

CLASS OF 2022

Leaving Lasting Paw Prints



BVHS



'We will be the generation to change the world'

Ellen Joseph, BVHS Class of 2022

High School. Two words. Two syllables. And every 14-year-old's nightmare. Despite that, from the moment that the class of 2022 walked into the empty halls of Brandon Valley High School, we were bound for greatness. The class of 2020 was infamously named the "Covid class," the class of 2021 was the class in which the Coronavirus ruined their entire senior year ... and where does that leave the class of 2022? For the class of 2022, we were left with the difficult task of picking up the remains left by quarantine and Covid and rebuilding Brandon Valley High School and our legacy. A hard task, and one that many thought we would fail at. We, however, have risen to the occasion. This class is proof that good things happen to those who wait. Our class was the first class to go into the intermediate school and come out in one piece. We were the first class to say goodbye to Dr. Talcott and welcome Mr. Schlekeway as our new principal. We have attended four state football championship games, won multiple state championships, set state records in both the arts and athletics, and we have had some of the highest state test scores Brandon Valley has ever seen. All of these factors, however, are not what make the class of 2022 special.

One of our class's unique traits lies within our class's diverse groups of people. With a campaign spotlighting many seniors called, "You can do it all," our class has

broken the stigma that a student has to stick to one group in high school. And we certainly have demonstrated that. With football players singing in the choir, mathematicians producing artwork, and cross-country runners joining the orchestra, our class has paved the way for underclassmen showing them that they can do it all. Generations before us say that our generation is going to be the downfall of the world when in fact, we are going to be the generation to change the world step by step. And after spending four years with the class of 2022, I have no doubt in my mind that our greatness will not stop once we throw our red and black hats off and put away our graduation gowns. The greatness of the class of 2022 not only resides in our talents but within our ability to find the light within the dark. For two years a sheet has been placed on top of the class of 2022 covering our light with an uninviting sense of darkness. Our four years in high school have been marked by some of the worst political chaos and dysfunction modernity has seen. Many of us have experienced loss, and our lives have been altered in unprecedented ways. One of our class's greatest losses lies within the passing of Chad Garrow – a mentor and leader to many of us. The loss of Coach Garrow shocked our school and community. Despite the tragedy following his loss, the class of 2022 responded with power and grit – we have picked up his light and have carried it around with

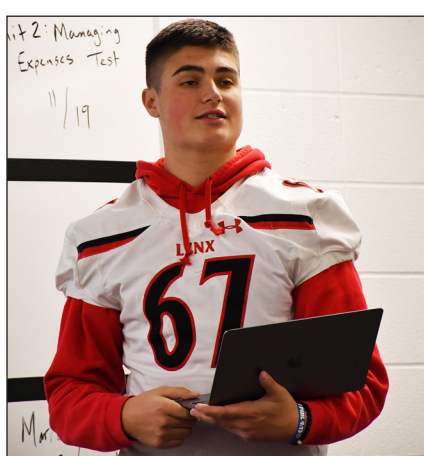
us. The strength we have gained by dealing with these tragedies and trials has inspired us to find solutions. And I can proudly say that the trials that we have endured over the past four years have only made us stronger. We have gained strength through adversity and we are ready to move on to be informed, compassionate leaders in our city, state, and country. I can proudly say, because of our trials and tribulations, that I trust that we are more resilient for the world and more ready to face the uncertain world ahead.

At the end of the day, what makes the class of 2022 so special does not lie within our talents or our losses, but within the people themselves. Our achievements have demonstrated that we are destined to become a great generation of leaders, empowered with respect for others regardless of differences and a passion for being fair and getting the job done right. The next chapter for the Class of 2022 will look different for everyone, each path being a unique reflection of our time at BVHS. As the years move forward and change follows, it is important to remember who we are, what made us, and where we came from. Because the light of BV class of 2022 is everlasting and unyielding. And if we can continue to do that, we won't be the snowflake generation or the generation that fails. We will be the generation to change the world.

Twenty twenty two ... Fun in all we do



(Above) Alicia Garrow and Sam Woidyla were crowned BV's homecoming queen and king. (Left) Ayden Spicer stops the ball from going into the Lynx goal. (Below) Sam Scholten & Noah Thompson bump shoulders mid-air during football player intros.



Class flower

Red rose

(Left) Brady Koupal presents a marketing plan in his Intro to Business class. (Below left) Ellen Joseph performs 'The Cell Block Tango' at the BV Choir Variety Show. (Right) Izzy Stone and Nick Toffeland enjoy some light-hearted fun during an after-school meeting of BVHS's stand up comedy club.



Class leadership

Olivia Albers, Matthew Beck, Jeremiah Donahoe, Alicia Garrow, Danae Johnson, Alex Murray, Taylor Stemen, Dominic Tucker, Samuel Woidyla

(Left) Danae Johnson and Taylor Stemen wrap Christmas gifts for the Angel Tree recipients. (Below) Ten senior girls represented the Lady Lynx on the softball diamond in their 2021 season. They are, Gaby Schroder, Elaina Rice, Gracelynn Kranzler, At-leigh Cody, Brianna McCarthy, Emilee Small, Caitlin Hanson, Kaley Smedsruud, Katrina Nelson and Molly Reinschmidt.



Class motto

"Cherish yesterday,
live for today,
and reach for tomorrow."





Michael Aaseng



Olivia Albers



Violet Alcott



Adriauna Alexander
University of South Dakota



Alexis Alexander
South Dakota
State University



Ian Allmon
Southeast Technical
Institute



Joseph Anders
South Dakota
State University
Highest Honors



Evan Archer
Undecided



Carson Askdal
Iowa Central
Community College



Abraham Baba



Tayven Badger
South Dakota
State University
Highest Honors



Mason Barber
Lake Area
Technical Institute



Jacqueline Baskerville



Matthew Beck
South Dakota School of
Mines & Technology
Highest Honors



Taylor Beck



Carly Begalka



Payton Bell



Keegan Bennett



Olivia Bennett
Work
High Honors



Lucas Bertsch
Lake Area
Technical Institute



Karson Beyer
South Dakota
State University
Highest Honors



Katelynn Bills
Bethany Lutheran College
Highest Honors



Macey Boerhave
University of South Dakota
Highest Honors



Cole Borchardt
South Dakota
State University



Sabren Bortnem
University of
Nebraska-Lincoln
Highest Honors



Tessa Bower
Undecided
Highest Honors



Hailey Brandsma
University of
South Dakota



Faith Brekhus



Paige Breuer
Undecided



Asher Brevik
Work

Honor Graduate (3.700-3.799)

High Honor Graduate (3.800-3.899)

Highest Honor Graduate (3.900-4.000)

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Memories of being a Brandon Valley Lynx

With the senior year now in the rearview mirror, Brandon Valley seniors shared some of their best memories from their days as a Brandon Valley Lynx.

"Finding my voice in choir."
- Olivia Albers

"Being a part of the soccer team."
- Maiya Duncanson

"When Mr. Nettetstad had to shave his head."
- Kaitlyn Gingles

"The Lynx Way."
- Jordan Johnson

"I would say my favorite memories are the ones that I shared laughing with my friends."
- Nathan Greene

"Playing chess with Mr. Boint."
- Lebaron Jacobsen

"One of my all-time favorites memories from high school would be Nate Meyers and I planning a surprise party for Sam Woidyla (who had a broken leg at the time) that completely revolved around moving."
- Brady Koupal

"My favorite memory of high school was my very first marching band show. I remember standing in my starting spot on the football field as a very terrified freshman. There were so many people watching."
- Anna Tews

"Basketball season during my senior year. Being able to hang out with my friends and make memories that will last forever."
- Makayla Veld

"I personally have loved Homecoming Fridays and the sense of school spirit and pride that always comes with them."
- Katie Wentzy

"We were doing a lockdown drill and a classmate had bad gas and wouldn't stop tooting and his friend fell asleep was snoring really loud."
- Sarah Silvera

"One of my favorite memories of high school is from oral interp. I loved getting to know the team and laughing through tongue twisters and tournaments."
- Autumn Schreiber

"One of my favorite memories of high school is the opening night of 'Mary Poppins.'
- Anna Risty

"Finding my 'people' It may have taken four years, but I found them."
- Annika Noem

"Basketball season during my senior year. Being able to hang out with my friends and make memories that will last forever."
- Makayla Veld

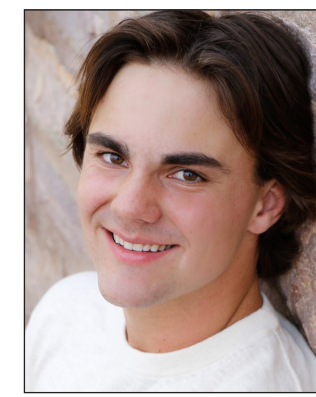
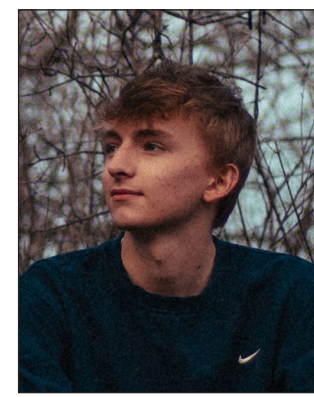
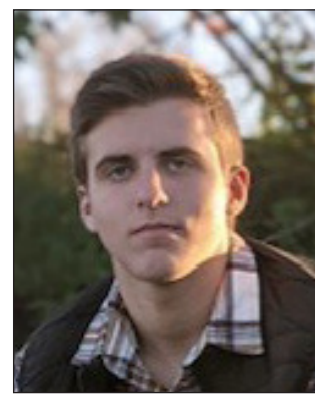
"My favorite high school memory is winning state dance my senior year with my best friends."
- Alex Murray

"My favorite memory is winning state soccer for the first time in BVHS program history."
- Zoey Mandery

"Freshman year as a whole, I really liked it because I learned a ton of things whether those things were from good experiences or bad experiences, they shaped who I am today."
- Gracelynn Kranzler

"Getting to meet new people and getting to learn things I didn't think I would learn."
- Ethan Jones

"My senior year homecoming olympics, the 2021 baseball state tournament, and the fan van tailgates."
- Nick Hokenstad



Kyler Briest
Grand Canyon University
Highest Honors

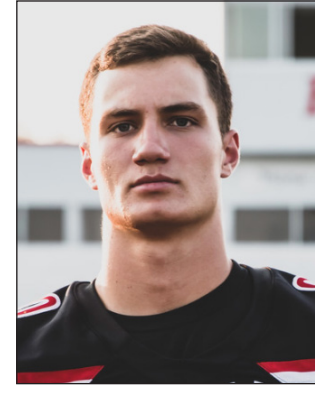
Jenna Brockey
South Dakota State University

Evan Broekemier
Military

Cooper Brown
Montana State University

Matthew Brown
Augustana University
Highest Honors

Zachary Brummels
South Dakota State University



Braden Buettner
High Honors

Emily Carlson

Peyton Carroll
Northwestern College
Highest Honors

James Casteel
Undecided

Jessica Chau
Southeast Technical Institute

Carter Christensen



Alexa Christie

Haley Christensen
South Dakota State University
Highest Honors

Jackson Christopherson
South Dakota State University

Atleigh Cody
South Dakota State University
High Honors

Tanner Cole
Honors

Emerson Conrad

Honor Graduate (3.700-3.799)

High Honor Graduate (3.800-3.899)

Highest Honor Graduate (3.900-4.000)

Congratulations, Graduates!

Lauren Kramer, Nicholas Larson, Katrina Nelson, Sam Klein, Ben VanDeBerg, Gemma Symington, Cait Jacobson

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Appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy

Kasten to pursue alternate engery play for the future

Tom A. Savage, Contributing writer

If you ever feel like hunkering down for a good conversation about nuclear engineering, the colonization of humans on Mars or the moon, the SpaceX program, Helium 3 power, Uranium or Plutonium, Brandon Valley senior Aiden Kasten is your guy. Kasten is headed to the U.S. Naval Academy in June to study nuclear engineering. He calls it a huge passion, especially in regards to the future of energy. "It's predicted that the first energy that's going to be used on the first colonies of humanity are going to be powered by nuclear power," he said. "Nuclear engineering is fascinating to me. I looked at college options and I learned that the Navy ranks towards the tops for nuclear engineering."

Plus, serving in one of the country's four branches of the military was a draw for Kasten. His grandfather, James Heronimus, served in the Vietnam War as a jeep technician in the Army and died in 2012 to lung cancer due to Agent Orange complications.

As a child, Kasten said he had visions of being an astronaut. Now, that's clearly not out of the question. The Naval Academy has had 55 graduates the most in NASA history – to graduate into the space program, including Jim Lovell, who was portrayed by Tom Hanks in the motion picture *Apollo 13*.

Kasten also knocked around the idea of being a botanist, the scientific study of plants. That later changed to nuclear engineering.

"Because engineering is a lot more interesting than plants," he said.

He'll wear BRANDON VALLEY on his chest a few more times yet this spring throwing the shot put on the track & gield team, but the move to Annapolis is fast approaching. He visited the historic Maryland city about 30 miles east of Washington, D.C. last year, and said he fell in love with it.

He's been preparing for his initiation into the Academy by staying physically fit and mentally strong. After reporting on June 28, he'll be processed on the



Submitted photo

Aiden Kasten is one of three South Dakota high school seniors to be selected as principal nominees to the nation's service academies. Kasten received his nomination for U.S. Senator Mike Rounds. He is the son of Travis Kasten and Amy Kasten.

29th or 30th. From there, it's boot camp run by drill instructors who were in his same position three years earlier.

"They're drilling into you just as much as they were drilled into," he said. "There's a lot of running, phys-

ical activities, mental torments. You just try and get through it."

If confidence is a key to get through it, then Kasten should be just fine. The National Honor Society student said he will take general courses and standardized leadership courses this fall before digging into his specialized interests.

Before classes begin and Kasten is battling his way through boot camp this summer, he'll also have to be disciplined when it comes to technology. Each entering Midshipman is allowed just two phone calls home during the summer.

Although admittedly a little anxious, Kasten said he's ready.

"I think if you ask anybody if they're ready to go to college, their answer is going to be no. I don't think anybody can be ready for such a huge thing," he said. "I gotta work on myself, but I believe I can do it, and I think I will."

He's clearly got big plans after his five-year contract is up with the Navy following graduation. He said he'll decide then if he'll reinstate as an officer and keep "moving through the ranks."

But he said it also depends on the energy market at the same time.

"Fossil fuels are a huge problem and we should start lowering our CO2 emissions," he said. "In order to start weaning off of fossil fuels and going to green energy, we need a transition energy in there somewhere, and it's believed to be uranium. I will be in the hot spot."

With grand plans and an exciting future on the horizon, Kasten will leave Brandon next month to begin that journey.

At the same time, there will be a tug on his heart and fond memories of his high school.

"It's going to be a little rough, honestly," he said. "I really like that place."

Educators Rising

BVHS senior trio pledges to be future teachers

Jill Meier, Journal editor

Let us remember that one book, one pen, one child and one teacher can change the world. The importance of quality educators in our nation's schools cannot be overstated. I recognize that in my future role as a teacher, I have both the opportunity and the responsibility to positively impact students' lives and intellectual development. It is for these reasons that I am enthusiastically committed to becoming an educator."

— **Future Teachers Pledge**

On May 6, before a small crowd of family, friends and Brandon Valley educators and administrators, a trio of seniors from BV's Class of 2022, each signed the "Future Teachers Pledge." While each signee plans to teach different subjects at different levels, all three are choosing the profession to make a difference in the lives of children, just as educators have impacted their lives.

On Friday, Naomi Poppe, who teaches "Teachers in Training" at BVHS, organized the "career signing."

"This is just them taking their own pledge saying that they want to be a teacher," said Poppe, who also supervises BVHS's Educators Rising program.

Educators Rising is a national network that provides passionate young people with hands-on teaching experience, sustains their interest in the profession, and helps them cultivate the skills they need to be successful educators. Since its August 2015 launch, more

than 30,000 students and teachers across the country have joined the network, including Brandon Valley, which has been active in the program for three years.

Although BV's Educators Rising program is only five members

strong, Poppe said it's exciting to see their enthusiasm for the profession.

"Right now, being a teacher is not necessarily the easiest. There's a lot of tough stuff that we have to deal with ... but they have just fallen in love with it," she said.

Now seeing the benefits of Educators Rising with her own students, Poppe wish-



Grace Heiberger (from left), Anna Risty and Rachael Spencer each signed the Future Teachers Pledge through their involvement with the Educators Rising program. They are pictured with their teacher/program director, Naomi Poppe.

es it would've been available when she was a high school student herself.

"It would've been dramatically helpful," Poppe said. "I always knew that I wanted to be a teacher and what I wanted to teach, but having that experience would've made me feel comfortable. Honestly, I taught for one year and kind of questioned if I wanted

to go back to it, and so, I think that sometimes having that experience at multiple different levels of just making you feel comfortable, making you feel at ease

when you're in those classrooms would have been so helpful."

BVHS seniors Rachel Spencer, Anna Risty and Grace Heiberger sat side by side as each signed their Future Teacher Pledge. Spencer, who will attend Augustan University, has a passion to become an educator the deaf. Risty has a desire to teach high

school, possibly middle school English. And Heiberger wants to teach Early Childhood Special Education kids.

Spencer said she has known she would pursue a career in education. She did, after all, have several role models within her bloodline. Her grandmother taught English, and her aunts taught kindergarten and reading, respectively.

She also gives credit to the "amazing teachers" she had herself, "like Mr. (Brady) Olson and Sarah Andera, a deaf educator, which inspired my passion to go into deaf education," Spencer said.

Spencer said Educators Rising has provided her with a more in-depth perspective of the profession.

"We've gotten to go to a lot of expos, which really helped and we got to hear from great educators, where I learned the most about special education. People have touched the top of special education, but I went to this expo and this woman had a great presentation on special education and what goes into it, and I found that really interesting," she said.

With a desire to return to teach for the

district that taught her, Spencer says that may not be possible.

"I'd love to come back here and teach. I would love to be back the South Dakota School for the Deaf to be back in Sioux Falls, however, with my career aspirations of being a deaf educator, I think I might have to go out of state. If there is an opportunity for me to come home, I'll come home," she said.

Risty was influenced by her dad, Jeremy, a teacher at BVHS. He's just one of a variety of educators within her family, as well.

"It kind of runs through my family," she says. "I haven't really considered anything else. I'm not good with medical stuff, I'm not good with science or math. English has always been a thing that I'm good at, so I think that's been a consistent thing, and so I thought, 'What can I do with English?' and teaching popped up."

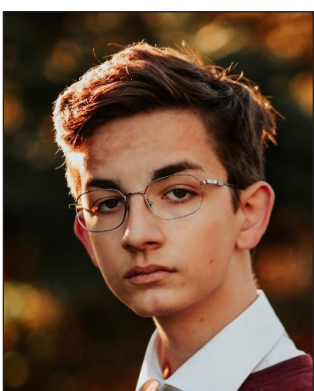
Following in her parent's footsteps by enrolling at the University of South Dakota, Risty said her involvement in Educators Rising has been a true game changer.

"It's created a lot of connections with a

continued on page 6



Jaden Corbett
Work



Tyr Crapser
Augustana University



Kiara Cruz-Robinson



Connor Davis
Black Hills State
University



Elsa Davis
Southeast Technical
Institute
High Honors



Eric DeAnda



Ashten DeJager
North Dakota
State University



Ashton DeJong
Military



Makenna Dew
Brigham Young University
& Utah State University
Highest Honors



Emma DeWitt
University of Sioux Falls
Highest Honors



Keegan Dirth



Ryan Doll
Morningside College



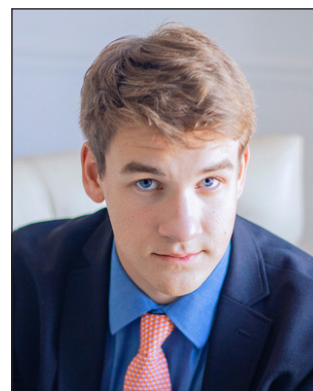
Jeremiah Donahoe
South Dakota
State University
Highest Honors



Maiya Duncanson
South Dakota State University
Highest Honors



Dakota Dutson
Brigham Young University
Honors



Gabriel Dvorak
South Dakota
State University



Bethany Dybdahl
Northern State University
Highest Honors



Rune Dykstra
Dakota State
University



Elias Edler
Augustana University



Olivia Edler
Undecided



Kazi Ellingson
Dakota Wesleyan
University



Carter Ellsworth
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High Honors



Georgia Elumbaring
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State University



Ellie Erickson
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Ian Erickson
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Tyler Erickson
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South Dakota



Max Faber
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High Honors



Eva Farley
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Kira Faust
Oberlin College
High Honors



Jaeden Ferguson
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Alexia Fitzgerald



Tristyn Fletcher
Northern State
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**Good luck to all
in your future
endeavours!**

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Alexia Fitzgerald
Cait Jacobson
Carson McKellep

Emerson Conrad
Jackson Hegg
Jenna Warden
Kaden Hanzel
Macey Boerhave

Mason McManus
Tj Hanson
Allison Sjaardarda -
Sioux Falls Christain



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Living My truth

BV senior expresses himself through original song

Jill Meier, Journal editor

Until now, Brendon Sheppard didn't view himself in the way that he wanted to see himself. You see, Brendon was born Brianna Sheppard.

"I always felt like I was kind of 'weird,' like 'an alien,'" says the 2022 Brandon Valley High School senior.

He says there were signs. Even as a youngster.

"I played with (Barbie) dolls a little bit, but when I got my first Ken doll, that's when it really hit me, like I like playing with Ken dolls and blocks and cars a lot more than I did with the girl dolls."

At 11, Brendon wanted to cut his hair really short.

"But everybody said it was too masculine and it didn't look good, so I started putting barrettes and headbands in my hair, and people said it looked better."

Still, Brendon didn't seem himself as "Brianna."

That was four years ago. It was then that he made the decision to cut his hair short again and began exploring his gender identity.

"I kind of had that mindset where everything leading up to that point wasn't really who I saw myself as, just rather what everybody else told me to do. Like dress this way. Act this way. You need to be prettier. You need to be thin. Stuff like that. I never really saw myself that way, so four years ago is when I started exploring my gender identity," he shares.

Brendon first tried out non-binary pronouns, which are 'They' and 'Them' instead of 'He/Him or She/Her.' I did that for a few months, and I was like there was still something missing, so I tried out some 'He/Him' pronouns and that seemed to really fit. It made me a lot happier being addressed as a guy instead of a girl. I was looking around at some different names, and I actual-



Jill Meier/BV Journal

Brendon (Brianna) Sheppard performed an original song, «Living My Truth» at the BVHS Choir Variety Show earlier this year. The 2022 BV senior says he felt at ease following the performance and received many kind compliments from his peers.

ly looked up a baby name site, and I typed in 'cool names for guys.' Brendon was one of them, so I started going by that."

Earlier this year, Brendon shared his new identity in an original song, "Living My Truth," at the BVHS Choir Variety Show. It was his first public performance since learning to play the guitar in recent months. He'd been working on the lyrics for about a year, which he said started with the chorus.

*I have known all my life
that I was meant to fight
Hoping, praying that I could be the boy
that I wanna be
And it's not a phase*

*To finally know my
name
So here I am
standing strong
Living my truth*

"Even when I was younger, I prayed that if I were a boy, things would be so much easier. I remember going to bed every night praying that I would wake up as a boy," he said. "Last Christmas, I got a guitar and I started thinking, 'What if I put it all together and actually make something of it?' Then, the talent show came around and I was

like, this would be a really cool way to express myself and kind of put myself out there in the school."

Before taking the stage that night, Brendon remembers the nervous feelings he was experiencing.

"I was sweating so bad," he said.

As he walked off the stage that night Brendon said he was smiling ear to ear.

"I was still shaking and sweating, but everybody came up to me and said I did such a good job. They started calling me by my preferred name and I got those butterflies and everything felt right," he said.

Brendon said his friends and peers at BVHS have accepted his new identity.

Although legality won't allow his diploma to read "Brendon Sheppard," at his request, he will be donning a black gown for Sunday's commencement and will be called up on stage by his preferred name.

While friends and classmates have accepted his change, he says some members of his family are "on the fence" but "are getting there."

"My siblings are actually very supportive. My little brother, I remember coming out into the living room and saying, 'Guys, I'm a guy.' My younger

brother said, 'I have another brother!' and 'That's so cool!' and then he started jumping up and down, he was so excited about it."

Not yet 18, Brendon said

he plans to visit with doctors about transitioning his body from female to male. He also plans to legally change his name.

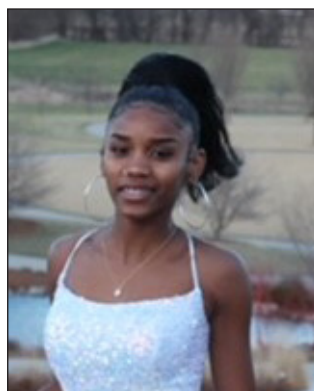
In the meantime, Brendon will continue on page 8

“Even when I was younger, I prayed that if I were a boy, things would be so much easier. I remember going to bed every night praying that I would wake up as a boy.”

- Brendon Sheppard
BVHS 2022 senior



Gerriet Gayken
University of South Dakota
Highest Honors



Wada Gebriel



Brady Giles
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Highest Honors



Kaitlyn Gingles
Brigham Young University
Honors



Scott Glen
University of South Dakota



Grace Goeden
Wayne State
High Honors

EDUCATORS RISING cont. from page 4

lot of different people," she said, noting a few students from Harrisburg also planning to pursue education. "I was able to visit with a lot of different schools, like the University of Sioux Falls and South Dakota State for different competitions, and so that expanded my connections."

Risty "student-taught" in Kim Skibsted's eighth-grade classroom where she gained "hands-on" experience. For her internship, Risty oversaw the fourth-quarter, final project for the students. Borrowing an idea from Matt Christensen, Risty simplified the essay assignment she's been given earlier in the school year by Christensen. It proved to be a real hit with the students.

"They loved it," Risty said. "I got to teach it, I got to introduce it and grade it. I actually handed it back to them today and was really, really pleased."

Skibsted also assigned the essay project

to her other students and received the same, positive feedback from those students as well.

Heiberger will pursue her education degrees at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall. She's long had a passion to work with kids and to make an impact on them.

"The, having amazing teachers at Brandon Valley kind of inspired me to go on and do what they're doing," said.

She, too, has found great benefit for her involvement in BV's Educators Rising chapter.

"This just felt like the perfect opportunity for me to do something I love and I can also have an impact in my community," she said.

Next month, Poppe will accompany both Heiberger and Spencer to the national Educators Rising competition in Washington,



Grace Heiberger (from left), Anna Risty and Rachael Spencer each signed the Future Teachers Pledge through their involvement with the Educators Rising program.

D.C., where they will compete as a duo in an epic dilemma. Spencer will also compete individually in Educators Rising Moment,

which Poppe explains, "is kind of like a TED Talk, their version of why they want to go into education."

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Rylee Griffith



Zeke Gunnink
Undecided



Tristen Gutierrez
Southeast Technical
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Reagan Haase
Augustana University
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Patyn Hacker
Winona State
University



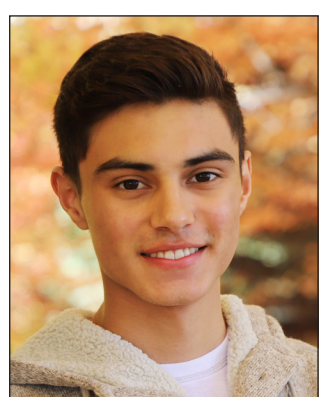
Emma Hallstorm



Nichole Hansen
Northwestern College
Honors



Caitlyn Hanson
Four-year college



Travis Hanson, Jr.
Minnesota State
University-Mankato



Kaden Hanzel
South Dakota
State University
Highest Honors



Logan Harkema
Work



Shawn Harris
Military



Jackson Hegg
South Dakota
State University
Highest Honors



Grace Heiberger
Southwest Minnesota State
University-Marshall
Highest Honors



Garret Hennen
South Dakota
State University
Highest Honors



Paige Hoeke
University of
South Dakota
Highest Honors



Ashlee Hoff



Isabelle Hoiland
Northern State
University



Nicholas Hokenstad
Minnesota State
University-Mankato



Carter Holmes
University of
South Dakota



Noah Holmes
Southeast Technical
Institute



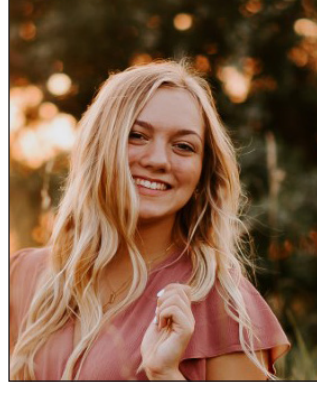
Nicholas Holthe
University of
South Dakota
High Honors



Conner Houser
Southeast Technical
Institute



Kaden Hove
Work



Brooklynn Hunt
South Dakota
State University



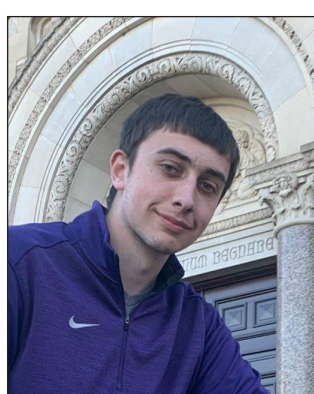
Abigail Huska
University of
South Dakota
Highest Honors



Lebaron Jacobsen
Military



Cait Jacobson
Minnesota State
University-Mankato
Honors



Clayton Janssen
Work



Matthew Janssen



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Ethan Jones
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Senior reflections

(At the Senior Retreat, BVHS seniors were asked to write a letter to themselves, citing all of the things they are good at. Ellie Erickson (far left) puts her thoughts down on paper, while Peyton Carroll does some deep thinking about his personal qualities.

Jill Meier/BV Journal

BRENDON SHEPPARD cont. from page 6

...ue to work for Sun-shine Foods and sell this drawings to save for the personal changes he intends to make. He envisions himself having a longer face, "not as chubby," he said. "I imagine having a 5 o'clock shadow and shaved hair. A couple years from now, I'm saving up to get top surgery so I can remove my breast tissue, and when I look in the mirror, I imagine that it's just flat."

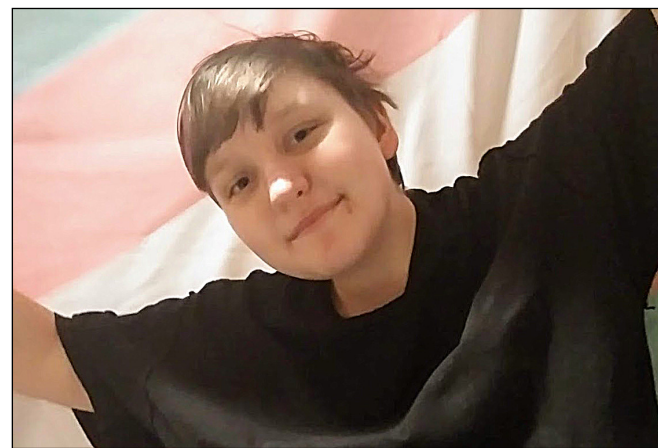
In recent months, Brendon started the All Students Welcome club at BVHS. It's grown to a "membership" of about a dozen students.

"It's not just transgen-der people. It's people

of color, people who are gay, bi, lesbian, anybody who wants to come is welcome," he said. "We talk about issues in our school and what's hap-pening outside of school, and I would say all of the people that are there are my friends."

No matter the name he chooses to go by – "Brendon" or "Brianna" – Brendon said he's still the same person inside.

"I'm still the same per-son, but I definitely have more of an open mind to other people's identities and I definitely think I'm more open to how every-body else lives their life," he said.



Living my truth
I failed to see Who I'm meant to be When everyone tells you what to believe

I have heard the lies They tell me to hide I feel out of my mind "You should not be seen, You closeted freak" have known all my life that I was meant to fight

Hoping, praying that I could be the boy that I wanna be And it's not a phase To finally know my name So here I am standing strong. Living my truth

Growing up is always hard Learning who I am "You're confused"

(At right) Brendon Sheppard

"You're obsessed" "You're just a teen" These things they tell me But I hear a voice Calling me to be Everything I see inside Cut that hair, make them stare Then go on T now you feel free Show them who you are

I have known all my life that I was meant to fight Hoping, praying that I could be the boy that I wanna be And it's not a phase To finally know my name So here I am standing strong Living my truth

And I have heard the

hate But today I throw it all away You cannot change who I am Because I know my name And I have heard the lies Saying that I'm a devil's child Looking back at what they said I thought they were right But...

I have known all my life that I was meant to fight Hoping, praying that I could be the boy that I want to be And it's not a phase To finally know my name So here I am standing strong Living my truth, my truth

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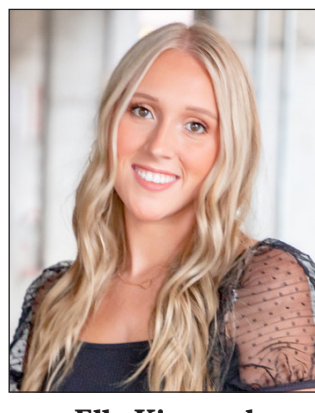
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Braelyn Kobernusz
Undecided



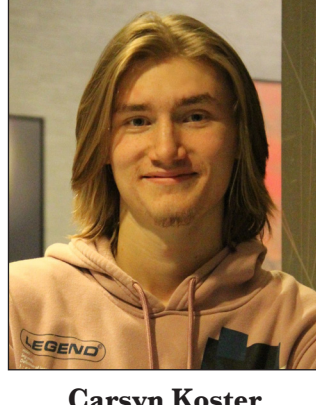
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Nathan Kocmick
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Elizabeth Kopp
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University



Sidney Krantz
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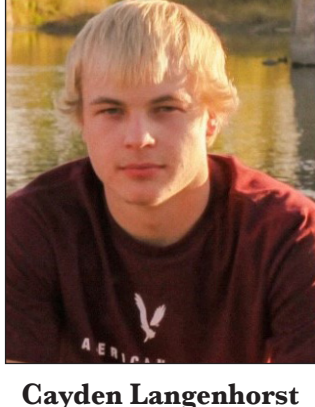
Gracelynn Kranzler
University of
South Dakota



Landon Krohn
Southeast Technical
Institute
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Nathan Kujawa



Cayden Langenhorst



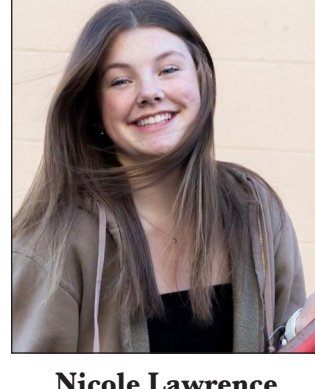
Daxton Larsen



Nicholas Larson
Undecided



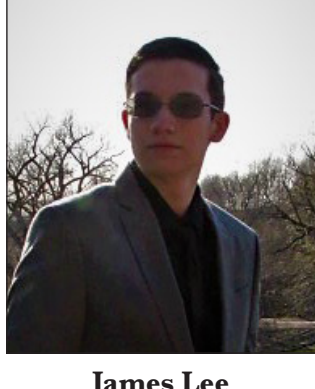
Allison Lauritzen
Minnesota Community
& Technical College



Nicole Lawrence
Lake Area
Technical Institute
Honors



Denny Le
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Institute



James Lee
University of
South Dakota



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Kyle Lundquist



Kurtis MacArthur
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Community College



Zoey Mandery
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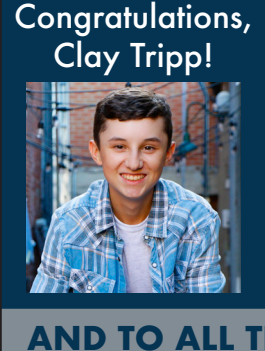


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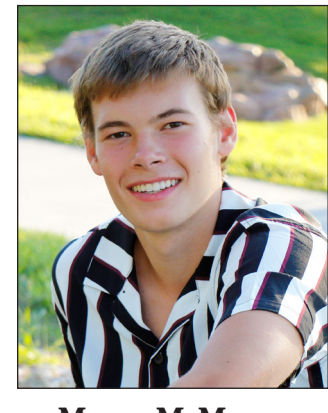
Jack McCarthy
Work



Miles McDaniels
South Dakota School of Mines & Technology
Highest Honors



Carson McKellep
High Honors



Mason McManus
University of South Dakota
Highest Honors



Ada Meier



Mary Meline
Brigham Young University
High Honors



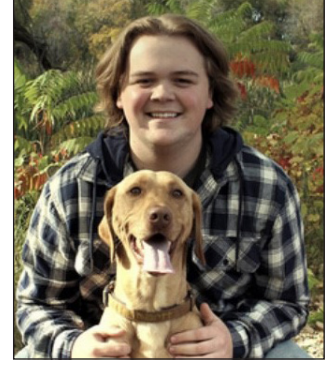
Grace Meyerink
Minnesota State University-Mankato



Nathan Meyers
Dakota Wesleyan University
High Honors



Nathanael Mikeworth



Bennett Miles
South Dakota State University



Cadence Miller
Undecided



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South Dakota State University



Madalyn Mofle
Minnesota State University-Mankato



Mercedes Montoya
Honors



Mya Moss
University of Minnesota-Minneapolis
Highest Honors



Mea Murphy
Stewart Cosmetology School



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Boston Nelson



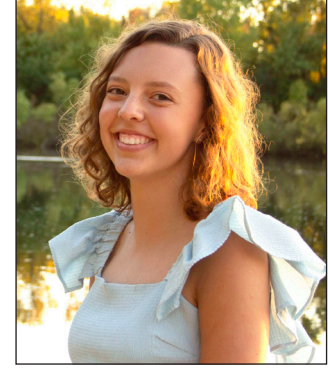
Emma Nelson
Augustana University
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Kale Nelson
South Dakota State University
Honors



Katrina Nelson
Southeast Technical Institute
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Emma Niessick
Bemidji State University
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Annika Noem
Southeast Technical Institute



Olivia Nolz
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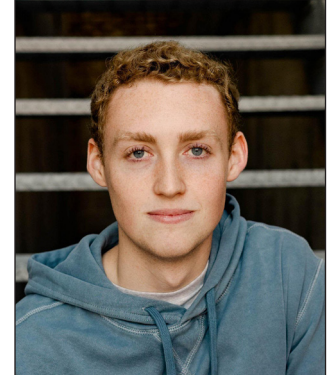
Mavrick Nordman
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Megan Nustad
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Justin Reinschmidt

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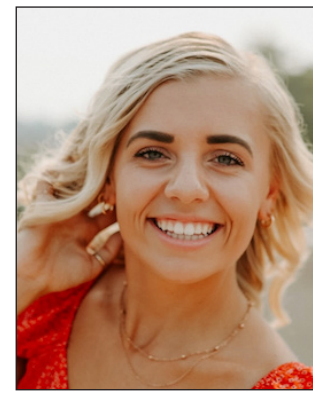
Molly Reinschmidt

South Dakota State University
Highest Honors



Austin Reiter

Northern State University



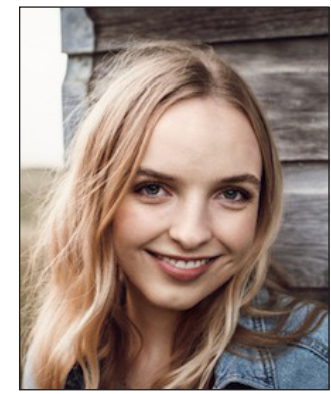
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Anna Risty

University of South Dakota
High Honors



Kate Risty

South Dakota State University



Russell Rivero

Augustana University
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Tate Roberts

Brigham Young University
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Jefferson Rodriguez



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Sarah Rohrbach

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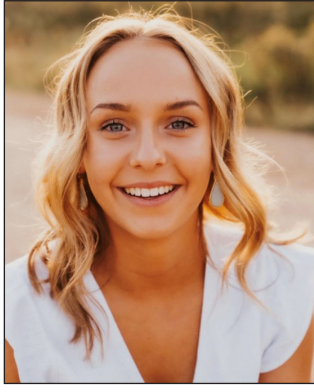
Tara Rolph

University of South Dakota
Highest Honors



Tianna Russell

Black Hills State University



Emily Sample

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Jakson Santi

South Dakota School of Mines & Technology
Honors



Dale Schiffern

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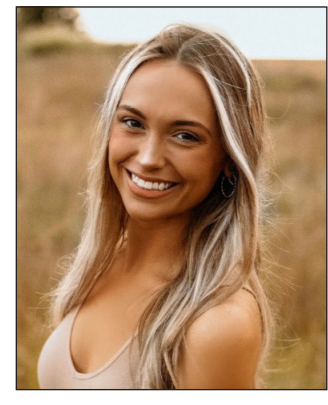
Damion Schunke
Arizona State
University



Jalen Scott



Marlin Sejnoha III
Four-year postsecondary,
undecided
Highest Honors



Ella Selness
Grand Canyon
University



Ashton Serbousek



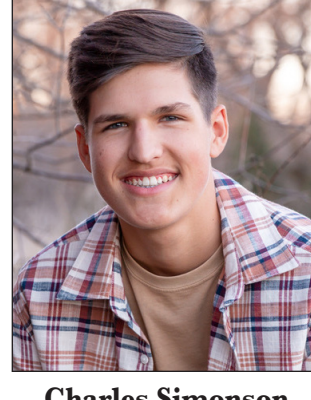
**Brendon (Briana)
Sheppard**
Work
Honors



Caitlin Siegfried
University of
South Dakota
Honors



Sarah Silvera
South Dakota
State University



Charles Simonson
Undecided



Rahul Singh
High Honors



Rhea Singh
Honors



Kianna Sissoko
University of
Minnesota-Minneapolis



Emilee Small
University of
South Dakota
Honors



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Highest Honors



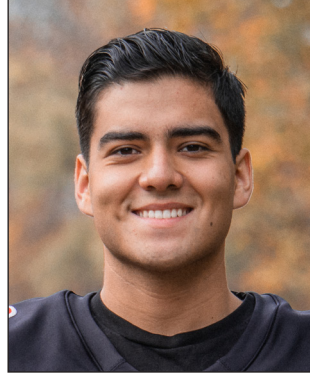
Bethany Smith



Adam Smook
South Dakota School of
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Work



Joshua Solorio
Southeast Technical Institute



Madison Sommervold
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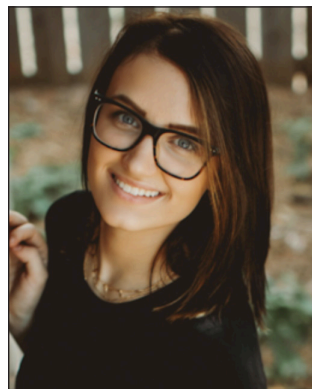
Rachael Spencer
Augustana University
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Ayden Spicer
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Braden Buettner	Devon Jones	Christian Swenson
Atleigh Cody	Ella Kjenstad	Paige Tille
Ryan Doll	Andrew Knutson	Isaac Timmerman
Carter Ellsworth	Braelyn Kobernusz	Luke VanVoorst
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Highest Honors



Hayden Struble



Savannah Swanson



Christian Swenson



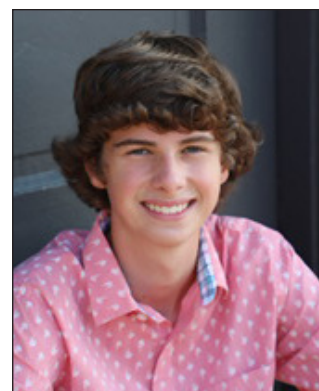
Gemma Symington
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Carson Thier
South Dakota
State University
Highest Honors



Ethan Thompson
Mitchell Technical
Institute
Highest Honors



Noah Thompson
South Dakota
State University



Shane Thompson
University of
Nebraska-Lincoln



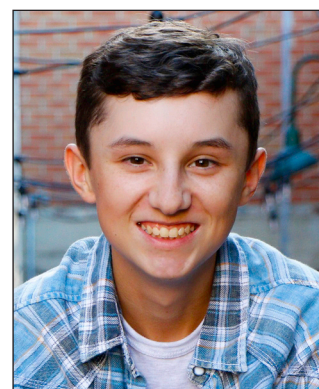
Sidney Thue
Mount Marty
University
Honors



Paige Tille
Southeast Technical
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Nicholas Tofteland
North Dakota
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Institute



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Serena Van Den Oever
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Emily Van Roekel
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Kate Van Voorst
University of
South Dakota



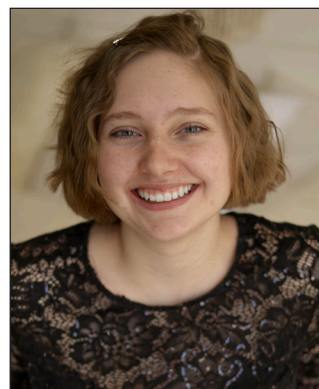
Luke Van Voorst
Southeast Technical
Institute



Benjamin VanDeBerg
Northwestern College
High Honors



Joseph Vanderbush
Undecided



Madison Vanden Hoek



Oscar VanLeirsburg
Work



Max VanWesten
South Dakota School of
Mines & Technology



Kaegen Vargas
Southeast Technical
Institute



Makayla Veld
University of
South Dakota
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Ryan Vest
Brigham Young
University
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Alena Vishnevsky
Honors



Damen Visscher
University of
Nebraska-Lincoln
Highest Honors

Honor Graduate (3.700-3.799)

High Honor Graduate (3.800-3.899)

Highest Honor Graduate (3.900-4.000)

Remember me for ...

This year's seniors were asked to share what they would like to be remembered for. Here are some of their thoughts.

"Always helping everyone that needs it and there to make your day turn out better than before."

- Karson Beyer

"Likes to talk a lot, but is still able to get stuff done."

- Cole Borchardt

"My smile and speaking out when something is not riight."

- Ashten DeJager

"Just being unique."

- James Casteel

"I want to be remembered by my two favorite teachers, Mr. (Kent) Anderson and Mr. (Jeremy) Risty. It doesn't matter what I want to be remembered for, it's what I am remembered for that matters, and that's up to each individual that knows me."

- Scott Glen

"The kid who seems like he'd be dumb but is actually really smart."

- Nathan Kruger

"Positive. Determined. Leader. School spirit."

- Danae Johnson

"I want to be remembered as someone who people could go to if they needed help and I want to be remembered as someone who led by example."

- Nick Hokenstad

"I would like to be remembered as a 'people person.'"

- Isabella Hoiland

"The nickname I received after I made a bad joke in the football locker room freshman year."

- Bennett Miles

"A funny guy who made people laugh."

- Noah Gough

"I would like to be remembered as a person who found who they are and stuck with it."

- Russell Rivero

"I want to be remembered for being the longest-running JV boys cross country captain."

- Tate Roberts

"I want to be remembered as a person who trusted that everything happens for a reason. Going out of my comfort zone and putting myself out there was a huge part of my life and shaped me to who I am today."

- Alex Murray

Well spoken

Ellen Joseph conquers the world of speech and debate

Jill Meier, *Journal* editor

Ellen Joseph is rarely at a loss for words. When the 2022 senior graduates, she'll leave as one of Brandon Valley High's most decorated students in the world of speech, debate and oral interp. For starters, Joseph is a three-year qualifier for the National Speech and Debate Tournament. In June, she heads to Louisville, Ky. The past two years, Joseph was among the top 30 high school students in the country in all three events that she competed in. Earlier this spring, she was awarded the Rozella Blunk Interp Away by the SD Forensic Coaches Association. "This is an award given to the top interp kids in the state," explains Gina Koehn-Rief, who teaches English at BVHS and is the speech and interp coach. At this time, Joseph is at the top of the NSDA point standings in South Dakota. "This is unusual for an interp kid," Koehn Rief said. "Usually, that spot is held by debate kids." Joseph is ranked No. 1 in the state in poetry, dram, program of interp and duo. She is also an Academic All-American, as determined by the NSDA. "One of the most amazing things she has accomplished, though, is her national ranking in drama. Out of the thousands of kids in the country who do drama, Ellen spent her whole senior year ranked No. 6 in the country," Koehn-Rief said. "Shes' racked up 1,098 points in just that event. "If she got a ranking of 1 in every performance, those points mean she has performed a drama at least 183 times," Koehn-Rief said, noting Joseph's 2,518 overall point total. That number translates to over 420 performances in four years, "and that's just if she got

a 1 in every round," Koehn said. "That is 70 hours of actual competition time. It's almost impossible to calculate the number of hours of practice that represents." Joseph has not shied away from the tough pieces. Every piece she has chosen has represented issues that are important and personal to her. As the daughter of two veterans, Joseph selected a piece to honor that segment of her family history. Her dram is the story of a military mom whose son is killed in action while deployed in Iraq. Joseph's poetry program centers on the Alzheimer's disease. In this piece, she pays tribute to her grandfather who suffers from this disease, in addition to her grandmother, who is his caretaker. "One of her proudest moments – and most emotional – this year was having her grandparents in the audience to hear her perform this piece," Koehn-Rief said. Joseph came away from the SDHSAA state interp festival in December with a superior rating on both pieces and a perfect score in poetry. She's been a fixture at the state competition, having attended three years and competed in nine events, from which she garnered a superior in every one of them, four of which a perfect score was achieved. Koehn-Rief said she saw something special as Joseph prepared her pieces as a freshman. "I knew she was going to be good," Koehn-Rief said. "I had no idea four years ago just how good she was going to be! The fun part is, I have kids coming up who not only look up to and admire her, but are determined to pass up her point total just like she was determined to pass the point totals of kids who were successful in her freshman year. She is leaving a great legacy at BVHS."



Noah Vogel
University of South Dakota



Seth Waldner
South Dakota School of Mines & Technology



Cora Walker
Dakota State University



Meghan Walker
University of Nebraska-Lincoln



Carter Wallace
Lake Area Technical Institute



Jenna Warden
Grand Canyon University



Owen Warren



Julian Watson
South Dakota State University



Cael Weber
South Dakota State University



Lily Weber
South Dakota State University



Kenzie Welch
University of South Dakota
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Dominic Wells



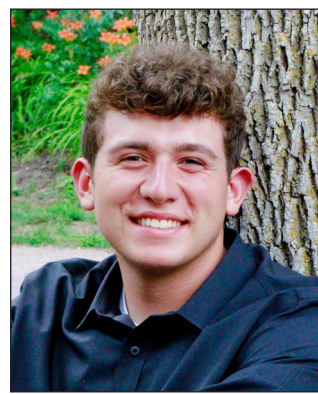
Katie Wentzy
Augustana University
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Maxwell Williams
Southeast Technical Institute



Elijah Wills
University of South Dakota



Samuel Woidyla
South Dakota State University
High Honors



Henry Wright
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Hunter Wright
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Logan Kelling Austin Reiter
Carson Askdal Marshall Pfeiffer
Nick Hokenstad Matt Brown
Trey Sejnoha Nate Meyers
Ayden Spicer

Brandon Valley Baseball Association

We have enjoyed covering your senior year!
Congratulations, Class of 2022!

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