

CHARLESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

2023

High School Valedictorians

Charleston > excellence is our standard
County SCHOOL DISTRICT

STUDENTS ARE
THE HEART

OF OUR WORK!

Academic Magnet High School



Angela Mei

COLLEGE PLANS

To double major in Biomedical Engineering and Computer Science at Harvard University

CAREER PLANS

To become a physician-scientist

INTERESTS & HOBBIES

Solo and duet piano, scientific research, spending time with my family, running, swimming, watching soccer, Formula 1, and football

SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT

Mu Alpha Theta President, Music Outreach Club Co-President, Rho Kappa Social Studies National Honor Society President, Spanish National Honor Society Co-Vice President, Science Club, and National Honor Society

FAMILY MEMBERS

Mei Li, mother; Ying Mei, father; Jonathan Mei, brother

MESSAGE TO FELLOW CLASSMATES

You can't go back and make a new start, but you can start right now and make a brand new ending.

Allegro Charter School of Music



Lucas Gilbert

COLLEGE PLANS

To attend Western Carolina University and study physical therapy

CAREER PLANS

To become a physical therapist

INTERESTS & HOBBIES

Guitar and sports

SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT

Student Body President, "Battle of the Bands" participant

FAMILY MEMBERS

Elizabeth Simons Dovell Gilbert, mother; Jeremy John Gilbert, father; Frederick Gilbert, brother

MESSAGE TO FELLOW CLASSMATES

Surround yourself with people that will help you grow and keep you happy.

Baptist Hill Middle High School



Litzzy Ramirez Martinez

COLLEGE PLANS

To attend the College of Charleston to prepare for dental school at the Medical University of South Carolina

CAREER PLANS

To become a dentist

INTERESTS & HOBBIES

Dancing, exploring nature, playing basketball, and embroidering

SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT

National Honor Society, photographer for athletics and other school events

FAMILY MEMBERS

Gabriela Martinez, mother; Christian Martinez and Edwin Martinez, brothers; Isabella Martinez, sister

MESSAGE TO FELLOW CLASSMATES

No matter how many people are doubting you, always strive to prove them wrong. Always chase your dreams!

Burke High School



Indya Elizabeth Lee

COLLEGE PLANS

To attend South Carolina State University and major in business administration

CAREER PLANS

To become an entrepreneur and open a bakery

INTERESTS & HOBBIES

Baking; spending time with nieces, nephews, and family; working; and being independent

SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT

Dance Club, Homecoming Queen 2022, Prom Queen 2023, Business Management Information Completer, Principal's Honor Roll (Sophomore and Senior year), AB Honor Roll Freshman Year

FAMILY MEMBERS

Michele Jones, mother; Jan Burton, grandmother; Tory Cohen, cousin;
(John Poretto, science teacher; James White, Student concern specialist; Janet Morrison, Senior Advisor)

MESSAGE TO FELLOW CLASSMATES

Don't think less of yourself, always think bigger!
I want everybody to be successful in whatever they pursue in the future.

Charleston Charter School for Math and Science



Christina Rose McNeish

COLLEGE PLANS

To study Biology Pre-med at Queens College

CAREER PLANS

To become a medical doctor

INTERESTS & HOBBIES

Cooking, baking, music, and anything artistic

SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT

National Honor Society

FAMILY MEMBERS

Antonia McNeish, mother; Tre'von Elliott-Ford, brother; Jahbarie Elliott-Ford, brother

MESSAGE TO FELLOW CLASSMATES

Go for it!

UNIQUE STORY

Being a youth apprentice at Roper Hospital changed my whole perspective on life and my purpose.

Charleston County School of the Arts



Abigail Lila Short

COLLEGE PLANS

To attend the University of South Carolina Honors College to double major in Studio Arts and Psychology with a minor in Finance

CAREER PLANS

To become a professional artist

INTERESTS & HOBBIES

Art, CrossFit, true crime, competitive arts-based shows, and reading

SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT

National Honor Society, Visual Arts Major, Social Media Manager

FAMILY MEMBERS

Nicole Sack, mother; Baron Short, father; Lexi Short, sister

MESSAGE TO FELLOW CLASSMATES

Catch the ceaseless flow of quality in the passing moment.

UNIQUE STORY

I've had a couple of health scares such as a seizure disorder and the autoimmune disease cutaneous lupus, but I let those inspire me to cherish life and all it has to offer.

Greg Mathis Charter High School



D'Marous Markeim Wall

COLLEGE PLANS

To study Computer Programming at Claffin University

CAREER PLANS

To become a Computer Engineer and then enter the military

INTERESTS & HOBBIES

Baseball, football, basketball, listening to music, and Gaming

SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT

Student Government Association

FAMILY MEMBERS

Mom, dad, and sister

MESSAGE TO FELLOW CLASSMATES

Challenging times often dissolve into successful moments with discipline and persistence.
You've got what it takes to get past a challenging time so don't quit.

James Island Charter High School



Hannah Grace Parker

COLLEGE PLANS

To attend the University of South Carolina Honors College and double major in International Business and Marketing with a minor in Spanish

CAREER PLANS

To work in eCommerce and Marketing

INTERESTS & HOBBIES

Going to the beach, listening to music, painting, reading, and hiking

SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT

Full IB Diploma Candidate, President of National Art Honor Society, Vice President of National Spanish Honor Society, Student Ambassador, Project Lit Club, Environmental Sustainability Club

FAMILY MEMBERS

Adam Parker, father; Kristen Perkins, mother; Emma Parker, sister; Jonathan Parker, brother

MESSAGE TO FELLOW CLASSMATES

I am so excited to graduate with my fellow classmates and other Charleston seniors this year and to eventually see where all our uniquely chosen pathways beyond high school will take us!

Lucy Garrett Beckham High School



Peyton Matheson

COLLEGE PLANS

To study mathematics, economics, and business at the University of South Carolina Honors College

CAREER PLANS

To pursue a career in analytics and investment management

INTERESTS & HOBBIES

Spending time in nature, playing the piano, listening to music, and hanging out with friends

SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT

National Honor Society, Founder and President of Math Club, Peer Tutor, Jazz Band

FAMILY MEMBERS

Brooke Matheson, mother; Eric Matheson, father; Alexander Matheson, brother; Shawn Matheson, brother

MESSAGE TO FELLOW CLASSMATES

Intelligence is not a measure of one's intellect; rather, it is an attribute of those who apply themselves effectively and meaningfully in their endeavors.

Find and cultivate your strengths and passions and focus your efforts on things that are meaningful, and you will intelligently pave the way to a successful future.

UNIQUE STORY

I started landscaping for a few neighbors in 2020 during the COVID pandemic, and over the past three years have grown this into a successful business with several employees and over twenty clients. This has been a truly fulfilling experience and has grown my passion for business and entrepreneurship.

Military Magnet Academy



Emily Barragan

COLLEGE PLANS

To attend the University of South Carolina and major in Criminology and Criminal Justice

CAREER PLANS

To become a Criminal Justice lawyer

INTERESTS & HOBBIES

Volleyball and knitting

SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT

Drill team and Varsity Volleyball

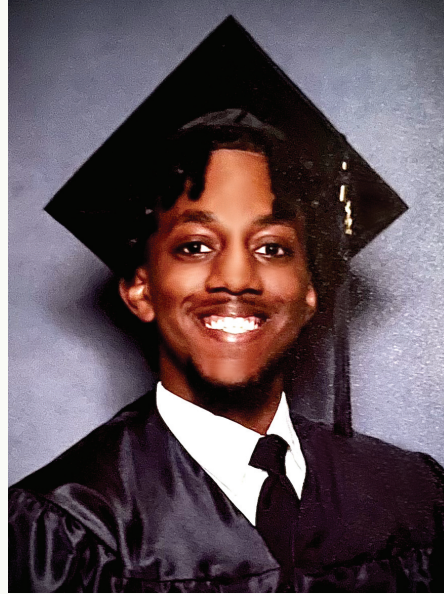
FAMILY MEMBERS

Saulo Barragan, father; Noemi Botello, mother; Jacob Barragan, brother

MESSAGE TO FELLOW CLASSMATES

“Do what you have to do until you can do what you want to do.” – Oprah Winfrey

North Charleston High School



Dorian Jamaar Townsend

COLLEGE PLANS

To attend Clemson University as a Computer Science major

CAREER PLANS

To pursue a career in Cyber Security

INTERESTS & HOBBIES

Reading books (the Bible), playing video games, exercising, self-development, learning how to program in JavaScript, speaking another language, and playing an instrument

SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT

Teacher Cadet program, Key Club treasurer, Student Council member, President of the Interact Club, and Chess Club member

FAMILY MEMBERS

Darin Townsend, father; Dominique Townsend, mother; Darin Townsend Jr., older brother; Darion Townsend, little brother; Dakota Townsend, little sister; Jax Carter Townsend, dog

MESSAGE TO FELLOW CLASSMATES

Excuses only sound good to the person making them.

R.B. Stall High School



Anastazia Marie Mendones

COLLEGE PLANS

To pursue postsecondary education at the College of Charleston, majoring in Biology or potentially participating in a dual degree program to obtain degrees in both Biology and Nursing

CAREER PLANS

To pursue a career relating to the healthcare or biology sector

INTERESTS & HOBBIES

Writing, reading, drawing, and music

SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT

Early College High School Dual Enrollment Program, a member of the National Honor Society

FAMILY MEMBERS

Gualberto Mendones, father; Courtney Garcia, mother; Gualberto Mendones, brother;
Cyatana Mendones, Senina Mendones, and Malia Mendones, sisters

MESSAGE TO FELLOW CLASSMATES

I am thankful for your presence and the hospitable, fun, and friendly environment you guys have created over the years. Although many of us will grow apart and won't see each other again, I wish you all the best of luck in your future endeavors.

St. John's High School



Katherine Ellen Pasibe

COLLEGE PLANS

To attend Wofford College in the fall to major in Biology and pursue the pre-med track

CAREER PLANS

To attend medical school after undergraduate school to become a doctor, possibly in the field of gastroenterology

INTERESTS & HOBBIES

Baking, cooking, hiking, weight lifting

SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT

National Honor Society, Army JROTC Battalion Executive Officer, Culinary Arts Completer, Varsity Football, Varsity Soccer, and Varsity Track and Field

FAMILY MEMBERS

Tara Pasibe, mother; Rod Pasibe, father

MESSAGE TO FELLOW CLASSMATES

The countless memories that we have made over the course of our four years together are ones that I hold dear to my heart. Many of us even attended middle school together. However, it is now time to embark on our own unique journeys. I wish the best for each and every one of my classmates, and I hope that we all keep in touch as we part ways.

Wando High School



Rowan Willis Johnson

COLLEGE PLANS

To study Biochemistry at the University of South Carolina

CAREER PLANS

To become a medical doctor

INTERESTS & HOBBIES

Soccer, sports, and spending time with friends

SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT

National Honor Society, Beta Club, AP Academy, Mu Alpha Theta, played soccer for four years

FAMILY MEMBERS

Kevin Johnson, father; Susan Johnson, mother; Graham Johnson, brother; Oliver Johnson, brother

MESSAGE TO FELLOW CLASSMATES

Congratulations to the entirety of the Class of 2023. Good luck with all future endeavors.

West Ashley High School



Riley McKay Alexander

COLLEGE PLANS

To attend Clemson University and major in Nursing

CAREER PLANS

To become a pediatric nurse and potentially do travel nursing as well

INTERESTS & HOBBIES

Cheerleading, going to the beach, shopping

SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT

National Honor Society, Varsity Cheer Captain for both sideline (2022-2023) and competition (2021-2023) teams

FAMILY MEMBERS

Brian Alexander, father; Robin Alexander, mother; Brian Alexander Jr., brother; Reese Alexander, sister

MESSAGE TO FELLOW CLASSMATES

Congratulations to the Class of 2023!
My advice would be to always stay humble and kind. It goes a long way in life!