



JOLIET WEST HIGH SCHOOL TOP 25 STUDENTS OF 2019

Awarded by the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Emma Marie Baxter

Emma Baxter is the daughter of Jen and Matt Baxter. Emma has competed on the Varsity Volleyball team for the last three years and has been named All-Conference. She is a member of National Honor Society. Emma is also a JT Student Ambassador, Alpha Omega Finalist, and an American Chemistry Society Joliet Winner. She will attend Clarkson University in the fall.

Morgan Taylor Beene

Morgan Beene is the daughter of Jacalyn & Garrett Beene. She is an Alpha Omega Finalist, the Captain of the Speech team, Publicist for Students of Service and the Community Liaison for National Honor Society. In addition, she is a member of Group Interpretation. Morgan was a regional champion and state finalist for Speech in 2019 and Group Interpretation in 2017. Morgan has taken eight AP classes, scoring well enough to be an AP Scholar with Honor. In the fall, she will attend New York University to study Psychology.

Jorge Adam Chavez Jr.

Jorge Chavez is the son of Sonia and Jorge Chavez. He is a member of the Soccer and Track Teams, National Honor Society, Students of Service and the Joliet West Band. Jorge is an AP Scholar with Distinction and an SAT Pacesetter. He will graduate with ten AP classes completed. In the fall Jorge plans to attend University of Illinois where he will study Computer Engineering.

Brandyn Robert Collins

Brandyn Collins is the son of Larry and Amy Collins. He is President of Key Club and served as the Captain of the Boys' Varsity Golf Team and was named a 2018 State Qualifier and All-Conference. In addition, Brandyn is a member of Mu Alpha Theta and the National Honor Society. Brandyn is an Alpha Omega Finalist and an Illinois State Scholar. Brandyn has taken seven AP and two Dual Credit courses. In the fall he plans on playing golf and studying Biology.

Alexander Lamont Freeman

Alexander Freeman is the son of Kevin and Kathy Freeman. He is a member of National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, Scholastic Bowl, and Marching Band. Alexander has taken six AP classes. In the fall he will study Biological Sciences at the University of Illinois at Chicago where he was awarded the President's Award Program Honors Scholarship. Alexander plans on becoming an anesthesiologist.

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Josel Tadeo Hernandez

Josel Hernandez is the son of Juan and Elvia Hernandez. He is a member of the Track and Field and Cross-Country Team where he served as captain during his senior year. Josel is an Illinois State Scholar who has taken seven AP and Dual Credit courses. In the fall he will attend the University of St. Francis where he has been awarded a Trustee and Dean's Scholarship.

Taylor Rae Hogg

Taylor Hogg is the daughter of the late Robert Hogg. She is a member of the Academy Roundtable, Key Club, National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, HOSA, and Varsity Cheerleading. Taylor is an Illinois State Scholar and Questbridge National Finalist. She has taken eight AP classes and will attend Nova Southeastern University in Ft. Lauderdale, FL on a full presidential scholarship. She hopes to become a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine.

Bradley Joseph Hyde

Bradley Hyde is the son of Jeff and Debbie Hyde. He has participated in football for all four years of high school and was named All-Conference in his senior year. Bradley is a past member of Track & Field and a current member of National Honor Society, and Mu Alpha Theta. Bradley is an Illinois State Scholar who has completed 8 AP or dual enrollment courses. In the fall he will study Mechanical Engineering at Missouri University of Science and Technology.

Blake William Lewandowski

Blake Lewandowski is the son of Scott Lewandowski and Nancy Lewandowski. He is a member of the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, Science Olympiad, and Boys Volleyball Team. In the past Blake participated in Junior Class Committee and the Heavy Metal Club. He is a SAT Pacesetter and has taken multiple AP and Dual Credit courses. Blake will study Mechanical Engineering at University of Missouri, where he was awarded a Mark Twain scholarship.

Kevin Andrew Marcus

Kevin Marcus is the son of Mary and John Marcus. He is a member of the Wrestling Team. Kevin took five AP or Dual Credit classes while in high school. He is an AP Scholar with Honor and an Illinois State Scholar. He plans to study Biochemistry in the fall.

Willian Douglas Mastin

Duffy Mastin is the son of Billy and Abby Mastin. He is an officer of the Academy Roundtable, Manager of Media and Public Relations for National Honor Society, Vice President of Students of Service, President of the Chess Club, and President of Mu Alpha Theta. In addition, Duffy is a member of Key Club. He is an Illinois State Scholar and an AP Scholar with Honor. Duffy has taken seven AP courses at Joliet West and two additional AP courses as independent study. He is planning to attend either University of St. Francis or Northwestern University in the fall.

Jennifer Kayla Meza

Jennifer Meza is the daughter of David and Julieta Meza. She is Treasurer of Students of Service, a Student Leader in the Science Olympiad Team, and a Clarinet Section Leader for the Marching Band. In addition, Jennifer serves as a JT Student Ambassador, and a member of the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, and Tri-M Music Honor Society. Outside of school she is very involved with her church, Good Shepherd. Last year, Jennifer was recognized as a Scholar of the

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National Hispanic Recognition Program. She has taken seven AP and Dual Credit courses. Jennifer is an AP Scholar with Honor, an Illinois State Scholar, and an Alpha Omega finalist. In the fall she plans to attend the University of Illinois at Chicago and major in Bioengineering.

Sebastian Mireles

Sebastian Mireles is the son of Martin and Maria del Carmen Mireles. He is a member of the National Honor Society, Students of Service, Mu Alpha Theta and French Honor Society. In addition, he was a member of the Varsity Soccer team where he served as captain and was named All-Conference. Sebastian is an Illinois State Scholar and an AP Scholar with Honor. He has taken nine AP and Dual Credit courses. He will study Biochemistry at the University of St. Francis, where he was awarded Trustee and Athletic Scholarships. Sebastian's goal is to be a dentist in the Joliet community with a special emphasis on serving those who do not speak English.

Joel Alberto Mojica

Joel Mojica is the son of Yesenia and Carlos Mojica. He is a member of Mu Alpha Theta, National Honor Society, Cross Country, and Track and Field. Joel has completed nine AP classes. He is an Illinois State Scholar, National Hispanic Scholar, SAT Pacesetter, and AP Scholar with Honor. In the fall he will attend the University of Michigan to study Civil Engineering.

Samuel Joseph Munson

Samuel Munson is the son of Jennifer and Jon Munson. He is a member of the Cross Country and Track and Field Teams where he has served as a captain for both. Samuel is a member of National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, and Spanish Honor Society. He is AP Scholar with Honor, SAT Pacesetter, and Alpha Omega Finalist. In the fall he will attend either University of Louisville or Xavier University.

Kyle Justin Paez

Kyle Paez is the son of Rico and Julie Paez. He is a member of the Community Roundtable, Math Team, National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, and Boys' Volleyball, where he serves as captain. Kyle has taken eight AP or Dual Enrollment courses. He is an AP Scholar and an Illinois State Scholar. Kyle has not finalized his college choice yet, but he plans to study Biology in the fall.

Vincent Ian Panateri

Vincent Panateri is the son of Arlene Foley. In the past he was a member of Wrestling, Tennis, and Baseball teams. Vincent is currently a member of Student Council, National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, and Mu Alpha Theta. He has taken eight AP or Dual Enrollment classes. Vincent is also an Alpha Omega Finalist. After high school he plans to study Mechanical Engineering.

Mary Grace Pelzer

Mary Pelzer is the daughter of Greg and Jodi Pelzer. She is an active member of JROTC serving as the Battalion Executive Office and Commander of the JROTC Leadership & Academic Teams and Raider Team. In addition, Mary is a member of the JROTC Archery Team. She is the captain of the Scholastic Bowl and Math Teams, president of NHS, president of Lighthouse Christian Club, officer of Mu Alpha Theta, and member of the Spanish National Honor Society and Tri-M Music Honor Society. Mary earned 7th place in the National Academic Bowl and was an Individual State Qualifier for the ICTM State Math Competition. Mary also serves as a leader in choral and instrumental music groups. She is a National Merit Finalist and Scholarship Winner, AP Scholar with Honor, and

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Illinois State Scholar. Mary took nine Advanced Placement or Dual Credit courses. She plans on double majoring in Mechanical Engineering and Piano Pedagogy at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where she was awarded the Provost, Legacy, and Engineering Scholarships.

Julian de Jesus Perez

Julian Perez is the son of Jesus Perez and Mariel Colon. He has participated in Students of Service, Football, Volleyball, and National Honor Society. Julian is an Illinois State Scholar, AP Scholar, and SAT Pacesetter. He will attend the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he was awarded a Presidential Scholarship and will major in Mechanical Engineering.

Tyler Robert Pransky

Tyler Pransky is the son of Nancy and Kevin Pransky. He is a member of the Baseball team. Tyler is an Illinois State Scholar. He has participated in the Advanced Placement and Dual Credit programs, taking six classes. Tyler will attend Loras College in Iowa to study Business and will continue with baseball.

Alexis Marie Robbins

Alexis Robbins is the daughter of James and Brandy Robbins. She is a member of Students of Service, Mu Alpha Theta, National Honor Society, and the state qualifying Girls' Bowling Team, where she served as captain. Alexis has taken ten AP or Dual Enrollment courses. Alexis is an Illinois State Scholar. In the fall, she will attend University of St. Francis where she will study Nursing and continue bowling.

Kendra Renee Shouse

Kendra Shouse is the daughter of Steve and Cindy Shouse. She is an officer with Mu Alpha Theta. By the time she graduates, she will have completed eight AP or Dual Enrollment courses. Kendra is very involved with her church. In the fall she plans on attending the College of DuPage with the intent to transfer to Judson University.

Daniel Thomas Small

Daniel Small is the son of Kevin and Susan Small. He is a member of Math Team, Safety Committee, National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, Scholastic Bowl, Tri-M, Jazz Band, Pep Band, and the Marching Tigers where he served as a Section Leader. Daniel is an Alpha Omega Finalist, and an Illinois State Scholar. He has been recognized as All-District from the Illinois Music Education Association. Daniel has taken eleven Dual Credit or AP classes. He plans on attending the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to study Chemical Engineering.

Teresa Loretta Spesia

Tess Spesia is the daughter of Dr. Teresa and Dr. David Spesia. She is a member of Mu Alpha Theta and serves as the Captain of the Varsity Tennis Team, Co-Captain of the Math Team, Treasurer of the National Honor Society, and President of the Students of Service. Tess is an AP Scholar with Distinction, Illinois State Scholar, and a National Merit Commended Scholar. She has also served as a Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership Ambassador, Rotary Student of the Month, and JTHS Booster Club Athlete of the Season. Tess has taken a total of 10 Advanced Placement Courses. In the fall she will attend the University of Notre Dame Mendoza College of Business.