuse North High School's National Honor Society and Tutor for Pankow Technical Center's Mu Alpha Theta. Honors received include AP Scholar with Distinction, Business/Marketing/Sustainability Captain for FRC Team 453 and L'Anse Creuse High School North's Key Club treasurer.

She said, "My parents, Michael Minkiewicz and Rose Dubai have influenced me most in my academic career. They have always supported my academic and extracurricular ambitions, while also helping me to make sure I am not overworking myself. They help me with my homework after having been at work all day, trying to learn and relearn the material. I love and appreciate them and all of the support they have given me."

## BRADY STARK

### L'Anse Creuse High School North

**Principal:** Meredith Beard

**Parents:** Elizabeth and Matthew Stark

A 4.0 student at L'Anse Creuse High School North, he earned a 1440 on the SAT. Future plans include attending the University of Michigan to major in computer science.

Brady has been involved with the community, volunteering at Saint Clair Shoes Public Library, National Honors Society and job shadowing the St. Clair Shores Assistant City Manager. Honors received include AP Scholar with Distinction, MST Achievement Award, Dean's List, L'Anse Creuse North Top Scholar and Macomb County Secondary Student Art Show first place.

He said that Chandler Tawney, his biology teacher, was the most influential person



in his academic career. "Mrs. Tawney created an engaging and exciting class that motivated me to be more dedicated to academics afterward. Additionally, she was willing to write me a letter of recommendation for college applications."

## JOSEPH YOO

### L'Anse Creuse High School North

**Principal:** Meredith Beard

**Parent:** Grace Yoo

A 3.972 student at L'Anse Creuse High School North, he earned a 1480 on the SAT. Future plans include attending the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, College of Engineering to major in chemical engineering.

Joseph has been involved with the community with the Korean First Baptist Church and Science Olympiad. Honors received include Gold Medal in ChemLab Regional For Science Olympiad, Gold Medalist for President's award for volunteering, Student of the month in November, Dean's List for four years and AP Scholar with Honors.

He said, "The person who has influenced me the most would be my mother, Grace Yoo. She has always shown resilience and powers when I was growing up, working tirelessly to support me and my sister. Seeing her work influenced me to work hard in school so I can get the best education/opportunities that were given. Her work ethic and pride is what drives me every day to work at 110 percent and without her I wouldn't know my potential for my academic career."



## CHASE LARK

### Romeo High School

**Principal:** Bernie Osebold

**Parents:** Dana Young and Scott Lark

A 3.951 student at Romeo,

he earned a 1410 on the SAT. Future plans include attending the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor to major in biomedical engineering.

Chase has been involved in the community as a Camp Intervention Group Leader and tutoring middle schoolers and high schoolers in AP Calculus and AP Chemistry. Honors received include GPA 3.5 and above, Summa Cum Laude and Scientific Daredevil.

He said, "Scott Lark, his father, was the most influential in his academic career. He always pressed on me to not heed the advice of who thought I couldn't do as much or be as good as I knew and how he knew I had the potential to be."



## ALEXIS WOLGAST

### Roseville High School

**Principal:** Jason Bettin

**Parents:** Bradley and Deanna Wolgast

A 4.0 student at Roseville, she earned a 1210 on the SAT. Future plans include attending the University of Detroit Mercy to major in Pre-Physician Assistant.

Alexis is involved with the community with Forgotten Harvest, Henry Ford Hospital volunteer, and Girls STEM summer camp mentor. Honors received include Eastpointe/Roseville Chamber of Commerce Chamber Student of the Year, valedictorian, Panther Award and Honor Roll.

She said, "Samantha Jordan, my tenth grade AP US History and eleventh grade AP English Language and composition teacher has influenced me the most in my academic career. She has shown immense care to her students for the two years that I had her class and that really



made me want to work to get good grades, not only in her classes, but the rest of them as well. Although her classes are hard, they were worth the work and I feel have prepared me for whatever will come after high school."

## AIDEN ALAZO

### Sterling Heights High School

**Principal:** Craig Miller

**Parents:** Hamsa Rabee and Sarmad Alazo

A 4.0 student at Sterling Heights, he earned a 1460 on the SAT.

Future plans include attending Harvard to major in neuroscience.

Aiden has been active in the community as captain of the swim team, president of the medical club and co-founder of Zorgo LLC. Honors received include MMSTC Acceptance, All-Academic Macomb Area Conference Athlete Award, AP Scholar, Macomb Area Conference medals for swimming and MMSTC Science Fair Grand Winner and State Qualifying Science Fair project

He said, "I owe a lot of my success in my academic career to my fifth grade teacher. Her name is Emily Kline and she was my teacher at Angus Elementary School. She saw my potential even when I wasn't the best in terms of behavior as a child and turned my attitude toward everything school related. I began learning what really mattered to me and helped me set goals I have only begun to achieve. She really guided me toward the right path in life."



## FADI MANDWEE

### Sterling Heights High School

**Principal:** Craig Miller

**Parents:** Talat Mandwee and Tamara Mandwee

A 4.0 student at Sterling Heights, he earned a 1530

on the SAT. Future plans include attending the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to major in computer engineering.

Fadi has been active in the community as captain of the swim team, captain of the robotics team and founder of Zorgo LLC. Honors received include Einstein semifinalist, AP Scholar with Distinction, Yale Engineering and Science Scholar, MMSTC Science Fair Grand Winner and FIRST Robotics Dean's List finalist. He said Mrs. Ansel, his MMSTC counselor, has been the most influential in his academic career. "She helped me achieve my nontraditional academic goals and always welcomed me with open arms when I needed help with an essay or help scheduling a class. She fought for me and I owe her credit for my academic success."

## DMYTRO DARMOGRAY

### Stevenson High School

**Principal:** Kenneth Cucchi III

**Parents:** Tetyana Darmogray and Sergiy Darmogray

A 4.30 student at Stevenson, he earned 1450 on the SAT. Future plans include attending the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor to major in chemical engineering.

Dmytro has been involved with the community through National Honors Society, MST Student Council and Karma Cloth. Honors received include AP Scholar with Distinction and State Science Olympiad medalist.

He said his parents Tetyana and Sergiy Darmogray have been the most influential in his academic career. "They always pushed me to go above and beyond my own potential."





## JACOB LEWANDOWSKI

### Stevenson High School

**Principal:** Kenneth Cucchi III

**Parents:** Erica Lewandowski and Andrew Lewandowski  
A 4.13 student at Stevenson, he earned 1440 on the SAT. Future plans include attending Michigan State University Honors College/Lyman Briggs to major in human biology (pre-med).



Jacob has been involved as Quiz Bowl Team Captain, HOSA member and National Honor Society. Honors received include National Merit Commended Scholar, AP Scholar with Distinction, HOSA first place regional medalist, state finalist and international competitor in dental terminology.

He said, "My parents have been my biggest influence because of the emphasis they have always placed on the importance of my education. They gave me so many opportunities to try new things and explore my interests. Most of all, they've been there to encourage and support me every step of the way."

## ANSH MALHOTRA

### Stevenson High School

**Principal:** Kenneth Cucchi III

**Parent:** Sheetal Malhotra

A 4.31 student at Stevenson, he earned 1540 on the SAT. Future plans include attending the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor to major in biochemistry. Ansh has been involved as co-founder of KarmaKloth, a federally recognized non-profit that has donated clothing to south Asia. Hon-



ors received include National Merit Commended Scholar, AP Scholar with Distinction, Davinci's Award recipient, Science Olympiad Region 7 (Highest-Achieving member) and CTE Distinction Award- HOSA State Officer. He said, "My mother, Sheetal Malhotra has influenced my academic career the most. This is because she instilled in me from a young age the core values that ensure academic success. These include resilience, time management and even ambition. This and the many other things that I have been fortunate enough to learn from my mother, have helped me not only become who I am but also pushed me to always strive for more in my academic career."

## MONICA SMYLNICKY

### Stevenson High School

**Principal:** Kenneth Cucchi III

**Parents:** Nicholas Smylnicky and Agnes Smylnicky  
A 4.23 student at Stevenson, she earned 1480 on the SAT. Future plans include attending the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor to major in biology, health and society.



Monica has been involved in the community, with Spanish National Honors Society tutoring and Pulsera Project. Honors received include Spanish National Honor Society vice-president in eleventh grade, Spanish National Honor Society president in twelfth grade, HOSA Regional Medalist two third places and a first place; AP Scholar with Distinction and AP Capstone Diploma candidate and Science Olympiad medalist in regionals and invitationals.

She said, "My parents, Agnes and Nicholas Smylnicky have always encouraged me

to be passionate about what I want to pursue and have told me there is no challenge that is too big for me to undertake. I have followed this advice throughout my academic career and have been particularly inspired by my mom to work in medicine eventually. Alongside them, I have had excellent teachers who only added to my experiences, like my Spanish teacher, Rachel Williams, She and Erika Cabral, my Spanish tutor, helped me uncover my passion for the language further and inspired me to pursue a minor in it."

## SIYA VASHI

### Stevenson High School

**Principal:** Kenneth Cucchi III

**Parents:** Amit Vashi and Ruchita Vashi

A 4.30 student at Stevenson, she earned 1530 on the SAT. Future plans include attending the University of Michigan College of Engineering to major in biomedical engineering.



Siya has been involved in the community, with National Honor Society as a board member and helping elementary students connect with a high school tutor. Honors received include National Merit Commended Scholar, AP Scholar with Distinction, first place at HOSA States, fourth place at Science Olympiad states and Student of the Month. She said, "My parents and my teachers have been the greatest influence on my academic career. My parents pushed me to become the best version of myself and worked hard so I could focus all my attention on doing so. My eleventh grade biology teacher, Mrs. Debra Horger and my math teacher, Ms. Melissa Webb, have fostered my passion for math and biology and

greatly influenced my career choice."

## DREW BELISLE

### Gene L Klida Utica Academy for International Studies

**Principal:** Shaun Greene-Beebe

**Parents:** Donna Belisle and Darren Belisle

A 4.24 student at Gene L Klida Utica Academy for International Studies, he earned a 1520 on the SAT. Future plans include attending the Georgia Institute of Technology to major in aerospace engineering. Drew has been involved in the community, having designed and built an opossum enclosure at the Shadbrush Nature Center, organized and led a seven week swim and dive program for middle school students in Utica Community Schools and volunteered after school to design and paint a mural in the school promoting tranquility and mental wellness. Honors received include National Merit Commended Scholar, Advanced Placement Scholar with Distinction, varsity athletic award for swim and dive, Eagle Scout Award, Key Club Outstanding Member.

He said, "While my drive to excel academically is largely self-motivated, the support of my parents, Darren and Donna Belisle, has been invaluable. Their constant encouragement, willingness to assist with important tasks and dedication to ensuring my success have provided a strong foundation for my academic journey, allowing me to stay focused on continuing to pursue my goals with confidence."



## RILEY BRIMM

### Gene L Klida Utica Academy for International Studies

**Principal:** Shaun Greene-Beebe

**Parents:** Brian Brimm and Jennifer Brimm

A 4.21 student at Gene L Klida Utica Academy for International Studies, he earned a 1490 on the SAT. Future plans include attending the University of Michigan to major in biomedical engineering.

Riley has been involved in the community, diving with Eisenhower and other freestyle acrobatics, House Ambassador (head of a school spirit committee) and volunteering with Key Club, National Honors Society and Motown Soup Kitchen. Honors received include National Merit Finalist, National Honors Society and National Spanish Honors Society. He said, Jessica Stewart, his fifth grade teacher, was the most influential person in his academic career. "So much of who I am was influenced by Ms. Stewart. She got me interested in reading, through the Percy Jackson books before she was even my teacher, while I was in third grade. She encouraged me to sneak reading under my desk or on top of other textbooks while my third grade teacher pretended not to notice. Reading impacted me further, sharing ideas with me younger than expected and getting me interested in learning. In her class, she encouraged kindness. Obviously every elementary school teacher encourages kindness, but Ms. Stewart took it to another level. Her ideas about kindness still influence my morals. Finally she rebelliously chose not to have seating charts, to teach soft skills she was not required to, and to go above and



beyond. I often read things about how education is a developing science. These researchers need to ask Ms. Stewart for her opinions, because her style worked wonderfully on me and many others who were in her fifth grade class."

## NATALIA MALEWICZ

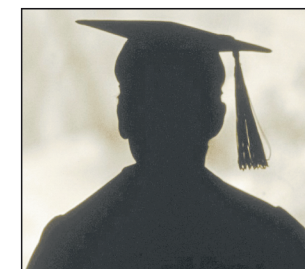
### Gene L Klida Utica Academy for International Studies

**Principal:** Shaun Greene-Beebe

**Parents:** Izabela Malewicz and Andrzej

A 4.22 student at Gene L Klida Utica Academy for International Studies, she earned a 1520 on the SAT. Future plans include attending the University of Michigan to major in neuroscience. Natalia has been involved with the community as a volunteer at Henry Ford Hospital, Key Club and Amnesty International. Honors received include Volleyball MVP, All-Conference and All-Academic Awards, valedictorian, Key Club Full Year member in Good Standing, HOSA Regional Conference winner.

She said, "My mom, isabela Malewicz, has influenced me the most in my academic career. After earning her degree in Poland and immigrating to the United States, she pursued a career in health care in physical therapy. Her hard work, resilience and humility have inspired me to take the same path of a career in health care."





*You are to be commended  
for your dedication,  
commitment, and resilience.*

*Education is the most powerful weapon  
which you can use to change the world.*

— Nelson Mandela

**On behalf of the  
Macomb Intermediate School District**

# **Congratulations**

**to the Macomb County  
All Academic Students  
Class of 2025**

Anchor Bay Schools	Mount Clemens Community Schools
Armada Area Schools	New Haven Community Schools
Center Line Public Schools	Richmond Community Schools
Chippewa Valley Schools	Romeo Community Schools
Clintondale Community Schools	Roseville Community Schools
Eastpointe Community Schools	South Lake Schools
Fitzgerald Public Schools	Utica Community Schools
Fraser Public Schools	Van Dyke Public Schools
Lake Shore Public Schools	Warren Consolidated Schools
Lakeview Public Schools	Warren Woods Public Schools
L'Anse Creuse Public Schools	



**Macomb Intermediate School District**  
44001 Garfield Road, Clinton Township, MI 48038  
586.228.3300

*Make*  
**Macomb  
Schools**  
your home

For more information about the MISD and the 21 school districts, go to **[www.misd.net](http://www.misd.net)**



**SAIFAN MIRZA****Gene L Klida Utica Academy for International Studies****Principal:** Shaun Greene-Beebe**Parents:** Waseem Mirza and Zakia Mirza

A 4.21 student at Gene L Klida Utica Academy for International Studies, he earned a 1520 on the SAT. Future plans include attending the University of Pennsylvania to major in international relations. Saifan has been involved in the community with National Honor Society Tutoring Committee, forensics, 2024 UAIS Cultural Cookbook. Honors received include National Merit Commended Scholar, Penn Early Exploration Program (PEEP) Scholar, National Honor Society Golden Apple Award, QuestBridge National College Match finalist.

He said Christopher Kuhlman, his ninth through twelfth grade theatre teacher, Debate Forensics coach has been the most influential in his academic career.

**EVELYN NIKSA****Gene L Klida Utica Academy for International Studies****Principal:** Shaun Greene-Beebe**Parents:** Marianne Niksa and Daniel Niksa

A 4.22 student at Gene L Klida Utica Academy for International Studies, she earned a 1470 on the SAT. Future plans include attending the University of Michigan to major in computer science. Evelyn has been involved in the community as charity chief technical officer



and member of Crevolution Robotics, vice-president of Creative Writing Club and French Club member. Honors received include National Merit Scholarship Commended Student, Societe Honoraire de Francais, Excellence in Engineering Award for Engineering Notebook written for Crevolution Robotics, IB Diploma candidate, National French contest silver award.

She said, "My mom has influenced me most in my academic career. She always pushed me to challenge myself and do even what I think I can't. Both of my parents have helped to create a support system where I know even if I struggle or fail I'll always have someone behind me and I'm forever grateful for it."

**ADELINE PAUL****Gene L Klida Utica Academy for International Studies****Principal:** Shaun Greene-Beebe**Parents:** Christy Paul and Geboy Paul

A 4.24 student at Gene L Klida Utica Academy for International Studies, she earned a 1550 on the SAT. Future plans include attending MIT to major in computer science. Adeline has been involved in the community as team captain for Crevolution Robotics, president of Girls Who Code and president of the Creative Writing Club. Honors received include FIRS Robotics Dean's List: World Finalist, Kiwanis Pitch Competition first place and \$10,000 award winner, National Merit Scholarship recipient, AP Scholar with Honors, Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association Regional First Division pianist.

She said, "At a young age, my grandmother Molly Simon Pachikkara instilled



in me the values of hard work and perseverance which paved the way for my success in my educational pursuits. She also played a foundational role in fostering my spiritual growth and faith in Christ. I am incredibly thankful for my parents as well who constantly provided me with the support and encouragement to strive for academic excellence and chase my biggest dreams."

**SARAH JOHN****Utica High School****Principal:** Timothy Youngblood**Parents:** Shajan John and Sheeba John

A 4.24 student at Utica, she earned a 1450 on the SAT. Future plans include attending the University of Michigan or Michigan State University to study neuroscience.



Sarah has been involved with the community as co-founder of Girls in STEM Club, volunteering in the emergency room at Ascension Hospital. Honors include UCS Seal of Global Language, Michigan Seal of Biliteracy in French, AP Scholar with Distinction, first place at HOSA Regionals and FCCLA Gold Medal at State Competition.

She said her parents, Shajan and Sheeba John have been the most influential in her academic career. "They have dedicated their lives to make sure my brother and I become successful. They have pushed us to become the best versions of ourselves and supported us."

**FAITH KOPP****Utica High School****Principal:** Timothy Youngblood**Parents:** Daniel Kopp and Kellie Kopp

A 4.08 student at Utica,

she earned a 1450 on the SAT. Future plans include attending Liberty University to major in piano performance.



Faith has been involved in the community volunteering at church every week and tutoring. Honors received include National Merit Commended Student, High School Diploma in Social Music and valedictorian. She said her parents Dan and Kellie Kopp were the most influential in her academic career. "They helped me make tough decisions about my education. They established morals in me and encouraged me to be the best person I can be."

**MADELINE PITTEL****Utica High School****Principal:** Timothy Youngblood**Parents:** Christine Pittel and David Pittel

A 4.15 student at Utica, she earned a 1470 on the SAT. Future plans include attending Grand Valley State University to major in elementary education.



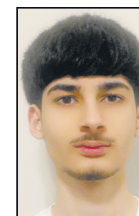
Madeline has been involved in the community as an altar server at St. Lawrence, Red Cross Blood Drive volunteer and tutoring elementary and secondary students. Honors received include National Merit Commended Scholar, AP Scholar with Distinction, Timothy Youth Appreciation Award, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America Power of One Award, Varsity Swim Coaches Award.

She said, "My mom has influenced me tremendously in my academic career. At an early age, she instilled a love of learning within me. She

has always encouraged me to take pride in my school work and challenge myself academically. Additionally, she supports all of my interests inside and outside of school."

**MATTHEW SHLEMON****Utica High School****Principal:** Timothy Youngblood**Parents:** Soaad Shlemon and David Shlemon

A 4.06 student at Utica, he earned a 1470 on the SAT. Future plans include attending Oakland University to major in engineering.



Matthew has been involved in the community volunteering with the youth at St. Mary's Parish. Honors received include AP Scholar Award.

He said, "My mother, Soaad Shlemon has influenced me the most in my academic career. She is constantly motivating me to study so I can have the education and opportunities she never had."

**ALLISON TUTTLE****Utica High School****Principal:** Timothy Youngblood**Parents:** Rebecca and Jeff Tuttle

A 4.29 student at Utica, she earned a 1500 on the SAT. Future plans include attending the University of Michigan to major in computer science engineering.



Allison has been involved in the community volunteering annually at Friends of Foster Kids, a non-profit. Honors received include National Merit Commended Student, AP Scholar with Distinction,

Macomb Area Conference Academic All-State in Cross Country.

She said, "My parents Rebecca and Jeff Tuttle have been the biggest influence in my academic career. Since kindergarten, they have always been there supporting me with homework help, rides, hugs and I honestly do not think I would be in this position without their unwavering care and support."

**FAIJAJ RAHMAN****Warren Mott High School****Principal:** Kevin Kittle**Parents:** Ataur Rahman and Farhana Jahan

A 4.0 student at Warren Mott, he earned a 1440 on the SAT. Future plans include attending the University of Michigan to major in computer engineering.



Faiyaj has been involved with the community with Islamic and Religious Outreach, Muslim Youth tutoring and fundraising for Bengali/Muslim community. Honors received include valedictorian, AP Scholar, Honor roll for four years and academic letter, Engineering scholarship of Honor from the University of Michigan and admission to the University of Michigan.

He said, "Ataur Rahman, my father has been the most influential in his academic career. "My father, coming from a background of financial struggle and lack of education, instilled in me the value of success and knowledge. Lacking formal education himself, he was determined that my brother and I would not face the same challenges and hardships. To make my father and family proud and to repay the sacrifices they made for us—I took on the pursuit of academic excellence, striving to build a stable future for my family."

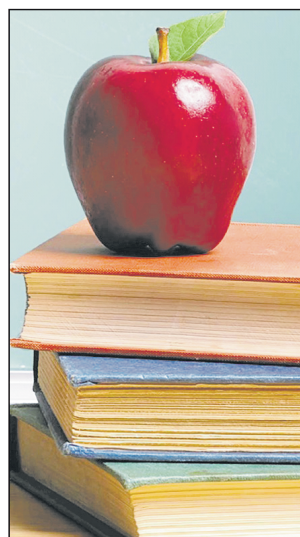
**MAAJ RAHMAN****Warren Woods Tower High School****Principal:** Ian Fredlund**Parents:** Mohammed and Halima Rahman

A 4.40 student at Warren Woods Tower High School, he earned a 1470 on the SAT. Future plans include attending the University of Michigan to major in computer science.



Maaj has been involved in the community with the National Honors Society. Honors received include valedictorian, AP Scholar with Distinction, Questbridge Scholarship finalist, United States Navy Award and graduating Summa Cum Laude.

He said, "My mother, Halima Rahman has been the greatest influence on my academic career. She instilled in me the importance of patience and hard work, while always encouraging me to overcome the obstacles in my path. My mother celebrated all of my achievements, no matter how big or how small. Always motivating me to keep striving for success and shaping me into the student and person that I am today."

**CLASS B****CALAHAN BOLEN****Armada High School****Principal:** Andy Kastl**Parents:** Jeff Bolen and Kelly Bolen

A 4.0 student at Armada, he earned a 1500 on the SAT.

Future plans include attending University of Michigan to major in applied exercise science.

Calahan has been involved with the community through Christmas shopping and wrapping gifts for families in the community through PLT, Relay for Life cancer fundraiser basketball games and luminary walks. Honors received include Macomb County All-Academic scholarship, Blue Water Area Conference All-Academic, AP Scholar award, Armada Top Scholar and P.L.T. Relay for Life Department president.

He said, "My mom, Kelly Bolen, has influenced me the most in my academic career. Starting from when I was in elementary school, since my mom was a teacher and was a curriculum director, she brought home advanced problems for me to do over summers and always expected and brought out my best work. This attitude never wavered, as she has continuously urged me to strive for my highest potential. Not only has she offered motivation, but has assisted me in my academic success too by reviewing my papers, spending hours studying with me and so much more that I am truly thankful for."



attending Macomb Community College to major in engineering.

James has been involved with the community as a volunteer at a veterans home, National Honor Society and organizing a food drive. Honors received include Student of the Month.

He said, "Jason Hundey, my AP World History teacher, among his numerous other classes, has had a significant impact on my life and academic career. He has helped shape my personality and way of thinking throughout my education, enabling me to achieve great things, including this very award. His classes have turned me into an excellent writer for academic papers, which has allowed me to excel in other pivotal exams and he has been a wonderful teacher and person."

**JACOB DEAN****Armada High School****Principal:** Andy Kastl**Parents:** Christine Dean and Harold Dean

A 3.953 student at Armada, he earned a 1360 on the SAT.

Future plans include attending Saginaw Valley State University to major in accounting and finance.

Jacob has been involved with the community with the Relay for Life cancer research basketball game, helping to clean up the community after tornado and St. Mary's Food Drive (PLT). Honors received include full ride scholarship to Saginaw Valley State University via competition, co-captain of the varsity tennis team, state finalist in Personal Financial Literacy for DECA, president of DECA and secretary of National Art



Honor Society.

He said his parents, Christine Dean and Harold Dean have been the most influential in his academic career. "My parents have motivated me through the darkest, most stressful and move developmental years of my life. They are always supporting my lofty goals and have the utmost faith in me. I cherish the humanitarian values that they have instilled in me and appreciate the man that I've become with their aid. I am forever grateful for them and I love them endlessly."

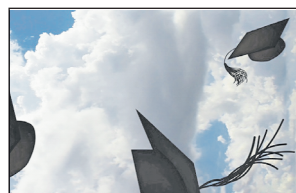
**COLTEN GERMUNDSON****Armada High School****Principal:** Andy Kastl**Parents:** Mark and Marie Germundson

A 3.977 student at Armada, he earned a 1460 on the SAT.

Future plans include attending the University of Michigan to major in computer science.

Colten has been involved as a student mentor for middle school robotics team and as a member of National Honor Society. Honors received include Mentor Award for mentoring an elementary level robotics team, Blue Water Area Conference All-Academic for tennis and Dean's List nominee for robotics.

He said, "My dad, Mark Germundson, is the person who has pushed me and encouraged me the most in my academic pursuits. Especially through robotics he pushed me especially in applying math to real problems."

**MELLANY HALL****Armada High School****Principal:** Andy Kastl**Parents:** Darla Hall and Brad Hall

A 4.0 student at Armada, she earned a 1390 on the SAT.

Future plans include attending Alma College to major in business and environmental science.

Mellany has been involved in the community running the boys tennis Blue Water Area Conference Tournament, being a photographer at the Michigan Youth Leadership Conference (MYLead) and participating in Relay for Life. Honors received include Blue Water Area Conference Academic All-Conference Team Scholar and Athlete, National Honor Society president, Student Council president, yearbook editor-in-chief, Macomb County Tennis Association first team singles.

She said her parents Darla and Brad Hall have been the most influential in her academic career. "They have done nothing but support me through all of my academic endeavors. Seeing how proud they are of me, no matter how small the accomplishment is, is the best motivation I could ever want. I know I always have helping hand from the two of them."



projects parliamentary and Civics Club founder and president. Honors received include AP Scholar, Blue Water Area Conference All-Academic for soccer, Honorable Mention Walsworth Signature Award, Student of the Month.

She said her older sister, Jacinta Henry has been the most influential in her academic career. "She is a hard working, intelligent and passionate student and she inspires me to live up to her accomplishments as well as forge my own unique path."

**PHILLIP HERNANDEZ****Armada High School****Principal:** Andy Kastl**Parents:** Sarah Hernandez and Phil Hernandez

A 3.976 student at Armada, he earned a 1380 on the SAT.

Future plans include attending Grand Valley State University to major in business.

Phillip has been involved with National Honor Society and the PAL Leadership Team (PLT). Honors received include Blue Water Area Conference All-Academic athlete, Student of the Month, Blue Water Area Conference Defensive Player of the Year for football, Macomb County Dream Team Defensive End for football, Top 10 rank in class (#6). He said Sarah Hernandez, his mother, has been the most influential in his academic career. "She always keeps me working at my full potential and keeps me motivated."





**AUSTIN MALBURG****Armada High School****Principal:** Andy Kastl**Parents:** Dale Malburg and Cindy Malburg

A 4.0 student at Armada, he earned a 1530 on the SAT.

Future plans include attending Michigan State University to major in chemical engineering.

Austin has been involved with Quiz Bowl, Bump and Run and cross country. Honors received include St. Timothy Award, Blue Water Area Conference All-Academic, Macomb County All-Academic and 4-H Michigan State Fair Gold Ribbon

He said his grandmother, Lorraine Malburg has been the most influential in his academic career. "She told me nobody can take away what you put in your head."

**CHARLES MCFARLIN****Armada High School****Principal:** Andy Kastl**Parent:** Carrie Muir

A 3.917 student at Armada, he earned a 1410 on the SAT. Future plans include attending the University of Michigan to major in computer engineering.



Charles has been involved as a FTC Mentor for middle school robotics, FLL mentor for elementary school robotics, and as youth group vice-president. Honors received include Student of the Month, Quiz Bowl Blue Water Area Conference champion, Fighting Pi Drive Team, Armada Top Scholar.

He said Todd Stump, AP Physics and Chemistry teacher was the most influential person in his academic career. Mr. Stump taught me to be confident in everything I do

and to take responsibility for my actions."

**MARY TITO****Armada High School****Principal:** Andy Kastl**Parents:** Rebecca Tito and Christopher Tito

A 3.943 student at Armada, she earned a 1390 on the SAT.

Future plans include attending Oakland University or Harvard to major in English.

Genevieve has been involved in the community as the church pianist for Trinity Lutheran Church in Richmond, Tri-M Music Honor Society and National Honor Society. Honors received include Society of Women Engineers Certificate of Merit, Blue Water Area Conference All-Academic Team, Macomb Academy of Arts and Sciences STEM designation, National First-Generation Recognition Program and AP Scholar with Honor Award.

She said, "Both of my parents have greatly influenced my academic career. My dad Chris Tito, helped science, history and art to be large part of my childhood and showed me how fun learning could be. And my mom, Rebecca Tito, has shown me endless support and encouraged me to always have faith in myself."

**DAWSON PFALZ****Center Line High School****Principal:** John Kelley**Parent:** Therese Jones

A 4.1887 student at Center Line, he earned a 1260 on the SAT. Future plans include attending Michigan State University to major in business/financial.

Dawson has been involved in the community helping to



promote science education to elementary school students at Peck Elementary School, assisted in overseeing and managing the spreading of the holiday spirit in his local park and helping to manufacture sleeping mats for the homeless of Macomb and Oakland counties. Honors received include Class Top 10 (third place), first pin, Suma Cum Laude and Link Crew Leader

He said, Therese Jones and Dave Pfalz, my parents have influenced my academic career ever since I was little. They helped me understand how important education is."

**KONNER GIBBS****Clintondale High School****Principal:** Daniel Berry**Parents:** Hillary Gibbs and Myron Gibbs

She earned a 1230 on the SAT. Future plans include attending college, possibly Macomb Community College and looking into trade programs from there.

Konner has been involved with volunteering at the Capuchin Services Center, Capuchin Soup Kitchens and for the Capuchins setting up the residences at St. Matthew.

He said his dad Scott Gibbs and teacher Steven Moskal have been the most influential in his academic career.

**SAMANTHA GILBERT****Eastpointe High School****Principal:** Todd Yarch**Parent:** Shantae Brown

A 4.0 student at Eastpointe, she earned a 1200 on the SAT. Future plans include attending the University of Michigan to major in psychology.

Samantha has been involved with Cops Care, flower sale and Beautification Project. Honors include Student of the Year and Honor Roll.

She said, Shantae Brown,

her mother, has been the most influential in her academic career. "I only have one parent, she is brave and never gave up on me, despite us facing poverty, abuse and homelessness. She's always believed in my greatness. I am grateful for her."

**AMBER KEEN****Lincoln High School****Principal:** Michael Harris**Parent:** Kimberly Cantwell

A 4.0 student at Lincoln, she earned a 1220 on the SAT. Future plans include attending Michigan Technological University to major in mechanical engineering.

Amber has been involved with the community with National Honor Society and General Motors Student Corp. Honors received Principal's List, Honor Roll and Outstanding CTE student

She said that Allison Temple, her Kindergarten/2nd grade teacher was the most influential in her academic career. "She was always kind and caring while pushing me to work hard in school which inspired a love of learning."

**MATEUS BRAJAK****Lutheran High School North****Principal:** John Reincke**Parents:** Ana Brajak and Vladimir Brajak

A 4.0 student at Lutheran North, he earned a 1440 on the SAT. Future plans include attending University of Michigan to major in aerospace engineering.

Mateus has been involved with the community with



Macomb Buddy Soccer and refereeing youth soccer games. Honors received include Salutatorian, Soccer Individual All-Academic, Soccer Team All-Academic and National Honor Society officer.

He said, Ana Brajak, his mother, has been the most influential person in his academic career. "She has consistently been a driving force in my life to support me in all my endeavors and has pushed me to be the best version of myself I can be."

**CALEB CORSI****Lutheran High School North****Principal:** John Reincke**Parent:** Joshua Corsi

A 3.964 student at Lutheran North, he earned a 1340 on the SAT. Future plans include attending Wayne State University to major in Neuroscience.

Caleb has been involved with the community helping with Vacation Bible School and assisting with passing out Christmas gifts at his church and volunteering at the Trinity Utica food pantry. He said, "The person who has influenced my academic career the most is Melissa Corsi, my mom. She has always been so proud of how well I did in school and was excited for what my future had in store. She worked in the medical field as a phlebotomist and I found it interesting and wanted to do something in the medical field myself. I knew that in order to do that I would have to try my hardest in school, so that is what I did."

**VASILIOS KIRCHHOFF****Lutheran High School North****Principal:** John Reincke**Parents:** David Kirchhoff and Maria Kirchhoff

A 4.0 student at Lutheran

North, he earned a 1480 on the SAT. Future plans include attending t Cornerstone University to major in accounting/finance.

Vasilios has been involved with the community, having anchored in the Hope Youth Leadership Conference, volunteering with elementary soccer and track events and serving at the Trinity Utica soup kitchen. Honors received include president of the National Honor Society, All-Academic Catholic League for soccer and track, Spanish National Honor Society and All County track.

He said, "My greatest influence and supporter is my grandpa, Ted Scott. He has always taught me that results come from hard work and determination."

**PATRICK MALINOWSKI****Lutheran High School North****Principal:** John Reincke**Parents:** Daniel Malinowski and Wendy Morisi

A 4.0 student at Lutheran North, he earned a 1430 on the SAT. Future plans include attending Lawrence Technological University to study mechanical engineering.

Patrick has been involved with volunteering at a soup kitchen. Honors received include Co-valedictorian and National Merit Commended Scholar commended student

He said John Dumar, high school math and physics teacher, has been the most influential in his academic career. "He was the one who influenced my passion for math, which is guiding me in a math related career/major."



**JOSEPH MCKEOWN****Lutheran High School North****Principal:** John Reincke**Parents:** Holly McKeown and Jason McKeown

A 3.964 student at Lutheran North, he earned a 1380 on the SAT. Future plans include attending the Grand Valley State University to major in biomedical engineering.

Joseph has been involved with the community having started, led and organized a men's Bible study, helped out a midweek church kids club for two summers and helping to pack lunches at MCREST food pantry. Honors received include National Honor Society, Mustang Scholar Athlete Award and cross country varsity letter.

He said, "My parents, who always encouraged me to strive to be the best I could be have been the most influential in my academic career. They hold me accountable to put in my best effort and give a great example what being hardworking looks like."

**NICHOLAS PYLE****Lutheran High School North****Principal:** John Reincke**Parents:** Brandie Pyle and Robert Pyle

A 4.0 student at Lutheran North, he earned a 1340 on the SAT. Future plans include attending college, although yet undecided to major in archaeology. Nicholas has been involved with the community with helping out at Hope for the Hungry food pantry, volunteering for Clinton Township's annual police fundraiser Vacation Bible



School volunteering. Honors received include Scholastic All-Catholic award.

He said, "My older brother, Zach Pyle, has influenced me most in my academic career. Zach has always encouraged and pushed me to put my best effort in all that I do and how I carry myself. His persistent support has allowed me push through adversity and become a stronger individual."

**ELIANA SAYLOR****Lutheran High School North****Principal:** John Reincke**Parents:** Daniel and Janelle Saylor

A 4.0 student at Lutheran North, she earned a 1330 on the SAT. Future plans include attending Michigan State University to major in criminal justice and psychology. Eliana has been involved with the community with Vacation Bible School, Christmas Toy Shop and AYSO Referee. Honors received include Michigan Tech Society of Women Engineers Merit Award, Scholastic All Catholic Team, Mustang Scholar Athlete Award, Women's Soccer All-District Team and Valedictorian.

She said, "The person who has influenced me the most in my academic career is Mr. John Dumar. Though he is a tough teacher, he constantly makes the class enjoyable while maintaining a high standard in his classroom. He encourages each and every student to strive for excellence. Mr. Dumar's approach to teaching involves challenging assignments, but he always ensures that support is available when needed. Beyond academics, he has shown us the importance of perseverance, time management and a growth mindset. His passion for the subject matter and



dedication to his students' success have made a lasting impact on me."

**NATHAN VANI****Lutheran High School North****Principal:** John Reincke**Parents:** Janette and Michael Vani

A 4.0 student at Lutheran North, he earned a 1430 on the SAT. Future plans include attending Michigan State University to major in biology and biochemistry.

Nathan has been involved with the community with volunteering at Michigan Cat Rescue, a non profit organization and teaching middle school kids at soccer camps each year. Honors received include National Honor Society, salutatorian, academic awards during soccer and baseball season and named on the All-Catholic League and All-County player for baseball.

He said, "Janette Vani, my mom. She has influenced me the most by always challenging me to try my hardest in school and take more difficult classes in order to become the best version of myself academically and to better prepare me for college and my experiences in life beyond high school."

**SIERRA LIGGINS****Regina High School****Principal:** Ann Diamond**Parents:** Kathrine Liggins and Garry Liggins

A 4.17 student at Regina, she earned a 1220 on the SAT. Future plans include attending Oakland University to major in Pre-Physician Assistant.

Sierra has done more than



100 hours of community service and tutored students from local private elementary schools. Honors received include Four Year Honor Roll, AP Scholar and Scholastic All-Catholic Prep Bowl Medal recipient.

She said, "Both of my parents have influenced my academic career because they are supportive in everything I do, so I strive to do my best in school to continue to make them proud."

**KASEY STEECE****Richmond High School****Principal:** Andrea Szabo**Parents:** Kristopher Steece and Darla Steece

A 3.923 student at Richmond, he earned a 1320 on the SAT. Future plans include attending Macomb Community College to finish early College Macomb program and transfer to Michigan Tech to major in electrical engineering.

Kasey has been involved with the community volunteering at various school and athletic events and volunteering opportunities through National Honor Society. Honors received include Blue Water Area Conference All-Academic Team, National Honor Society and academic letter.

He said, "My parents have influenced me the most for always supporting me and encouraging me to do my best."

**GAVIN RUMOHR****South Lake High School****Principal:** Andrew Rousselo**Parents:** Ryan and Chelsea Rumohr

Future plans include attending Kendall College of



Art and Design to major in Illustration.

Honors received include All A Honor Roll and Academic Honor Roll.

He said, Ryan Rumohr "dad" and Chelsea Rumohr "mom" for always encouraging me and supporting me to do what I love to do."

**Class C****JULIA MARKLE****Arts Academy in the Woods****Principal:** Dr. Michael Mitchell**Parents:** Matthew Markle and Elvira Markle

A 3.71 student at Arts Academy in the Woods, she earned a 1200 on the SAT. Future plans include attending Michigan State University to major in political science.

Julia has been involved with the community as a black belt in ai mute shotokan karate, she teaches self defense classes to children, as a volunteer at the historic Redford Theatre and a member of school dance company. Honors received include winner of Detroit Deck art contest, recipient of scholastic gold and silver keys in both art and writing and winner of school-wide poetry out loud.

She said author Kurt Vonnegut has been the most influential in her academic career.

**AVA SHARPLIN****Arts Academy in the Woods****Principal:** Dr. Michael Mitchell**Parents:** Karen Sharplin and Scott Sharplin

A 4.0 student at Arts Academy in the Woods, she earned a 1220 on the SAT. Future plans include attending the University of Michigan to major in fine arts.



Ava has been involved with fundraising for the National Art Honor Society at multiple events and attending classes at Anton Art Center for eight years. Honors received include valedictorian, president of the National Arts Honor Society and attending Junior Leadership of Macomb.

She said, "My first ceramics teacher, Deanna Clyne has been the most influential in my academic career. She helped to encourage my creativity and is the reason I attended Arts Academy in the Woods."

**MATEO BIESKE****Austin Catholic High School****Principal:** Carolyn Balzano**Parents:** JB Bieske and Carolina Bieske

A 4.09 student at Austin Catholic, he earned a 1280 on the SAT. Future plans include attending the University of Texas at Austin to major in petroleum engineering.

Mateo has been involved with the community as a worker at the St. Isidore rummage sale, at the warming center and soup kitchens and assisted with the Special Olympics at special education school. Honors received include Honor Roll, Principal List, All-Academic in varsity basketball senior year, All-Academic in varsity soccer sophomore and senior year. He said his dad, JB Bieske has been the most influential in his academic career. "He motivated me to be the best version of myself in everything I do."





**EMMA BRISTOL****Austin Catholic High School****Principal:** Carolyn Balzano**Parents:** John Bristol and Lori Bristol

A 4.26 student at Austin Catholic, she earned a 1240 on the SAT. Future plans include attending the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor to major in elementary education.

Emma has been involved with the community as a teen leader at RISE Youth Group, assistant catechist at St. Isidore Church and Vacation Bible School leader at St. Isidore Church. Honors received include Scholastic All-Catholic Honoree, All-Academic varsity volleyball junior and senior year, honors in social studies, science, math and English, AP Scholar and Timothy Award of Service junior and senior year.

She said, "I would like to thank my mother, Lori Bristol and John Bristol, my father, for always encouraging me to do my best and showing up for all my events during their busy schedules."

**MICHAEL LAPRISE****Austin Catholic High School****Principal:** Carolyn Balzano**Parents:** Sara LaPrise and Brandon LaPrise

A 4.0 student at Austin Catholic, he earned a 1240 on the SAT. Future plans include attending Lewis University to major in aviation flight technology.

Michael has been involved with First Robotics, National Honors Society and St. Lawrence annual Science Day. Honors received include



All-Academic cross-country, All-Academic for bowling, scholastic All-Catholic, Honors in Public Speaking and Honors in Math.

He said his father, Brandon LaPrise has been the most influential in his academic career. "He encouraged me to try my hardest at everything I do and pushed me to try new things."

**LILLIAN SULKOWSKI****Memphis Junior/Senior High School****Principal:** Jesse Szatkowski**Parents:** John and Rachael Sulkowski

A 4.0214 student at Memphis, she earned a 1230 on the SAT. Future plans include attending Michigan State University to major in psychology.

Lillian has been involved with the Red Cross Blood Drive, Walk 2 Remember and Walk 2 Prevent Suicide and Adopt-A-Highway clean up events. Honors received include the United States Marine Corps Scholastic Excellence award, St. Clair Community College Dean's List, National Honor Society president, Greater Thumb Conference Honorable Mention and Greater Thumb Conference Scholar Athlete award.

She said, "The person who has influenced my academic career the most is my fourth grade teacher Penny Samp. She was always so kind and had a fun classroom environment. Mrs. Samp was the teacher who fostered my love of reading. Even now, nearly a decade after leaving her classroom she is still one of my biggest supporters."

**CADEN SILER****Merritt Academy****Principal:** Nathan Seiferlein**Parents:** Deana and James Siler

A 3.93 student at Merritt Academy, he earned a 1200

on the SAT. Future plans include attending Michigan Technological University to major in chemical engineering.

Caden is involved in the community with Boy Scouts, National Honor Society and volunteer work at church. Honors received include Eagle Scouts, All Academic award, All-County Second Team running back and ninth place powerlifting state meet.

He said, "James Siler, my dad has influenced me the most. He is a civil engineer. I have always looked towards him and his skills. I always to become an engineer just like him. I like to think he is the reason I push myself outside of school."

**CHEYENNE JEFFERSON****Mount Clemens High School****Principal:** Dennis Veal II**Parents:** Jennifer David and Chris Jefferson

A 3.97 student at Mount Clemens, she scored a 1050 on the SAT. Future plans are to attend Oakland University to major in accounting.

Cheyenne has been involved in the community with sprucing up the 2025 graduation venue and Turkey drive giveaway. Honors received include All-Academic for volleyball, All-academic team for track, valedictorian, Optimist essay winner and All "A" Honor Roll.

She said Melissa Marino, consumers math teacher has been the most influential in her academic career.

**NATHANIEL KOSHAY****New Haven High School****Principal:** William Timmerman**Parents:** Robert and Jacquelyn Koshay

A 4.0 student at New Haven, he earned a 1420 on the SAT. Future plans include attending Northern Michigan University to major in psychology.

Nathaniel has been involved with the community, with the New Haven Color Run, New Haven charity basketball game. Honors received include valedictorian.

He said, Duncan Woods, his friend, has been the most influential in his academic career.

**KAYLEE ZUK****New Haven High School****Principal:** William Timmerman**Parents:** Michelle and Jason Zuk

A 4.0 student at New Haven, she earned a 1340 on the SAT. Future plans include attending Columbia College Chicago to major in musical theatre.

Kaylee has been involved with the community, as a Jean Waterloo Lenox Township Library Expansion Exploratory committee member, charity basketball game organizer benefitting Hearts for Homes). Honors received include ASL Showcase first place, talent show first place, Grosse Pointe Theatre Performance scholarship, Congressional Art Show honorable mention, class of 2025 salutatorian.

She said, "Many of my instructors have influenced me by supporting me outside of school at my dance performances, including Daniel



Hibbert (band/choir teacher), Victoria Hibbert (student council/drama club advisor), Michelle Johnson (biology teacher), Melanie Cochrill (ASL teacher) and more."

**BRIAN BURNELL****Parkway Christian School****Principal:** Dr. Eric Van-Houten**Parents:** Richard and Laura Burnell

A 4.0 student at Parkway Christian, he earned a 1410 on the SAT. Future plans include attending Eastern Michigan University, Oakland University or Michigan Technological University to major in mechanical-Aerospace Engineering.

Brian has been involved with the community acting and student directing. Honors received include National Merit Commended Scholar, AP Scholar with Honors, National Honor Society member.

He said, "Mrs. Delia Walcott, AP Calculus teacher was the most influential in his academic career. "She pushed me to be the best I can be and was an encouraging presence in my life."

**DAVID STEARNS****Parkway Christian School****Principal:** Dr. Eric Van-Houten**Parents:** Christopher Stearns and Candius Stearns

A 4.27 student at Parkway Christian, he earned a 1380 on the SAT. Future plans include attending Michigan Technological University to major in Environmental Engineering.

David has been involved with the community with three mission trips to Nicaragua with Parkway Christian, school worship band activities for



all four years, snowboarding club at school, continuing club when school sponsor moved away. Honors received include Dean's List, National Honor Society and individual departmental honors.

He said, The greatest driver of my academic career would have to be my father. From a very early age my dad always believed in me and knew how much I was capable of. If it weren't for him, I don't know if I'd be where I am today. He always pushed me to be the best version of myself I could be, always expecting me to deliver the maximum of what I was truly capable of. This gave me confidence and knowledge that I am capable of great achievements both academically and in my life overall."

**JOSIAH TURCAS****Parkway Christian School****Principal:** Dr. Eric Van-Houten**Parents:** Ella Turcas and Elian Turcas

A 4.02 student at Parkway Christian, he earned a 1390 on the SAT. Future plans include attending Oakland University to major in computer science.

Josiah has been involved with the community helping mentor children at church summer Vacation Bible School, helping several elderly neighbors year round with their yard and driveway mowing, raking and shoveling snow. Honors received include Dean's/Principal's List and National Honors Society. He said, "Elian Turcas has influenced me the most in my academic career. As my father, he gave me constant reassurance in my capabilities to achieve higher goals and guided me to greater levels of success than I could have imagined. He taught me to be disciplined and to persevere in all my endeavors with honor and dignity."





## MACOMB COUNTY

# All-Academic banquet brings out the best in all

By Gina Joseph

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April is a great month for schools in Macomb County. The month began with educators celebrating teachers who have been named the best of the best and this week they'll applaud the brightest high school seniors being honored at the Macomb County All-Academic Banquet being held April 29 at Zucarro's Banquet and Catering in Chesterfield Township.

"I think the banquet is a wonderful event; it's one of the highlights of the year for me," said Kevin Koskos, principal of Dakota High School. "To be part of a gathering honoring Macomb County's top students is truly an honor and a humbling experience when one considers all that the MAC All-Academic students have accomplished and hear what their future plans are."

The awards banquet is annually attended by teachers and parents who proudly gather to honor high school seniors, who are divided into Class A, Class B and Class C, based on school enrollment, and then chosen for the award based on grade point average and test scores.

The ceremony is staged by the Macomb Intermediate School District and Macomb Area Conference Principals' Association and those who make the Dream Team are the best of the best.

"It is definitely a celebration we can all take great pride in as school administrators, along with our students and their parents," Koskos said, of the event that was started in 1986 by The Macomb Daily and Macomb County Principals' Association, and remains a legacy for Gordie Wilczynski's family.

The late Wilczynski is the person who suggested the newspaper honor high school graduates and worked tirelessly with educators on it for years.

"At the time, the paper held two banquets a year honoring athletes and Gordie's question was: 'what about people who are excelling in



MACOMB DAILY FILE PHOTO

This year's Macomb County All-Academic Award Banquet will not have Gordie Wilczynski mingling among the crowd but the legacy created by the retired reporter and co-founder of the event will honor him for years to come.

the classroom?" said retired Macomb Daily Managing Editor Ken Kish, speaking on behalf of Wilczynski's contributions to his profession and community following his death last year.

"Gordie was a legend, in more ways than one," said Koskos. "As a reporter, I can imagine anyone who was anyone in Macomb County knew who Gordie was. I had known Gordie since I was

8-years-old when I played baseball for him. Several of my friends played on the youth baseball team he took to Russia, an experience they talk about to this day, 35 years later. Gordie's involvement with the youth of our county, whether it be through coaching or his leadership in orchestrating the MAC All-Academic banquet, will forever live on as prominent parts of his legacy, without

question."

This year marks the 38th edition of the All-Academic Banquet.

Being honored this year are more than 105 students from 38 schools, who are all featured in a special edition appearing in the Sunday, April 27 edition of The Macomb Daily.

"The work done by the ISD and principals association to keep this tradition alive is impressive," said

Jeff Payne, regional news editor for MediaNews Group-Michigan who oversees The Macomb Daily news staff and will speak at the event. "We look forward to producing the special section that will highlight the accomplishments of these fine students and the banquet is one of the most special school events of the year. Somewhere, I know Gordie is looking down with pride."



# All-Academic AUSTIN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2025



Mateo  
Bieske



Emma  
Bristol



Michael  
LaPrise



## CONGRATULATIONS!

[AustinCatholicHighSchool.org](http://AustinCatholicHighSchool.org)