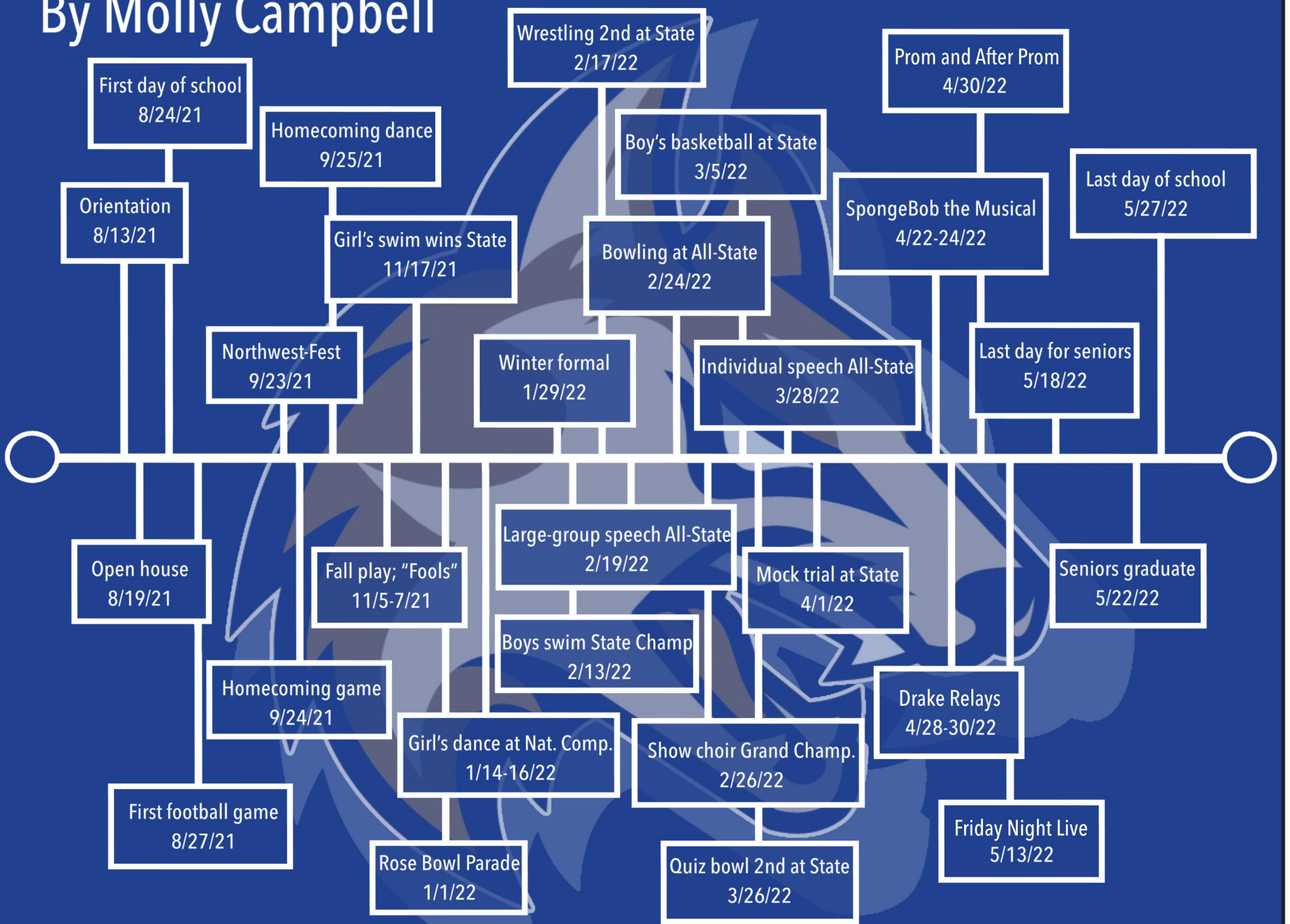


Waukee Northwest High School Timeline 2021-2022 By Molly Campbell



10th Street Times Graduation Edition

Keynote Speaker

Senior Ava McEntaffer will deliver the Commencement Address.

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Future Plans Spotlight

See what a few of Northwest's seniors are doing this fall.

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19 ?s at NW

Senior Schyan Steele answers 19 rapid fire questions.

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Alumni Advice



Hunter Philpott, Waukee Class of 2021

College they are attending: University of Northern Iowa

Aspiring future profession: Education

Current life: “Lot of classes. I am a part of the men’s glee club up here, which is a non-audition choir with a bunch of guys who like to sing. I am a wrestling manager so I spend a lot of time in the west wing with the wrestlers, and when I am not doing any of that, I am doing homework.”

Biggest High School Lesson: “I learned that it is important that you build relationships not only with your friends but with teachers, cause they can provide mentorships to you and kind of give you guidance of what to look and what to do as you go to college.”

Advice for NW Graduates: “Don’t be afraid to try something new in college.”

Kenzie Kroll, Waukee Class of 2020

College they are attending: University of Iowa

Aspiring future profession: “I love the math and data side of things. I love being able to connect what we see, what we produce, and then the numbers that back that up. [I like to] figure out how we can utilize those numbers. I would love to stay somewhere in the sports industry doing something similar to what I’m doing with the baseball team right now. But I have also found that I love the medical side of it as well, with the research I am doing.”

Advice for NW graduates: “Remember to put things in perspective. This is the last time that they will all be at the same milestone with their peers. After this, you will have kids going to trade school, you’ll have kids going right into the workforce, [and] you’ll have kids who take the college route. This is kinda the last time that they are all collectively together as one, which is crazy to think about when you are in the moment because [these are] kids you have gone to school with since kindergarten... Also, once you hit the stress of college, or work, or whatever post-high school plans are, take it one step at a time, put it in perspective. This exam isn’t a huge deal in the long term, this job interview isn’t a huge deal in the long term, and so just kinda be able to take a step back and breathe and work through it one step at a time.”



Hannah Sand, Waukee Class of 2019

College they are attending: Iowa State University

Current life: “I am currently a junior at Iowa State University, I am actually graduating in December, which is a semester early, but I am super excited. At Iowa State, I am super involved on campus. I am in the sorority Chi Omega here. I was our vice president this last year, which was super fun. I got to do a lot of scholarship programming for our chapter, which was really rewarding. I am also involved on campus in the student council for the college of business. I am one of our marketing chairs; [therefore], I am a marketing major advertising minor.”

Advice for NW graduates: “My biggest piece of advice is to push yourself out of your comfort zone when you graduate in whatever your plans are after, whether it is college or not...Get involved right away in things that you like but things maybe you haven’t tried, or you want to try because you never know if you don’t try. The more you get involved, the more you will know what you want to do when you graduate.”

Cameron Briggs, Waukee Class of 2018

College they are attending: Brigham Young University

Current life: “So I am just out at BYU in Provo, Utah. I just finished my fourth semester there. Straight out of high school I went on a church mission for 21 months. I was in the Philippines. In the summer I usually do sales—I will be selling solar panels in California. [I am involved in a] lot of intramurals—ultimate frisbee and a kickball league.”

Advice for NW graduates: “One of the slogans that my teacher used every day was to have 20 seconds of courage. I think when you graduate you just need to know that as much as you think you have it figured out, you really don’t and the best skill you can have is to be flexible and just roll with the punches. Also, be willing to be courageous. There are a lot of opportunities that present themselves that people shy away from and don’t take... You need to know that there is a lot to the world and you are never going to know everything, and there are always going to be people that know more than you in certain areas. [Use] it to your advantage, be their friend, it’s not always a competition... Soak it all up, the time goes faster than you think and you need to use the time to your advantage, not as a clock ticking, but make every day count.”



Luke LeValley, Waukee Class of 2018

College they are attending: Drake University

Current life: “I am a student at Drake University, in my last year student teaching at Northwest High School [with Mr. Mickelson].”

Advice for NW graduates: “If you are unsure about what you want to do in the future do not jump into anything. It is better to be unsure and test things out than to just do the first thing that [you] think of... Whether or not you think you are enjoying it now, you probably are and it can go either way. You can love high school and keep loving high school and that’s great, or even if you don’t love high school it’s not even the start of your life yet, so don’t worry about it. It sucks.” ■

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P.C. Interviewees

Keynote Speaker: Ava McEntaffer

By Ariana Aponte

As the inaugural year of Northwest High School came to a close and graduation neared, 13 seniors auditioned to speak at commencement. Auditioning was a rather laid-back process where students shared their speech in front of a small panel of teachers, administrators and other faculty members. The student then shared their speech in front of only a few auditionees, and from then on they were considered to speak at commencement.

Generally, three seniors are chosen to speak at commencement, but this year, senior Ava McEntaffer was chosen as the keynote speaker. McEntaffer has been involved in several activities during her time in high school, which include Mock Trial and Show Choir in 9th grade and Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) Club in 11th grade and National Honor Society in 12th grade. Outside of school, McEntaffer plays piano and is involved in several activities in her local church, Lutheran Church of Hope, where she volunteers in the nursery and is a Powerlife leader. She plans to attend the University of Iowa in fall 2022 to study biology on a pre-med track with a minor in German.

In McEntaffer's speech, she compares her initial feelings about coming to Northwest to her current feelings about the overall experience. "The theme of my speech is 'Don't miss this mo-

ment,'" noted McEntaffer. In an ode to her childhood and her high school career, McEntaffer shared, "I tried to really highlight and focus on how incredible and monumental this experience has been for all of us, and I highly encourage everyone to savor these moments and take it all in." McEntaffer also encourages all incoming seniors to audition to speak at commencement. "[Auditioning] is way less scary than you think it is going to be. Even if you don't get chosen, it is a great opportunity to hone your writing skills, practice giving a speech, and express your feelings," emphasized McEntaffer. ■

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P.C. Ava McEntaffer

Senior D1 Athletes

By Caden Sammler

The 2022 class of Waukee Northwest has an impressive group of athletes including nine Division 1 commits: Seniors Reagan Bartholomew, Mackenzie Carney, Jordan Dawson, Jadon Engstrom, Griffin Gammel, Natalie Harris, Madison Judas, Katelyn Lookingbill and Anthony Watts.

Going D1 is a very impressive feat that many athletes dream of. Only one percent of high school athletes are able to go to a Division 1 school for athletics. Many of these athletes set a goal out for themselves to make it this far. Senior UNI track and field commit Jadon Engstrom explained, "As a kid, I always wanted to be an athlete at a Division 1 school. I did not know whether it would be football, track or baseball but it was always a goal of mine to be in a sport at a D1 school." Less than two percent of high school athletes go to a Division 1 school, which makes it a good goal for young athletes.

Many things need to be done right from a recruiting standpoint to be able to make it to the Division 1 level. Being good enough is 99% of

the story, but that other 1% is being smart with recruitment. Senior Virginia wrestling commit Griffin Gammell explained, "First things first, work on your craft but also advocate for yourself by reaching out to coaches. Then make sure you pick somewhere that you would want to go as a student first and then evaluate if the program is right for you." Being able to advocate for yourself is key for schools to start reaching out.

A lot of these athletes' stories look different from one another. Some athletes receive more attention earlier in their high school careers, while others receive attention in their senior season. Senior Iowa State Track and Field commit Mackenzie Carney explained, "I've always thought it would be cool going there to follow in my dad's footsteps because he ran there in college and was an All-American there along with so many other major successes. It wasn't until earlier this year when Iowa State got a new head coach and a whole new coaching staff. They recruited me really well and they ended up feeling like family." Mackenzie's commitment to Iowa State was a good example of later recruitment. Schools stand out differently for every person which makes every recruitment journey different. Each one of Northwest's nine Division 1 commits shows a different story and accomplished one of the best feats known to high school athletes. ■

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P.C. Caden Sammler

Seniors Devin Doyle, Anthony Watts and Weston Barber are continuing their athletic careers in college.

Senior Future Plans Spotlight

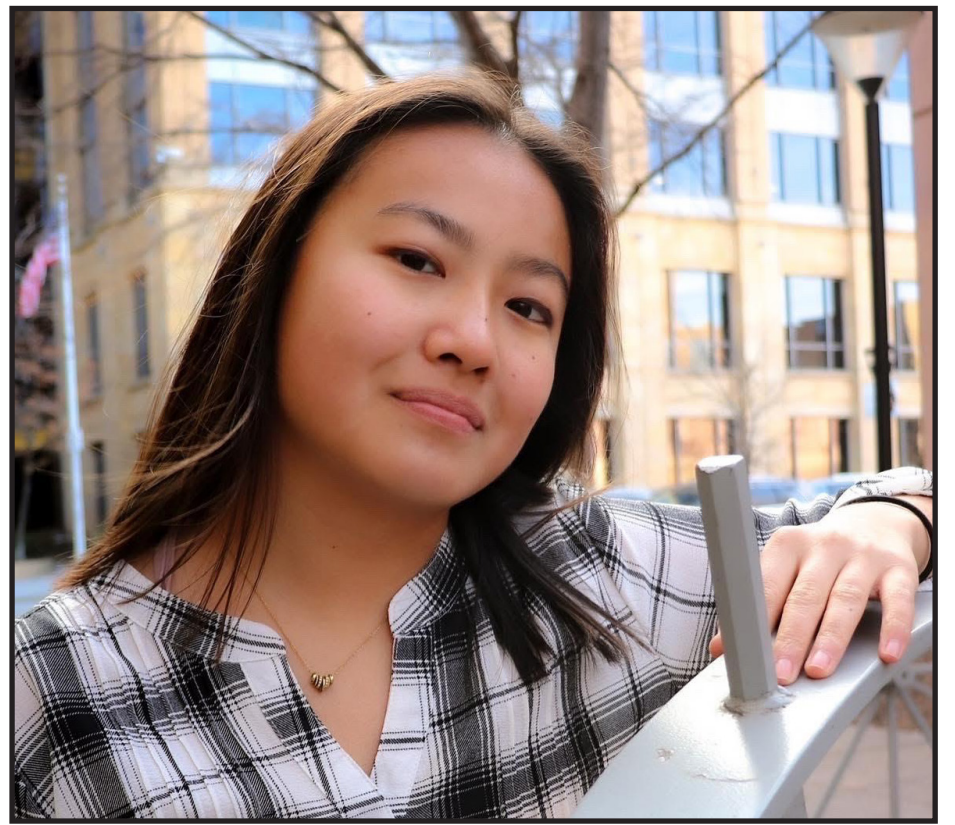


Jake Wiersma, United States Naval Academy

After graduating, Jake Wiersma plans to attend the United States Naval Academy to major in Aerospace Engineering with a minor in Spanish. Jake has wanted to fly in the military since a very young age. “Ever since I was a little kid, test pilots, astronauts and fighter pilots always inspired me to pursue a career in aviation,” expressed Wiersma. His backup plan is to become a Surface Warfare Officer and work on the deck of a battleship. Lots of work goes into being accepted into a service academy. He started the application process in March of his junior year. First, you have to receive a congressional nomination before the school can consider you. He received the congressional nomination about nine months later and waited another year to get accepted into the academy. Ten years from now he sees himself in a fighter pilot squadron. He wants the underclassmen to know that they can ask him any questions about applying to a service academy since it is a very long and difficult process.

Iris Nickolaus, Winona State University

After she graduates, Iris Nickolaus will be going to Winona State University for geology and entrepreneurship. She wants to go into geology because she really enjoys jewelry, gems and the properties of metal. Iris also wanted to look into Petroleum Geology and possibly have a career in oil or become a jewelry designer. Nickolaus believes that geology is important because it can be found anywhere. “You can discover new things every day whether you [are] inside a lab or outside in caves and fields,” explained Nickolaus. If geology doesn’t work, she plans on going into business. In ten years, she sees herself as a business owner with a jewelry shop in Singapore. She also hopes to travel around the world and write books



Ben Avilez, University of Texas at Austin

Ben Avilez has plans to attend the University of Texas at Austin in the fall. His current plan is to study Mechanical Engineering. “Engineering is a very up-and-coming field, especially with the focus on STEM now. It is also a topic I am pretty interested in and want to learn more about through higher education,” Avilez explained. He also considered going into Finance Banking and Investing Banking, but he thought it would be too stressful. He wants to go into a career in which he will enjoy himself, Avilez thinks Mechanical Engineering is a much better fit.

Chelsea Jimenez, Iowa State University

Chelsea Jimenez plans to attend Iowa State University and major in Agricultural Studies. This program encompasses three parts: Agronomy, Agribusiness and Animal Sciences. One major factor as to why she chose Iowa State is due to out-of-state tuition. “[Iowa State] definitely called my name the first time I went on campus... One of the things that touched me was how beautiful [the natural vegetation and plant life] was,” Jimenez shared. Her interest in agriculture started her junior year. She created a community garden that tackled food insecurity around Des Moines. Additionally, she joined the APEX Animal Veterinary Science program as a leap of faith. Her experience as a Veterinarian Assistant over the summer and her involvement in the Future Farmers of America confirmed her interests. “Nutrition and food insecurity is something I want to tackle during college and after,” Jimenez explained. ■



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Senior Time Capsule

By Naomi Pittman

As seniors at Northwest High School got closer to graduation, they looked back on the memories and pop culture of their school years with nostalgia.

Back in elementary school, the class of 2022's pop culture had a lot to do with toys and gadgets. Popular items included Silly Bandz, mechanical pencils, Rainbow Loom and flavored ChapStick. "Anytime I see any of those things, it's just pure nostalgia," Northwest senior Adi Uglum commented.

During elementary school, pop music was prevalent, with artists like Lady Gaga, Taylor Swift and One Direction topping the charts. Seniors remember songs like "Party in the USA" by Miley Cyrus, "Moves like Jagger" by Maroon 5, "Rolling in the Deep" by Adele and "Dynamite" by Taio Cruz.

Disney Channel and Nickelodeon were an important part of elementary school culture, with shows like iCarly, Victorious and Hannah Montana. Northwest senior Jenna Van Bell explained, "I feel like [Disney shows] are even funnier now because of some of the jokes they made. I didn't understand [them] when I was in elementary school, and now I do and it makes it even better."

As they moved into middle school, many seniors tried to find themselves. This often meant listen-

ing to different music or changing fashion styles. Northwest senior Kat Ayala said she had an emo phase where she dyed her hair and listened to bands like My Chemical Romance and Panic! At the Disco. Ayala did not keep these interests, but she still appreciates the experience. "As I've gotten into my high school years, I'm really grateful that I've kind of finally figured out who I am and what I like," Ayala described. Other seniors remember

or Silento's "Watch me (Whip/Nae Nae)." Pop culture continued to evolve as the class of 2022 entered high school. Olivia Rodrigo and Harry Styles among other pop artists rose to popularity. Popular rap artists include Juice WRLD and XXXTENTACION. Seniors started to develop their own tastes in media, which meant country and folk for some and rap and hip hop for others.

Social media became even more of a cultural touchstone for the class of 2022 as they entered high school and the COVID-19 pandemic began. TikTok and Snapchat were bigger than ever before as seniors re-

lied on it while they were stuck at home. "[Social media] was a good way that I was able to stay in contact with everyone and keep updated... As toxic as it can be, there's always that good side of it," Ayala explained.

As well as emphasizing social media, COVID-19 changed the high school experience as a whole.

The class of 2022 was quarantined for much of their sophomore year and then spent junior year partly online. This loss of time was jarring for many seniors. "Now [high school] feels so short... Sometimes I just can't believe that [graduation is] in a month," Van Bell described. ■

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involving Justice League clothing with neon colors and glitter.

Like elementary, gadgets were a big part of middle school pop culture. For example, fidget spinners and fidget cubes became popular, but were banned from classrooms. There were many other fads early on in middle school, such as dabbing

The Value of College: An Opinion

By Cassie Heit

College is the next step for quite a lot of Northwest Seniors, between veterinary care to engineering to nursing, each college plan for each student is different from one another, and so are their opinions.

Senior Emma Clayton talks of her opinion on going to college right after high school. She plans on going to Iowa State University, she states "I think [college is] great, everybody has their own plans. It's not necessarily for everybody but I do think it's great and the right plan for me." She talked about how there is some pressure on people to go to college due to it being the most common thing to do after high school. Although college may be expensive she thinks it is worth it, "It may be hard right away to get that degree and pursue that career or whatever after college, in the end it will be worth it.

Keaton Bertrand talks about his opinion as well. He plans on going to Iowa State University as well and says, "I think college can be good when going into some careers." He also talks about the societal pressure on people to go to college, "There is definitely pressure to go to college. In my family it is kind of an expectation to go to college." Bertrand also thinks in some cases college may be necessary, while in other fields like technology people can get a job with only a high school diploma. He also mentions the high cost of going to college and stating, "...some people can't go to college at all because of the high

prices." An average for students attending a four year college is in the range of \$35k.

Senior, Coraline Montz, is planning on going to Michigan State for their art program RCAH. She found that looking for the right college is a very overwhelming process since it is such an important decision. "I feel like it's a choice we put a lot of pressure on, and that can be good because it is important to want to plan for your future. But I feel like it puts a lot of pressure onto us who don't necessarily know what we want to do." She said she wanted to do something in the arts for her job, but when COVID hit she realized just how unstable a job in the arts can be. She found a balance between her interests of human sciences and art, finding her future job to be a mortician. "We make it seem like it's like, 'Oh, you get it all figured out, you know where you are going, you feel really good about it.' and I'm sure that is a lot of people but I was like 'I am so overwhelmed and scared of my decision.'" Montz also discussed the cost of college compared to how much the average young adult is able to make, is a wide gap and can lead students into a great amount of debt.

While for many, college is the only thing on their minds, making that next decision can be very scary for many people or the most exciting thing. ■

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Northwest's Next Associate Principal:

Mrs. Kim Tierney

By Emma Goode



For the past eight years, Mrs. Kim Tierney has been the Principal at Maple Grove Elementary. Next year, she will serve as Associate Principal at Northwest High School.

Before coming to Waukee, Tierney was the Principal at Denver Elementary, which was part of a much smaller school district. The same building housed students in kindergarten through 12th grade. Even though her position primarily connected her with elementary students, she also made many connections with older students and teachers. Tierney values getting to know her students and creating relationships with them. She said, "Having relationships with students, being a little goofy, having fun, not ever taking myself too seriously, and really making connections with kids and their families are likely the most important things for me as a principal."

The greatest influence in her decision to pursue both education and the principal leadership role was her high school Principal, David Hanaman.

Tierney had dreamed of being a principal since she was in elementary school, but encouraged her to work towards that leadership role. She said that education is a service profession, and most of the work is doing something good for the students and staff that surrounds them.

Before the next school year starts, Mrs. Tierney wants Northwest students to know that her door will always be open and that she desires to make connections with all of her students. "This is a premier high school and my goal is to continue to offer and support the premier high school experience that exists here," she said. With the hope of making as many positive connections as possible, she wants to be present as a principal at Northwest, whether it is at choir concerts, student body assemblies, track and field meets, or Homecoming festivities.

Tierney is currently pursuing a specialist's degree in superintendency and a doctorate in education.

When not inside the walls of a school building, she loves to spend time with her husband Casey, and kids Kady, 14, and Kyle, 9. They are a family that spends lots of time together outside, at sports tournaments, on the water, boating or fishing. ■

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Waukee's Graduation Rate

By Kira Gieseman

Waukee Community School District (WCSD) has one of the highest graduation rates in Iowa because of the number of course options, large number of staff and students.

The graduation rate is the percentage of students who earn all of their credits and complete all of their courses over a 4 year time period, but some students graduate later. Dr. Buck, Waukee's superintendent explained, "There's a four-year graduation rate, a five-year graduation rate, and a six-year graduation rate. So the one that's generally published is the four-year [rate], so the traditional matriculation through high school."

Many students also graduate early, because they have earned all of their credits. Senior Alex Mason graduated early, leaving after the first semester of his senior year. Mason stated, "[Graduating early] was kind of exciting just because

I could get done back in January, I'm not really used to that. It just gave me time to work more and plan out ahead." Iowa's high school graduation rate as of 2021 is 90.2%, and Waukee excels over the state average with a percentage of 98.3%.

Nationally, the high school graduation rate is 86%, but that percentage includes schools much larger and much smaller than the Waukee district's schools. Iowa has the highest state average for graduation rates, with theirs landing around 90.2%.

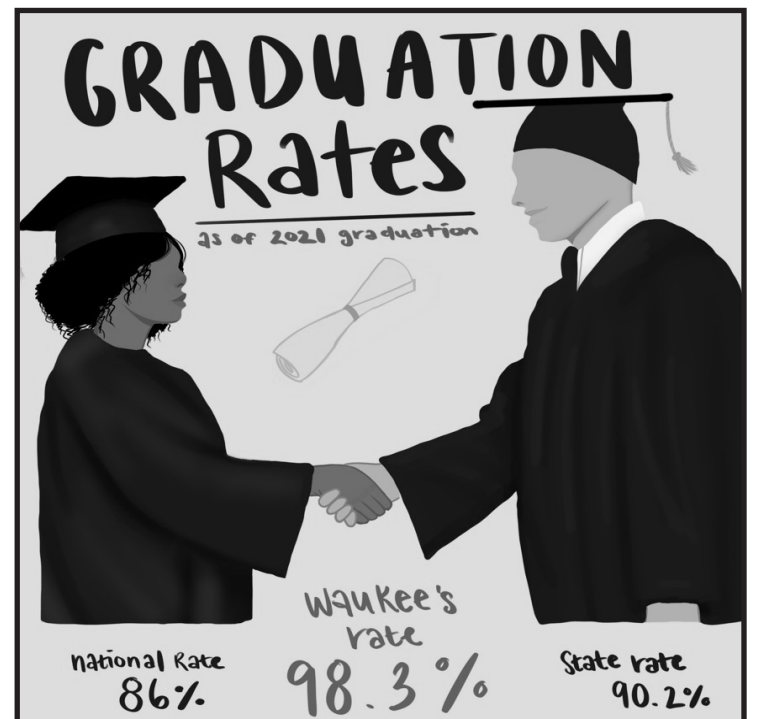
The Waukee district has two high schools: Waukee High School, with Principal Cary Justmann and Vice-Principal Gerald Heisterman, and Waukee Northwest High School, led by Principal Fairouz Bishara and Vice-principal Christie Pitts. Associate Principal Nick Ross described, "A number of factors [make our graduation rate higher] i.e. parental support, outstanding staff, highly motivated students, and the positive peer pressure that accompanies so many people striving to be their best."

Now that Waukee high school has split into two schools, the graduation rates could change. Dr. Buck added, "It'll be

interesting to see what happens with [the split]. I'm hopeful that it stays the high rate that it is, but now we could have differential rates between the two high schools in the coming years." ■

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Dr. Buck's Reflection on the Year

By Amela Medinoski

As the end of the school year approaches, Waukee Community School District Superintendent Dr. Brad Buck reflected on the 2021-2022 school year's most significant moments and the fate of the expanding district.

Warriors and Wolves

After a century of the Warriors, the WCSD introduced the Wolves this school year. The five years in the making project finally opened its doors to a new facility—Waukee Northwest High School. "We had a really significant turn out for the open house, our community was eager and excited to see [Waukee Northwest]," he said.

"Northwest has done a great job identifying new traditions," said Dr. Buck. Waukee Northwest hosted a 'Senior Sunrise' to kick off the new school year.

Each high school had its athletic teams and school-sponsored activities with few exceptions, such as the joint Waukee

swim team. "I am excited about these opportunities and the success of those opportunities," Dr. Buck said, "Between the two schools we had state championships and other activity titles."

The splitting of a school is unpredictable; however, both Waukee schools handled the split reasonably well. "I like how many Warrior and Wolf gear I see," Dr. Buck exclaimed.

WCSD in the Media

Media heavily influenced the district this school year. Waukee had come under fire by many due to its 'Book Ban' in late October.

"We try to be transparent so that people know what we [WCSD] are doing," Dr. Buck said. Community town halls address pre-planned and live questions to restrain any concern of 'secrecy'

within the WCSD. "As Waukee gets larger, this transparency gets more complicated."

Instances of harmful news often overpower the countless positive news that the WCSD spreads.

"They [the WCSD Communications Team] work hard to get the good stuff out there," Dr. Buck said. WCSD social media pages, such as the WCSD website 'stories' page, promote the district's students' and administrators' accomplishments.

Resignation of Key Administrator

In early April, Dr. Fairouz Bishara Rantisi—Waukee Northwest's principal—announced her resignation from the district.

"After serious consideration and discussions with my family, I will be seeking new opportunities outside the district... I am so honored to have been the principal of such a joyful, talented group of kids," wrote Dr. Bishara to students and

Continued on Page 7

19 ?s at NW

19 at Northwest is a segment where a random Northwest High School student is asked to answer 19 rapid-fire questions about their experiences and opinions. This time we spoke with Schyan Steele a senior at Northwest.

Q: What did you want to be as a kid?

A: For a while, I wanted to be a vet. But then it started to make me sad when bad things would happen to animals, and I didn't want to do it anymore.

Q: What's the most memorable thing someone has said to you?

A: That I am very strong

Q: What's something most people don't know about you?

A: That I'm going to the National Guard after I graduate!"

Q: If you could choose anywhere in the world to visit, where would it be?

A: Probably Bora Bora because it's super pretty and the water is so clear.

Q: Favorite school lunch?

A: Probably none of it, it was all bad to me.

Q: What Extracurriculars/clubs are you in?

A: I do all star cheer outside of school

Q: How would you describe high school in 3 words?

A: It really sucks. But only at first.

Q: If you could say something to your 5th grade self, what would it be?

A: I would tell myself to stop wearing the same sweatshirt every day.

Q: What do you want to be known for?

A: I want to be known for doing something different and unique, or doing something that really helps and impacts others.

Q: What makes you feel the most like yourself?

A: Probably when I'm at cheer practice.

Q: What song/artist have you been listening to the most recently?

A: I've been listening to Ariana Grande a lot recently.

Q: What's something you've dreamed of doing since you were a kid?

A: I've always dreamed of buying a house and living alone, and just not being in school anymore.

Q: What superpower do you wish you had? Why?

A: Probably photographic memory because I like to know everything.

A: Probably Shake It Up!

Q: What's your most irrational fear?

A: The ocean.

Q: Who's your favorite character of all time and why?

A: Bertram from Jessie, he likes to sleep and I love sleeping so he's my favorite. He's relatable.

Q: What's a bad habit you have that you can't break?

A: Probably thinking too much about something I have to do that I don't want to do. It just makes it go by so much slower.

Q: If you could live in one fictional universe, what would it be?

A: I'm not sure. I don't really know any fictional universes.

Q: What is your phone wallpaper?

A: My boyfriend

Q: If you could meet anyone in the world, living or dead, who would it be?

A: Zendaya. She's my favorite actress, and she seems like such a nice and genuine person.

Q: What's a fashion trend that you hate?

A: When people wear shorts with tights or leggings underneath, I just don't like that at all.

Q: What's your favorite quote?

A: "Get knocked down once, stand back up three times." ■

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Q: What's something you can't do, but wish you could?

A: Pogo stick!

Q: What was your favorite childhood TV show?

Dr. Buck Continued from Page 6

their families in a newsletter.

Dr. Buck admires Dr. Bishara's work for the district. "I wish her the best... I hope all goes well for her journey beyond Waukee," he said.

A More Challenging Year

"Many of us, myself included, thought that there would be less complexity this school year," Dr. Buck admitted. This year, staff magnified the word 'overwhelmed.'

The 'Return to Learn' plan served to be the most problematic this school year, as the debate over masking and other COVID-19 mitigation efforts from legislators and the community affected educational departments drastically. "Hopefully, we get to more typical stress next year," Dr. Buck joked.

Last Impression

All administrators and students are officially out for summer break on May 27th, 2022. The 2021-2022 historical school year impacted the community on many occasions and paved the way for the future of the WCSD.

"I get to be the superintendent of the best district in the state," Dr. Buck exclaimed. He expressed that he was excited to get back to the WCSD in 2019 after his leave in 2011. "[Waukee] is just an amazing place to be." ■

Read the full article on tenthstreettimes.waukeeschools.org

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P.C. Schyan Steele

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