

# Avon High School



Evening of Excellence

Class of 2023

# Emily Ahern



- Daughter of James and Julie Ahern
- GPA: 4.982
- Class Rank: 25<sup>th</sup>
- Teachers of Honor
  - K-8: Chris Gullion
  - 9-12: Kevin Welborn
- Indiana University
- Major: Data Science

# Emily Ahern

*K-8 Teacher of Honor*

# Chris Gullion

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Mr. Gullion is one of the most inspirational and influential teachers in my academic career. As a math-loving student, history was rarely a class that I looked forward to, but Mr. Gullion's engaging and enthusiastic approach to teaching made the class exciting. Most of the US History curriculum was taught through the application of the musical "Hamilton". This unique, yet purpose-driven technique has, to this day, stuck with me as the most memorable teaching method. I catch myself still humming the tunes or spitting out fascinating facts I learned in that class. Mr. Gullion's impact has even touched my entire family by sparking our love for the musical. We still constantly listen to the soundtrack and are about to attend the musical for the second time. My experience in Mr. Gullion's class was absolutely unforgettable and has created an everlasting impact in both my life and my family's lives.

# Emily Ahern

*9-12 Teacher of Honor*

# Kevin Welborn

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During his first year with Avon Band, Mr. Welborn had a lasting impact on the program and on me. From the perspective of a non-marching student, I have witnessed exemplary improvement in the concert band experience. Mr. Welborn offered a captivating learning environment through his insightful perspectives and engaging class approaches involving more music. The unique class dynamic left my classmates and I excited to participate in music while looking forward to the class each day. I found myself learning more and new techniques in every class resulting in exponential growth in my skills. Mr. Welborn has displayed great prioritization in both semesters of the concert band programs which has had a major influence on my performing arts experience and academic career.



# Jacob Branham

- Son of Aaron and Lianna Branham
- GPA: 5.071
- Class Rank: 14<sup>th</sup>
- Teachers of Honor
  - K-8: Judy Harrison
  - 9-12: Amanda Leahy
- Attending Purdue University
- Major: Electrical Engineering



# Jacob Branham

*K-8 Teacher of Honor*

# Judy Harrison

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Mrs. Harrison is the reason that I started to like science. I was never too fond of it before, but I had a lot of fun in her class and it changed my opinion. I remember she had a Newton's Cradle in her room and she described to us how it worked in detail. This is what got me interested in physics, which I hope will end up being a big part of life. She was always very nice and gave me good memories of 5th grade to look back on.

# Jacob Branham

*9-12 Teacher of Honor*

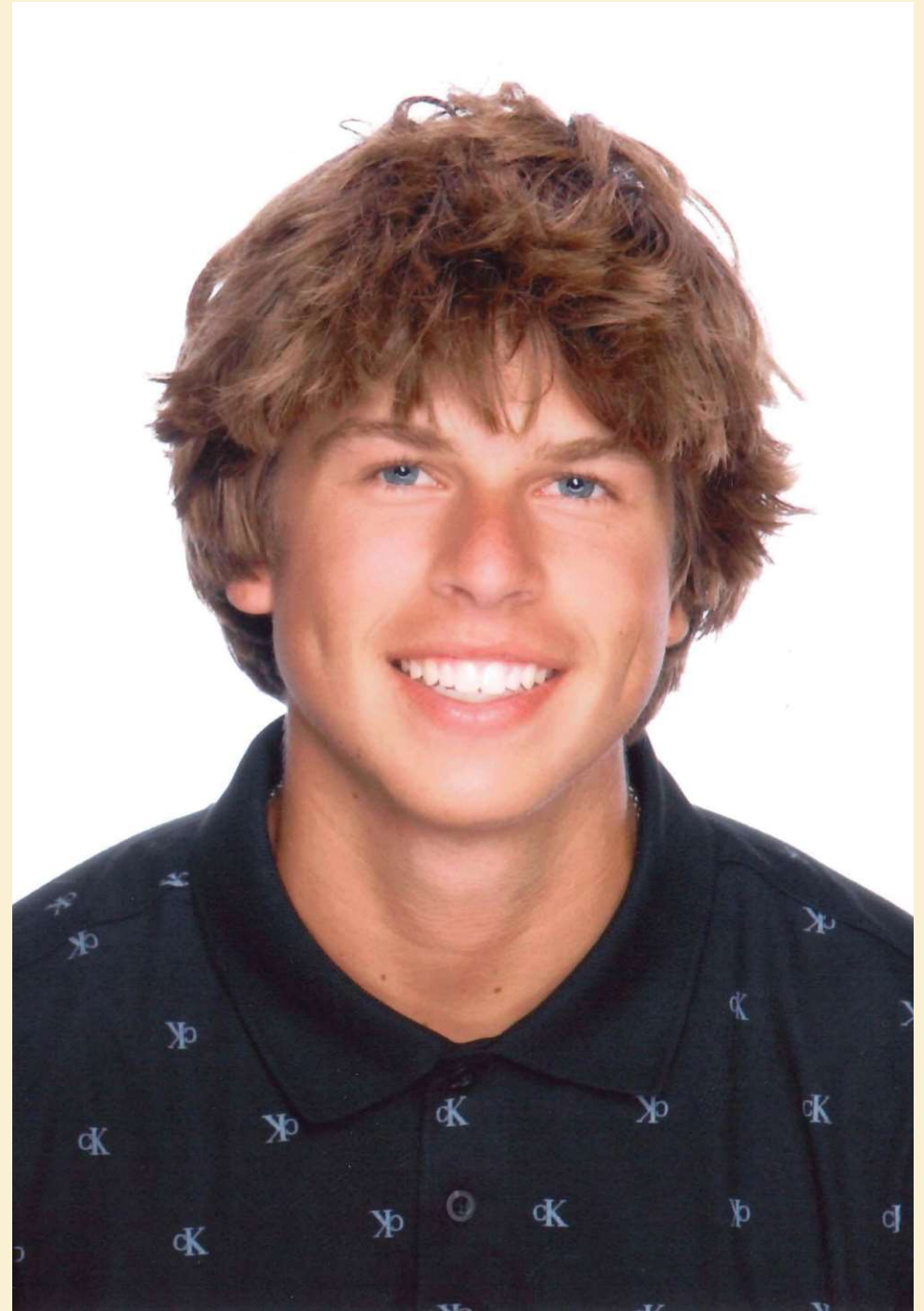
# Amanda Leahy

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I really enjoyed being in Mrs. Leahy's class. Sometimes the material in statistics could be boring or tedious, but her enthusiasm for teaching always made me excited to go to class. The projects we did, like the Barbie drop, made stats fun for me. She was always very kind to me and any other student I saw her talking with. She was the reason I had a good time with the course and learned a lot. I also like the funny little math jokes on her PowerPoints.

# Noah Busell

- Son of Natalie Busell
- GPA: 5.068
- Class Rank: 15<sup>th</sup>
- Teachers of Honor
  - K-8: Sarah Van Duzer
  - 9-12: Matthew Payne
- Attending Purdue University
- Major: Data Science





# Noah Busell

*K-8 Teacher of Honor*

# Sarah Van Duzer

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Mrs. Van Duzer has the biggest heart for students that clearly still left an impact on me to this day. She was extremely creative, creating Duzer dollars for kind acts that you could trade in for all sorts of prizes. Above all other qualities, her devotion to choosing kindness, along with a big smile, stuck with me the most. After a fight at recess, she dared to move my clip down to red. After lots of crying and feeling like my world had collapsed, she took me out to the hallway and told me that she saw me no differently than before and reminded me that I was an amazing kid with a big heart, but no greater than another classmate. I learned the true meaning of kindness and respect through her classroom.

# Noah Bussell

*9-12 Teacher of Honor*

# Matthew Payne

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Mr. Payne has always inspired me to have confidence in my work, but to stay humble in my successes and continue to work hard. He understood a balance between getting work done and having fun after. If Mr. Payne knew there was a week of straight notes, he would find ways to keep us actively engaged and remind us of the reward for persevering and getting the grade you wanted.

Through his coursework and constant encouragement, I found a way to embrace the workload of AP classes that seemed impossible. My favorite thing he taught me was that the water doesn't get any colder the longer you wait, so get in now and enjoy the benefits earlier. He is funny, relatable, understanding, and an impactful teacher.

# Jasmine Diallo

- Daughter of Rochelle Brewster-Diallo
- GPA: 5.183
- Class Rank: 6<sup>th</sup>
- Teachers of Honor
  - K-8: Lori Taylor
  - 9-12: Liviu Paul Haiducu
- Attending Johns Hopkins University
- Major: Chemistry and Medicine, Science, and the Humanities



# Jasmine Diallo

*K-8 Teacher of Honor*

# Lori Taylor

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The bright and bubbly personality of Ms. Taylor makes her a teacher that I will never forget. Her high energy each and every day fostered a positive learning environment that challenged all of us to go above and beyond our capabilities. She planned so many unique and exciting events such as a student-led science show and even an Ancient Greece party. She truly made school fun. Outside of the classroom, Ms. Taylor has continued to be one of my biggest supporters. Her compassion has made her someone who has helped me get out of my shell and find my voice in this world. I appreciate Ms. Taylor and all she has done in my life.



# Jasmine Diallo

*9-12 Teacher of Honor*

# Liviu Paul Haiducu

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Mr. Haiducu is truly one of a kind. In all my years of schooling, never have I ever had a teacher prepare crepes for our class. This was one of his many acts of kindness. I've never met such a humble man who doesn't brag about his endeavors, including shaking hands with President Obama after receiving a national award for teaching. Finally, I've never seen someone have such a huge impact on our community. I had the opportunity to join him in his annual Power of Physics show where we demonstrated exciting experiments to multiple schools. It was inspiring to see how Mr. Haiducu made the show an experience these children will never forget. I'm forever grateful to have met the extraordinary Mr. Haiducu.

# Julia Harmon

- Daughter of Marcia Harmon, William and Kimberly Harmon
- GPA: 5.068
- Class Rank: 15<sup>th</sup>
- Teachers of Honor
  - K-8: Lori Kennard
  - 9-12: Abby Neal
- Attending Butler University
- Major: Biochemistry



# Julia Harmon

*K-8 Teacher of Honor*

# Lori Kennard

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When I had Mrs. Kennard in 2nd grade, I remember her allowing us to run our own businesses at our desks. We would make paper ducks, duct tape goods, and other arts and crafts that we would sell for our own paper money that we would draw and cut out. The point of this story is that Mrs. Kennard always encouraged us to be creative. A classroom that is structured around allowing children to have enough space to explore the world on their own is very important to developing capable individuals. Plus, she taught me my multiplication tables, which I believe has had a direct impact on my performance in calculus. Thank you, Mrs. Kennard, for your kindness and your devotion.

# Julia Harmon

*9-12 Teacher of Honor*

# Abby Neal

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Do you know how hard it must be to teach US Government and Politics in today's climate? Luckily, Ms. Neal is one of the most organized and prepared teachers that I have ever had. As someone who is easily stressed and doesn't like chaos, I greatly appreciate how she keeps a structured class. Ms. Neal also educates her students on how to have respectful conversations with others, rather than senseless debates. She is not just an honorable teacher, but a wonderful human being as well. She demonstrates strength and patience every day. I find great admiration in the fact that she does not let others disrespect her because teachers are people just like everyone else. Thank you, Ms. Neal, for being a part of my journey.



# Abigail Hatfield

- Daughter of Anthony and Anita Hatfield
- GPA: 5.003
- Class Rank: 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Teachers of Honor
  - K-8: Barrett Hartley
  - 9-12: Karl Hartman
- Attending United States Military Academy West Point
- Major: Engineering



# Abigail Hatfield

*K-8 Teacher of Honor*

# Barrett Hartley

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Mr. Hartley is an amazing math teacher and a wonderful friend. I remember walking into his class on the first day of 7th grade and immediately hitting it off with him. We found that we both had an immense love for Star Wars, Lord of the Rings, and Harry Potter. Even during 8th grade, I would go to his classroom and play card games while he was teaching his class. He always encouraged me to continue to be who I was, and that if I did, I could change the world. His powerful words have had such an impact on me and continue to encourage me as I continue through life.

# Abigail Hatfield

*9-12 Teacher of Honor*

# Karl Hartman

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Mr. Hartman is a teacher, a musician, and a friend. He cares for the welfare of his students in a “tough love” kind of way. He pushes his students hard because he knows they can handle it. I personally am all the better for it. To the marching band, he is not known as “Mr. Hartman,” but rather Karl, Big Tall, or Darth Hartman. To those who don’t know him, he may seem intimidating, but when he’s been your teacher for so long, you realize that he’s simply a big teddy bear. Karl has helped me reach incredible heights in my musical career and has been a huge influence on my decision to attend the military academy.

# Joshua Heitert

- Son of Greg and Jennifer Heitert
- GPA: 5.187
- Class Rank: 5<sup>th</sup>
- Teachers of Honor
  - K-8: Laura Burkhart
  - 9-12: Lauren Patton
- Attending Purdue University
- Major: Biochemistry/  
Chemistry





# Joshua Heitert

*K-8 Teacher of Honor*

# Laura Burkhart

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Mrs. Burkhart is truly a one-of-a-kind teacher in more ways than I can express. She is the teacher that touches the hearts of her students and leaves an impression on them forever. Through her compassion and love for teaching, she reaches every student and gives them as much as possible so that they can excel. What she does goes beyond the scope of teaching and shows her pure moral character. She provides students with extra opportunities and activities if they grasp the basic concepts, allowing them to grow, to prosper, and to be the smartest and overall best version of themselves. This level of effort and reaching out to every student shows why she is truly a unique teacher. She has left an impact on the hearts and minds of many students who will always remember her and all she has done for them.

# Joshua Heitert

*9-12 Teacher of Honor*

# Lauren Patton

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Ms. Patton truly has an ability that I have rarely seen in my time as a student. She connects and relates topics to real life events in a way that is unparalleled. Regardless of the child or the subject, she relates and draws comparisons to something that every student can understand. This ability to connect with students does not stop at education either. She personally connects and relates to all her students, which provides a sense of belonging and comfort in her classroom. This resonates with the students, providing an environment where students are free to be themselves and to learn at their best and fullest. Ms. Patton and her classroom were truly a one-of-a-kind experience for me and many others, as we were able to learn without stress, but instead with fun and comfort.

# Fiona Ko

- Daughter of Jay Ko
- GPA: 5.146
- Class Rank: 9<sup>th</sup>
- Teachers of Honor
  - K-8: Katie Bonilla
  - 9-12: Lisa Kern
- Attending Indiana University
- Major: Biology/  
Psychology



# Fiona Ko

*K-8 Teacher of Honor*

# Katie Bonilla

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The reason that Mrs. Bonilla stands out to me, even after all these years, is that she truly is an extraordinary person and educator. Despite not being the best at art, I was always given words of affirmation and encouragement in the times where I struggled the most. She made the class extremely enjoyable and gave me the freedom to explore my creativity, cultivating my love for art. I saw her not as just another teacher, but also as a friend. During recess, I would be excited to come help and spend more time in her classroom. I saw myself flourish, taking on art as a hobby outside of the classroom as well. She remains a memorable teacher because of her genuine personality and the way that she motivates her students.



# Fiona Ko

*9-12 Teacher of Honor*

# Lisa Kern

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Mrs. Kern is a remarkable educator, putting in the effort even outside of the classroom to go above and beyond for her students. She is truly passionate about environmental science and her enthusiasm no doubt reached me as a student. At first, I took the course thinking that it would be another class to add onto my transcript and I thought that the service-learning aspect of the course would only be another source of busy work. However, as I join in on some after-school activities, I was surprised to see how much I was engaged with nature. Inside the classroom, she offers clear explanations of the material and is always coming up with clever activities to facilitate. I have never seen another teacher take such a hands-on approach to teaching and I can say that throughout high school, I have never learned and cared as much about a subject as I do.

# Katherine Langford



- Daughter of Mike and Linda Langford
- GPA: 5.3279
- Class Rank: 1<sup>st</sup>
- Teachers of Honor
  - K-8: Lori Rosemeyer
  - 9-12: Kayla Karr
- Attending University of Notre Dame
- Major: Political Science and Applied Computational Mathematics and Statistics

# Katherine Langford

*K-8 Teacher of Honor*

# Lori Rosemeyer

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Mrs. Rosemeyer instilled within me a true passion for learning and creating positive change in our community. Whether it was wearing Greek chitons to class, making our own secret codes, or writing persuasive letters, she made learning come to life. She held high expectations for us but provided us the path and opportunities to reach them. Her encouragement gave me the confidence to pursue my goals and to believe in my abilities. When I presented the idea of West Outstanding Learning Opportunities (WOLO) for our school, she provided me the opportunity to make it a reality, inspiring my passion for innovation. Later, when I presented the idea for Rise, she not only encouraged me but was my advisor in creating this literary mentorship program for young girls. Because of her, I am inspired to be a servant leader and have the confidence to make positive changes in my community.

# Katherine Langford

*9-12 Teacher of Honor*

# Kayla Karr

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AP World History was one of my first challenging classes in high school. Yet Mrs. Karr made it not only fun and engaging, but also prepared me to succeed in other difficult classes. Showing us how to read a textbook correctly, create a compelling free response question, and tackle a multiple-choice test, Mrs. Karr taught us skills that I have used throughout high school and will continue to use in college. Mrs. Karr lifted history off the textbook page and gave me such a better understanding of the world. Challenging us to think critically about the past, I learned to draw connections to current events and issues. Understanding history not just through the lens of leaders but through large societal movements has made me want to pursue a social science degree. I am so grateful for her and her excellence in teaching.

# Jonathan Loh



- Son of Gregory and Amy Loh
- GPA: 5.007
- Class Rank: 21<sup>st</sup>
- Teachers of Honor
  - K-8: Sara Yambert
  - 9-12: Kesara Becker
- Attending DePauw University
- Major: Biology



# Jonathan Loh

*K-8 Teacher of Honor*

# Sara Yambert

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While in 3rd grade, I began to struggle with interpreting emotions of stress. At this young age, I was not aware that I was a perfectionist, always overthinking small details for hours on end. I felt hopeless and confused as my classmates never seemed to experience the same emotions. What I didn't know was that Mrs. Yambert already knew exactly who I was before I could even understand myself. She was always patient with me when I became overwhelmed with stress and taught me how to cope with such strong emotions. Now that I am able to understand who I am and manage my emotions, I feel confident pursuing my big dreams, knowing Mrs. Yambert will always be there to provide a steady hand.

# Jonathan Loh

*9-12 Teacher of Honor*

# Kesara Becker

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As an immigrant from Thailand with limited English and cultural barriers, it wasn't easy for her to adapt to America. However, with her abundance of energy and contagious smile stretching from ear to ear, she was determined to blaze her own trail with her boundless love for tennis as her guide. This amazing and inspirational woman is my coach, Kesara Becker. Although at times her thick Thai accent made it difficult to decipher her coaching, she always provided a vivid demonstration to translate. She boldly proved to me that despite large barriers, there is nothing that can impede passion and a selfless heart. As I pursue my passion to save lives as a doctor, I aspire to be as driven and compassionate as Coach K.

# Ian Lynam



- Son of Phillip and Mirjam Lynam
- GPA: 5.027
- Class Rank: 20<sup>th</sup>
- Teachers of Honor
  - K-8: Ben Jones
  - 9-12: Caitlyn Steckbeck
- Attending Indiana University
- Major: Data Science

# Ian Lynam

*K-8 Teacher of Honor*

# Ben Jones

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Mr. Jones is a teacher who has had such a positive impact on me. He cast me in my first ever play in seventh grade, which helped me to discover my passion for theatre.

Through theatre, I have found some of my best friends and have developed further as a person — none of which would have happened without Mr. Jones. His witty sense of humor and his kindness created an environment in theatre where I felt I could really belong. I am forever grateful for Mr. Jones and all the opportunities he has brought to my life by introducing me to my love of theatre.

# Ian Lynam

*9-12 Teacher of Honor*

# Caitlyn Steckbeck

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After being involved in theatre for all four years of high school, I can confidently say that the impact of Caitlyn Steckbeck on my life is immeasurable. Mrs. Steckbeck has always been there for me whether it is listening to my rantings, celebrating my accomplishments, or giving me advice, I could always count on her. The positive environment she creates is obvious from the love she has for both her students and her art. I really can't thank Mrs. Steckbeck enough for all she has done for me, not least of which was helping me develop as a better leader and a better person. Without the support and guidance that I received from Caitlyn Steckbeck, I would not be the person I am today.



# Kavya Mahajan



- Daughter of Kavita Beri and Deepak Maingi
- GPA: 5.038
- Class Rank: 18<sup>th</sup>
- Teachers of Honor
  - K-8: Holly Barker
  - 9-12: Ranielle Moore
- Attending Northeastern University
- Major: Political Science and Business Administration

# Kavya Mahajan

*K-8 Teacher of Honor*

# Holly Barker

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When I had Señora Barker in 8th grade, I immediately loved her. Her bright and bubbly personality always lightened everyone's day. She created an environment in her classroom where students felt comfortable; for example, always accommodating groups so that no one had to work alone. Her classroom activities were fun-filled, leading me to meet and become friends with a girl who is still one of my best friends to this day. Her classes were also very educational as they set every student up for success, especially in a foreign language field where a strong foundation is needed. She makes her class one of the best classes ever, and her dedication to her students will always be appreciated.

# Kavya Mahajan

*9-12 Teacher of Honor*

# Ranielle Moore

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As I got to know Ms. Moore through Fashion Merchandising my junior year and Business Law and Ethics my senior year, I learned of a kind, compassionate, and genuine teacher. With a heart pure as gold, her empathy shows as she does her mental health checks for her students, and sometimes it's just the little things that can mean so much. Her generosity shines not only for the subjects she teaches but for other aspects of life as well. Not every teacher will agree to write a letter of recommendation for a scholarship with the deadline only a couple of days away, but Ms. Moore did. She's also the type of teacher to set her students up for success, incorporating real-life lessons that I will keep with me throughout my career. She's more than just a teacher; she's an inspiration.

# Jackson McCarthy

- Son of Craig and Kelly McCarthy
- GPA: 5.081
- Class Rank: 13<sup>th</sup>
- Teachers of Honor
  - K-8: Lowell Miller
  - 9-12: Matt Harloff
- Attending Miami University (Ohio)
- Major: Biology with a co-major in Pre-Medicine





# Jackson McCarthy

*K-8 Teacher of Honor*

# Lowell Miller

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Mr. Miller stood out from the rest because he went above and beyond the written curriculum. He challenged us every day, which made me become more engaged in learning. I remember participating in a variety of fun activities like making balloon-powered racecars, writing vivid short stories, and learning about electric circuits. We even started learning the basics of algebra that I wouldn't "officially" start learning until many years down the road. Apart from the academic side, Mr. Miller developed personal relationships with all his students. I can still remember having conversations about baseball and video games like it was yesterday. His friendly, welcoming personality made it exciting to come to school. Because of this, Mr. Miller will always be remembered as one of the best teachers I've had.



# Jackson McCarthy

*9-12 Teacher of Honor*

# Matt Harloff

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Mr. Harloff has had a huge impact on me throughout the last four years. His dedication and passion for the activity are second to none. Even during difficult rehearsals, he brings an energy that can't be matched. There were many weeks when I would see Mr. Harloff more than my own parents, but I am glad I got to spend that time with him because I learned many important life lessons. He taught me the value of hard work, perseverance, attention to detail, and how trusting the process leads to great things. His standards have set me up for success in any situation. I thank Mr. Harloff for believing in me because I wouldn't be where I am today without his support.

# Bailey Nicholson

- Daughter of Bill and Jessica Nicholson
- GPA: 5.0649
- Class Rank: 17<sup>th</sup>
- Teachers of Honor
  - K-8: Marcy Sell
  - 9-12: Sarah Fowler
- Attending Western Washington University
- Major: Environmental Science



# Bailey Nicholson

*K-8 Teacher of Honor*

# Marcy Sell

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Mrs. Sell, my kindergarten teacher, was the first teacher I ever had. One reason Mrs. Sell sticks out to me is because every time I would go back to Sycamore Elementary for an after-school activity or a convocation with the jump rope team, she would always make sure to come and say hi to me. It's one thing for a student to remember their teacher, but for the teacher to remember a student from kindergarten who has now grown into an adult is special to me. I appreciate everything Mrs. Sell did to get me excited about learning and help me grow into the student who put in the hard work to get where I am today.

# Bailey Nicholson

*9-12 Teacher of Honor*

# Sarah Fowler

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Mrs. Fowler teaches my favorite class- ceramics. She is one of the best teachers because she is able to be your friend while still motivating and inspiring you as a teacher. Mrs. Fowler has opened the door of opportunities for me with art. Ceramics helped me solidify that school was not all about academics, and I was going to fit art classes into my schedule wherever I could. And as if ceramics 1, 2, and 3 wasn't enough time with Mrs. Fowler, my study hall this last semester is spent in her room as a TA. I thank Mrs. Fowler for creating such a positive environment in her classroom and helping me become the art student I am now.



# Victor Ogunsanya



- Son of Olorunju and Omowunmi Ogunsanya
- GPA: 5.153
- Class Rank: 8<sup>th</sup>
- Teachers of Honor
  - K-8: Rebecca Milner
  - 9-12: Callista Keeney
- Attending Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Major: Computer Science



# Victor Ogunsanya

*K-8 Teacher of Honor*

# Rebecca Milner

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Ms. Milner helped to make my middle school experience an amazing one by being my opening to the outstanding level of kindness and dedication that is the standard for teachers in Avon. Unfortunately, I never took a business class in middle school, so I only had her for BPA, but I'll never forget how in every meeting it truly felt like she wanted all of us to succeed. Even when BPA was just me and Jacob against teams of what seemed like hundreds of students, she never doubted us or made it seem like we couldn't do it. We were an underdog team for sure, but that didn't stop us from collectively acquiring first and second in keyboarding production, and third in web design. That never would've happened with a club advisor who didn't believe in us as much as she did, who didn't expect just as much from us as they would from a larger team with more students and more resources, and that's exactly why I find that she is such an amazing person. Ms. Milner helps push people to do their best despite their circumstances, and that can-do attitude has stuck with me past middle school and throughout high school. Thank you for believing in me back then because that's helped me to believe in myself.

# Victor Ogunsanya

*9-12 Teacher of Honor*

# Callista Keeney

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When I think about the memories I share with Ms. Keeney, I typically can't help myself from laughing. For the past four years, Academic Super Bowl has been responsible for some of the funniest and most enjoyable experiences I've had throughout high school. Every meeting day, every competition, every interaction I've had with Ms. Keeney has been full of compassion, care, and a more than fair amount of comedy, and I think that's owed to just how down-to-earth she is as a person. It's always felt like she treated me and everyone else in Academic Super Bowl as the inexperienced humans we are as opposed to just dumb kids or teenagers, and that's allowed for the great conversations I've been so lucky to have throughout all high school. While Academic Super Bowl taught me some of the values of competition and made me great at studying, it never would've been a complete experience without Ms. Keeney, and I'm forever grateful for the irreplaceable role she played in making my high school experience amazing.

# Chinmay Patel



- Son of Raj and Ken Patel
- GPA: 5.324
- Class Rank: 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Teachers of Honor
  - K-8: Ryan East
  - 9-12: Andrew Johnson
- Attending Purdue University
- Major: Computer Science

# Chinmay Patel

*K-8 Teacher of Honor*

# Ryan East

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Perhaps nothing sounds as unbearable as a middle school Social Studies classroom. Yet every day in Mr. East's classroom was an uplifting experience. His cheerful attitude effortlessly wiped away the horrors that naturally came with the 7th grade and transformed the learning space into an environment of amusement where learning was seamlessly integrated. Mr. East always ensured he was a presence that you could easily approach and talk to. He was a rare breed of instructor and mentor who inspired you to engage in the classroom rather than draw you away. Mr. East was the first teacher who showed me that embracing the classroom environment was the best way to find enjoyment in it, a lesson that has proved invaluable throughout high school.

# Chinmay Patel

*9-12 Teacher of Honor*

## Andrew Johnson

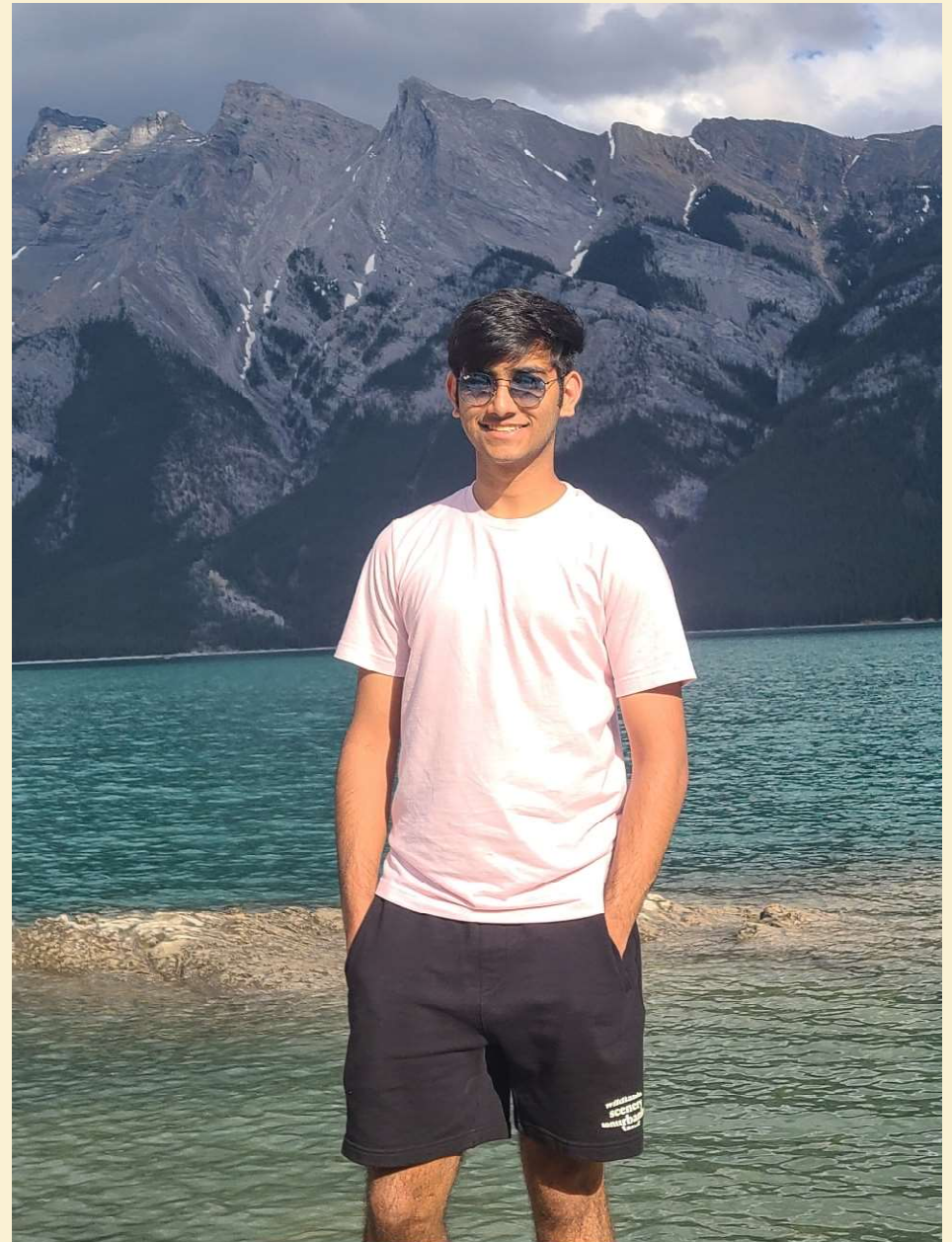
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Language Arts has always been nothing short of a snooze-fest for me. Mr. Johnson, however, has turned that principle upside-down. His careful elements of humor tied in with his innate ability to ingrain the strategies by which one can analyze the words in front of them have allowed me to achieve success on the English battlefield. Much like Hamlet felt victory whilst slaying Claudius after much inaction, I, too, have felt victorious in his class after killing an assignment at 3 AM after much inaction. In Mr. Johnson's class, I may have not learned much English, but I have come to learn how to better communicate and have enhanced the deepness and quality of my thought.



# Raj Patel

- Son of Jayant and Jyoti Patel
- GPA: 5.092
- Class Rank: 11<sup>th</sup>
- Teachers of Honor
  - K-8: Malari Williams
  - 9-12: Anthony Record
- Attending Indiana University
- Major: Bioengineering



# Raj Patel

*9-12 Teacher of Honor*

# Malari Williams

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When studying biology, students often get bogged down by convoluted concepts, esoteric terminology, and complex processes. However, in Mrs. Williams' AP Biology class, this was not the case. She was adept at knowing just when to interweave humor, personal anecdotes, and relatable analogies to engage a group of high schoolers when learning about the convoluted mechanisms of photosynthesis or the natural operations of evolution and heredity. I had always been a math and science type of guy and Mrs. Williams reinforced my commitment to delve into the inner workings of the world, explore the "hows" and "whys", and embark into the realm of science.

# Raj Patel

*9-12 Teacher of Honor*

## Anthony Record

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The limit of Mr. Record's dedication to the success of his students does not exist. Mr. Record's unparalleled enthusiasm towards the world of calculus has not only taught me and my peers how to take derivatives and integrals, but also to think like a mathematician. The commitment Mr. Record has for his students is evident on a spectrum ranging from challenging his students with national calculus competitions to sacrificing his own time to create office hours to help his students outside of class time. Furthermore, he has shown me that the real world has no limit, but rather, its scope can be derived from one's perseverance and imagination.

# Roshan Patel



- Son of Amit and Dhvani Patel
- GPA: 5.161
- Class Rank: 7<sup>th</sup>
- Teachers of Honor
  - K-8: Stan Storey
  - 9-12: Timothy Titzer
- Attending Purdue University
- Major: Computer Engineering

# Roshan Patel

*K-8 Teacher of Honor*

# Stan Storey

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There was never a dull moment in Mr. Storey's band class. From the moment you stepped into his room, his glaring passion and enthusiasm were indisputable. Combining humor and commitment to excellence created a comfortable and engaging environment that was essential after long hours at a desk. Mr. Storey's influence extends well beyond band. As a result of his diligence, he became more than merely a teacher, but also a friend. Mr. Storey's ability to connect with students on a personal level showed me the value of empathy and kindness. Furthermore, his positive influence on countless students developed character, confidence, and dedication that was vital for our high school careers and will extend into our futures.



# Roshan Patel

*9-12 Teacher of Honor*

# Timothy Titzer

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Going into Science Olympiad, I had no idea what to expect. However, having the chance to meet Mr. Titzer turned this club into a great opportunity. Mr. Titzer's joyful attitude and relatable experiences produced a casual and productive workspace that made Science Olympiad easy to enjoy. His adherence to teaching us a broad spectrum of things from translating Morse code to building a car, highlighted his intent for our success. In addition to his benevolent character, it is also clear that he cares about the prosperity and growth of his students. Through his guidance and support, whether it is regarding schoolwork, personal situations, or career aspirations, Mr. Titzer has enriched our lives and has truly become an inspiration.

# Dana Peng



- Daughter of Yun Wang and Ying Peng
- GPA: 5.029
- Class Rank: 19<sup>th</sup>
- Teachers of Honor
  - K-8: Warren Johnson
  - 9-12: Heather Meunier
- Attending Indiana University/Purdue University at Indianapolis
- Major: Biology

# Dana Peng

*K-8 Teacher of Honor*

# Warren Johnson

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Though I moved to Avon from Columbia, Missouri in eighth grade, there are many teachers from middle school who greatly contributed to my success. One of those teachers is Mr. Johnson, my eighth grade algebra teacher from Missouri. Not only did he make class extremely fun with his vivacious personality, but he showed us the applicability of all subjects in our lives. Mr. Johnson's work ethic and widespread knowledge also inspired us to further dedicate ourselves to our interests. Because of him, I have learned to see every connection between what I learn in school and what occurs in my environment, which continues to make my life enriching today. Though I cannot thank Mr. Johnson in person, I am forever grateful for his impact.

# Dana Peng

*9-12 Teacher of Honor*

# Heather Meunier

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The most impactful teachers not only teach but also nurture your growth. Mrs. Meunier is a prime example of one of these teachers. In AP Language and Composition my junior year, Mrs. Meunier's genuine passion for writing as a way to explore different perspectives was contagious, leading me to leave the class not only with better writing skills but with new perspectives as I learned to view my environment with a more analytical and compassionate eye. Furthermore, Mrs. Meunier has been an invaluable mentor as I have served on the Interact Club Leadership Team for two years, helping me find my voice as an advocate for my community. Mrs. Meunier's profound dedication and empathy have transformed my worldview, and I am incredibly honored to have been her student.

# Christopher Quinney

- Son of Matthew and Sara Quinney
- GPA: 5.084
- Class Rank: 12<sup>th</sup>
- Teachers of Honor
  - K-8: Matt Abbey
  - 9-12: Daniel Derda
- Attending Purdue University
- Major: Computer Science





# Christopher Quinney

*K-8 Teacher of Honor*

## Matt Abbey

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Upon reaching high school, I decided to join the marching band. It was there I would meet many of my closest friends and have some of my best experiences. I would also meet Mr. Abbey. Before being hired as the Avon Middle School South band teacher, Mr. Abbey was and still is a brass tech for the marching band. Through hundreds of hours of practice, he has helped me develop my skills and become the player I am today. More than that, though, he has always been there to keep us laughing and having a good time. During the toughest moments, I could always count on Mr. Abbey to keep me going and push me even further.

# Christopher Quinney

*9-12 Teacher of Honor*

# Daniel Derda

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History is one of my favorite subjects to learn about because it serves as a window into the past to see how we got to where we are today. However, it can be a bit boring. Thousands of dates and details demand to be memorized which can induce an intense drowsiness, but Mr. Derda managed to turn my time in his class into some of my best memories at Avon High School. From designing my own little city in Honors Geography to simulating a Revolutionary War battle in VU American History, there was almost never a dull class period. And of course, Mr. Derda's humorous stories always kept me entertained. He has played a huge role in getting me to where I am today, and I can't thank him enough.

# Sohaib Qureshi



- Son of Asalam Pervez and Farhat Qureshi
- GPA: 5.004
- Class Rank: 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Teachers of Honor
  - K-8: Kimberly Shambaugh
  - 9-12: Alex Prittie
- Attending Purdue University
- Major: Computer Science

# Sohaib Qureshi

*K-8 Teacher of Honor*

# Kimberly Shambaugh

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Mrs. Shambaugh is a phenomenal teacher who has had a tremendous impact on my academic journey. Her passion for math is infectious and she goes above and beyond to support her students' success. Mrs. Shambaugh encouraged me to join the Math Bowl and her guidance and training were essential to our team's top 3 placement. She helped me grasp advanced math concepts and pushed me to perform to the best of my abilities. Mrs. Shambaugh's teaching style is engaging, challenging, and inspiring. She creates a positive and inclusive classroom environment that encourages everyone to participate and learn. I am grateful for her dedication, guidance, and support, and I am fortunate to have had her as my teacher.

# Sohaib Qureshi

*9-12 Teacher of Honor*

## Alex Prittie

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Mr. Prittie's passion for psychology is evident in every aspect of his teaching. From his engaging lectures to his insightful discussions, he manages to make a complex subject accessible and relatable to all students. He takes the time to connect with his students on a personal level, often sharing personal anecdotes and experiences to illustrate key concepts. His dedication and commitment to his students are truly inspiring. Mr. Prittie also has a great sense of humor and a contagious energy that makes every class period enjoyable. He always knows how to lighten the mood and keep everyone engaged, even on the toughest days. His willingness to connect with students outside of class, whether through sports or other activities, shows just how much he cares about our overall wellbeing. In conclusion, Mr. Prittie is more than a teacher to his students. He is a mentor and friend who has had a profound impact on my life.



# Matthew Ritter



- Son of Kyle Ritter and Julie Stevens
- GPA: 5.112
- Class Rank: 10<sup>th</sup>
- Teachers of Honor
  - K-8: Amy Nisenbaum
  - 9-12: Rashad Welch
- Attending DePauw University
- Major: Business

# Matthew Ritter

*K-8 Teacher of Honor*

# Amy Nisenbaum

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Mrs. Nisenbaum was my third-grade teacher. She is one of the main teachers that had an impact on my life that I can truly remember. Her classroom environment was energetic, and I always found myself learning something in an exciting way. It was clear that she was passionate about teaching students. Not only this, but she cared for each student in her classroom. One of my favorite memories in her classroom was a project about national monuments. I never would have thought that making a brochure about the Statue of Liberty could be so exciting. Being in her classroom brought a new way of learning, contributing to the growth of who I am today

# Matthew Ritter

*9-12 Teacher of Honor*

# Rashad Welch

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When I think of someone who is excited and passionate about teaching, I think of Mr. Welch. Every day, he teaches with a smile. Even if it was a bad day, being in his class always found a way to lift me up. He kept the classroom fun and would be there for each individual student's needs. In addition to this, his enthusiastic ways of teaching always motivated me and kept me active. I strive to have the same level of passion and energy that Mr. Welch has; however, I'm not sure it's possible. Regardless, out of all my high school teachers, he has had one of the greatest impacts on my life.

# Maxwell Stewart



- Son of Steven and Julie Stewart
- GPA: 4.996
- Class Rank: 24<sup>th</sup>
- Teachers of Honor
  - K-8: David Rodgers
  - 9-12: Chris Hill
- Attending Purdue University
- Major: Mechanical Engineering

# Maxwell Stewart

*K-8 Teacher of Honor*

## David Rodgers

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Mr. Rodgers' 8th grade history class was one of the most influential experiences of my academic career. It was the first time that I felt a genuine passion for a subject. Mr. Rodgers had a way of making history personal. Conversations with the class made history seem like something more real than simply what was written in a book, and he connected the past to the present in meaningful ways. Most importantly, he taught me respect. He commanded my respect, and in turn, he gave his respect to me. That is something that I have carried with me through high school. Sure, I had been told to treat others how I want to be treated. That's what everybody says. But Mr. Rodgers demonstrated that to me through his actions, and for that, I am ever grateful.



# Maxwell Stewart

*9-12 Teacher of Honor*

## Chris Hill

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Mr. Hill is the reason why I want to be an engineer. Mr. Hill revealed to me how much I loved problem-solving and designing solutions. His enthusiasm both in and out of the class made hard subjects seem not as hard, and his encouragement and guidance made the most difficult projects more manageable. What I admire most about Mr. Hill is how he treats me like a friend. Mr. Hill always congratulated me every time I got something done. He always said hello and asked how I was doing – whether in the classroom or when I was lifeguarding. Mr. Hill always wanted to see me succeed, and thanks to him, I will. I hope that one day I may inspire someone else, just as he has inspired me.

# Zainab Syed

- Daughter of Maarij and Samreen Syed
- GPA: 5.224
- Class Rank: 4<sup>th</sup>
- Teachers of Honor
  - K-8: Pamela Cintas
  - 9-12: Erin Garland
- Attending Indiana University
- Major: Neuroscience and Environmental Science with Minors in Spanish and Theatre



# Zainab Syed

*K-8 Teacher of Honor*

# Pamela Cintas

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While most of elementary school is now a distant blur, I will always remember the profound impact Ms. Cintas left on me. Ms. Cintas empowers every one of her students to believe they are capable of anything. She taught us all that we were unstoppable and encouraged us to dream endlessly. The passion, love, and dedication she brought into her classroom every day showed in a multitude of ways, so much so that my third-grade class begged her to round up with us to fourth grade (which she did!). She constantly reminded us to never stop asking 'Why?' and to keep demanding answers. Thank you, Ms. Cintas, for sparking a genuine love for learning inside of me that I will always carry with me.

# Zainab Syed

*9-12 Teacher of Honor*

# Erin Garland

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Mrs. Garland has transformed my mindset towards every area of my life. Although I have taken AP US History and AP Economics with her, I often tell people she teaches “AP How To Be a Functioning Human.” The skills I have learned from Mrs. Garland go far beyond academics. She has taught me the importance of hard work, time management, accountability, and discipline, ultimately making me a stronger student and a better person. While Mrs. Garland is a tremendous teacher, she is an even better friend. I could always rely on her for a good laugh or a reality check, and her classroom was frequently the best part of my day for two years. Thank you, Mrs. Garland, for the memories that will last a lifetime.

# Faith White



- Daughter of Charles and Stephanie White
- GPA: 5.296
- Class Rank: 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Teachers of Honor
  - K-8: Cory Falk
  - 9-12: Adam Clark
- Attending University of Notre Dame
- Major: Biochemistry



# Faith White

*K-8 Teacher of Honor*

# Cory Falk

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Mr. Falk is an amazing person with a passion for teaching that radiates throughout the classroom. He encouraged me, and others, to step out of our comfort zone and not be afraid to try new things. I learned so much from his class, like how to use a bandsaw, and made interesting projects, like my side table, that I still use to this day. Mr. Falk opened his classroom daily to those who wanted to talk and eat during lunch. Some of my fondest memories from 8th grade were while eating lunch with my friends in his classroom. It was evident that he cared about forming meaningful connections with his students and his kindness was truly inspiring to me and many others.

# Faith White

*9-12 Teacher of Honor*

# Adam Clark

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I met Mr. Clark during my freshman year of high school. I never had the pleasure of having him as a teacher in the classroom, however, he was my DECA advisor. I arguably believe that this is much more special than having him as a teacher for just one year. Mr. Clark has been there throughout my entire high school journey and has helped shaped me into the leader I am today. His compassion and kindness are clearly shown through his interactions with students. Whether it was at a board meeting or on a trip across the country he never failed to teach me lessons that I know I will carry with me in the next steps of my life.

Thank you for attending  
Avon High School's  
16<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Evening of Excellence.