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2026



Garrett Graduation 2026

The Garrett Clipper

From The Superintendent

To the Graduating Class of 2026:

Congratulations on your achievements, your growth, and the hard work that brought you to this day. Graduation is a proud moment for families, teachers, and our entire community.

As your superintendent, I offer you this challenge:

Be a class that chooses character, service, and thankfulness.

Wherever your path leads — college, military service, or the workforce —

commit yourself to being a person of high character in both your work and your conduct.

I also challenge you to serve others. True differences in communities are built by people who are willing to serve others and lead with compassion. Most importantly be thankful.

Be thankful for the parents, guardians, teachers, mentors, friends, and classmates who encouraged you through difficult days and celebrated your victories along the way.

Finally, remember that

you represent not only yourselves, but also your families, your schools, and your community. Carry that responsibility with pride.

We believe in your potential and look forward to seeing the positive impact you will make in the world.

Congratulations, graduates. The future is waiting for you — meet it with character, service, and thankfulness.

Dan Durrwachter
Superintendent
Garrett-Keyser-Butler CSD

From The Mayor

To: The Class of Garrett High School 2025

This is quite an accomplishment!

We are so very proud of you!

As you navigate through the years in life there will be many choices to be made. Do the best that you can do with those choices and make our world an even better place. Be a part of that change!

To each and every one of the graduates, my heartfelt congratulations!

This is a job well done and well deserved.

Sincerely,
Mayor Todd Fiantt
City of Garrett



From The Principal

Dear Garrett High School Class of 2026,

As graduation approaches, I want to congratulate each of you on reaching this important milestone. Your class has shown resilience, leadership, and determination through every challenge and opportunity these past four years have brought.

You have grown not only as students, but as individuals prepared to make a positive difference in the world.

Along the way, many people helped make your success possible, parents, grandparents, teachers, coaches, staff members, friends, and mentors who encouraged you, supported you, and believed in you. As you move forward, remember to carry gratitude for those sacrifices and acts of kindness that helped shape your journey.

Whether your next step is college, the workforce, military

service, or another path, carry forward the lessons you have learned here at Garrett. Work hard, support others, and never stop learning. You have fulfilled our Garrett High School's mission to graduate responsible, and productive citizens.

Remember that success is not measured only by achievements, but by character, kindness, and perseverance. Your future is full of possibilities, and I have every confidence that you will meet it with courage and purpose.

Congratulations, Class of 2026. Your Garrett Community is proud of you, and we look forward to all you will accomplish.

It has been my honor to be your principal.

Sincerely,
Sam Watkins
Principal, Garrett High School

Class of 2026 to receive diplomas on May 29

The Garrett High School Class of 2026 graduation exercises will be at 8 p.m. on Friday, May 29 in the Paul Bateman Gym.

A student-led baccalaureate service will be held in the Performing Arts Center at 6:30 p.m. that evening.

Senior class officers are president Abby Thomas,

vice president Luke Hicks, secretary Landon Best and treasurer Sarah Depew.

Song: "Crazy Train" by John "Ozzy" Osbourne

Motto: "Chase your dreams but always know the road that'll lead you home."

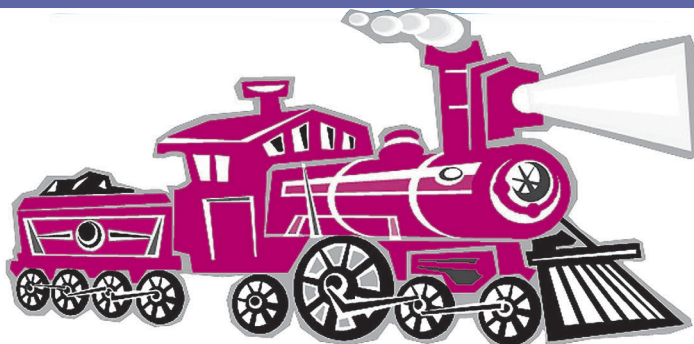
— Tim McGraw.

Flower: Lily
Color: Gold

Congratulations to the Class of 2026!

We wish you the best as you pursue the next chapter in your life. Your hometown will always be here for you!

Mayor Todd Fiantt & the City of Garrett



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Congratulations GHS Class of 2026

When you receive your diplomas on May 29, your classmates and family members will be right there with you, cheering your many accomplishments.

In recognition of commencement, Garrett High School's 142nd graduating class is being congratulated by several businesses, merchants, family and supporters in this special edition of The Garrett Clipper.

Seniors were asked to share memories, plans and goals for the future, and to list honors he or she has received while at Garrett

High School. Seniors were also asked to identify specific teachers who were impactful on their high school careers, and to offer opinions about the education they received at Garrett.

We hope this edition will serve as a keepsake for the seniors and their families. Wishing happiness and success to all of the Garrett graduates.

May God bless you in all of your endeavors.

Sue Carpenter
Jeff Jones
The Garrett Clipper
KPC Media



CONTRIBUTED

GHS Class of 2026 officers

Officers for the Garrett High School Class of 2026, from left, are president Abby Thomas, vice president Luke Hicks, secretary Landon Best and treasurer Sarah DePew.

— THE —
Future
BELONGS TO YOU!

CONGRATULATIONS
Class of 2026!

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CLASS OF 2026 GRADUATES

Alondra I. Aguilar

Alondro Aguilar is the son of Miguel Aguilar Arcos.

He plans on taking a year off school, getting a full-time job, and hopefully buying his own place after the year is done while doing online college.

"I hope to work as much as possible," he said.

Aguilar wants to be a police officer in the future.

He has been active in soccer and basketball and achieved A-B Honor Roll.

"I would give it a 10 - in middle school my grades weren't the best, but my teachers pushed me to be better," said of his education. "All the English classes were definitely strong. Katie Treesh and Lauren Stein helped me learn better and cared about all my questions," Aguilar added.

Making friends and the end of the year while just being with them and growing up with them were his memorable moments.

"I hope to be living in a nice house in a different state while continuing my police career," he said of his future in 10 years.

Lillian Grace Asfour

Lillian Asfour is the daughter of Michael Asfour and Mandy Thomas.

She plans to attend Saint Francis University to receive a degree in radiology — and have fun after graduation.

Asfour has been active in cheerleading, track, cosmetology through IMPACT, National Honor

Society and Key Club.

"IMPACT Institute is a great opportunity for kids to enroll in. It gives students the option of studying trades instead of mainly academics and is an amazing opportunity to get a head start in their future career path," Asfour said.

She listed a few instructors who made a difference in her education.

"Mr. Sewelin is an amazing science teacher that I've been lucky to have since my freshman year, and he is much more than just your average teacher. He always knows the answer to every little question I have, and he never fails to make me laugh even when I'm on the verge of tears looking at the chemistry textbook.

"Mrs. Tom is a great teacher and always took extra time out of her day to help me understand different sayings or phrases in Spanish. Looking past the class, she is so sweet and genuine and would always stop to make small talk in the hallway, and I would try my best to respond in Spanish, which would end up making both of us laugh.

"Mr. Claxton is such a friendly teacher that I was lucky to have for the past two years. Whenever I needed to get out of a loud class, I was sure that I could make a pass to Claxton's and he would accept it. He also always makes sure that his students are well fed with either a piece of Dove chocolate or a donut on

Fridays!

"Mrs. Everetts was there every time that I had an empty spot in my schedule. I would make sure that I filled it with one of her art classes. She is an amazing art teacher and is very patient with all her students. Many times, I would get upset because something didn't turn out right, and she would be right there to help me figure things out."

Friday night football games with her best friends were memorable!

Kaycee Lou Bainbridge

Kaycee Bainbridge is the daughter of Brad and Becca.

Future plans are to attend college and then gain employment.

Bainbridge rates her education at 8/10.

"I feel like all the teachers and staff do a great job teaching us how to get our things done and how to learn," she said.

She hopes to be married and have kids in the future.

Lisa Rose Baker

Lisa Baker is the daughter of Jeffery and Tham Baker.

She plans to gain employment or enter the US Air Force following graduation.

"I want to survive in this economy," Baker said of the future.

Landon James Best

Landon Best is the son of Nathan and Hollie Best.

He plans to attend Trine University in the fall to study mechanical engineering.

"Overall, my goal in life

is to seek God's will and to trust in His plans for my future. Currently, my career goals include helping others in some way and to make a difference in their lives. Personally, my goals are to start a family and to keep my eyes on God above," Best said.

Best has been involved in soccer and track and field, as well as many clubs including FCA, Student Council, NHS, and Sources of Strength. He received four varsity letter awards from soccer, and two varsity letter awards from track and field.

"Mrs. Moody has been my teacher twice, once in eighth grade, and once in 10th grade. Mrs. Moody knew me well, and she was more than an amazing teacher to me, she was a friend, as well. She could tell when I had bad days and when I needed someone to talk to. I can always count on her when I need some good news, a smile, or when I need to see the positive side of a situation.

"Mr. Claxton, similarly, was my teacher twice, once in 11th grade and once in 12th. Now, Mr. Claxton is someone who could talk your ear off for hours, but not in a boring way at all. He knew what he was talking about. He always had an interesting way of thinking of things, always seeing different sides before making a conclusion. He taught me that life is short, so do what you can to enjoy it while it lasts," Best adds.

Some of his favorite moments were on the DC trip that he took as a senior.

"I made some amazing memories with my friends. I will never forget that trip."

Looking to the future, "I want to be at a steady job making enough money to support my family, and I want to do everything to glorify God," Best said.

Kaydance Marie Baker

Kadence Baker is the daughter of Britney Fuentes

and Kyle Baker.

She plans to attend Ball State University and major in nursing.

"I hope to live a happy life," she said of her future.

"Cheering with my closest friends at football games was memorable," Baker adds.

Wesley Wayne Blaker

Wesley Blaker is the grandson of Theresa and son of Dennis.

He would like to go to college to learn more about chemistry and biology.

"I want to continue my interests in science and become a toxicologist (a chemist that tests chemicals or specifically poisons to see how they affect cells or nature). I hope to be proud of my hobbies and the activities I pursue, such as going out into nature and helping organizations that have helped me, such as Scouting America," Blaker said.

He has been active in environmental club and the science academic team

"Compared to other schools of this size, I would rate it well, 8/10," he said of his education. "They give many opportunities to explore the interests you have and lots of flexibility you don't usually find.

"There are multiple teachers that stick out from my time as a student. Each of these people brought my interest in learning to a new level. Mr. (Clayton) Evans and Mr. (Alexander) Saxer were driving factors in shaping how I look at school, making my learning enjoyable and shaping my morals. I grew to help many more people and be more honest about how I feel on a topic because of their efforts.

"Later on, my interest in science was piqued by Mrs. (Cassie) Ashenfelter and Mr. (Anthony) Thomas; both recognized my passion for the topic and helped me go beyond the normal curriculum. I also enjoyed how

CONGRATULATIONS

Garrett Bowl

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Aiden Boltz
Conner Boltz
Luke Hicks
Landon Best
and the Class of 2026!
We are proud of you!



GARRETT



Adkins, Heaven



Aguilar, Alondra



Aguilar, Luke



Allen, Isaac



Armstrong, Gabriel



Arnett, Deziree



Asfour, Lillian



Ash, Hailee



Bainbridge, Kaycee



Baker, Kaydance



Baker, Lisa



Behm, Samuel



Best, Landon



Blaker, Wesley



Boltz, Aiden



Boltz, Conner



Boltz, Sophia



Bradley, Rhylee



Bush, Kayden



Cala, Marley



Cason, Camille



Chaffins, Trinity



Clapp, Kylan



Clark, Logan



Conrad, Peyton



Costin, Gabriel



Crowl, Ryleigh



Cuenca, Jayda



Custer, Adalyn



Davis, Kelsi

GARRETT



Decker, Annie



DePew, Bianca



DePew, Sarah



Devers, Gabriella



Drobek, David



Endsley, Jackson



Fast, Christian



Fielden, Carter



Fowler, Emma



Freeman, Ethan



Fuentes, Jose



Gaar, Connor



Gonya, Jacob



Green, Trinadi



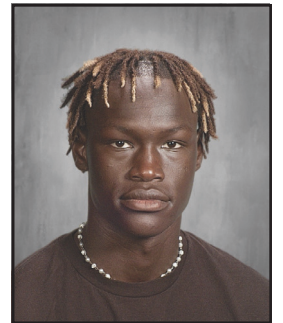
Grim, Kaylyn



Gross, Alyssa



Grubb, Cameron



Hallam, Asher



Harpel, Haylee



Hedges, Bailey



Hess, Lauren



Hicks, Luke



Hill, Dominic



Hippensteel, Ari



Hixson, Alexander



Hogel, Joshua



Hoover, Katelyn



Hug, Benjamin



Hunt, Aiden



Ice, Jackson

GRADS

FROM PAGE 4

they ran their classrooms, making it a better environment to learn with less chaos.

"Finally, Mr. (Dustin) Sewelin, being the chemistry teacher, I already enjoyed his lessons, but the way he presents topics and has us explore them in more detail with hands-on activities has made it an environment I hope to find in the future. When a unit is over, I feel like I can apply the knowledge to more than just a test and use it properly, which is significant compared to most of the classes I've taken," Blaker said.

While many moments come to mind, his most memorable moment is the Riley fundraiser pep session.

"It's a time where we celebrate an organization that I find important. I can recall all the cheering I would do with my friends, and most importantly, the pie to someone's face. Of all the ones I've seen, it's hard to pick my favorite, except the unexpected double pie that happened in my final year here to Mr. Claxton. The only thing I have to say about that is it should've been Mrs. Cone, who continues to escape all the votes she gets," he adds.

"I hope I have pursued my interests and dreams in the next 10 years. I plan to be attending college to further my knowledge in science and have experience in a lab on multiple occasions. I want to know if toxicology is my dream career and if not, what is."

Aiden Boltz

Aiden Boltz is the son of Janell Fell and Michael Boltz.

He plans on going to Great Lakes Christian College and pursue a career major in youth and children ministry following graduation.

"My goal is just to see where God takes me," Boltz said of his future.

He has been part of the Garrett cross country team and the track and field team for four years, a member of the academic team for four years and bowling for one year. Boltz has also been a part of FCA, Student Council and athletic leadership.

"The most memorable moment that I have had at Garrett is walking through the doors every morning and not feel like I wasn't welcome," he recalls.

In 10 years, he hopes to be working at a church with a certificate in youth ministry and child ministry.

Sophia Grace Boltz

Sophia Boltz is the daughter of Michael Boltz and Janell Fell.

She will be attending Trine University for a Bachelors in exercise science.

"My goals are to continue to dance and participate in color guard while becoming a physical therapist," said Boltz.

She has been involved in color guard, winter guard, track and field, Social Studies academic team, Bring Change to Mind and student council.

Boltz has been captain in guard as well as an officer for two years in the Student Council.

"Out of 10, I would rate my education as 7. It was fantastic some days and not others. The teachers do their best, but some students really make their jobs hard and make it harder for them to teach us," she said. "I believe our band program has been strong, which has been seen through our recent trips to state. However, they still deserve more attention than they have gotten in the past.

"I will try to pick one (favorite teacher) from each school. For JE Ober I will have to say Mrs. T Smith; she showed us from a younger age that learning can be fun. For middle school I would say Mr. Saxer and Mr. Evans. Mr. Evans yet again showed us how fun it can be to learn, and even when he seems 'mean' he is always there for you. Mr.

Saxer is one person there for everyone. He shows from the start that he is there for you even if you just want someone to talk to. In high school I would pick Mr. Claxton and Mr. Sewelin. Claxton is a fun teacher that also wants you to do your best even if it's telling you to stop talking. He is there for you in everything as well. Mr. Sewelin is a teacher that I definitely questioned at first but then I realized how much he cares for his students. He is one that will get excited for me when I succeed in something."

Her most memorable moments come from the Last Blast.

"It's the last day of the entire year and everyone is hanging out. We are not split into random groups, but we are together eating and playing games," Boltz said of the event.

"In 10 years, I want to be in my career as a physical therapist. Besides that, I want to continue dancing and doing the things I love to do."

Conner Michal James Boltz

Conner Boltz is the son of Michael Boltz and Janell

Fell.

Plans include attending college and study electrical engineering to go into the electrical field.

He has been active in bowling, cross country, track and field.

Boltz earned his compact track loader license and excavator license and a few other mock awards in high school.

"I'd say it's 100%, or 10/10," he said of his education, especially CDP programs.

He noted teachers Mr. Claxton and Mrs. Ponko made significant contributions to his education.

"Just being with my friends has been memorable," he said.

"I will be working hard and making lots of money," Boltz said of his future.

Rhylee DeeAnn Bradley

Rhylee Bradley's parents are Amy Knapp and Thomas Baumann.

She plans to be a jailer and pursue other career paths following graduation.

"My plans after graduation are to be a jailer and hopefully find other career paths," said Bradley.

"My personal goals are

to achieve financial stability while continuously focusing on self-development and personal growth. My career goals are to establish and grow within a stable, long-term work environment that offers opportunities for advancement and fulfillment," Bradley said.

She received the National Honor Society Award while at Garrett.

"I would rate my education at Garrett high school a 7/10. Some of the teachers at the school did not care to actually teach you how to do something; instead, it was all about passing the class," she said.

"I believe history/English, some math and the criminal justice program for Impact were the most strong and helpful. History was good to know about the past of other countries and our own or the town that we live in. Some of the math was good and helpful to learn, but it got to a point where I was confused on why we needed to learn certain math and why we couldn't focus on the basic math that we actually needed. The criminal justice program will help me with

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All The Best!



GOOD LUCK

SYDNEY SUELZER & ARI HIPPENSTEEL - GARRETT,
BRAEDEN MORR - PRAIRIE HEIGHTS
and CARSON KIEBEL - CENTRAL NOBLE
and the **CLASS OF 2026**

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Ickes, Chad



Jobe, Keagan



Jones, Issabell



Kelham, Addison



Kinch, Addison



Kinzer, Aleaha



Kirby, Christian



Kirby, Wade



Knepper, Josephine



Koble, Hunter



Kochendorfer, Ryan



Kooienga, Tracyn



Kramer, Nolan



LeQuia, Brooklyn



Lewis, Blake



Liechty, Alexis



Lockhart, Tatum



Loeffler, Emma



Malcolm, Rebecca



Martin, Molly



Masek, Camden



Matson, Wyatt



Montel, Isaiah



Moore, Juliana



Morimanno, Connor



Mountz, Keigan



Moynahan, Alexia



Neumann, Isaiah



Nusbaum, Brayden



Overbay, Carter

GRADS

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my career path. I got my certification to be a jailer in that program. IMPACT also has other programs to help you with other career paths.”

Teacher Jennifer Ponko helped with some of her classes and with understanding how to do certain projects for those classes, she adds.

“I don’t have any memorable moments so far, but the only moment I can think of is graduating. I hope to have a life that I am happy with, along with a career that I am satisfied with and that obviously pays well.”

Camille Dawn Cason

Camille Cason is the daughter of Haley Koble.

She will be going to college for dental or nursing degrees. Following college completion, she hopes to move to Florida.

Cason has been active in cheerleading while at Garrett and rates her education as 8/10.

Mark Claxton and Mallory Diederich made significant contributions in her education, said Cason.

“Joining the cheer team was memorable,” she adds.

Future plans are to be a labor and delivery nurse or a dental assistant.

Davaney Christine Collins

Davaney Collins is the daughter of Lindsay Auer and Josh Auer.

After graduation, she plans on working and welding until finding a school/college.

Collins said her goal is to “build a successful life for my future family.”

She rates her education at 8/10.

“The CDP has helped me find what I enjoy doing and what I’m good at. David Martin was a great teacher and I loved his class. He always put me to work and pushed me. Anytime I needed help he’d stop to explain and show me the

right way things needed to be done,” Collins said.

Her most memorable moment at GHS is probably the programs when people come in and tell stories about significant events in their lives, “such as when the guy came in and painted the portrait about his life.

“Living a good life with a good job on a big farm with a loving and supportive family is what I hope for,” she said of her future.

Trinity Lynn Chaffins

Trinity Chaffins is the daughter of Nicole Joy Koskie.

Chaffins is currently deciding what she would like to do in the future for a career, with hopes to get better in art and pursue it in ways that she wants.

“Getting to do IMPACT and experience things that others aren’t normally offered have been memorable,” she said of her education.

Ryan Michael Chapman

Ryan Chapman is the son of Sarah Chapman and Brad Chapman.

He hopes to be employed following graduation with goal to become a certified arborist.

“I think all the CDP classes were helpful.

They’ve helped me with my knowledge on stuff such as concrete and heavy machinery. I’ve been able to show I know what I’m doing because of the experience I’ve had from the classes,” Chapman said.

“Nolan Scharlach has been a teacher I’ve had consistently for a few years. I’ve grown a good bond with him, and he’s taught me the most, especially when it comes to work.”

Building the house his junior year was a memorable moment, he adds.

Logan George Clark

Logan Clark is the son of Adrienne Parsell and Josh Clark.

He will be attending Trine for nursing with a goal to become a traveling nurse practitioner.

“It was an amazing

education with good opportunities,” Clark said of his education at Garrett.

“The CDP was amazing, offering much needed experience and incredibly helpful job careers. Mr. Swartz has been one of the best teachers I’ve ever had,” he adds.

Work-based learning has been memorable, Clark said of his education.

“Hopefully, I will be traveling as a nurse practitioner,” he said looking forward 10 years.

Jayda Harvi Cuenca

Jayda Cuenca is the daughter of Erica and Emanuel.

She plans in June to start her Realtor license journey and hopefully finish by the end of summer and take the final exam to become an official Realtor.

“I hope to become wealthy in life, not just with money, but having a beautiful family with little to no struggles. I may possibly move to Texas for a while having my Realtor license. I may also revamp some homes to list on Airbnb,” she adds.

Cuenca has been active in NHS and soccer.

She rates her education at Garrett as 9/10.

“I’d say the teachers were all amazing. My grades improved by the year, and I managed to grow more confident over the years,” Cuenca said.

“We have cooking classes and real-world classes. I feel like, as small of a school as Garrett is, we have a good number of classes. I feel like a fun one to add is having those fake baby dolls to take care of for a week or so.

“Mrs. Snyder was a very outgoing and understanding teacher who was very positive. Even though I only had her for one semester, I won’t forget how kind she was and how fun she made her classroom; even her decorating was cool,” she adds.

Last Blast was memorable, Cuenca recalls.

“I will hopefully be selling loads of houses and living

in Texas with at least one kid and one adopted kid and married to my current boyfriend of three years,” she said of her future in 10 years. “I hope we are both financially stable with so much money we can go on loads of vacations each year and not have to worry. I hope to have a cat and cute looking kids who are kind and funny.”

Adalyn June Custer

Adalyn Custer is the daughter of Tim and Tanya Custer.

She will be attending Grand Valley State University and double majoring in dance and respiratory therapy, with a personal and career goal to find a career she enjoys.

Custer has been active in Key Club and NHS.

“My most memorable moment at GHS is when the elementary students would come down to the high school to trick or treat,” said Custer.

Annistasia Maryleigh Decker

Annistasia Decker is the daughter of Stephen Decker.

She is still considering options following graduation with plans to get a good job and hopefully get a promotion somewhere down the road.

Decker has been active in soccer, manager of football and basketball teams and a track runner.

She received Academic Excellence, The Grit Award from the Science department, four-year soccer award, four-year football manager award and entry into National Honor Society.

“My education at Garrett has honestly been pretty good. If it wasn’t for the teachers and the administration, it wouldn’t have been so enjoyable and rewarding.

“I think the CDP program is on the rise to be good. Even though I was never in it, I have heard pretty good things about it,” said Decker.

“Bob Lapadot, Jennifer Ponko, Shannon Swonger, Mallory Diederich, Amanda

Charles, Katie Treesh, and Alex Saxer are teachers that have really helped me get through school and the difficult times I may have had. They have just been amazing at what they do,” she adds.

Her most memorable moment was when the team got the fire truck escort back into town for girls basketball her freshman year and football her junior year.

“I hope to be doing well in my job and get a promotion down the road,” she said of her future.

Bianca Kay Lynn DePew

Bianca DePew is the daughter of Victoria DePew and Beth DePew.

She will be going to Huntington University to major in pre-vet.

“My personal goals and career goals are to become a successful veterinarian. I also hope to attend a top veterinary school,” DePew said.

Going on school trips to D.C and Chicago were memorable moments.

Jackson Guy Endsley

Jackson Endsley is the son of Kristen Endsley

He will be attending Ball State University for biology with wildlife conservation, with a goal to become a DNR officer for the State of Indiana.

Endsley was a member of the high school football and wrestling teams, earning Academic All-State for both. He also advanced to state as a senior in wrestling.

“I would highly recommend Garrett due to the community that surrounds it. No matter who you are, there will always be some who can help you and make you feel like you belong,” he said.

“I believe the Career Development Program helped me all through high school due to me being able to learn hands-on and feel like I was really doing stuff that mattered with my time. Others I would recommend are all Garrett athletics because they make you feel like you are joining a family

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not a sport," said Endsley.

"Mrs. Moody, Mr. Weingartner, and Mr. Kraus were all teachers that I could turn to, not only for schoolwork, but also for home life and any other problems that may arise. They became a second family for me no matter what class I was in," he said of favorite instructors.

"Being paraded around the school for making state in wrestling in my senior year was a huge milestone for me knowing how I wasn't always the best wrestler. It felt like everyone knew my name and wanted to talk to me," Endsley said was his most memorable high school moment.

Ten years from now, he hopes to be a DNR officer for the State of Indiana with his own boat and truck.

Christian Thomas Fast

Christian Fast is the son of Jennifer White and Nathan Fast.

He will be attending Purdue Fort Wayne in the fall of 2026 and dual majoring in History and Education with a minor in German, with a goal to pursue Secondary Education Teaching with hopes for Social Studies or German.

Fast has been involved in Show Choir, Academic Teams, Spell Team, GHS Musicals, GHS Plays, Educators Rising, National Honor Society and GHS Shotgun Sports.

"In 2024 and 2025, our Show Choir made it to State at Indianapolis. In 2023, I

was on the team that made school history by being the first Fine Arts Academic Team to make it to State at Purdue Lafayette," he adds.

Fast also earned his Eagle Scout Rank and became a member of the National Honor Society, and competed and qualified for Nationals in Portland Oregon for Educators Rising in the Creative Lecture Competition.

"I believe the education experience is phenomenal at Garrett High School. Due to living in Fort Wayne, I personally know the education experiences at Fort Wayne Community Schools and other schools in that area. Even compared to other DeKalb County schools, GHS by far is one of the best school systems in this area. I am very glad and fortunate to have gone to GHS compared to a FWCS school," said Fast.

"I would like to see a revival of the Academy at GHS in the future. As a student that has done both traditional and academy programs, the academy was exactly what I needed to learn the best I could at GHS. The teachers in the program were effective, it prepared me for college classes with the format, and it built a sense of community not seen in traditional programs. I was extremely saddened my junior year when I learned that they would remove the program, and I just hope other students have the same success I did in the Academy!

"There were many teachers that made a signifi-

cant impact on my education at GHS. Mr. Hammond, Mrs. Swonger, Mr. Anthony Thomas, and Mr. Hurd were teachers that made an impact especially. Mr. Hammond, Mrs. Swonger, and Mr. Thomas were my teachers in the Academy at GHS, and my best years at GHS were made those times when I was most successful. They shaped me to be a better person as a whole and taught me skills and content that will be useful for the rest of my life. Mr. Hurd was my 4th and 5th grade teacher, and he was the teacher I was closest to at J.E. Ober. Mr. Hurd brought out the best in me and taught me so many things that I still use today. He taught us advanced math that I used in 7th grade and 8th grade. To any parent I highly recommend Mr. Hurd to any parents or students. He is a fantastic, truly generational teacher!" said Fast.

His most memorable moment at GHS was making school history his freshman year.

"Jaiden Hinkle (Class of 2024), Makaylyn Ellison (Class of 2024), and I were on the team that, for the first time, made it to the State Finals at Purdue Lafayette in the Fine Arts division."

Ten years from now, he hopes to be teaching secondary social studies at a school with great culture.

Ethan James Lee Freeman

Ethan Freeman is the son of Jason and Alyson Freeman.

He plans to attend the police academy and become

a detective.

Freeman rates his education at Garrett as 7/10

"I had a pretty basic high school experience," he said, rating the Career Development Program as a valuable class and Mr. Iddings as an "excellent teacher."

Jose Rodolfo Fuentes

Jose Fuentes is the son of Jose and Dorothy.

He plans to attend PFW to study finance with a goal to become an investment analyst and open his own practice.

Fuentes has been active in soccer and golf. While at GHS, he has received Tri Kappa awards and All-Conference honorable mention.

He rates his education at 10 out of 10.

"I had amazing college credit opportunities with amazing instructors. Dual credit enrollment classes were valuable. Maybe the school could focus on more finance classes or classes with political science," Fuentes said.

Mrs. Treesh, Mrs. Ferguson, Mrs. Cone, Mrs. Tom, Mr. Claxton and Mr. Thomas made significant contributions to his education.

His first day of high school was among special memories, he adds.

Paytyn Rayann Fugate

Paytyn Fugate is the daughter of Peggy Mueller and Randall Mueller.

She plans to attend Rudae's Beauty School and major in cosmetology.

Fugate was active on the middle school track team, and earned outstanding scholastic achievement recognition.

She rates her education at 9/10.

"Teachers and staff were always involved in helping kids learn and grow into themselves. The art classes were definitely helpful for teens who wanted to release their creativity in multiple different ways, between the two art teachers who taught teens how to be creative in a way that best reflects the individual," Fugate said.

"Mr. Weber, Mrs. Everetts, Mr. Iddings, Mr. Strong, Mr. Richards and Mr. Sewelin were teachers who made contributions to my education by helping me see things differently, whether it was teaching me a new way that I never thought of before or helping me be more confident in my artistic abilities or teaching me how to set a better example for the younger kids. All these teachers helped me be a responsible productive citizen."

The times she spent with friends growing and learning were most memorable.

Ten years down the road, she hopes to be traveling and seeing new things!"

Trinadi Jo Ellen Green

Trinadi Green is the daughter of Allison Schrader and Jeremy Green.

She plans on attending Purdue Fort Wayne to pursue her dream of becoming an elementary school teacher, with a personal goal to introduce new ways to learn to the next generation.

Green has been a part of Garrett ENCORE for four years, and has been in five different school musicals and one play.

"I would rate my education a 10/10 because there are a lot of things that Garrett High School offers, such as the CDP, tons of mental help resources, and they also help everyone be the best they can be.

"I believe that the construction classes are very helpful because you never know when you'll need to replace something in your house like a broken board or change an outlet. Something I feel like we could develop is more teaching programs," said Green.

"Mrs. Hedges was always willing to help with anything and everything. Also, Mr. Hurd would go out of his way just to make sure everyone got help," she adds.

"My most memorable moment at GHS would be all the times I sat in class laughing with my friends,"

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Sanchez, Michelle



Short, Zaidin



Sierra, Ramon



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Smith, Alexander



Sorg, Savannah



Souder, Trevor



Sparkman, Miley



Speck, Zoe



Stevens-DeWitt, Jaydin



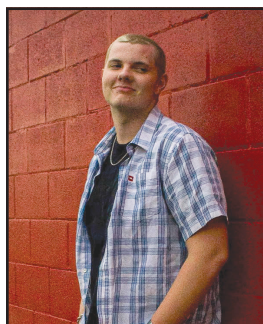
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Stoner, Emma



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Vanderbosch, Ashlee



Wallace, Troy



Wells, Isaac



Wells, Shelby



Williams, Reese



Wilson, Nevaeh



Wingate, Aubrey



Wood, Nolan



Woodward, Randi



Zimmerman, Drew

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Green said.

"I hope to be teaching the next generation of kids and giving them a teacher they will never forget," she said of the future.

Katelyn Grace Hoover

Katelyn Hoover is the daughter of Scott and Jennifer Hoover.

She plans to attend IU Bloomington to study nursing.

"My personal goal is to become more confident, responsible, and build strong relationships. My career goal is to find a job I enjoy while continuing to learn and create a stable future," Hoover said.

She has been involved in football and basketball cheerleading, as well as Key Club, earned a Scholastic Star all four years and received two sportsmanship awards for cheerleading.

"I would rate my education at Garrett a 10-out-of-10 because everyone here is so welcoming and supportive of each other. I think all the

programs here at GHS are strong and helpful because they give students many different opportunities to learn and succeed. There is a class or program for everyone, no matter their interests or future goals," Hoover adds.

"I would say all my teachers have made a significant contribution to my education because they truly care about their students and consistently show support.

"My most memorable moments at GHS are definitely the pep rallies," said Hoover.

Ten years from now, she hopes to be working as a travel nurse while "also starting a beautiful family."

Aiden James Hunt

Aiden Hunt is the son of Natasha Hunt and Mike Polly.

He will be joining the work force following graduation with a goal to own his own business.

Hunt has been active in football, wrestling and track at GHS, earning nine all-conferences, three all-states and several all-areas honors.

"I would say it was

solid with very hands-on experience," he said of his education at Garrett.

"The Building Trades classes helped me the most with the career choice ahead of me. Tyler Gross and Nolan Sharlach both are very educated in their field of work, and both strive to make kids better humans," Hunt adds.

"Winning regionals in football with my guys was memorable," he adds.

Jackson David Charles Ice

Jackson Ice is the son of Luke and Olivia Ice.

He plans to go to college and major in Psychology.

Ice also hopes to play professional baseball.

He has been active four years in baseball and a member of the football team.

His favorite subjects are psychology and advanced science and singled out teachers who made a difference in his education — "Mr. Sewelin in due to his smartness and his ability to teach, Mr. Filosa for the same reasons."

Ice said his most memorable moments include

hanging out with his peers in classes.

Ten years from now, he plans to be playing baseball.

Luke Robert Hicks

Luke Hicks is the son of Robert Hicks and Shelly Hicks.

He plans to attend Greenville University and major in mechanical engineering with a goal to become an aerospace engineer while growing into the real world.

Hicks has been active in Student Council, Sources of Strength, Bring Change 2 Mind, FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes), FFA, History Academic Team, Science Academic Team, Bowling, Shotgun Sports, Boy Scouts, Order of The Arrow and class officer.

His most memorable moment was the trip to Washington D.C.

Bailey Anne Hedges

Bailey Hedges is the daughter of Rachel Hedges and Luke Hedges.

She plans to attend Trine University and major in Exercise Science.

"I want to help others throughout life, have a

successful career and travel the world," Hedges said of her future goals.

Playing spike ball during freshman year at Last Blast with Mr. Lanning and Mr. Filosa was memorable, she adds.

Addison Mae Kelham

Addison Kelham is the daughter of Steve Kelham and Sara Kelham.

After graduation, she plans to go to college to continue her path at Ivy Tech for Graphic and Digital Design.

"A few goals of mine are earning certifications, enhancing productivity, buying my own house, and being able to budget effectively," Kelham said.

"I think it was a great learning experience. Not only did I learn in classes, but I was also taught how to improve communication, stay positive, and get my work done," she said of her education at Garrett.

"I believe that the Digital Design and Graphic Design programs are helpful and strong. I would love to possibly see more programs

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including game design, character design, etc. I know some kids feel as if they don't fit into art class as their art isn't realism or semi realism, giving them the option to design and create characters or game designs can help them learn their own way of art in a way they will enjoy.

"Mrs. Cone, Mrs. Ferguson, Mrs. Treesh, Mrs. Shipe, Mrs. Everetts, Mrs. Stein, Mr. Swartz, and Mr. Filosa have made significant contributions towards my education even if it wasn't directly. Their positive environments and helpful attitudes helped me get through the tougher times where I felt overwhelmed," said Kelham.

Her most memorable moment at GHS was helping Mrs. Cone run the Railway Cafe this year.

Addison Nicole Kinch

Addison Kinch is the

daughter of Leticia Kinch and Robert Kennedy.

She will be attending Indiana University and study oral surgery with a goal to finish college and become an oral surgeon.

"My whole senior year was memorable!" Kinch adds.

Josephine Lily Knepper

Josephine Knepper is the daughter of James and Jessica Knepper.

She plans to attend IU Indianapolis to pursue nursing with a goal to become an ICU Nurse and eventually go into a graduate program.

Knepper has been involved in girls soccer, football and basketball cheerleading, and track and field.

She has earned Tri Kappa Scholastic Honor Roll, Rising Stars Award, Athlete of the Week, Language Arts Underclassman of the Year Award, and NECC All Academic.

"I believe I have gotten a good education at Garrett,

especially with the dual credits offered here. I think the dual credit classes and the CTE program are very strong and helpful. I would like to see more medical-based classes because it's a common career path. A dual credit Anatomy would be helpful for any future nursing majors," she said.

"Mrs. Furnish taught me so much about English my freshman year, and I use her teachings in every essay I write to this day. She is also such a kind, supporting teacher and a great role model," Knepper adds.

"One of my most memorable moments at GHS was talking to Justin Weber before I interviewed for the Lilly Endowment Scholarship. He gave me great advice and jokingly said if they ask me who the greatest staff member at GHS is, I should say Justin Weber. The funny part is, the interviewers did in fact ask me who in my community has made an impact on the youth, and I couldn't think of

anyone else, so I told him," she said.

Knepper hopes to be working full time as a nurse, married, and a mother in 10 years.

Nolan Victor Kramer

Nolan Kramer is the son of Fred and Stephanie Kramer.

After graduation, he plans on working in the construction field, but also hopes to make his way into the fire industry.

"A personal goal of mine is to someday become a full-time or part-time firefighter, and a career goal is to retire from a job I loved doing," said Kramer.

He participated in soccer for four years and was a part of the Environmental Club for two years.

Kramer rates his education at 9/10. The class structure was fine, but the management of students could be tightened up, he said.

"The CDP program was amazing throughout my

four years at GHS. Having experienced instructors teaching me and other students really helps show the different industries and opportunities available out of high school.

"Teachers who have made a significant contribution to my education would be Kelly Flotow for giving me an internship spot in the CDP, Nolan Scharlach and Sam Weingartner for teaching me in both heavy highway and construction trades, and Mark Claxton for being an amazing teacher and senior advisor for us," he said.

"My most memorable moment at GHS was during my senior year in the CDP when I got to operate the crane for two days setting trusses on the house project," Kramer said.

Ten years from now he hopes to be doing construction.

Tracyn Ian Kooienga

Tracyn Kooienga is the son of Brienna Kooienga and

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Congratulations Class of 2026!

Extra Special Congratulations to:

Addison Kelham, Gabriella Devers and Alivia Stickler!

Congratulations to:

Sophia Boltz
Sarah Depew
Carter Fielden
Connor Gaar
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Abigail Thomas
Ashlee Vanderbosch
Troy Wallace
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Douglas Kooienga.

He plans to obtain employment following graduation, with hope to “become a quite wealthy person and pursue being an electrician.

“I want to learn more and achieve more,” he said.

Kooienga has been active in basketball, wrestling and football.

“I would rate it pretty good; I feel I’m a good student and do my work as it should be,” he said of his education. “I think the CDP program is the best program at our school; currently, we are doing a really good job with all the things following the CDP program, such as rewards and being noticed.

“Mrs. Gottfried is the best teacher at GHS. She drops everything she’s doing to help you if you need help, and she will continue to help until whatever problem is solved. She’s just really nice and cares about her students,” Kooienga said.

His favorite high school moment — “When I entered a skid loader freshman year, it was awesome.”

“I hope to be living my own life, working my job, and still being with my girlfriend,” Kooienga said of his future 10 years from now.

Issabell Sophia Jones

Issabell Jones is the daughter of Chris and Carrie Jones.

Her future plans are to attend school to be a massage therapist and one day own her own practice.

Jones has been part of the girls’ wrestling team, softball, and Bring Change to Mind.

She received a first all-state academic award for wrestling.

Jones rates her education as 8/10.

“I feel like I could have used my time more to take more classes. I believe that the CDP is strong, but I think they need to develop their intern program. Mrs. Gottfried always helped me figure things out when I

didn’t understand even if it wasn’t for her classes,” Jones adds.

Winning sectionals with the girls wrestling team two years in a row was memorable, she adds.

Ten years from now, she hopes to be working and traveling.

Alexis Rose Liechty

Alexis Liechty is the daughter of Brenda Liechty and John Liechty.

Her career goal is to earn her cosmetology license and be employed as a cosmetologist.

She has been active in FCA and cross country.

Liechty rates her education at 9/10.

“Teachers are all very nice and help a lot when the help is needed. IMPACT has helped me to get my license in cosmetology and make new friends.

“Mrs. Hedges has helped me when I feel stressed and helps me to stay focused,” she said.

Making new friends has been memorable for Liechty.

She hopes to have her own salon in 10 years.

Emma Karen Loeffler

Emma Loeffler is the daughter of Ryan and Abigail Loeffler.

She will be graduating with her cosmetology license and will be going into the work force.

“I hope to gain experience and hone my skills behind the chair in a hair salon,” said Loeffler.

She has been active in show choir, volleyball, Shotgun Sports, and Spell Team and musicals.

Loeffler has earned sportsmanship award, Academic Excellence, outstanding student award, four-year participation in volleyball and show choir.

She rates her education as 10/10.

“I feel prepared for the next step after high school. GHS has come alongside me and helped me succeed in my education. The partnership with IMPACT Institute trade school is an amazing program that I was proud to

be a part.

“Mr. Hammond sparked my love for history, and it really felt like he cared about my education. Mrs. White shows her passion for the students in the show choir and in the classroom and was truly inspirational. Mrs. Swonger shows care to her students, and she believes in every single one of them,” Loeffler adds.

Senior night for volleyball was among her memorable moments.

“I want to be a well-rounded hair stylist with confidence in my skills,” she said of her future 10 years from now.

Rebecca Hazel Malcolm

Rebecca Malcolm is the daughter of Constance Malcolm.

She plans to attend college and earn a Psychology Major and eventually work in the field of psychology.

Molly Violet Martin

Molly Martin is the daughter of David and Kary Martin.

She plans to attend IU Bloomington to become an NICU nurse.

Her personal goal is to meet new people, and her career goal is to find a job she loves after graduating.

Martin has been active in cross country, cheer, swim, track, Key Club and NHS.

Her most memorable moment at GHS was making it to the Regionals cross country meet.

Ten years from now, she hopes to be an NICU nurse and start a family.

Juliana Adyson Moore

Juliana Moore is the daughter of Jordyn Moore and Devon Moore and Vicky Gamez.

She plans to attend Ivy Tech to do medical coding, get her degree, and to being wife and mother with her fianc’e.

Moore was manager of the wrestling team at Garrett and a National Honor Society member.

“My education at Garrett was wonderful. My resource

class was one of my most helpful classes. The program I would like to see developed is the Impact Institute,” she said.

“Jennifer Ponko helped me achieve my goals and grades,” said Moore.

Meeting new friends was memorable for her.

“Being a wife and having kids is my plan,” Moore said of her future.

Connor Harrison Morimanno

Connor Morimanno is the son of Amanda and John Morimanno.

He plans to attend to Ivy Tech to major in accounting, then transfer to Purdue Fort Wayne to complete his Bachelor’s.

Morimanno’s personal goal is to live debt-free with a career goal to start working somewhere related to accounting.

He was involved in Garrett Boys Golf for four years and National Honor Society for two years.

“It was pretty decent. Some of the teachers weren’t as fun as others, but I still mostly remember everything I was taught,” he said of his education. “I thought the CTE business program was pretty helpful. It helped eliminate a good number of credits for me and gave me many certifications.

“David Stevens helped me understand math that is more suitable in my everyday life. Katie Treesh taught me where I wanted to go after graduation and what career to go for. Mark Claxton showed the history of the town that I’ve grown up in. Dustin Sewelin, Sandra Tom, and Bill Thomas are simply the best for being cool teachers,” Morimanno said.

“The most memorable moment at GHS that I think a lot of others would agree with was the 2023 dodgeball tournament. It was interesting to watch the sophomores show down the teachers.”

In 10 years, he hopes to make advances in a career and still be playing golf.

Keigan Daniel Mountz

Keigan Mountz is the son of Josh and Amy Mountz.

He plans on attending Ivy Tech online for one year, then transferring his credits to Purdue Fort Wayne to major in Finance.

Mountz’s personal goal is to stay friends with his current friends after high school. His career goal is to become a Financial Manager or Financial Advisor.

He played baseball for all four years at Garrett High School.

“My most memorable moment at GHS was the job fairs that we went to for our business classes because these really helped me figure out what career path I wanted to follow,” said Mountz.

Alexia BreAnn Moynahan

Alexia Moynahan is the daughter of Tara Feller, Kyle Feller, Heath Moynahan and Erica Moynahan.

She will attend college to major in Elementary Education at Purdue Fort Wayne.

“I hope to be an amazing teacher,” she said of her future.

Moynahan has been active in plays, musicals, show choir, volleyball, spell team, fine arts academic team, social studies academic team, Key Club and Educator’s Rising. She also earned an academic ‘G’ letter

“It’s been up and down as things seem to be different every year,” she said of her education at Garrett. “We need more options for kids’ pathways.

“Mr. Strong has helped me with math for three years. Mrs. Swonger has helped and supported me all throughout high school.”

She lists her freshman year as memorable.

Moynahan hopes to be teaching kids in a classroom and having her own apartment 10 years from now.

Isaiah Robin Neumann

Isaiah Neumann is

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the son of Julie and Kelly Neumann.

After graduation he plans to continue working with hopes to be able to continue his career.

Neumann rates his education at Garrett at 10.

"I liked all my teachers and felt I retained all the information needed to become a respectable person. I felt the construction classes have really helped with my career, especially with machine operating," he said. "Mr. Weingartner, Mr. Claxton, and Mrs. Moody made significant contributions."

Putting the stairs in at the Spencerville Bridge his memorable high school moment.

"I hope to be living on my own and being self-sufficient," Neumann said of his future.

Elizabeth Nicole Raymond

Elizabeth Raymond is the daughter of Jon Raymond, Krystle Raymond and Tracy Price.

Her plans following graduation include going to Trine to begin working towards becoming a pediatrician.

Raymond's career goals are to help kids feel better and to show them that "going to the doctor isn't a bad thing."

She has been active in cheerleading and National Honor Society.

"I believe that the different pathways are helpful. They help give students an idea of what they want to do and ensure that it actually interests them," Raymond said of her education. "Katie Treesh has made a significant contribution to my education as she is always there to help me no matter what I may need."

Playing spike ball with Mr. Lanning, Mr. Filosa, and Bailey during freshman year's last blast was memorable, she adds.

Drea Nicole Reynolds

Drea Reynolds is the

daughter of Brittney Frye.

She plans to enter early childhood education.

"I hope to own my own home by 19 and get my associate's degree," Reynolds said of her future.

"We need more physical education classes, life tasks taught more, and more health class information," she said of her GHS career.

"Mrs. Everett's kindness, encouragement, and patience, Mrs. Evans' loyalty and flexibility, and Mr. Getts' compassion was appreciated," Reynolds said.

Adelyn M. Rodman

Adelyn Rodman is the daughter of Stephanie Patton and Joey Rodman.

She hopes to be employed and wants to get a farmhouse with lots of land, and to travel.

Rodman rates her education experience at 7 — "I've had my ups and downs."

"I want to be helping animals and just traveling the world" she said of her future.

Kaylee Makenna Rowe

Kaylee Rowe is the daughter of Melissa Straley.

Plans following graduation are to go to Indiana University and major in nursing to get her BSN degree.

Rowe's career goals are to graduate college and become a travel NICU nurse.

At Garrett, she managed baseball since her freshman year, as well as track her freshman year and wrestling her senior year.

Rowe will be receiving her academic honors diploma and got her CNA during high school years.

"I would rate my education at Garrett as good. There were ups and downs, but everyone has that with high school," she said.

"I believe the IMPACT program GHS offers is strong and helpful. This helps prepare students for their future and gets you started.

"Mr. Claxton and Mr. Iddings have made significant contributions to

my education. They have both helped me when I've struggled. They have also both made me believe in myself that I am going to go far in life," said Rowe.

Her most memorable moment at GHS would be door dashing to baseball games.

"I hope in 10 years I am going to start to travel as a nurse and have a family."

Zaidin Dwayne Short

Zaidin Short is the son of Desiree Koskie.

He plans to have a job and "be a cop" in the future.

Short played football at GHS.

"I feel it was mostly good but still think math classes need something that makes a bigger impact," he said of GHS.

"I think CDP is the best thing Garrett has to offer. All the classes are super fun, and I've learned a lot. I do think math classes need something more. Other than that, all the other classes are good.

"Mrs. Gottfried is one of the chilliest teachers ever. She's super nice and helped me go to Japan and helped me with my math multiple times. Mrs. Everett is the

most influential teacher who helped me learn how to be more creative and expressive through art. Mr. Sam Weingartner is the coolest teacher and is very understanding when I don't know how to do things and helps me through everything and gives very good life advice," said Short.

His most memorable moment?

"Definitely during my junior year football season, we just won the tenth game, and we were all singing songs together in the locker room."

Looking forward 10 years he shares his goal.

"I KNOW I will own my dream car Supra mk4, and hopefully, I'm on a SWAT team by then."

Alexander Matthew Smith

Alexander Smith is the son of Nicole Harrington.

Employment following graduation and making enough money to live comfortably are his goals.

He has been involved with the show choir at Garrett.

"I would rate my education as pretty good because it is easy to

understand and the teachers are very friendly," said Smith.

"I think the CDP program is very helpful because it teaches people some skills that they can use and introduces them to industries they could work in. The teacher that has probably made the most significant contributions is Mr. Stevens. This is because despite only having one class with him, he taught me that hard work matters and you should always do your best," Smith adds.

His most memorable moment is probably when the show choir made state for the first time in a while.

In 10 years, he hopes to have a stable job and a family.

Savannah Love Sorg

Savannah Sorg is the daughter of Charity Hall.

She plans to attend PFW to major in biology with a goal to become a nature and wildlife conservationist.

"The last day of school was memorable," Sorg recalls.

"I want to be living in a new state, working in nature, and having my own house," she says, looking forward 10

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years.

Trevor Conner Souder

Trevor Souder is the son of Samantha and Chad Souder.

Future plans are to attend college.

"I hope to be good at what I do," Souder said.

He has been active in football, wrestling and Shotgun Club.

"I rate the education around 6/10. The administration was good.

"Justin Weber was always there to help out, and Sam Weingartner was very helpful and taught me a lot," he said

Talking to his friends at the lunch table was memorable.

"Having a decent physique and having a well-paying job are hopefully in my future," is Souder's goal.

Zoe Mandolyn Speck

Zoe Speck is the daughter of Dulcey Page and Jay Speck.

"I am still unsure but traveling abroad and possibly attending trade school or community college are possibilities," she said of her future. "I hope to live in Colorado as an electrician one day"

She has been active in Entomology Club.

Speck rates her education at 8/10. "The teachers are incredibly helpful and kind, always wanting to do what's best for their students."

She would really like to see something like the ICC brought back.

"Mr. Strong is the very first math teacher I've ever had that has genuine patience and didn't belittle me when I didn't understand math," Speck adds.

"Prom my junior year was memorable because I had an amazing and incredible time, and I hope to recreate that for my last prom. Honorable Mention: Detroit Art Museum my sophomore year was memorable as well.

"I will be hopefully living with my partner in Colorado while becoming an electrician while taking online psychology classes on the side," she said of her future.

Paul David Swonger

Shilo Swonger and Shannon Swonger are the parents of Paul David Swonger.

Future plans are hopes for employment with a personal goal to buy a house and travel the country.

"I want to own a record store and make a career out of it," Swonger said.

Activities include Key Club, with recognition as Distinguished President Indiana Key Club 2023, Distinguished Secretary Indiana Key Club 2024.

"Garrett is filled with amazing educators who can curate excellent curriculum, even if they're restricted from teaching certain topics.

"I would like to see students create new clubs and be passionate about their community. Mr. Hammond has helped me past school, by giving me the tools to form a strong opinion," Swonger said. "Anytime in the academy program was memorable."

Future plans are to give people the love for music that Swonger has.

Abigail Mae Thomas

Abigail Thomas is the daughter of Sara and Bill Thomas.

After graduation, she plans to attend Butler University to study Arts Administration.

She hopes to someday work for a music non-profit and continue to play the clarinet.

Thomas has been active in Marching Band, Voices of Philanthropy, Jazz Band, Pep Band, English Academic Team, Social Studies Academic Team, Garrett Keyser Butler Education Foundation, National Honor Society, Class Officer, Student Council, Sources of Strength, Bring Change to Mind and Key Club.

She has received several honors and awards,

including Edwin and Marjorie Keiser Crossroads Drum Major Scholarship, Sigma Alpha Iota Summer Music Clinic Scholarship, English Academic Team State Champion, English Academic Team State Finalist (3rd place), ISSMA Marching Band State Finalist (6th place), ISSMA Marching Band State Finalist (9th place), Rising Stars of Indiana Award, Tri Kappa Garrett Alpha Chi Chapter Annual Junior Award (Music), Social Studies Underclassmen of the Year, Language Arts Underclassmen of the Year (grades 9 and 10), Garrett Academic Dream Team (grades 9, 10, 11), Respect Team 360 Awards Finalist, Indiana University Summer Music Clinic Leadership Award (grades 10 and 11), Symphony of the Lakes Concerto Competition Second Place (grades 11 and 12), ISSMA State Solo and Ensemble Gold Rating with Distinction (Ensemble), ISSMA State Solo and Ensemble Gold Rating (Solo-grades 10 and 11), ISSMA State Solo and Ensemble Gold Rating (Ensemble-grades 10 and 12), ISSMA Jazz Contest Outstanding Soloist, Indiana Bandmasters Association All-State Honor Band, National Honor Society Scholarship Semi-Finalist and NECC All-Academic Team 2026.

"I would rate my education at Garrett very highly. This school has provided so many opportunities that are not typically available at smaller schools. Additionally, I have always felt supported by my teachers and community. My time at Garrett has been very impactful on my life for those reasons," Thomas said.

"The English, band, and math departments are strong programs that stood out in my high school journey. I was able to grow so much as both a writer and a person in every English class that I took. The teachers in the English department are some of the most supportive that I have ever seen. The

band program has led me to my career. My love for music started with the marching band and has only grown from there. My closest friends came from this program. Math is something that I struggle to understand. The math teachers always explained things and helped everyone to succeed. I hope that in the future more students can do more arts related classes," Thomas adds.

"Mrs. Furnish has made the greatest impact on my education. She has helped me become a much better writer. These skills have helped me in every other class that I have taken. She has also helped me grow as a person. As an academic team coach, she taught me how to focus on and accomplish a goal. I am so grateful for all her support in my life.

"My most memorable moment at GHS was actually a week in 2023 when the marching band had made State for the first time in school history. I remember how supportive everyone was and how exciting it was to be a part of something so special. Marching in Lucas Oil stadium is a memory that I will remember forever.

"Ten years from now, I hope to be working for a music non-profit. I also hope to play the clarinet in a local ensemble. I want to be helping kids from smaller schools find music opportunities," Thomas said.

Hunter Owen Thomas

Hunter Thomas is the son of Clinton Thomas and Angelica Quiñones.

Future plans are going to college with a goal to become a registered dietitian.

Thomas has been active in football and being a manager.

He received Tri Kappa for academic excellence honors.

Thomas rates his education at 8.9.

"A new program could be helping kids learn the real world. Mr. Claxton made significant contributions," he said of his education.

Graduating early was memorable moment.

"I hope that I am

enjoying all my choices," Thomas said of his future.

Keith DeWayne Thomas Jr.

Keith DeWayne Thomas is the son of Ashley and Robert Deventer.

Employment is in his future goal.

"I hope to be successful and have an amazing family when I'm older," said Thomas.

He has been active in track for four years, and football for three years.

Thomas was named Most Improved in track his junior year.

"I would rate it really good. The teachers have made a huge impact with the students and take their time to help you out when you need it most," he said of his education. "The programs I believe are strong and helpful are the CDP classes as in welding, heavy highway and Building Trades.

"Mr. Getts and Mrs. Johnson both pushed me to work my hardest and made sure I was learning and making the best out of the time we've had."

Making semi-state in football was his memorable moment.

"I want to be making a lot of money and have an amazing family," he said looking forward 10 years.

Trevor Patrick Thomas

Trevor Thomas is the son of Sarah and Anthony Thomas.

He intends to go into the Carpentry Union to become a carpenter following graduation with a goal to "be successful and retire with more money than I can ever imagine."

Thomas has been active in soccer and wrestling and earned Academic All-State honors.

"I can't give it a specific number, but I believe that the education here at Garrett is above-and-beyond, with all their programs and teachers that take pride and value in helping students and encouraging them to learn new and exciting things,"

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GRADS

FROM PAGE 16

Thomas said.

“The CDP program has helped me a lot and helped me realize what field I want to go into. Sam Weingartner, Nolan Sherlock, Mark Claxton, Jason Wiley, Victor Hammond and my dad, when he was teaching, were significant.

“I cherish all my moments so I can’t really say which one was most memorable,” he adds.

“I want to settle down with a family, have a big house, and go on fun vacations,” looking forward 10 years from now.”

Ashlee Grace Vanderbosch

Ashlee Vanderbosch is the daughter of Brian and Gwen Vanderbosch.

She plans to attend college following graduation.

Future plans are to “Follow Jesus, love my career and have a family.”

Having a record in softball was memorable.

Isaac Steven Wells

Isaac Wells is the son of Jeremy Wells and Cherrie Wells.

After high school, he will be attending college at Purdue in Lafayette and pursuing a major in accounting.

Wells’ goal is to complete his master’s degree in accounting and become a certified public accountant after passing the CPA.

He has been involved in Show Choir and Musical while attending Garrett, and is a member of the National Honor Society, as well as having multiple awards for maintaining above average grades.

“The education at Garrett is well rounded, having teachers who understand their subject and what they teach fully,” he adds.

“I think the CDP and main subject classes are fully developed, but some classes that connect with extra-curriculars could use some work, such as adding a theater class

or more in the performing arts department.

“Mr. Hurd and Mrs. Gomes have made significant contributions to my education by being continuous support throughout my educational career,” said Wells.

His most memorable moment at GHS was watching the whole school come together for Last Blast to have fun and enjoy the last day of school.

Ten years from now, he hopes to be a Certified Public Accountant, providing for his family and having a good, stable life.

Shelby Elizabeth Wells

Shelby Wells is the daughter of Jason and Cassie Wells.

She plans obtain a college education at Saint Francis with an intended major of Radiologic Technology.

“My personal and career goals are to go to college in the following fall semester and attend Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, to obtain my AAS in Radiologic Technology and possibly furthering my education later in Sonography. Along with college this year, I plan to work on completing the classes necessary for me to become a firefighter at the department I am currently active in. I aspire to help people in my community in multiple ways while also starting my career,” said Wells.

She has been in numerous clubs, including FFA where she spent the last year as the secretary, NHS, Student Council, and Bring Change to Mind (previously Sources of Strength).

“During high school, I have received the Merit award for NHS twice, Academic Excellence, Most Courageous during my cheerleading career and Most Improved during my softball career at Lakewood Park, Academic Award for the CDP, National Youth Shoot awards and medals, and numerous class awards such as Geometry, Algebra 1, Digital Design, and Landscaping,” she said.

Her most memorable moments at GHS would be the numerous field trips and school-wide events throughout the school years. “The best field trip would be the Washington D.C. and the FFA Convention.”

Neveah Belle Wilson

Neveah Wilson is the daughter of Stephanie Wilson and Jeff Wilson.

She plans to attend IU Fort Wayne and major in dental hygiene, with a goal to travel the world and become a successful dental hygienist.

Wilson has been active in track, wrestling, NHS, Key Club and Athletic Leadership.

She was a Wrestling State Champion, Wrestling Regional Champion, Wrestling Semi State Champion, Wrestling Sectional Champion, Academic All State, All Conference and All State.

“My most memorable moments at GHS were being in classes and on teams with some of my closest friends,” she said.

Aubrey Nicole Wingate

Aubrey Wingate is the daughter of Sarah Coak and Shawn Coak.

She hopes to continue working at Jersey Mikes and possibly going into Phlebotomy later through Ivy Tech.

“I want to grow and change as a person,” she said of her personal goals.

Wingate has been active in Key Club, choir, Impact Institute for Culinary Arts and Cyber Patriots, and earned Serv-Safe Certification.

She rates her education at 4/5.

“It’s not the school’s fault, but I was unknowingly working through school with undiagnosed ADHD, so it was a little harder for me. Good experience, though!

“Mrs. Swonger’s Principals of Teaching is an amazing class. It helps you to learn about child development firsthand! I would like to see an Interior Design class in tandem with our

construction class. I feel it would be very nice and would work with it nicely.

“Mrs. Johnson helped me as much as possible to pass my math class, even when the other math teachers I had prior hadn’t known how to explain it to me. Mr. Claxton helped motivate me to do good in the joint History/English class, as well as letting me use hyper fixation to my advantage during a project. Mrs. Swonger was patient with me and helped me no matter how far I fell behind in her class,” Wingate said.

Her most memorable moment at GHS was when she had finally gotten all the credits she needed to graduate in December instead of May.

She hopes to be practicing or performing in Phlebotomy and be able to afford things that are more pleasure than survival, looking down the road 10 years from now.

Randi Joyce Woodward

Randi Woodward is the daughter of Kathy Woodward.

She plans to work with Parkview with her CCMA certification, with hopes to continue college sometime later.

“My personal goal is to start saving my money. My career goals are to work as a CCMA, and after I go through college in the future, I would like to work as an ASN,” she said.

Woodward has been involved with the Academic Spell Team for three years, and National Honor Society since the end of her sophomore year, serving as treasurer since the end of her junior year.

She has earned Academic excellence, all the years.

“I’d say it was a good experience,” she said of GHS. “The Impact program was absolutely amazing. It’s a good experience for those who try hard to achieve trade work or nursing, etc., early. All my teachers have made significant contributions to my education because they all got me

where I am now.”

“When our principal and vice principal left before school was over, the ceremony we had in the hallway saying goodbye to them was memorable,” Woodward said.

Working as a nurse would be ideal, she said of her future.

Drew Christopher Zimmerman

Drew Zimmerman is the son of Chris Zimmerman and Terra Williams.

He will be attending Indiana Wesleyan University, majoring in Exercise Science, with a goal to take his degree and become a Physical Therapist or athletic trainer.

Zimmerman has been active in football and basketball

He earned honor roll honors won regionals for football.

“I’d give it an 8/10. Beginning high school, we didn’t offer too many varieties of classes, and then towards the end of my high school days, we added many different programs and pathways,” said Zimmerman.

“I think our medical program is great, along with the CDP. I hope we can maybe get more programs that lead to internships and help students build their careers.

“Just to name a couple, Mr. Geoff Getts, Mrs. Moody, Mr. Claxton, Mr. Iddings, and Mrs. Gottfried helped push me to become the person I am today,” he said of his education.

“I’d say my most memorable moment at GHS was winning our regional game against Knox. It was a very close game and was just impactful to our program.”

Ten years from now, Zimmerman hopes to be a physical therapist while helping others. “Hopefully, I will be involved with sports,” he adds.

What Happens Next

BY GREEN SHOOT MEDIA

There's no single path forward after graduation.

High school graduates are preparing their big move to college or technical school, while some college graduates may be considering a master's degree or going straight into their chosen careers.

Still others may take a "gap year" away.

Wherever you are headed, here are some things that help move you forward once that diploma or degree is in hand.

YOUR FINANCES

Whether you're off for more education or starting a new job, set up a budget before leaving the nest. Have your parents help; they've likely been doing it for years. Don't forget to set aside some for savings, too, in case of emergencies. (Oh, and be sure to define "emergency."



SEAN LOCKE

A flat tire or visit to the ER is; late-night food deliveries are not.)

You'll need to set up a checking account and a savings account and, if

you're going right into the workforce, a retirement account. If you don't know already, learn how taxes work and how much will be taken out of each check.

HOUSEKEEPING DUTIES

Hopefully, you've picked up everyday skills like laundry, cooking and cleaning during your time at home. If not, start learning before you find

yourself on your own. Once you get your first apartment or dorm room, you'll have to perform the basics of living on your own, including how to cook, clean the bathroom, wash your clothes and other basic life skills. Some other things to learn include how your health insurance works and basic car care, if you're taking a vehicle with you.

TIME MANAGEMENT

As you transition from school to whatever's next, you'll find that you're suddenly the master of your own time. There are no parents to wake you or feed you and no bells to make sure you go where you're needed next. Start practicing time management before you leave home. Give yourself plenty of time to get to class or to work, to get home and to make meals. Monitor your cash flow, since that will determine when you can pay bills and run errands.

*Congrats 2026
Graduates!*



*We wish you all success in
your endeavors!*

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2026 Graduates**

Garrett High School

José Fuentes, Connor Gaar,
Katelyn Hoover & Keigan Mountz

Purdue Fort Wayne

Samantha VanderRoest

Remembering the Big Day

BY GREEN SHOOT MEDIA

You've probably heard it a million times: Graduation is going to be an unforgettable day. But it will pass by in a blur of ceremony and emotion.

Documenting everything preserves each special moment throughout the day.

THE RIGHT ONE

Seek out advice from relatives or older friends when choosing a graduation photographer. Their insights can help you find the right fit. Take time to explore online portfolios, since they can provide a greater understanding of a photographer's style. Establish and stick to a photography budget since costs can vary widely. Don't forget that there will be related expenses like invitations, clothing and trips. After selecting a photographer, communicate your expectations clearly but remain open to their professional suggestions.

WHAT TO SHOOT

Obviously, snapshots in your cap and gown are a must. But casual photos with your friends and family are great keepsakes. Consider posing near a historic building on campus or exploring a beautiful

waterfront area or garden. Invite your classmates, since they've been instrumental in your educational experience.

Ask the photographer to capture some candid shots during the graduation ceremony, rather than just your entrance and the moment you receive your diploma. With so much happening in a busy event, it can be tough to absorb everything. Then make sure they get plenty of pictures as you celebrate with loved ones afterward. These moments will be cherished by everyone involved.

WHY IT MATTERS

In the future, when you have settled into your new life, pictures can bring back fond memories. Your parents will likely cherish this important occasion and may want to display some of these photos at home. Additionally, your new images can act as a valuable asset for your career. High-quality photos can enhance your profile on professional sites like LinkedIn and elevate your resume. The initial years in college or job-hunting can often be tight financially. This may be an opportunity to create a polished headshot or professional portrait.



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Congratulations!

May All of Your Hopes & Dreams Come True

If you can dream it, you can do it!

Have faith in yourself and keep up the great work.
We wish you the very best today and always.

 **Thomas**
Funeral Home

357-0444

Before You Graduate

BY GREEN SHOOT MEDIA

Finally, the end is in sight. After all those hours studying, writing papers and sweating the exams, you're finally set to graduate.

Even the effort and planning of the day itself might have come and gone. But you deserve to savor this moment, after all you've accomplished. Here's how:

DRINK IT ALL IN

Don't let these final moments of high school or college go by unrecognized. This time is irreplaceable, and nothing can truly compare to it. Take a moment to fully appreciate the sights and sounds of an ordinary school day, knowing these experiences will soon give way to something new.

REMEMBER MENTORS

Take a moment to remember the people who supported and guided you along the way. Staying in touch with mentors after graduation can open doors, offer perspective and provide encouragement as you move into your next chapter.



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BEGIN NETWORKING

For college graduates, building connections in your field can be a valuable next step. Casual conversations with

professionals — whether over coffee or through a

brief introduction online — can help you learn more about your industry and begin forming meaningful relationships.

ENCOURAGE OTHERS

Graduation marks a shared milestone, but the

paths that follow will look different for everyone. Some will move quickly into careers or further education, while others take time to explore what comes next.

Supporting one another through these transitions helps maintain the sense of community built along the way.

LOOK BACK FONDLY

Take pride in what you've

accomplished. From early classes to final exams, each step contributed to reaching this milestone. Whether you finished at the top of your class or simply crossed the finish line, earning a degree reflects persistence and dedication. While each graduate's path will unfold differently, the achievement itself is shared — and lasting.

Congratulations
2026 Graduates

**& Best Wishes in
All Your Future Endeavors!**

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