

Texarkana Monthly



CONGRATULATIONS TO EVERY GRADUATE IN THE CLASS OF 2020!



**We commend your hard work and know you
have bright futures ahead of you!**



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Texarkana Monthly



2020

LIBERTY-EYLAU INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
TOP TEN GRADUATES

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2020 LEHS SENIOR GRADUATION PLANS

We know that many of you have questions regarding graduation this year. Out of an abundance of caution due to COVID 19, we have rescheduled our in-person graduation for 8:00 pm on June 25, 2020 at Harris Field.

Group size restrictions prior to this date will be in place which will severely limit our ability to proceed with the normal graduation ceremonies. The majority of seniors surveyed indicated that they would prefer a regular graduation with no restrictions if possible. In order to accomplish this, the June 25th date was chosen.

We will offer a live stream on the high school and district Facebook pages for those who are unable to attend the ceremony in person as we have done in past years.

We fully recognize that there are no perfect solutions but we want to ensure that our class of 2020 will be able to celebrate in proper fashion.

Ronnie Thompson, Superintendent

VALEDICTORIAN

Clay Bourne

Clay is the son of Cheryl and Andy Bourne.

He was a member of National Honor Society, Varsity Choir, and a four-year All Region Choir selection.

Clay will graduate Summa Cum Laude and will attend Austin College to pursue a degree in psychology and a minor in music.



SALUTATORIAN

Lilybeth Mendez

Lilybeth is the daughter of Maricruz and Julio Mendez.

She was a member of National Honor Society, Student Council, Interact Club, Book Club, Academic UIL, Spanish Club, Art Club, and Leadership.

Lilybeth will graduate Summa Cum Laude and will attend Texarkana College in the fall.



2020 LIBERTY-EYLAU TOP TEN GRADUATES

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McKenzye Williamson Sardinas

McKenzye is the daughter of Kenyatte Williamson and Cynthia and Gabriel Sardinas.

She was involved in Track and Field, Powerlifting, and a four-year member of the Varsity Softball Team. McKenzye was also a member of Student Council, National Honor Society, and Leadership.

McKenzye will graduate Summa Cum Laude and will attend the University of Texas at Tyler to pursue a degree in nursing and become a Nurse Practitioner.



Tatianna Mathis

Tatianna is the daughter of Tomeka Block, and the sister of Grace Rose.

She was a member of National Honor Society, Student Council, Spanish Club, Book Club, Leadership, and an active member of Varsity Choir.

Tatianna will graduate Magna Cum Laude and will attend the University of Texas in Austin in the fall.



Crystal Tovar

Crystal is the daughter of Beatriz and Jose Tovar.

She was a member of National Honor Society, Book Club, and Band.

Crystal will graduate Magna Cum Laude and will join the Army in June.



Ethan Brooks

Ethan is the son of Angela and Stacy Brooks.

He played Varsity Football and Varsity Baseball. He was also a member of National Honor Society and Interact Club.

Ethan will graduate Magna Cum Laude and will attend Louisiana State University in Shreveport to pursue a degree in nursing to become a Nurse Practitioner.

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Myah Seguin

Myah is the daughter of Monique Dennis and Justin Seguin.

She was a member of National Honor Society, Student Council, and Leadership.

Myah will graduate Magna Cum Laude and will attend the University of Central Arkansas to pursue a degree in nursing.



Camiya Easter

Camiya is the daughter of Shante Jones.

She was a member of Band, Spanish Club, Interact Club, and National Honor Society.

Camiya will graduate Magna Cum Laude and will attend Texas Southern University to pursue a degree in biology to become a Dentist.



Kirsten Stuard

Kirsten is the daughter of Kaleisha Barber.

She was a member of National Honor Society, Student Council, and played Varsity Volleyball.

Kirsten will graduate Magna Cum Laude and will attend Texarkana College in the fall.



Danielle Thomas

Danielle is the daughter of Karen and Allen Thomas.

She was a member of National Honor Society, Student Council, Leadership and Varsity Track. Danielle holds the record for the 4x2 sprint relay and a two-time State Champ in the 4x4.

Danielle will graduate Magna Cum Laude and will attend Tarleton State University on a track scholarship and pursuing a degree in biology.

Texarkana Monthly



LEHS SENIOR PERSPECTIVE

BY ETHAN BROOKS
LIBERTY-EYLAU SENIOR 2020

TO SAY I HAD BIG EXPECTATIONS FOR MY SENIOR YEAR

would be an understatement. This was supposed to be my time to shine. For three years I looked forward to my senior year of baseball and it was finally here. I had fully recovered and felt good after hernia surgery in the winter.

The day arrived and we began our 2020 Leopards Baseball season. Our team played well together. We were firing on all cylinders. Coach Fowler's hard work over the past three years had prepared us for this season. Our season!

At first we were overlooked, but after putting up some nice wins against some solid teams, including a 5A crosstown rival, people began to notice. Our tournament season began and our success continued.

Around that time we started hearing rumors of a virus going around. Then we heard rumors they may suspend our season. No way that could happen, right?

On Friday, March 13th, the unthinkable happened. We were playing in Hallsville, Texas when we were told that UIL was suspending the season for two weeks. We had one game left that night. I would have never thought that would be the last time I would step foot on a baseball field as a Leopard.

We dominated our opponent that night. I went three for four and made some nice plays at second. We loaded the bus for home confident we would play baseball again soon.

We were wrong. Things went from bad to worse. On Monday we were told school would be closed, and we were



“ ...For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future...”

—Jeremiah 29:11



placed in quarantine. What the heck do you do in quarantine? Not much, apparently. Soon I became worried my senior year could be in jeopardy. A call from Coach Fowler confirmed my fears. My time as a Leopard was over. No playoffs, no Senior Night, no prom, no Senior Banquet, no Sports Banquet, no Top 20 Banquet, no walk-through of the elementary in our cap and gown, no fanfare. I was sent home on a random Monday, and with that my senior year was over.

I didn't know how to process it. I was angry and sad at the same time. Everything I worked so hard for was taken from me by no fault of my own. My new life consisted of quarantine, homeschool, social distancing, sheltering in place, and fears of running out of toilet paper.

As I sit here writing this, I should be walking across the stage, receiving my diploma. Thankfully, we will get a traditional graduation, even if a little late. If I have learned anything from this ordeal, it is to cherish every moment. You never know when it could be taken away from you.

Seniors of 2020 were dealt a bad hand, however we are now better equipped than any other class to overcome adversity and hardship. We were the babies of 9/11, and the seniors of a worldwide pandemic. There is nothing we can't persevere through. I wouldn't be the person I am today without my coaches, my teachers, my family, my classmates, my doubters, and especially God. TM

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2020 TRINITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL GRADUATES

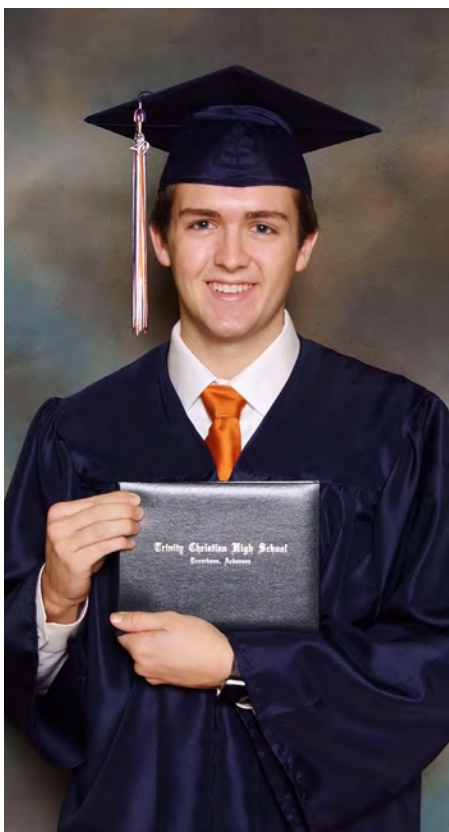
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2020 TCS GRADUATION

On May 21, 2020, Trinity Christian School conducted the school's 2020 graduation ceremony. The school was able to facilitate the ceremony by employing all recommended social distancing measures and limiting attendance to the live event. The ceremony was live streamed for those unable to attend in person. School leaders, families and students were grateful to have the opportunity to have this event close to the original date.

The ceremony highlighted the graduating class's diligence and commitment to pursue excellence in everything they participated in over the years. This was evident as we began to honor each student's achievements during the ceremony. The 2020 graduating class of Trinity was comprised of state champion athletes, current missionaries, a National Merit Scholar, along with, a host of students receiving top academic honors and scholarships, and most importantly, students with hearts to serve and honor God in their future endeavors. To say we are proud of this class would be an understatement.

Dr. Greg Jones, Superintendent



CO-VALEDICTORIAN

Jayce Winford Leeper

Jayce is the son of Gina and Jason Leeper and is a member of Trinity Baptist Church.

He attended TCS for 13 years, where he was involved in Basketball, Baseball, Track, Football, Band, National Honor Society, and TCS Chapel Worship Team. Jayce was also Student Council President. He has served on mission trips to Denver and California.

Jayce received the Senior Bible Award, Composition I and II Award, and the College Algebra Award. Because of his outstanding GPA, he also received the Presidential Excellence Award and the All A Honor Roll Award. The Trinity Christian School staff selected Jayce to receive the Warrior Award, which is the highest honor as a student.

He plans to attend Dallas Baptist University and major in Biblical Studies.

Jayce's favorite verse is Acts 20:24.



CO-VALEDICTORIAN

Evan Paul Miller

Evan is the son of Amy and Paul Miller and is a member of Saint Edward's Church.

He attended TCS for four years and participated in Baseball, Cross Country, Track, Forge, and National Honor Society. Evan served on a mission trip to Mexico in 2017.

Evan received the Senior Economics-Civics Award and the All A Honor Roll Award.

Evan is a National Merit Scholarship Finalist and awarded the National Merit Texas Tech University Scholarship. He has been offered an appointment to the US Naval Academy. He is still deciding upon which path he will ultimately pursue.

Evan's favorite verse is Psalm 37: 39.

2020 TRINITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL GRADUATES

**CO-VALEDICTORIAN****Emily Elizabeth Waters**

Emily is the daughter of Tammy and Russell Waters and is a member of Trinity Baptist Church.

She attended TCS for 15 years, where she participated in Track, Cross Country, Basketball, Golf, Student Council, Forge, and National Honor Society. She was in Dance for 15 years and TBC Student Leader Internship Team for two years. Emily was also Student Council Vice-President. She served on mission trips to Denver and Colorado.

Because of her genuine love for Christ and others, the TCS staff chose Emily to receive the school's top honor, the Warrior Award. She also received the All A Honor Roll Award.

She plans on attending Ouachita Baptist University and will major in Community and Family Services with the long-term goal of obtaining a master's degree in Christian Counseling.

Emily's favorite verse is Matthew 5:16.

**SALUTATORIAN****Isaac Dallin Davis**

Dallin is the son of Jeri and Chris Davis and is a member of Beech Street First Baptist Church.

He attended TCS for 15 years where he participated in Cross Country, Band, and National Honor Society.

He plans on attending the University of Central Arkansas and majoring in Biology.

Dallin's favorite verse is Joshua 1:9.



Gregory Hayden Adams

Hayden is the son of Angela and Greg Adams and is a member of Trinity Baptist Church.

He attended TCS for 16 years where he was a member of the National Honor Society for four years. This year, Hayden took part in the Big Bass Junior Championship Nationals representing the state of Arkansas and selected for the 2020 Bassmaster's high school all-state fishing team.

He plans to complete an HVAC apprenticeship after graduation.

Hayden's favorite verse is Proverbs 17:17.



George Andrew Cox

George is the son of Gloria and Charlie Cox and is a member of Oak Grove Baptist Church.

He attended TCS for eight years where he participated in Cross Country, Track, Basketball, Baseball, and Football.

He plans on attending SAU Tech-Camden and major in Fires Science and Engineering hoping to secure employment with the Texarkana Fire Department.

George's favorite verse is Psalm 118:6.



Chase Arden Crow

Chase is the son of Nicole and Charles Crow and is a member of Oak Grove Baptist Church.

He attended TCS for 14 years, where he participated in Band, Forge, and National Honor Society.

He plans to attend Southern Arkansas University in the fall.

Chase's favorite verse is Matthew 6:6.



Madalyn Claire Dowell

Madalyn is the daughter of Denise and James Dowell and is a member of Faith Assembly of God where she serves in children's church.

She attended TCS for five years and participated in Golf, Forge, National Honor Society, and was a part of the Texarkana Razorback Trap Team. Madalyn was All-State in Golf her junior and senior years and a part of the 2019 Golf State runner-up team.

She plans on attending the University of Central Arkansas and will major in Political Science and Public Administration with plans to attend law school.

Madalyn's favorite verse is 1 John 3:18-20.



Hallie Elizabeth Fant

Hallie is the daughter of Shelly Beck and Steven Fant and is a member of Trinity Baptist Church.

She attended TCS for five years and participated in Basketball, Softball, Band, and the National Honor Society. Hallie has served on mission trips to Denver, Mexico, and San Diego.

Hallie received the Anatomy and Physiology Award.

She will attend Texas A&M- Texarkana this fall and major in Psychology.

Hallie's favorite verse is Ephesian 2:10.



Riley Briann Jeane

Riley is the daughter of Jessica and Brandon Jeane and is a member of Beech Street First Baptist Church.

She attended TCS for four years and participated in Softball, Cheer, Basketball, Yearbook, National Honor Society, Forge, and was Student Council Secretary.

She plans on attending Ouachita Baptist University in the fall and majoring in Biology with an emphasis in Gastroenterology.

Riley's favorite verse is Proverbs 31:30.

2020 TRINITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL GRADUATES



Rashad Jamell Jones

Shad is the son of Brooke and Jermone Jones and is a member of Mount Grove Baptist Church.

He attended TCS for seven years and participated in Basketball, Cross Country and Track.

He is planning to attend Texas A&M-Texarkana in the fall, hoping to become a Vet Technician.

Shad's favorite verse is Isaiah 26:4.



Matthew Jonathan Jones

Matt is the son of Christi and Greg Jones and is a member of Trinity Baptist Church.

He attended TCS for one year and participated in Football and National Honor Society.

He has played football since the age of five and has accepted a gray shirt offer from East Texas Baptist University football team, where he will attend in the fall. Matt is planning to major in Kinesiology.

Matt's favorite verse is Matthew 11:28.



Brian Seth McDonald

Seth is the son of Pam and Brian McDonald and is a member of the Faith Assembly of God.

He attended TCS for four years where he participated in Basketball, Track, Baseball, Football, Band, Forge, TCS Chapel Worship Team and National Honor Society. Seth served on mission trips to Israel, Ecuador, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Brazil.

He plans to attend the University of Arkansas-Hope, then transfer to Full Sail University to major in sound and video engineering and pursue a degree in Biblical Theology.

Seth's favorite verse is John 14:6.



Rhett Thomas Nelson

Rhett is the son of Holly and Russ Nelson and is a member of Beech Street First Baptist Church.

He attended TCS for 13 years and participated in Basketball, Track, Cross Country, and Forge. Rhett has been a member of the state championship track team and also been the State Champion Pole Vaulter for the past three years. He served on mission trips to Mexico and Cleveland.

He has accepted an offer to join the Track and Field team at the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville where he will major in Business and Marketing.

Rhett's favorite verse is Matthew 6:34.



Colby Jordan Smith

Colby is the son of Laura and Steve Smith and is a member of Trinity Baptist Youth and attends the Spiritual Mosaic bible study.

He attended TCS for nine years, where he participated in Cross Country, Track and Forge. Colby served on three mission trips to Mexico, two to Honduras, and one to Haiti. Colby also served as the summer intern at the Honduras Baptist Dental Mission in 2019.

Colby appreciates TCS allowing him the opportunity to finish high school while serving on the mission field in Honduras. He hopes to continue in the mission field in a Latin American country.

Colby's favorite verse is John 15:13.



Jessica Abigail Starr

Abi is the daughter of Dee Ann and Greg Starr and is a member of First Baptist Church Texarkana.

She attended TCS for five years and participated in Golf, Band, Forge, National Honor Society, and was Student Council Representative. Abi has received All-State honors in Golf for three years, first individual at district golf in 2019, and was a member of the 2019 Golf State runner-up team. She has served on mission trips to Arkadelphia, Arlington, and Los Angeles. She received the All A Honor Roll Award.

Abi completed her graduation requirements at the end of the first semester, which allowed her to begin her freshman year at East Texas Baptist University this past January. She is pursuing a degree in Biology.

Abi's favorite verse is Lamentations 3:22-23.

2020 TRINITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL GRADUATES



Meg Kathleen Wallace

Meg is the daughter of Denise and Glen Wallace and is a member of Trinity Baptist Church.

She attended TCS for 15 years, where she participated in Cheer, Basketball, and Band. Meg has been in dance for ten years and a dance assistant for the past two years. She has served on mission trips to Denver, Colorado, San Diego, and California.

She plans to attend Texas A&M-Texarkana in the fall and will study both Dance and Nursing.

Meg's favorite verse is 1 Corinthians 13:1-7.



Reagan Danielle Whitehead

Reagan is the daughter of Jennifer and Bryan Whitehead and is a member of Trinity Baptist Church.

She attended TCS for nine years where she participated in Softball, Cheer, Basketball, Cross Country, Track, Yearbook, and Forge. She was also a part of the Student Leader Internship with Trinity Baptist Church. Reagan served in mission trips to Memphis, Denver, and San Diego.

She plans on attending the Salon Professional Academy in Little Rock hoping to become a Medical Esthetician and Wellness Spa Owner.

Reagan's favorite verse is Psalm 136:1.



Jack David Huntze

Jack is the son of Lisa and Rick Huntze. He attended Trinity Christian School from kindergarten until the end of fourth grade when he went to be with the Lord.

Jack loved school, sports, his family, his friends, and most of all, his God. Jack was smart, funny, and kind-hearted. Although we can only guess what college he might have attended, or what career he would have pursued, we know that he would be extremely proud of these graduates standing here today!

On behalf of Jack, the Huntze family would like to thank Trinity Christian School and the class of 2020 for keeping Jack in your hearts, and for all the love and support you've shown our family over the years. We are excited and encouraged to watch the Senior class of 2020 graduate and make a positive impact on the world!

Texarkana Monthly



TCS SENIOR PERSPECTIVE

BY JAYCE LEEPER
TRINITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
SENIOR 2020



Jayce giving his Valedictory Address at Trinity Christian School Graduation on May 21, 2020.



THE SOOTHING SOUND OF “POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE”

may bring vivid memories to one’s mind of times gone past, memories of high school graduation along with the years that preceded. For many years, it has had the opposite effect for me. Rather, it gave me a vision of the future—when that piece would welcome my class to the auditorium in our caps and gowns. It brought an image of an ideal senior year, of prom, sports seasons, and all the festivities that I have seen seniors experience for years. The chorus brought ideas for my final days of high school, turning in my books one last time, and yes, maybe even a few senior pranks.

But where did all of this go? While I am grateful to have had the opportunity to walk down an aisle in my cap and gown to the tune of that song, there were aspects that were simply not the same. What happened to the track, baseball, and softball seasons that were just barely getting started? Where was the senior prom that many have spoken of for years past? And more pressingly, who was going to fill my principal’s office with balloons and line the walls of classrooms with sticky notes? There didn’t seem to be much pomp in our circumstance.

I can recall a track meet in early March where my coach made the comment, “This is probably going to be the last meet for a

while.” We listened, but the implications of his words kind of flew over my head. But then, it was happening. We were informed that we would be working online for one week from home, and then hopefully would return back to school. Weeks turned into months, and next thing we know, my classmate’s joke was a reality—we left school for the last time and didn’t even know it.

Undoubtedly, the final quarter of my senior year has been in no way what I had envisioned for years. I never could have imagined my final day of classes being on my computer screen at home looking at a small picture of my teacher and a collage of my classmates. Nevertheless, this is the situation we were in. That is what my senior year looked like. That was the grand finale of the class of 2020’s high school career. However, believe it or not, I am confident that it has not hindered our chances at success but instead given us experiences and strengths that have readied us for wherever the next stage of life leads.

How could I say that? What good could possibly come out of such a sudden dreadful situation that seemingly robbed us of a fitting end to our senior year? For one, I am more prepared now than I would have ever been to enter the next chapter of my life while still



Jayce and his family after receiving his diploma.



Jason, Jayce, Gina, Hannah, Scarlett, and Spencer Leeper celebrating after graduation.

maintaining the relationships that I have built for so many years. I have a small class, consisting of only eighteen students, but only a few will remain in Texarkana in the following years. Being forced apart for two months has taught us how to remain socially connected even while socially distant. Whether it is a group text, Facetime, or Zoom call, I feel more prepared to be involved in the lives of my friends even when we are eventually spread across the nation.

Additionally, the class of 2020 has proven to have an uncommon commitment to finish strong. Not only at Trinity, but in schools near and far, this year's graduating class has risen to the challenge and not just survived but thrived to complete this season of our lives in a climax that could have never been anticipated. Sure, it has been a struggle for many that has brought about pain and stresses that would have never been a problem apart from the pandemic. Nevertheless, I believe this trained stamina will, in turn, launch us with unrelenting momentum into whatever our life entails, whether in college or the workforce.

Finally, this situation in which we find ourselves has caused much confusion. It seems every day I could turn on the news and hear someone saying something different from the day before about the outlook of the virus. Sometimes I could listen to two channels in the same hour and hear two totally inconsistent stories. From guidelines to directives, what seems to work today may be changed in approach tomorrow. Not surprisingly, one could be exhausted trying to keep up with the shifting shadows of what to do and what

“ I know this is not what we asked for, hoped for, or even in some cases worked for. Nonetheless, do not allow this setback to rob you of everything that lies before you...”

not to do in these unstable situations. This constantly developing environment has pointed to me the one aspect that does not change—the God in Whom I place my trust. On days I would wake up and hear updates about further cancellations or complications, I was reminded of the words that, “I, the LORD, have not changed,” (Malachi 3:6). It is in this unchanging God that I have anchored

my hope through tossing seas of uncertainty. In the midst of chaotic moments, I am strengthened by the God who does not waste a single one of those moments, but rather is using each one—good or bad—for my good, and ultimately for His glory (Romans 8:28; 1 Corinthians 4:17). So although I can see only a glimpse of it now, I rest confident in the God who is working in all we are experiencing. Therefore, I can exclaim together with the Apostle Paul, “Oh, the depth of the riches and the wisdom

and the knowledge of God! How unsearchable His judgments and untraceable His ways... To Him be the glory forever. Amen” (Romans 11:33,36).

So I say to you, the class of 2020, “I know this is not what we asked for, hoped for, or even in some cases worked for. Nonetheless, do not allow this setback to rob you of everything that lies before you. Thank your parents, administrators, and others who have provided so much to make this as normal as possible. Then, learn from these experiences we have had so that you can grasp your future with readiness and tenacity to tackle whatever lies ahead.” 🍷

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Texas High School

2020 TOP TEN GRADUATES

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Congratulations!

TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2020

We wish you the very best in your academic career and future endeavors.

TISD is proud to have you listed among the many outstanding and distinguished Texas High School Alumni!

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IN LOCAL, STATE AND NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

My Tiger Home

A Special Tribute to the Texas High School Class of 2020

Written & Edited by Remington Cook, THS Senior Student
 Videography by Remington Cook, Colton Capps & TigerVision Crew
 Narration by Chuck Zach

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Texas High School

One Hundred and Thirty-First Commencement

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VALEDICTORIAN

Autumn Brooke Parrott



She is the daughter of Lisa and Kenneth Parrott.

Autumn is a Texas Scholar, Distinguished Achievement Program graduate and Ross Perot STEM Academy graduate. She was a member of Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics Honor Society, serving as President and Activity Committee Chairman. Autumn was a member of National Honor Society and the Spanish Honor Society.

She received the Award of Excellence in Science as well as Academic Achievement Awards in Biology I Pre-AP, World Civilizations DC, Engineering Design & Presentation, AP Physics C: Mechanics, Lifespan & Development DC, AP Calculus BC and US Government & Politics AP.

Autumn is a graduate of Leadership Texarkana's Today's Youth Tomorrow's Leaders and was selected for the Rotary Youth Leadership Award Program, Rice University SOAR Academy,

Johns Hopkins University HOME Program, MIT WISE Travel Program and Dartmouth College Fly-In Program.

She was a four-year member and Team Captain of the Lady Tigers Varsity Golf Team who earned District Champion titles from 2017-2019. Autumn was also a member of the UIL Academic Social Studies Team, earning District and Regional titles as well as Third Place in State in 2019.

Autumn's extracurricular activities included: Project Manager for History Club, Service Committee Chairman for Rosebud Junior Garden Club, Treasurer for Young Republicans, Secretary for THS Political Society, Representative and Secretary for Science Club and member of Calculus Club. She was selected to Intern with the Campaign to Re-Elect Governor Greg Abbott, graduated from the Perry Initiative for Women in Medicine, executed three Independent Research Projects related to Golf and shadowed a Research Scientist at the University of Oklahoma Translational Regenerative Medical Laboratory.

She volunteered for the Salvation Army Angel Tree, Bell Ringers and Distribution Center and has earned her Second Degree Black Belt in Taekwondo. Autumn enjoys hiking, biking and growing succulents.

She was offered scholarships from Dartmouth College, Duke University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Johns Hopkins University, Northwestern University, Purdue University, Rice University, Stanford University, Texarkana College, University of Notre Dame, University of Oklahoma, University of Texas-Austin, Vanderbilt University, Washington University-St. Louis and Yale University.

Autumn accepted the Betty and Roy Erickson Scholarship, Chahta Foundation Scholarship, Ellene Johnson Rosebud Junior Garden Club Scholarship, Jay Brewer Memorial Golf Scholarship, Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics Honor Society Scholarship, Texas Association of Secondary School Principal's All-State Academic Excellence Scholarship and an academic scholarship from Harvard University, where she will attend, majoring in Biomedical Engineering.

2020 THS TOP TEN GRADUATES

SALUTATORIAN**Molly Jane
Kyles**

She is the daughter of Amy and Lance Kyles.

Molly is a Commended National Merit Scholar, AP Scholar with Distinction, Coca-Cola Foundation Scholar Finalist, Texas Scholar, Distinguished Achievement Program graduate and Ross Perot STEM Academy graduate. She was a member of Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics Honor Society, Quill & Scroll International Honorary Society for High School Journalists, President of National Honor Society and Webmaster for International Thespian Society.

Molly earned the Awards of Excellence in Social Studies and in English. She was President of Science Club and Calculus Club and Treasurer for Drama Club and History Club. Molly is a graduate of Leadership Texarkana's Today's Youth Tomorrow's Leaders



and was selected for the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Program and the HOBY State Leadership Seminar.

As an active member of the THS Publications program, she was named to the National Scholastic Press Association Journalism Honor Roll and was Co-Editor-in-Chief for the Tiger Times. Molly received a Best in Texas award and Best of the Best in Print News, Online News and Broadcast News Objective Writing from Texas Association of Journalism Educators. Additionally, her work received Top Honors from TAJE for In-Depth News/Feature Story, In-Depth Package, Multimedia Package, Staff Editorial and Alternative Copy. From Columbia Scholastic Press Association, she received First Place in General or Humor Commentary for Digital Media Publications.

Molly was a member of the UIL Academic Social Studies Team, earning District and Regional titles as well as Third Place in State in 2019 and received the Tech Honor Crew award for UIL One-Act Play.

She is a 13-year member of Girl Scouts of America and received the President's Gold Volunteer Service Award and the President's Silver Volunteer Service Award. Molly enjoys reading, writing, traveling and music.

Molly accepted the National Merit Commended Scholarship, UIL Social Studies State Competition Scholarship and academic scholarships from Rice University, where she will attend, majoring in Biochemistry and Cell Biology.

2020 THS TOP TEN GRADUATES



Anna Grace Elizabeth Jones

graduated third in her class. She is the daughter of Cindy and Geoff Jones

She is an AP Scholar with Honors, Texas Scholar, Ross Perot STEM Academy graduate, Distinguished Achievement Program graduate, member of Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics Honor Society, Quill & Scroll International Honorary Society for High School Journalists and National Honor Society.

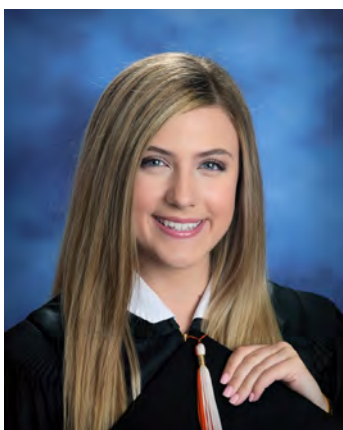
Anna Grace was an active member of THS Publications working on the Tiger Times Newspaper. For her academic excellence in journalism, she was named to the National

Scholastic Press Association Journalism Honor Roll, was a Texas Association of Journalism Educators contest winner and an Interscholastic League Press Conference contest winner.

She completed Independent Research Projects and was a member of THS Leadership, Student Council, Rosebud Junior Garden Club, Calculus Club, History Club, Science Club and THS Political Society.

Anna Grace is involved in First Baptist Church-Moores Lane Fusion Student Ministry, enjoys cooking, hiking, traveling and interior design. She was offered scholarships from Texas A&M University-College Station.

Anna Grace accepted the THS VIPS Scholarship, Texas Exes Texarkana Chapter Scholarship along with the Canfield Business Honors Program Scholarship and the McCombs Scholar Scholarship from University of Texas-Austin, where she will attend, majoring in Business Honors and Finance.



Meredith McKenzie Green

graduated fourth in her class. She is the daughter of Tina and Alford Green.

She is a Texas Scholar, Ross Perot STEM Academy graduate, Distinguished Achievement Program graduate, member of Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics Honor Society, Quill & Scroll International Honorary Society for High School Journalists and National Honor Society.

Meredith received the Award of Excellence in Social Studies and was honored with the AP Statistics Highest Average Award and the AP Psychology Highest Average Award.

She was a member and Social Officer Co-President for the Texas HighSteppers, earning awards for Best Newcomer, Best Veteran and Highest Junior GPA. As Editor-In-Chief for the Tiger Yearbook, Meredith received a Best in Texas Superior Rating for Academics Spread.

Meredith was a member of Student Council, serving as Senior Class Vice President. She was Vice President of Membership for Rosebud Junior Garden Club and member of THS Leadership, Statistics Club and Young Travelers Club.

She is a 15-year student of dance and served as an Assistant Dance Teacher for Judith McCarty School of Dance for the past three years. Meredith is an active member of First Baptist Church-Moores Lane and enjoys spending time with family and friends.

Meredith accepted the THS VIPS Scholarship and the Classic Scholars Scholarship from University of Georgia, where she will attend, majoring in Nutritional Sciences and Kinesiology.



Hollan Briley Borowitz

graduated fifth in her class. She is the daughter of Julie and John Borowitz.

She is a Commended National Merit Scholar, AP Scholar with Distinction, Coca-Cola Foundation Scholar Semifinalist, Texas Scholar, Distinguished Achievement Program graduate, member of Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society and National Honor Society.

Hollan was selected to Congressman John Ratcliffe's Congressional Student Leadership Program, receiving the Rising Lone Star Award. She was chosen for the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Summer Pharmacy Program and the University of Arkansas Medical Applications for Sciences of Health MASH Program where she earned the Outstanding Student Award.

As a member of THS Leadership and Student Council, she served as Freshman Class President, Student Body Secretary, Class Representative, DASH Committee Chairman, Dinner Theatre Choreographer and Music Coordinator and Delegate to the National Vision Leadership Conference. Hollan was a Secretary and Tutor for Calculus Club, Teachers' Tea Chairman for Rosebud Junior Garden Club, Underwriting Chairman for THS Dash for Cash Run and Team Leader for Tiger Camp Freshman Orientation.

She was selected to the Homecoming Court and was actively involved with TigerVision, serving as Lead Anchor, Delegate to Student Television Network Conference and earning a Silver Medal for News Broadcast Team at SkillsUSA competition. Hollan was a member of the Texas HighSteppers receiving the Respect Award, Highest GPA Award, numerous team awards and Division I Dance Solo awards for three consecutive years. She received the Daughters of the American Revolution Outstanding Youth Writer Award.

Hollan received the President's Volunteer Service Award and has dedicated over 1,500 hours of volunteer effort to the Texarkana community through her involvement with 15 different programs and agencies.

She was offered scholarships from Baylor University, University of Arkansas-Fayetteville and the University of Mississippi.

Hollan accepted the THS VIPs Scholarship and the Chancellor's Scholarship from Texas Christian University, where she will attend, majoring in Biochemistry.



Nicholas Colby Mitchell

graduated sixth in his class. He is the son of Julie and Trey Mitchell.

He is a Texas Scholar, Ross Perot STEM Academy graduate, Distinguished Achievement Program graduate, member of Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics Honor Society and National Honor Society.

Nicholas was a member of Student Council, four-year member of the University Interscholastic League Current Events Academic Team and three-year member of the Tiger Tennis Varsity Team where he earned the John Watson Leadership Award.

He enjoys playing basketball and listening to music. Nicholas was offered scholarships from Baylor University and Texas Christian University.

Nicholas accepted an academic merit scholarship from University of Mississippi, where he will attend, majoring in International Studies.



Jebin Samuel Justin

graduated seventh in his class. He is the son of Cheruba and Jeff Justin.

He is an AP Scholar with Distinction, Texas Scholar, Ross Perot STEM Academy graduate, Distinguished Achievement Program graduate, member of Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics Honor Society and National Honor Society. Jebin scored in the 99th percentile on the American College Test.

He is a four-year member of the Texas Tigers Varsity Tennis Team, who were named District Champions the last four years.

Jebin was a member of Student Council, participated in Texarkana Youth Symphony Orchestra and 5aside Soccer. He enjoys music, sports and working out.

Jebin was offered a scholarship from Texas Christian University.

Jebin accepted the THS VIPS Scholarship and the Watty Myers Scholarship. He will attend University of Texas-Austin, majoring in Psychology and Pre-Medicine.



Olivia Rose Lower

graduated eighth in her class. She is the daughter of Kristi and Hal Lower.

She is a Texas Scholar, Ross Perot STEM Academy graduate, Distinguished Achievement Program graduate, member of Quill & Scroll International Honorary Society for High School Journalists, Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics Honor Society and National Honor Society.

Olivia received Academic Awards in English IV DC, Accounting III, Chemistry II AP, World Geography Pre-AP and Spanish II Pre-AP.

As a four-year member of the Lady Tigers Volleyball Team, she earned Newcomer of the Year, Most Scholastic and was named All-District First Team, All-State Honorable Mention and All-State Athletic Academic. Olivia was honored by Texarkana Gameday with the Volleyball 1,000 Career Kills. During her freshman year, she earned Defensive MVP for the Lady Tigers JV Soccer Team.

Olivia was a member of Student Council, serving as Student Body Vice President, Class Secretary, Class Representative and Productions Coordinator Assistant as well as Campaign Manager Assistant for the Texas Association of Student Councils State Convention. As a member of THS Publications, she was Managing Editor, Student Life Section Editor and Editorial Board Member for the Tiger Yearbook.

Olivia was a member of Statistics Club, Science Club and Calculus Club. She served as Secretary for the Young Travelers Club and Contact Chairman and Community Service Project Chairman for the Rosebud Junior Garden Club.

Olivia enjoys outdoor activities, card games, listening to music, shopping and being with friends and family.

She was offered scholarships from Southern Arkansas University and the University of Mississippi.

Olivia accepted the THS Student Leadership Scholarship, The Fan 107.9 Scholarship and the President's Gold Merit Scholarship from Baylor University, where she will attend, majoring in Business.



Julia Kate Whitehorn

graduated ninth in her class. She is the daughter of Tamara and Toby Whitehorn.

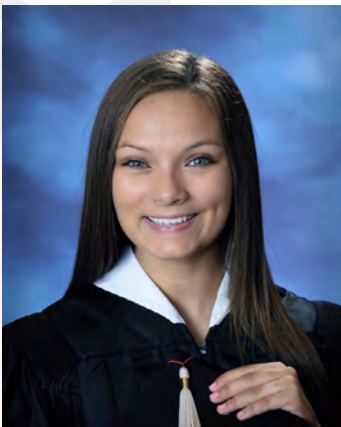
She is an AP Scholar with Honors, Texas Scholar, Ross Perot STEM Academy graduate, Distinguished Achievement Program graduate, member of Quill & Scroll International Honorary Society for High School Journalists, National Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics Honor Society, serving as Secretary.

Julia received an Academic Award in Accounting DC, was selected to the NASA High School Aerospace Scholars Program, Congressman John Ratcliffe's Congressional Student Leadership Program and the National Rural Electric Government in Action Youth Seminar. She completed two Independent Research Projects related to development of youth leadership skills which resulted in the implementation of the Leader in Me program at Texas High School and Texas Middle School. This program allows TISD students to progress through Leader in Me training from elementary to high school.

She was a two-year member of the Texas Tigers Varsity Tennis Team, THS Leader in Me Implementation Leader and served as President and Progressive Dinner Chairman for Rosebud Junior Garden Club. As a member of THS Publications, Julia served as Tiger Yearbook Staff Writer, Student Life Editor and Managing Editor. She was a member of THS Leadership and Student Council, serving as State Conference Coordinator, State Conference Public Relations Manager and Director of DASH. Within the DECA program, Julia served as President and Vice President becoming a State Finalist for three years at the Texas DECA Business Competition. She also served as a member and Vice President for the AP Ambassador Program.

Julia volunteered her time with Komen Texarkana Race for the Cure, CASA Color Run and Williams Memorial United Methodist Church Community Café. She was a Peer Mentor for students at Theron Jones Early Literacy Center, a member of the St. Edward's Catholic Church Youth Group and a Counselor-in-Training for The Pines Catholic Camp.

Julia accepted the Keys to Aggieland Scholarship, CLEN UG DT Scholarship, Opportunity Scholarship and Lechner Academic Scholarship from Texas A&M University-College Station, where she will attend, majoring in Biomedical Engineering.



Madison McGuire Bowers

graduated tenth in her class. She is the daughter of Amy and Doug Bowers.

She is an AP Scholar with Honors, Texas Scholar, Ross Perot STEM Academy graduate, Distinguished Achievement Program graduate, member of Quill & Scroll International Honorary Society for High School Journalists, Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics Honor Society and National Honor Society.

Madison received Academic Awards in Physics Pre-AP, French II and Yearbook.

She was an active member with the Texas HighSteppers, serving as Junior Lieutenant and Senior Captain and was named twice as HighStepper of the Week. Madison was Senior Class Representative, member of THS Leadership and Student Council, Bake Sale

Chairman for Rosebud Junior Garden Club and Coordinator for College Night. She was a member of Calculus Club, Tiger Camp Leader and member of THS Publications, serving as Business Manager.

Madison is a 15-year student of dance with the Texarkana Dance Academy, enjoys water sports, traveling, hot yoga and spending time with family and friends.

She was offered a scholarship from Baylor University.

Madison accepted the THS VIPs Scholarship, Jared Scott Beach Scholarship and the Wake Village First Baptist Church Internship Scholarship. She will attend Texas A&M University-College Station, majoring in Engineering.

Texarkana Monthly



Texas
High School

THS SENIOR PERSPECTIVE

BY HOLLAN BOROWITZ
TEXAS HIGH SENIOR 2020

FOR MOST OF MY LIFE,

when I've been asked "how are you doing?" it's been while catching up with someone over small talk. The answers come naturally: "Great!" "Making it." "I've been busy lately, but I'm doing well." However, over the course of the last three months, "How are you doing?" has been a question I've been asked nearly every day, and I still don't know how to respond. As a graduating senior from Texas High, there are good days and bad days, days where I miss "normal" more than usual, and days where I'm grateful for this new "normal."

Anyone who knows me well knows that, amidst my busy schedule, I watch news stories on Snapchat to keep up with what's going on in the world. So, in January, while watching NBC's *Stay Tuned* every morning, I'd pay no mind to the "Coronavirus" in Wuhan, China because it didn't affect me... yet. Before long, the first case in the United States came along and cases across the nation followed suit. I, once again, never thought it would get to me. I was gone constantly during the second semester of this school year. News anchoring, scholarship events, and dance competitions kept me out of town almost every weekend, but that was all about to come to an end. The week before Spring Break, Tuesday (March 10, 2020) was the only day I got to

attend classes. That day was wedged between trips to the University of Arkansas, and a trip with TigerVision, the audio-visual club at my high school. At the end of the week, I was traveling to the Student Television Network Conference in Washington, D.C. So, even my last week of high school wasn't normal, but the weirdest changes were yet to come.

“ I would never have guessed that I would never go back to Texas High. I had gone to my last day of high school, and I didn't even know it.”

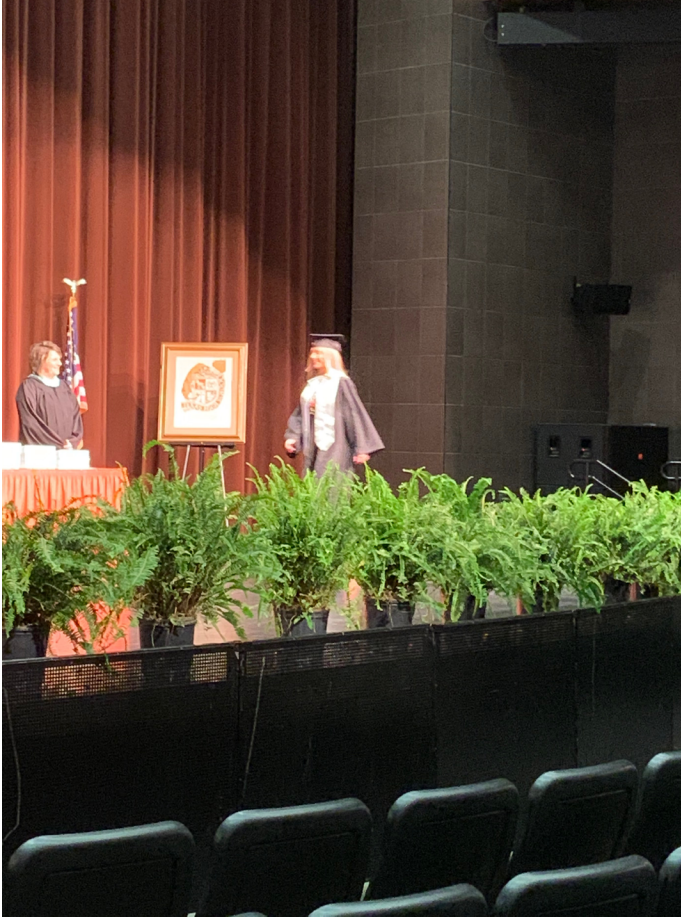
Upon leaving for the conference at 6 a.m. on that Wednesday, I remember nothing feeling real. It was strange to me, having to bring oodles of Purell and the fact that DFW Airport was nearly empty. Stranger yet, when our plane landed, we went straight to the hotel, only to find they canceled the conference due to COVID-19. Due to a lack of flights, we were unable to go home for another four days,

so we enjoyed our time sightseeing and watching President Trump speak from our hotel TV even though he was just a few blocks away.

While we were there, school got shut down until early April. This shut down later got extended—first to mid-April, then to May first. Eventually they scrapped it altogether. I would never have guessed that I would never go back to Texas High. I had gone to my last day of high school, and I didn't even know it.



Hollan Borowitz, Amaya Green, Tylicia Crutchfield, Raelyn Ligon, Allie Graves, Shanterria Golette and Jenna Woodard at the Capital in Washington, D.C. after the Student Television Network Conference was cancelled.



Hollan's first graduation walk across the stage (no honor cords) to an empty auditorium.

As seniors, there are so many things we have missed. Spring Show for HighSteppers has been postponed until June 27 for a half-full theater and livestream. The baseball team never played a district home game. The track team hardly had a season at all. Student Council's state convention was virtual. Prom is now a casual event, almost like a senior field day at the THS track. There was no dinner for Honor Graduates, and they delayed announcing the top ten. We walked for graduation, not surrounded by peers, but rather to an empty auditorium.

Here's a story I can tell my kids one day, "I walked for graduation twice because my honor cords were on COVID-19 backorder for the first walk, so when they came in, I got to walk again!"

The reasons to be sad may be more obvious, but the silver lining to the situation is still ever present. That is where I choose to focus. I have had considerably less schoolwork and have been able to do it at my own pace. Doing schoolwork from home has taught me how to schedule things, greatly improved my organization, and helped prepare me for college. I have been able to relax, spend quality time with my family, and pick up new hobbies. After years of wishing I could take Advanced Placement exams in my pajamas, my dream came true. I have gotten to go fishing almost every day, and I had plenty of time to find a roommate online. On a couple of special days, I was able to



Hollan celebrating at home with her family.

meet up with friends (spaced at least six feet apart) from the trunks of our cars to catch up and talk about college.

All of this time quarantined away from friends has made me not only grateful for the memories I made with them over the years, but also beyond excited about what our futures hold in college. I, like every other senior, pray that we're on campus in the fall. We have no idea what the future holds, but we have faith.

I have been fortunate enough to sit and talk (socially distanced, of course) with my grandmother, GoGo, about what has been going on. She said something that made me almost grateful for this situation: "God has a hand in all this, and I think He's just slowing life down for us." She was exactly right. I gained a new appreciation for all I have been able to do with my life. I never saw myself taking family walks on the St. Michael's trail on a Tuesday night, or waiting outside of TJ Maxx for half an hour on the day it opened back up, but it happened. I'm thankful for how simple life has been.

As much as everything has changed, I still can't answer the question, "How are you doing?" accurately. However, as much as some things have stung and some things have been strange, the bright side has greatly outweighed the negatives. It may seem like this mess will never end, and even as a senior missing out on a whole lot, I'm still happy with what I have and all that is ahead of me. 🍷

CONGRATULATIONS TO EVERY GRADUATE IN THE CLASS OF 2020!



**We commend your hard work and know you
have bright futures ahead of you!**



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Texarkana Monthly



2020

PLEASANT GROVE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
TOP TEN GRADUATES

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PLEASANT GROVE

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Legacy of Success Continues in 2019-2020

DISTRICT

- FINE ARTS**
One Act Play District Champions
6 individual medalists
- ATHLETICS**
Varsity Football District Champions
27 All-District Selections
10 Seniors named on All-District Team
92% of Varsity Volleyball Team made All-Academic Team
Varsity Boys Cross Country - 2nd place
Varsity Girls Cross Country - 3rd place
JV Boys Cross Country District Champions
Girls Varsity Basketball District Champions
Varsity Tennis District Champions
- MIDDLE SCHOOL**
5th-8th Grade Academic UIL District Champions
Boys Cross Country - 3rd place
8th Grade Football District Champions
8th Grade Boys Basketball District Champions
7th Grade Girls Volleyball District Champions (undefeated)
8th Grade Girls Volleyball District Champions
7th Grade Girls Basketball District Champions (undefeated)
8th Grade Girls Basketball District Champions
Middle School One Act Play - "Excellent" Rating at District Competition - 4 individual medalists
PGMS UIL Band "Excellent Rating"

BI-DISTRICT

- ATHLETICS**
Varsity Football Bi-District Champions
Girls Varsity Volleyball Bi-District Qualifier
Varsity Boys Basketball Bi-District Qualifier
Girls Varsity Basketball Bi-District Champions
Varsity Tennis Bi-District Champions

AREA

- FINE ARTS**
- BAND**
All-Area Jazz Honors - 4 Students
High School All-Area Band Honors - 5 Students
UIL Solo and Ensemble -
19 1st Division Events, 26 1st Division Students
Pleasant Grove High School Early Contest -
1st Division Concert and Sight-Reading
High School UIL Concert and Sight-Reading -
1st Division Concert
- ATHLETICS**
Varsity Football Area Champions
Girls Varsity Basketball Area Champions
Varsity Tennis Area Qualifiers
Varsity Girls Golf Team Leopard Invitational Champions

REGIONAL

- ACADEMICS**
Regional History Day-Texas A&M Texarkana
1st Place Individual Website
2nd and 3rd Place Individual Exhibit
1st Place Group Website
2nd Place Group Documentary
1st, 2nd, 3rd Place Group Exhibit
- FINE ARTS**
- BAND**
All-Region Jazz Honors - 4 Students
Four States Marching Contest - Overall 2nd Place;
1st Division Band, Colorguard, Percussion, Drum Major
Mt. Pleasant Marching Invitational - Overall 3rd Place,
Outstanding Percussion, Outstanding Drum Majors;
1st Division Band, Colorguard, Percussion, Drum Major
UIL Region Marching Contest - 1st Division
Middle School All-Region Band Honors - 14 Students
High School All-Region Band Honors - 7 Students
Four States Honor Band - 10 Students
- ATHLETICS**
Varsity Football Regional Champions
Girls Varsity Basketball Region 2 Quarter Final Champions
Varsity Boys Cross Country Regional Qualifier
Varsity Girls Cross Country Regional Qualifier

STATE

- ACADEMICS**
UIL Congress State Qualifier (Gillian Knowles)
- FINE ARTS**
- ART**
Governor's Student Award in the Arts
- THEATER**
UIL Film State Finalist; 6th Place
UIL Theater Design State Finalist
- DRILL TEAM**
Best in Class Champion - Medium/Large Team Division
Platinum Best Overall Team - Precision, Choreography, Technique, Presentation
Gussie Nell Davis Award
Sweepstakes Award
Judges Award - Kick, Pom, and Military
Wow Award - Pom and Military
Outstanding Team - Voted on by other teams
Academic Champions - 2nd place
Officers - Division 1 Rating
Judges Award - Officer Jazz
Wow Award - Officer Jazz
Best of the Best Team - Top scoring team for the entire contest
- JOURNALISM**
Interscholastic League Press Conference:
2020 Edge Newspaper: Gold Star Award, 2 Tops in Texas individual awards, 31 individual achievement awards
2019 Hawk Yearbook: Silver Star Award, 1 Tops in Texas individual award, 26 individual achievement awards
2020 Hawk Nation News: Silver Star Award, 4 individual achievement awards

ATHLETICS

- 4A-Division II Varsity Football State Champions
12 All-State Football Players
2019 4A Coaching Staff of the Year
2 All-State Volleyball Players for TCGA (Georgia Cobb & Rachael Leach)
UIL State Spirit Championship- 5th Place
- CTE**
*4A UIL State Robotics Championships State Finalists (2 Teams)
VEX North Texas State Robotics Championship for Region 2 Finalist (1 Team)
74 Industry Based Certifications Earned
Phlebotomy Technician-3
Microsoft Office Specialist Word-6
Adobe Certified Associate Photoshop-13
Adobe Certified Associate InDesign-1
Adobe Certified Associate Illustrator-3
Adobe Visual Design Specialist-1
OSHA 30 Hour Certifications-3
Microsoft Technology Associate Intro to JavaScript-1
Intuit Quickbooks Desktop Certified User-3
*competition cancelled due to COVID-19

NATIONAL

- FINE ARTS**
- ART**
National Scholastic Gold & Silver Key Winners
National Art Honor Society Art of Excellence Winners
National Art Rising Star (Lilly Allison)
Celebrate Art Awards of Excellence
School Arts Award of Excellence
DIWM Drawing Arts Awards
- JOURNALISM**
2019 Edge Newspaper: Silver Crown Columbia Scholastic Press Association Silver Crown & National Scholastic Press Association Pacemaker Finalist
2019 Hawk Yearbook: Columbia Scholastic Press Association Gold Crown & National Scholastic Press Association Pacemaker Winner
15 journalism seniors named to NSPA National Journalism Honor Roll
6 Individual CSPA Gold Circle Awards
- ATHLETICS**
Universal Cheer Association (UCA) Nationals - 6th place

GLOBAL

- AdvancED/SACS/CASI Accreditation for all campuses

EDUCATOR RECOGNITION

- 2019 Texas 4A Coach of the Year (Josh Gibson)
Southern Arkansas University Educational Leadership Hall of Fame Class of 2020 (Todd Marshall)

The Class of 2020
has earned an excess of
\$6,000,000
in scholarship awards.



VALEDICTORIAN

Chloe Lane Carpenter

is the daughter of Stephanie and Caven Carpenter.

She is a member of the President’s Education Excellence Awards Program, a member of the University Interscholastic League Scholars Program, Top 10% of her class and graduated with endorsements.

Chloe is a member of the National Honor Society, a member of Gifted and Talented and received the Who’s Who Overall Excellence Award. She is a member of National Art Honor Society, Tribe, Quill & Scroll Journalism Society, a member of K-12 Pleasant Grove School, and Keyettes. She received the 2019-2020 Outstanding Academic Award for Statistics Dual Credit, AP Design and for Drill Team. Chloe serves as the Head News Director in Broadcast Journalism, Drill Team Captain, is a

graduate of the Today’s Youth, Tomorrow’s Leader Program, and is a member of Texarkana Community Ballet. She was chosen Citizen of the Month, and was selected as a Homecoming Court Princess. Chloe was the selected Artist in the National Art Honor Society Juried Exhibition. Her artwork was chosen to be displayed at the National Art Education Association Studio Gallery in Alexandria, Virginia. It was also selected to be displayed in the annual student art exhibit with Texarkana Regional Arts and Humanities Council. Chloe was previously awarded the Texas State Gold Medal for drawing and design work, the Gold and Silver Key for Design, and Honorable Mention for Photography. She previously received Academic Awards for Art 1 Pre-AP, Drawing 2 GT, and Design 3 Pre-AP. She received Drill Team awards in Best Presentation, Outstanding Dancer, and Award of Excellence. Chloe auditioned and was chosen to participate in the 2019 Summer Ballet Intensive program at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, sponsored by Ballet Arkansas.

Chloe serves her community by volunteering for Kids for the Cure Glow Run and Runnin’ WJ Ranch Therapeutic Riding Facility, serving as counselor at Brookhill Ranch, volunteering for CASA, A Night To Shine, assisting at The Retreat for Assisted Living, Cornerstone Retirement Community, Children’s Art Workshop, Kindergarten Roundup, and dancing for the Arkansas Children’s Hospital Benefit Concert.

Chloe received the Texas Excellence Scholarship from the University of Texas at Austin where she plans to attend and major in advertising.

SALUTATORIAN**Caroline
Claire Joyce**

is the daughter of Susannah and Gene Joyce.

She is a member of the President's Education Excellence Awards Program, a member of the University Interscholastic League Scholars Program, Top 10% of her class and graduated with endorsements.

Caroline is a member of the National Honor Society and a member of Gifted and Talented. She is a member of the International Thespian Society, Curtain Call Productions, Quill & Scroll Journalism Society, and Keyettes. She received the 2019-2020 Outstanding Academic Award for Theatre 4 Honors and for AP Music Theory. She serves as Photo Editor of the *Pacemaker* yearbook and received the National Scholastic Press Association Gold Crown for the *Pacemaker*



yearbook and *The Edge* newspaper. Caroline previously received Academic Awards for Spanish 3 Pre-AP, and Theatre 1 GT. Caroline has participated in many stage performances with Curtain Call Productions, Silvermoon Children's Theatre, Fine Line Theatre Company, Downtown Youth Theatre, Texarkana Repertory Company and St. James Theatre. She was named Outstanding Actress and Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Musical Production. She has received Outstanding District recognition from Pleasant Grove ISD for community service through Curtain Call Productions. She received Superior ratings in Piano, Voice, and Piano Duet by the National Federation of Music Auditions.

Caroline serves her community by volunteering with the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, Main Street Texarkana's Dine on the Line, RailFest Texarkana, Run the Line, and participating in community food drives and collections. Caroline was selected as 2019-2020 Miss PGHS.

She was offered scholarships from Texas Christian University, Texas A&M Texarkana, King's College, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor and Central Christian College of Kansas.

Caroline received the Miss PGHS Scholarship and the St. James Day School Scholarship. She plans to attend Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee and major in Music Theory through their School of Music.

2020 PGISD TOP TEN GRADUATES



Rachel Anne Hemphill

graduated third in her class. She is the daughter of Mishal and Hayden Hemphill.

She is a member of the President's Education Excellence Awards Program and the University Interscholastic League Scholars Program.

Rachel is a member of the National Honor Society and a member of Gift and Talented. She is a member of National Art Honor Society, Quill & Scroll Journalism Society, a member of Keyettes, Student Council, K-12 Pleasant Grove School, and 2020 class Vice President. Rachel serves as the *Pacemaker* yearbook Editor-in-Chief. She received the 2019-2020 Outstanding Academic Award for Yearbook, 2020 ILPC Yearbook Top in Texas Feature Spread Award, State Articulate Award of Excellence, Celebrate Art National Published Artist for 2019, Scholastic Art and Writing Silver Key National Awards in 2019, ILPC

Yearbook Spread Award for 2019-2020, and the National Art Education Association Award 2019-2020. Rachel received the 2018-2019 Outstanding Academic Award for AP Spanish 5. Rachel serves as Senior Officer with the Drill Team and she has earned honors as Miss High Kick 2019 and 2018 National Miss High Kick Runner-Up.

Rachel is a member of the Texarkana Community Ballet and First Baptist Church Youth Group. She serves her community by participating in community food drives and collections, volunteering at community events, and serving in the preschool department of her church.

Rachel received scholarships from McKinney Sunrise Rotary Club and an academic scholarship from Baylor University where she plans to attend and major in Business Marketing.



Selena Thi Lam

graduated fourth in her class. She is the daughter of Suong and Quyen Nguyen Phan.

She is a member of the President's Education Excellence Awards Program, a member of the University Interscholastic League Scholars Program, Top 10% of her class and graduated with endorsements.

She is a member of the National Honor Society, Interact Society, Quill & Scroll Journalism Society, and President of Keyettes. Selena received the 2019-2020 Outstanding Academic Award for English 4 Honors, Chemistry Dual Credit, Calculus Dual Credit, AP US Government, and AP European History. She was also named to the 2019-2020 Hall of Fame Academic Awards for Mathematics, Social Studies, Science and English

Language Arts. Selena serves as the Business Advertisement Manager and Designer and Photographer for *Pacemaker* yearbook. Selena earned first place in individual and first place in team 4A District and Regional UIL Spelling Competition. She has received previous Outstanding Academic Achievements in Spanish 1, Biology Pre-AP, Geometry Pre-AP, Algebra 2 Pre-AP, Chemistry Pre-AP, English 1 Pre-AP, World History Pre-AP, Physics Honors, English 3 AP and US History AP. She was selected as Citizen of the Month in 2018 and 2020.

Selena serves her community by participating in several school and community food drives and collections.

She was offered scholarships from Texarkana College, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and the University of Texas at Austin.

Selena received the Keyette Outstanding Member Scholarship and plans to attend the University of Texas at Austin and major in Mechanical Engineering.



Gabriel Bryan Smith

graduated fifth in his class. He is the son of Tricia and Bryan Smith.

He is a member of the President's Education Excellence Awards Program, a member of the University Interscholastic League Scholars Program, Top 10% of his class and graduated with endorsements.

He is a member of the National Honor Society, Gifted and Talented, and National Art Honor Society. Gabriel received the 2019-2020 Art Design AP Award. He previously received the 2019 Scholastic Art and Writing Silver Key Award, 2018 Scholastic Art and Writing Gold Key Award, 2018-2019 *Celebrating Art* Published Artwork and won the 2016 Men's Level Gymnastics State Championship.

Gabriel serves his community by teaching beginner and intermediate level tumbling with the Northeast Texas Elite Gymnastics Association.

He was offered scholarships from Texarkana College, Texas A&M-*Texarkana*, and University of Central Arkansas.

Gabriel received a scholarship from the University of Oklahoma where he plans to attend and major in Engineering.



Kathryn Ann Davis

graduated sixth in her class. She is the daughter of Kimberly and Jay Davis.

She is member of the President's Education Excellence Awards Program, a member of the University Interscholastic League Scholars Program, Top 10% of her class and graduated with endorsements.

She is a member of the National Honor Society, a member of Gifted and Talented, Quill & Scroll Journalism Society, Tribe, HOSA, a member of K-12 Pleasant Grove School and Keyettes. Kathryn received the 2019-2020 Outstanding Academic Award for Yearbook and was named to the 2019-2020 Hall of Fame Academic Awards for Other Languages. Kathryn serves as the *Pacemaker* yearbook Editor-in-Chief and has earned many awards.

She received the 2019-2020 ILPC State Journalism Yearbook Individual Achievement Award in Personality Profile Story and was named to the NSPA Journalism Honor Roll. She is also a member of Drill Team and was chosen Showstopper of the year 2018-2019. She was awarded second place in the Gussie Nell Davis Dance Classic Outstanding Team Award, WOW Award in Team Pom and Team Military, 2020 Team Sweepstakes Award at Gussie Nell Davis Dance Classic, Best in Class Champion and Best of the Best Team.

Kathryn serves her community by volunteering at the Runnin' WJ Therapeutic Riding Facility, Children's Art Workshop, Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, participating in several community food drives and collections, serves as a CASA volunteer with children's workshops, and dance performances with the *Texarkana Community Ballet*.

She plans to attend the University of Texas and major in Human Development and Family Sciences.



Olivia Grace Rochelle

graduated seventh in her class. She is the daughter of Lori and Jerry Rochelle.

She is member of the President's Education Excellence Awards Program, a member of the University Interscholastic League Scholars Program, Top 10% of her class and graduated with endorsements.

She is a member of the National Honor Society, Gifted and Talented, Student Council, 2020 Senior Class Treasurer, Quill & Scroll Journalism Society, K-12 Pleasant Grove School, Keyettes and HOSA. Olivia received the 2019-2020 Outstanding Academic Award for Yearbook. She serves as Editor of the award winning *Pacemaker* yearbook.

Olivia is a graduate of the Medical Applications of Science for Health (MASH) program. She has previously served as Manager of the Lady Hawks Volleyball and Track Teams.

Olivia serves her community by participating in school and community food drives and collections, volunteering for the Meagan Mauldin Love for the Cure Foundation, serving as youth group leader at Williams Memorial United Methodist Church and tutoring students in different subject areas.

She was offered a scholarship from Baylor University.

Olivia plans to attend Texas A&M University and major in Biochemistry.



Phoebe Blaise Robertson

graduated eighth in her class. She is the daughter of Monica Robertson and Matt Robertson.

She is member of the President's Education Excellence Awards Program, a member of the University Interscholastic League Scholars Program, Top 10% of her class and graduated with endorsements.

She is a member of National Honor Society, Gifted and Talented, Secretary of Keyettes, Student Council President, Quill & Scroll Journalism Society and HOSA. Phoebe is a member of the award winning *Pacemaker* yearbook and *The Edge* newspaper staffs. She previously was awarded the Outstanding Academic Award for Spanish 4, Quill & Scroll Award and is a graduate of Today's Youth, Tomorrow's Leader Program. Phoebe is a three year

member of the Varsity Basketball Team which won two back-to-back District Championships and two trips to UIL Regional Semi-Finals. She is a three year member of Varsity Cross Country with a district championship win. She is a member of UIL Spelling and Science Teams. She was named Who's Who Honors Exceptional Student in Extracurricular Activities, and was 2020 Academic All-State Basketball Recipient, won the 2020 UIL State Club Organization Photo Award, and the 2020 All-District 2nd Team Varsity Basketball Award.

Phoebe serves her community by working alongside Texarkana Resource Organizations, beautifying the Texarkana Art Park, school and community food drives and collections, job shadowing medical nurses, therapists and doctors, and tutoring students in summer school. She volunteers at Cornerstone Assisted Living, Partnership for the Pathway and Christian Warriors.

Phoebe received the Keyette Outstanding Member Scholarship, the Student Council Scholarship, the Philanthropic Education Organization Scholarship, the Academic Merit and Non Merit Scholarship and the Student Body President Scholarship from the University of Mississippi where she plans to attend and major in Biology.



Connor David Hornsby

graduated ninth in his class. He is the son of Anna and Troy Hornsby.

He is a member of the President's Education Excellence Awards Program, a member of the University Interscholastic League Scholars Program, Top 10% of his class and graduated with endorsements.

He is a member of the National Honor Society, Gifted and Talented, K-12 Pleasant Grove School, and Quill & Scroll Journalism Society. Connor served as a Texas Boys State Delegate during his Junior year. He is a member of the Boy Scouts of America, Brotherhood of the Order of the Arrow and an Eagle Scout. Connor is a graduate of Today's Youth, Tomorrow's Leader Program and is a four year member of the Varsity Hawk Soccer Team.

Connor serves his church by organizing and raising funds for the purchase of new trees to be planted on the campus of Hardy Memorial United Methodist Church. He also volunteered on several Boy Scouts of America Projects including refurbishing ground cover and building playground equipment at a local elementary school, and refurbishing equipment at an equestrian therapy center. In addition he volunteers in community food drives and collections, Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast, and Hawk Service Day.

Connor received scholarships from Baylor University where he plans to attend and major in Engineering/PreMed.



Jackson Mark Hlavinka

graduated tenth in his class. He is the son of Marcie and Mark Hlavinka.

He is a member of the President's Education Excellence Awards Program, a member of the University Interscholastic League Scholars Program, Top 10% of his class and graduated with endorsements.

He is a member of the National Honor Society, Gifted and Talented, K-12 Pleasant Grove School, and National Art Honor Society. Jackson received the 2019-2020 Outstanding Academic Award in Graphic Design and Illustration 2 Honors. Jackson previously received the Silver Key in Scholastic Art and Writing Contest and his art was published in the *Celebrating Art* book.

Jackson serves his community by volunteering as a Youth Group Leader at Williams Memorial United Methodist Church, managing sound boards and cameras during church services and plays the guitar and assists with communion services.

He was offered a scholarship from Texarkana College.

Jackson plans to attend Texas A&M University at College Station and major in Engineering.

Texarkana Monthly



PGHS SENIOR PERSPECTIVE

BY CAROLINE JOYCE
PLEASANT GROVE HIGH
SENIOR 2020

PHOTO BY
STEPHANIE ADCOCK
PHOTOGRAPHY





SENIOR YEAR IS SUPPOSED TO BE...

a time to ensure that nothing is taken for granted and for making everything count. A year of easy classes, hard earned victories, and a bundle of “last times,” senior year is when we are the kings of the school and on top of the world. There would be absolutely nothing and no one that could stop us!

At least, that’s what we thought.

My first semester was in fact the stereotypical perfect senior year, filled with getting to take pictures at the football games, going to the UIL area tennis tournament, and putting on the musical Aladdin, where I got to play Princess Jasmine. I became the PG Journalism Photo Editor and got to take pictures of all the football games, including our state championship game, where I got

to stand on the field at AT&T Stadium and watch my team take their rightful place at the top. I also had the honor of becoming the captain of my tennis team and leading them as the only senior. Lastly, putting on such a magical play like Aladdin was a genuine dream come true. Not only did I get to play an iconic princess and positively influence many little girls, but I also made best friends and unforgettable memories through the experience.

The second semester rolled around and in no time, we were off to the races with our competitive One Act Play theatre season. We chose the show Peter and the Starcatcher, which is ultimately the prequel to the timeless tale of Peter Pan. I got to

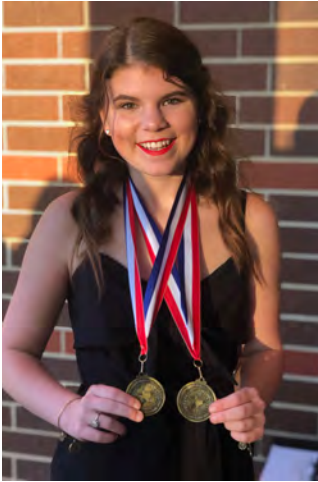
play the part of Molly Aster, who is a strong, independent girl who teaches a young boy how to be strong and how to find his home. This same boy ends up growing up to be Peter. This show not only has magic as one of the main plot points, but it also brought magic to my life. I learned so much about how to be a strong leader for my company, and how to apply that same magic to every other aspect of my life, physically and emotionally. Our show was strong, and our cast was unmatched. As a result, we were declared district champions, with each judge awarding us first place. We were on top of the world and were headed straight for a state championship. To top it all off, I won the title of Miss PGHS 2020 where



Caroline starring as Princess Jasmine with Clayton Jones in PGHS Aladdin Jr. production.



Caroline was crowned 2020 Miss PGHS.



Caroline Joyce won an all star cast medal, along with her company receiving first place in district.



Back row: Sara Jayne Burroughs, Bryce Johnson, Michael McNeal, Kaylee Sexon, Clark Edmonds, Josie Veal, Collin Perry. Second row: Debby Sutton, Clayton Jones, Rachel Steed, Hailey Watson, Deontae Whaley, Holli Wood. Third row: Tiffany Beck, Carl Mead, Trinity Tutulo, April McDowell, Lauren Stinard, Alyssa Avard, Emily Misery. Front Row: Tommy Tye, Caroline Joyce, Jessica Colvin, Emily Litchfield, Donald Whaley Jr.



In one of the last battle scenes of the One Act Play, Black Stache, played by Donald Whaley, finally captures Molly Aster, played by Caroline.


I would be given the opportunity to serve my school with pride. Nothing could stop our success.

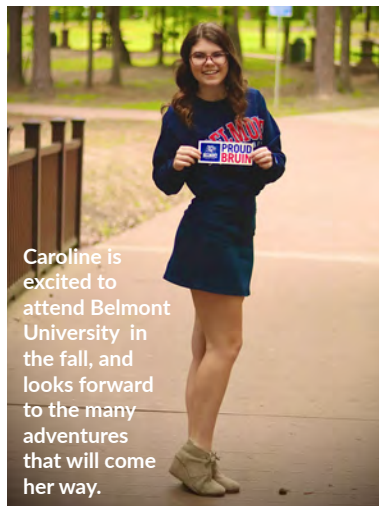
On March 16th, our world was altered.

I specifically remember going home early that day because I was feeling exhausted from the week before. Shortly after, our theatre director called our company into a meeting and told us that school would close, but she would fight as long as possible for us to continue our competitive season. We had worked so incredibly hard up to this point, and it would all be worthless if we had to end our journey now. So, four weeks went by, full of constant school work, no theatre, no tennis, and mere shreds of hope left. In mid-April, UIL released a statement cancelling all spring competitions and our director called a meeting to break the news. It was heartbreaking. Right there in that moment, I lost all hope of having my ultimate senior year experience, not to mention hope for our show. Just like that, our bubble popped. Prom was cancelled, graduation was postponed, and school was online for the rest of the year. However, with positive thinking, hope from our leaders, and constant support and encouragement from others, we put on our theatre senior night, where we got to perform our show one last time. While closing the high school chapter of my theatre journey was hard, I know that it was simply a catalyst for my future in college.

As I finished up the academic aspect of high school, I was told that I earned Salutatorian of my class, so I had the honor of giving a speech at our graduation ceremony at Hawk Stadium. "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. There is a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted."

Ecclesiastes 3:1-3 fits our class perfectly, because we have learned how to take what we have been given, and transform it into something even more beautiful. Whether the challenge was losing a star athlete at the beginning of the season, replacing an actor last minute before a show, or having to finish our last year through a screen, not to mention the personal burdens each of us carried, not only did we rise to the task, but we blossomed. The administration worked so hard to make sure we had an in-person graduation, and I can safely say that it was the most memorable ceremony, and a memory I will forever cherish.

This small excerpt from my speech summarizes our class and what we have accomplished from our time at Pleasant Grove. "Everything happens for a reason." This is a saying I would consistently tell myself as the time passed by slowly during my last few months of online school. I told this to myself as a reminder that it would get better and there had to be some big picture that provides an explanation for why my senior year took a crazy turn. As I grew more in my faith and began to advance in my songwriting, I realized that this time was not a burden, but a gift. I was given the time to focus on what career I want to pursue and the kind of life I want to lead. I plan on attending Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee in the fall and to major in Music Therapy, so I can continue on my musical path, while learning the proper techniques to help children along the way. Pleasant Grove has provided me with an abundance of skills to utilize in my future. So, yes, some could say that I didn't get a perfect senior year. However, I feel I got something even better. I got a senior year that challenged me to grow as an individual and has prepared me to adapt to change, for the years to come. 



Caroline is excited to attend Belmont University in the fall, and looks forward to the many adventures that will come her way.

CONGRATULATIONS TO EVERY GRADUATE IN THE CLASS OF 2020!



**We commend your hard work and know you
have bright futures ahead of you!**



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2020

TEXARKANA ARKANSAS SCHOOL DISTRICT
TOP GRADUATES

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As the Arkansas High School graduating class of 2020, you will always have a special place in our hearts. You had a year unlike any other. This time has truly been history in the making and you will be remembered for your optimism, dedication, and resolve to keep moving forward. While your senior year didn't have the ending you had always dreamed of, you persevered through adversity and uncertain times with unity, resilience, and courage. I am so proud of you and I encourage you to follow your heart. May God bless you.

Congratulations Senior Class 2020!
Dr. Becky Kesler, Superintendent





VALEDICTORIAN

Jada Catherine Lloyd

is the daughter of Annie Catherine and Harold Lloyd of Texarkana, Arkansas and Pamela and Corwin Battle of Hope, Arkansas and the granddaughter of Josephine Battle of Jonesboro, Arkansas.

She is the Valedictorian of the Class of 2020 and is graduating with Summa Cum Laude honors.

Her academic accomplishments include AP Scholar, All A-Honor Roll, Arkansas Girls State Senator, Arkansas Governor's School Nominee, University of Arkansas Hope-Texarkana Hope for Success Scholar, Southern Arkansas University Honors College Recipient, MASH (Medical Applications of Science for Health) Participant, and Student of the Month.

She is a member of the Arkansas High School Varsity Cheer Squad, where she served as Captain. She was All-American Cheerleader, All-State

Cheerleader, received the NCA Individual Leadership Award and was invited to become an NCA Staffer. She was a member of Mathletes and was awarded the "Spirit of Trey" Award in memory of Arkansas High graduate Trey Varner and the Hillier Spirit Award in memory of Marguerite Hillier. She was also active in National Honor Society, Interact, Youth to Leaders, and Texarkana College Talent Search.

Jada is an active member of the Church of the Living God Temple #4 where she sings in the choir.

Jada plans to attend Southern Arkansas University and major in Nursing, eventually obtaining her Master's and Doctorate to become a Nurse Practitioner.

Although reminiscent of the cherished moments of my senior year that quickly came to an end due to the pandemic, it has been the most humbling, revolutionizing, and illuminating experience. With widespread love and support, not just from the community but nationally, the pandemic taught me to be appreciative of even the small moments in life. Most importantly, it demonstrated how much we need each other. Local groups, such as Adopt a Senior 2020 Ark-La-Tex, the administrators and faculty of local high schools, and local businesses have done a tremendous job of expressing love, positivity and encouragement to the Class of 2020. COVID-19 might have impeded our senior traditions, specifically a traditional graduation celebration, however, it ignited in us a perseverance that the Class of 2020 will carry forward and pass on to future generations.

—Valedictorian Jada Lloyd

SALUTATORIAN**Olivia Ifeoma Abadom**

is the daughter of Prince Chief Kpajie Anthony Abadom and Princess Lolo Franca Abadom of Texarkana, Texas and the granddaughter of Chief Chukwuma Abadom, Lolo Euy Adadom, Chief Declan Ibeziakor and Lady Sophie Ibeziakor, all of Nigeria.

Olivia is the Salutatorian of the Class of 2020 and is graduating with an AP Capstone Diploma and with Summa Cum Laude honors.

Her academic accomplishments include AP Scholar, and receiving recognition for African American Academic Excellence in Southwest Arkansas.

She is a member of the Arkansas High School Ladyback Soccer team, National Honor Society, NIKE, and Quiz Bowl.

Olivia is an active member of Sacred Hearth Catholic Church.



She has volunteered in the community at Randy Sams' Outreach Center and Runnin' WJ Ranch.

Olivia plans to attend the University of North Texas where she will major in Biology and become a pediatrician.

2020 TASD TOP GRADUATES



Adison Glenn Cummings

is the son of Cindi and Darren Cummings. Adison is graduating with Summa Cum Laude honors and an AP Capstone Diploma. He represented Arkansas High School at Boys State and Today's Youth Tomorrow's Leaders. He was a member of Interact, Quiz Bowl, History Club, National Honor Society, FCS, Student Council, Youth 2 Leaders, a mentor in PRIDE Academy, and part of the Razorback TV News Team.

Adison plans to attend the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.



Dakota Le-Ann Young

is the daughter of Carol and Myron Young. Dakota is graduating with Summa Cum Laude honors and an AP Capstone Diploma. She was a member of Student Council, History Club, HOSA, Interact, NIKE, and National Honor Society.

Dakota plans to attend the University of Arkansas Hope-Texarkana.



Cekel Cemario Rogers, Jr.

is the son of Kimberly and Cekel Rogers, Sr. Cekel is graduating with Summa Cum Laude honors. He was a member of Quiz Bowl.

Cekel plans to attend the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.



Chloe Elisabeth Keahey

is the daughter of Laura Keahey and Christopher Brian Keahey. Chloe is graduating with Summa Cum Laude honors. She represented Arkansas High School at Arkansas Governor's School, and was a member of Arkansas High Band, National Honor Society, and Quiz Bowl.

Chloe plans to attend the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.



Elizabeth Gracie Pendergraft

is the daughter of Sancha and Wes Pendergraft. Gracie is graduating with Summa Cum Laude honors and was the recipient of the 50th Girl Award. She represented Arkansas High at Girls State, was awarded Miss Arkansas High 2020, and Maid of Honor for the Homecoming Court. She was a member of Interact, All-Region Choir, National Honor Society, Redline Captain, NIKE President, and Razorback TV Student of the Year.

Gracie plans to attend the University of Arkansas Hope-Texarkana and later the University of Arkansas.



Breunna Elaine Geiger

is the daughter of Ivorie and Larry Clardy. Breunna is graduating with Summa Cum Laude honors. She was a member of Student Council, HOSA, Interact, Youth to Leaders, PRIDE Academy, and Medical Mentoring.

Breunna plans to attend Henderson State University.



Ion Lisnic Sanders

is the son of Tatiana and Alan Sanders. Ion is graduating with Summa Cum Laude honors. He was a member of the National Honor Society and volunteered at his church, Highland Park Baptist Church.

Ion plans to attend Texas A&M University-Texarkana.



Kaytlyn Nicole Knudtson

is the daughter of Natasha Robinette and Chris Knudtson. Kaytlyn is graduating with Summa Cum Laude honors. She was a member of NIKE, National Honor Society, and Interact.

Kaytlyn plans to attend Texas A&M University-Texarkana.



Nayeli Vasquez-Barrios

is the daughter of Claudia and Luis Vasquez. Nayeli is graduating with Summa Cum Laude honors. She was a member of National Honor Society, Ladyback soccer, HOSA, and the Medical Mentoring program.

Nayeli plans to attend the University of Arkansas Hope-Texarkana.



Tiraja Bonet Nicole Woods

is the daughter of Ebony Hickman and Cortney Woods of Hope, Arkansas. Tiraja represented Arkansas High as a delegate to Girls State and was recruited to return as a counselor this year. She was FBLA President, a member of National Honor Society, Interact, HOSA, Medical Mentoring, FCCLA, NIKE, and served as class Treasurer.

Tiraja plans to attend the University of Arkansas Hope-Texarkana.



Courtney Dianne Coker

is the daughter of Wendy and Monty Coker. Courtney is graduating with Summa Cum Laude honors. She represented Arkansas High at Girls State, was a member of National Honor Society, Student Council, History Club, and Arkansas High Orchestra. She was a member of the Girl Scouts of America for twelve years.

Courtney plans to attend the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.



Adelia Kasey Coleman

is the daughter of Samantha and Matt Coleman and the late Krissy Coleman. Adelia is graduating with Summa Cum Laude honors. She represented Arkansas High at Arkansas Governor's School and Girls State. She was a member of Quiz Bowl, History Club, Interact, and Art Club.

Adelia plans to attend the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.



Kaylee Nicole Stine

is the daughter of Angie and Jay Stine. Kaylee is graduating with Summa Cum Laude honors. She represented Arkansas High at Girls State. She was a member of the Varsity Ladyback Soccer Team, FCCLA, and National Honor Society.

Kaylee plans to attend Southern Arkansas University.



Dalen Blake Villa

is the son of Debbie Villa and the late Kevin Galberth. Dalen is graduating with Summa Cum Laude honors and was the recipient of the 50th Boy Award. He was a member of History Club, and is most proud of earning the Community Service Learning credit in high school.

Dalen plans to attend the University of Arkansas Hope-Texarkana.



Laney Elizabeth Smith

is the daughter of Brooke Smith and Josh Smith. Laney is graduating with Summa Cum Laude honors. She was a member of FCS, History Club, and National Honor Society.

Laney plans to attend the University of Arkansas Hope-Texarkana.



Charleigh Jo Wren

is the daughter of Jamie and Dwayne Jones and Bryan Wren. Charleigh is graduating with Summa Cum Laude honors. She represented Arkansas High at Girls State, and was a member of the AHS Bowling Team, Tennis Team, National Honor Society, NIKE, and Student Council. Charleigh was also a staff member of Razorback TV and Yearbook.

Charleigh plans to attend the University of Arkansas Hope-Texarkana.



Kashaun D'paul Cornelius

is the son of Donna and Randy Cornelius. Kashaun is graduating with Summa Cum Laude honors. He represented Arkansas High at Boys State, and was a member of FCS, FCCLA, FBLA, Interact, National Honor Society, HOSA, and Student Council President. He was recognized as one of Texarkana's Outstanding Young Men.

Kashaun plans to attend the University of Arkansas Hope-Texarkana and later the University of Arkansas.



Michaha Ann Moore

is the daughter of Shaylan and Michael Moore. Michaha is graduating with Summa Cum Laude honors. She was a member of FBLA, NIKE, and HOSA.

Michaha plans to attend Harding University.



Shelby Grace Robinson

is the daughter of David and Jordan Hagood. Shelby is graduating with Summa Cum Laude honors. She was a member of the AHS Art Club, NIKE, HOSA, Student Council, and Ladyback Softball and Volleyball Teams.

Shelby plans to attend the University of Arkansas Hope-Texarkana.



Broderick Earl Walton, Jr.

is the son of Renettia Keel and Broderick Walton, Sr. Broderick is graduating with Summa Cum Laude honors. He represented Arkansas High at Boys State and Arkansas Governor's School. He was recognized as one of Texarkana's Outstanding Young Men. He was a member of the Arkansas High Soccer Team, Interact, Quiz Bowl, Student Council. He was Senior Class Vice-President.

Broderick plans to enlist in the U.S. Navy and later attend the University of Arkansas.



Taylor Leigh Wilkerson

is the daughter of Tiffany Tate of Texarkana and Jermaine Wilkerson of Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Taylor is graduating with Summa Cum Laude honors. She was a member of Interact, National Honor Society, the Tennis Team. She was a student athletic trainer, and a mentor in the PRIDE Academy.

Taylor plans to attend Arkansas Tech University.



Maria Fernanda Galvan Labrada

is the daughter of Nancy and Pedro Galvan Labrada. Maria is graduating with Summa Cum Laude honors. She was a member of National Honor Society, Student Council, FCA, Interact, FFA, Quiz Bowl, NIKE. She was Senior Class President.

Maria plans to attend the University of Arkansas Hope-Texarkana.

Texarkana Monthly



AHS SENIOR PERSPECTIVE

BY JADA LLOYD
ARKANSAS HIGH
SENIOR 2020

PHOTO BY MANDY BRIGHT



photos by Mandy Bright



“Even if we can’t all gather together in person, I want you to remember that a graduation ceremony doesn’t celebrate just a moment in time. It’s the culmination of all your years of learning about the world and about yourself.”

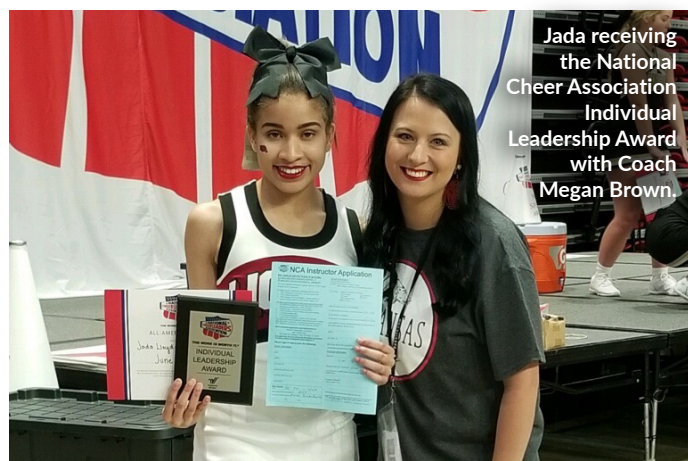
As I meticulously glared at my mother’s television screen on Saturday, May 16, 2020 during the CNN celebration for the Class of 2020, my mind pondered on this statement. The words spoken by former President Barack Obama consumed my mind as I reminisced about each pivotal moment spent in the grand, two-story buildings of Arkansas High School.

Precocious. Exuberant. Promising. My freshman year at Arkansas High School could be described as a breath of fresh air. Just as a flower that begins to bloom, the world around me seemed daunting; however, this is only the foundation to a beautiful awakening. Previously making the freshman cheer team, my first glimpse into what being a Razorback was all about, started at Hog Howdy, freshman orientation. As I listened to the principal welcome a new congregation of anxious but excited fifteen-year-old students, I knew that I found my new home for the next four years of my life. I stumbled through the halls as I feared walking into the wrong classrooms. I waited impatiently for the 2:30 p.m. pep rallies and the seven o’clock varsity football games. I attended my first high school dances where I danced to songs such as “Thunder” by Imagine Dragons or “T-shirt” by the Migos. My classes were relatively easy, and the homework load was manageable. From the first moment I glanced at the Friday night lights to the last thirty seconds of the game where we proudly called the Hogs, little did I know what awaited my senior year.

Adventurous. Careless. Individualistic. As sophomores, we finally think we have this “scary thing” called high school figured out. This is also the most frightening moment for parents



Jada (left) with her mother Pam Battle (right) and sister, Haley Battle (top).
photo by Mandy Bright



Jada receiving the National Cheer Association Individual Leadership Award with Coach Megan Brown.

and drivers since we are now on the road in our brand-new cars. My sophomore year of high school could be compared to the moment the roller coaster dashes sporadically down the hill, both electrifying and reckless. Although one can see the path ahead, there is no control over what will happen next. Classes are more demanding as students stress over the AP World History essay due next class period or the fact that now we have to take another class of Algebra. Instead of cheering for Thursday night games, I am now cheering for the junior varsity football team that has games on Monday nights. By Tuesday, I am already completely exhausted from traveling to last night's away game, but I still manage to over-achieve on homework and in class. Despite the new challenges, high school is enjoyable and opens doors to new opportunities. Off campus lunch is more exciting since sophomores can drive to their favorite restaurants. Vocational classes are offered, and most importantly, we are not the youngest students at the high school anymore! As I finally begin to gain greater control of my high school journey, the most challenging but promising year awaits, junior year.

Strenuous. Compressed. Propitious. This is the moment students realize they are nothing like their freshman self. My junior year is compared to a brutal thunderstorm on a gloomy evening. Soon after the storm, a rainbow of vivid colors gleams in the sky. Classes become grueling. However, students' diligence and perseverance will truly be recognized. Once I grasped my schedule, I am taking six college-level classes and scrambling to find time for friends. However, I am now a varsity cheerleader and will cheer the Razorbacks to victory under the Friday night lights once again. As a varsity cheerleader, there will be longer practices and games which demand emotional and physical stamina. As I carry the homework load, I must also sustain arduous practices, and push through early Saturday morning ACTs. However, my classmates and I are elated about college visits since we are now applying to the universities of our dreams. As my junior year comes to a close, preparation for senior year becomes my central focus. Class rings, prom, graduation, caps and gowns captivate the juniors' mind. The time was near to represent the Razorbacks as official seniors of Arkansas High School. Initially, junior year seemed unwelcoming, but it paved a road of endless possibilities and accomplishments. I entered my senior year with open arms and with no intentions of finishing my last year of high school in the middle of a global pandemic.

Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us." As I sprinted into my senior year, I never imagined the road ahead would include a major turn for seniors across the globe, but this quote was definitely proven true for the seniors of 2020. I began my senior year with amazing accomplishments. I continued to take college-level classes; however, I learned to manage the rigorous schedule. I cheered my final football games under the Friday night lights as varsity Cheer Captain, calling the Hogs for the last year. I performed at my last pep rally with an incredible cheer family and I walked the field for the last time in my uniform on Senior night. Once the second semester of senior year started, I looked forward to Prom, Senior prank, Senior Skip Day, and spending the last few months with my Razorback family. In March, I spent my last week of high school walking the halls of Arkansas High, completely unaware that senior year would abruptly end.

As I continued to listen to former President Obama's speech, the cherished moments of laughter, smiles, embarrassments, and tears flashed across my mind within seconds. However, his words shed a light into how revolutionizing, humbling, and inspiring this pandemic would be. First, it demonstrated the importance of withdrawing from the common distractions of society, such as social media, work, and school. Instead, we must deposit time into our families, friends, and communities. Second, it conveyed how the ways of life before COVID-19 were simply not working. Consequently, we must be open to change and improve the common routines of our daily lives. Last but not least, it revealed the main problems inflicting our nation today. However, the Class of 2020 will be the generation to resolve these conflicts. We must be open to the challenges of the real world and invest our dreams, goals, and ambitions into fixing the brokenness of our nation. We are capable and can accomplish even the unknown and can be the change that is needed to fix our nation and communities. As evidence, we were not only born during the disaster of 9/11; we graduated with honors during a global pandemic. Our possibilities are limitless. COVID-19 might have impeded our senior traditions, specifically a traditional graduation celebration, however, it ignited in us a perseverance that the Class of 2020 will carry forward and pass on to future generations. TM

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2020

QUEEN CITY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
TOP TEN GRADUATES

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Kacie Kirkland, Agent



VALEDICTORIAN

Adam Bowen

Adam is the son of Debora and Kenny Bowen.

Adam was a member of the Queen City High School Band of Champions for four years. He made the All-Region Band three times and the All-Area Band his junior year. He was President of the National Honor Society his senior year and took part in the Queen City Gifted and Talented Program. He also competed on the UIL Math and Journalism Teams.

Adam will attend Texas Tech University to major in Petroleum Engineering.



SALUTATORIAN

Julia Grogan

Julia is the daughter of Susie and Dickey Grogan.

Julia was a Varsity Cheerleader for four years and was Co-captain of the cheer squad for the past two years. She also earned All-American Cheerleader Honors twice. She was a member of the Queen City High School Student Council for four years, and she served as the Student Body President her senior year. Julia was a member of the National Honor Society, the Yearbook Staff, the Gifted and Talented Program and the Interact Club.

Julia will attend Dallas Baptist University to pursue a degree in Biology and Nursing. She plans to become a Nurse Anesthetist.



Rachael Restelle

Rachael is the daughter of Traci and Martin Restelle.

Rachael was a member of the Queen City High School Band of Champions for four years. She made All-Region Band her junior year and the Four States Honor Band her senior year. She was also the clarinet section leader her senior year. She was a member of National Honor Society, the Queen City FFA Floriculture Team and two UIL teams.

Rachael will attend Texas A&M-Texarkana to pursue a degree in Meteorology.



Christian Fitzgerald

Christian is the son of Christy and Shawn Fitzgerald.

Christian played Varsity Football for four years. Two years he was named to the Honorable Mention All-District Team. He also received 2nd Team All-District Honors. He has been named both defensive and offensive player of the week. Christian was a member of the National Honor Society and the Gifted and Talented Program. He has earned all A's throughout high school. This year, Christian received the "Brandon Warren Award" for his outstanding attitude and work ethic in the athletic program.

Christian will attend Louisiana State University to study Chemical Engineering.

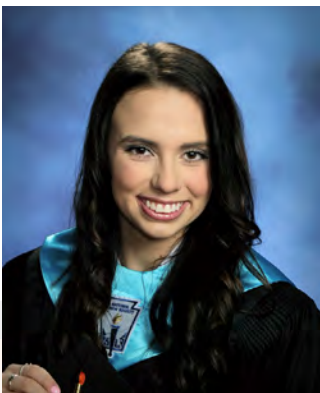


Madison Orr

Madison is the daughter of Ashley and Dusty Orr.

She was a member of the National Honor Society, the Interact Club and the Queen City High School Leadership Program. She played Varsity Golf and qualified for the regional tournament her junior year. Madison made all A's throughout high school.

Madison will attend Texas A&M University in College Station to major in Visualization. She hopes to work for Pixar.



Jayley Stringer

Jayley is the daughter of Jennifer and Jared Stringer.

Jayley was the Treasurer of the National Honor Society and the Secretary of the QCHS Student Council. She was a Varsity Cheerleader for four years and was the Co-captain of the cheer squad for two years. She played Varsity Volleyball and was named Defensive MVP twice and Academic All-District. Jayley also played Varsity Softball. She received 1st Team All-District Honors in 2018 and 2019 and Academic All-District. Jayley was Co-MVP in softball and "Bulldog of the Year" her senior year for her accomplishments in the athletic program.

Jayley will attend Texas A&M University in College Station to major in Agribusiness.



Eveyn Upchurch

Eveyn is the son of Pam and Wayne Upchurch.

Eveyn played football and threw the discus for the track team for four years. Eveyn was involved in the Queen City High School Leadership Program and the National Honor Society. He was a member of the QCHS Trap Shooting Team and qualified to participate at the state level.

Eveyn will attend Texarkana College to pursue a degree in Engineering.



Jayce Calloway

Jayce is the daughter of Stacey and Kris Wooten.

Jayce made all A's throughout high school, was Secretary of the National Honor Society, and Class Representative on the Student Council for two years. She earned Academic All-District Honors in Softball for four years and was named the defensive MVP in softball her junior year, and Co-MVP her senior year.

Jayce will attend Texarkana College to major in Nursing.

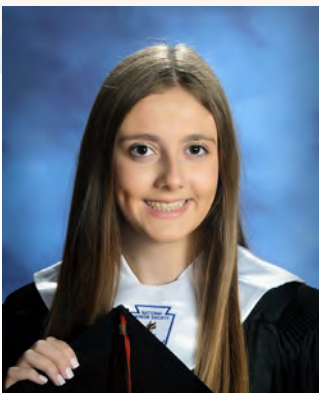


Angel Ray

Angel is the daughter of Karen Paul.

Angel took part in the Art program at Queen City High School for four years and was named the Outstanding Art Student for three years. She was also named the Outstanding English I Honors Student. She loves to draw and write stories.

Angel will attend University of Texas at Arlington to major in Education and Korean Language. She hopes to live and teach in Korea one day.



Kaci Thomas

Kaci is the daughter of Rebecca and Bill Thomas.

Kaci was a member of the National Honor Society. She worked on the QCHS Yearbook, was Class Representative in Student Council and served in the Interact Club. Kaci played Varsity Volleyball and Softball. She earned Academic All-District Honors for all four years.

Kaci will attend Hardin-Simmons University to pursue a degree in Sports Analytics in Mathematics.

TexarkanaMonthly



QCHS SENIOR PERSPECTIVE

BY ADAM BOWEN
QUEEN CITY HIGH
SENIOR 2020



I STILL REMEMBER JUMPING OUT OF MY TRUCK

and walking through the doors of Queen City High School for the first day of my senior year. I remember talking with all of my friends about how we had finally achieved the senior status we had been so envious of and had dreamed about for years. One of the main things I remember thinking on the first day of my senior year was, "How was this first day, and the rest of the year, going to differ from all the others?"

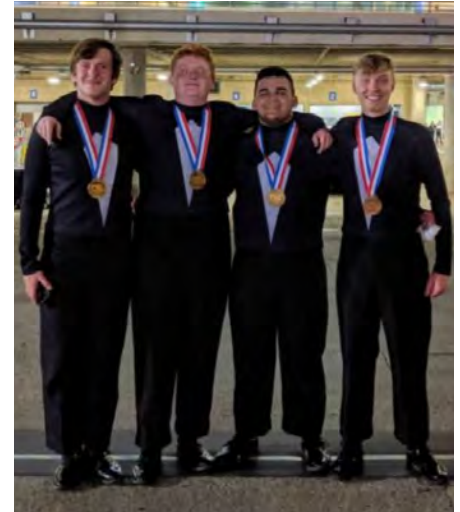
I spent the entire fall semester asking myself questions like this. Every day I would come to school expecting it to feel special, but every day I was let down. Of course, there were special senior moments that I won't forget. I remember the excitement of the homecoming pep rally and the rush I felt when I found out I was selected for the homecoming court. I remember walking onto the field under the Friday night lights and the rush of adrenaline I experienced when they called my name as Homecoming King. In November, I remember taking my first steps on the turf at the Alamo Dome as the band prepared to perform at the state competition. I remember the emotion of realizing this would be my last time to march on this field, and I remember pouring my heart into my performance because of it. Then came the awards ceremony and the moment my friends and I had bronze medals placed around our necks. These memories were amazing in that moment, but the thrill always seemed short-lived. By the next day, I'd once again be searching for that feeling of "special" that I expected from my senior year.

When spring semester began, I decided that all the senior activities in May must be the events I had been waiting for. Surely that is when senior year would finally feel the way it's supposed to feel. I set myself on cruise control in January and didn't plan to turn it off until the summer. I made it about halfway through March. Then suddenly, because of COVID-19, every experience I had looked forward to was robbed from me. Just like many others, I was devastated. It was like my senior year had ended before it had really even started. I failed to see then, what I now



Adam and his mom shortly after being crowned Homecoming King.

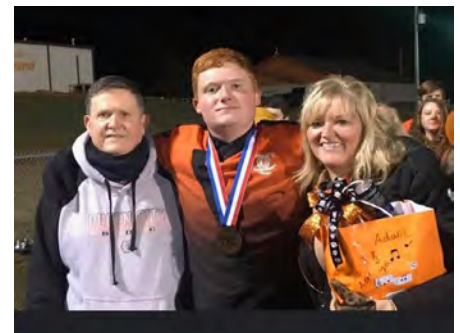
see as a blessing in disguise. If I had made it to the month of May and had a normal prom, a normal senior walk, or a normal graduation, I would have truly missed the feeling I had been seeking. While these events are very important aspects of senior year, they aren't what makes it special. Spending the last two months away from school helped me to remember all the memories I had made, not only my senior year but throughout my time in school. It helped me see what senior year and every year before it is truly all about. What made my senior year special was enjoying my last days in high school with the amazing friends, teachers, and classmates that had been with me since the beginning. It was the little things. We as seniors often get too caught up in the hustle and bustle of senior year and we skip right over the most important and impactful parts. I regret trying to cruise through the last few months of school. To up-and-coming seniors, remember not to make the same mistakes I did. Treat every day like it's your last, because before you know it, it truly is. 🎵



Adam with his friends Cody, Noah, and Colton shortly after placing third at the state marching contest.



Rachelle Restelle, Adam and Brandon Burton with famous composer and clinician Richard Saucedo at the 2020 Four States Honor Band.



Adam with his dad Kenny and mom Debora on senior night.

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have bright futures ahead of you!**



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