

The 34th annual West Branch High School Senior Academic Recognition Banquet was held recently at the Almost Home Event Center. This year's banquet honored 13 students who are in the top ten percent of the Class of 2024 along with their parents and a teacher chosen by each honored senior. The seniors selected the educator who most significantly influenced their educational career.

Mr. Brian Coffee, Principal of West Branch High School, welcomed the guests and served as master of ceremonies. Mrs. Micki Egli, Superintendent of West Branch Schools, along with West Branch High School Assistant Principal, Mrs. Penny DeShields, recognized the students' accomplishments as they were honored. Olivia Showalter, West Branch High School Senior, gave the invocation.

The evening's celebration was planned by the Academic Recognition Banquet Committee, which included Brian Coffee, Jill Boyle, Treva Cline, Suzanne Denny, Mona McNeely and Lori Schlueter.

The 13 students, who celebrated their academic excellence over a four-year period, along with their parents and selected teacher, were:

Beau Alazaus, son of Shawn & Marti Alazaus of Alliance. Beau plans to study exercise science at Walsh University. He has been offered a Merit Scholarship, a Governor's Merit Scholarship and an Athletic Scholarship. Activities: National Honors Society member, 4.0 Honor Roll, WBHS Football Team Captain. Beau selected his 12th grade stats teacher & his father, Shawn Alazaus.

Sophia M. Ayers, daughter of Steven & Krista Ayers of Alliance. Sophia plans to study early childhood education at Kent State University. She has been offered a KSU Academic Achievement Scholarship and a KSU Honors College Scholarship. Activities: Head majorette & featured twirler, Choir Vice-President & Young & Alive Member, Educator Rising President. Sophia selected her 10th grade Geometry and Success 101 teacher, Beth Cooley.

Mary Buehler, daughter of Adam & Tamara Buehler of Berlin Center. Mary plans to study biology and Spanish at Loyola University in Maryland. She has been offered a Loyola Presidential Scholarship. Activities: Academic Challenge President, Art Club President, All-league Second Team in 2024 Mahoning Quiz Bowl League. Mary selected her 10th – 12th grade Spanish teacher, Erica Ross.

Griffin Flickinger, son of Heath & Jeannie Flickinger of Beloit. Griffin plans to study mechanical engineering at The University of Akron. He has been offered an Akron University Merit Scholarship. Activities: Boys Soccer Team Captain & 3-year letter winner, 2023 American Legion of Ohio – Buckeye Boys State participant. Griffin selected his 10th grade American History teacher, Chris Adams.

Sophia Gregory, daughter of Levi & Andrea Gregory of Alliance. Sophia plans to study pre-med and play basketball at Youngstown State University. She has been offered a Youngstown University Full Ride Athletic Scholarship. Activities: Academic All-Ohio in soccer, basketball & track, National Honors Society member, First Team All-Ohio in soccer, basketball & track. Sophia selected her 9th – 12th grade high school track coach, Michael Falasca.

Emmy M. Jones, daughter of Casey & Tracie Jones of Homeworth. Emmy plans to study biochemistry at Youngstown State University. She has been offered a Governor's Merit Scholarship, an Honors Program Scholarship, a Trustee's Scholarship and an Honors Housing Scholarship. Activities: National Honors Society member, EBC Scholar Athlete Award, Circle 62 4-H member. Emmy selected her 9th & 10th grade American/World History teacher, Angela Mulinix.

Samantha Koneval, daughter of Stephen Koneval of Beloit & Christine Koneval of Salem. Samantha plans to study biology/pre-med at the University of South Carolina. She has been offered a USC Academic Scholarship and Athletic Scholarship. Activities: National Honors Society Treasurer, Student Council Vice-President, Soccer Team Captain. Samantha selected her 11th grade chemistry teacher, Tara Robb.

Rose Maendel, daughter of Beth Maendel of Alliance. Rose plans to attend Stark State College. Activities: Creative Arts Vice-President, OYM Fine Arts Drama Category State Winner, Mount Union Art Fest Vendor Teen Winner. Rose selected her 6th & 7th grade computer applications teacher, Lori Schlueter.

Emma Sanor, daughter of Jamie & Kellie Sanor of Beloit. Emma plans to study NICU Nursing or Child Life Specialist at Walsh University. She has been offered a Walsh University Academic Scholarship. Activities: National Honors Society member, Church nursery leader, Environmental & Art Club Member. Emma selected her 2nd grade teacher, Anne Cushman.

Olivia Showalter, daughter of Scott & Julie Showalter of Beloit. Olivia plans to study exercise science at Youngstown State University. She has been offered a Trustee's Scholarship, a Governor's Scholarship, and an Honors College Scholarship. Activities: Class Valedictorian, National Honors Society, Vice-President, EBC Scholar Athlete. Olivia selected her 4th grade Language Arts teacher, Jennifer Rohaley.

Brynn A. Smith, daughter of Brad & Jen Smith of Beloit. Brynn plans to study business administration & entrepreneurship at John Carroll University. She has been offered a renewable John Carroll Merit Magis Scholarship, a renewable Governor's Merit Scholarship and a J.L. Francis Scholarship. Activities: Class Valedictorian – Summa Cum laude with distinction & Commencement Speaker, Yearbook editor, Elks Teenager of the Year. Brynn selected her 1st – 4th grade art teacher, Brooke Klenke.

Aaron Tucker, son of Christopher & Carrie Tucker of Alliance. Aaron plans to study finance at University of Mount Union. He has been offered a Governor's Award, a Trustee Scholarship, a Legacy Award Scholarship and a Campus Visit Award. Activities: Class Valedictorian, National Honors Society member, First team All – EBC and All District Baseball. Aaron selected his 9th – 12th grade engineering teacher, Rodger Sharp.

Macy Wilson, daughter of Bill & Shelley Wilson of Homeworth. Macy plans to study physician's assistant at Bowling Green State University. She has been offered a BGSU Academics Scholarship. Activities: Elk's January Teen of the Month, National Honors Society member, Junior nominee for Bright Leaders. Macy selected her 10th – 12th grade school counselor, Jana Stittle.