

# Our Schools

Published by the Board of Education for the Information of the Citizens of West Seneca Central School District

Special Top 20 Edition

# Meet the Class of 2024 Top 20 Students of West Seneca East & West Senior High Schools!





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# Superintendent's Message



Greetings!

It is my pleasure to present to you the West Seneca School District's Top 20 of the Class of 2024. The essays you will read on the following pages are written by each student, in their own words, as an introduction to who they are as scholars and as individuals.

These stellar students, as you will see, are so much more than their list of accomplishments, though vast; they are incredibly busy and incredibly successful individuals. None of them said that their path to high achievement was easy, and they all recognize that success comes with a drive to succeed and support from family, community, and teacher/mentors they met along the way.

As our Top 20 wraps up their time in our District and moves on to college and beyond, we laud them for their achievements to date, and we wish them well in what they will do in the greater community - whether regionally, nationally, or throughout the world

East and West, our Top 10 from each high school, have been an inspiration to their fellow students and provided affirmation to their teachers and our Board of Education that all children can learn and succeed. On behalf of the West Seneca Board of Education and all of their educators throughout the years, kudos to our Top 20. Among their many varied talents, these students are academics, athletes, and musicians, who have embraced everything this school system offers and given back more than they will ever know.

Jeffery Rabey, Ph.D. Interim Superintendent





### **EAST HIGH SCHOOL**

### #1 Luke Osmanski, Valedictorian

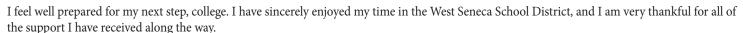
I am the youngest of seven children. My parents were high school sweethearts and have been married for 34 years. We have all attended West Seneca Schools, and I look forward to being the 9th person to graduate and join my family as a proud alumni. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunities that have been given to me and the chances I've had to have fun, play sports, volunteer, learn, and succeed.

Getting involved in the school community has been the key to my success. I am currently Treasurer of the Student Council and Vice President of Class Council. I belong to Model United Nations, Rho Kappa, Spanish Honor Society, and National Honor Society. I played in the band. I have grown, learned, and worked to contribute to the school.

Athletics has challenged me the most. I've been on the football, wrestling, and lacrosse teams since 7th grade. I am honored to be a captain in each of these sports. It is a privilege to be a part of all of these teams, and I have made many friends.

Outside of school, I spend time with my family, play lacrosse, lector at church, and exercise with my friends. In order to give back, I volunteer at the West Seneca Senior Center and St. Luke's Mission.

I attribute my success to the undying support and love of my family. I'm deeply grateful to the teachers and administrators who encouraged me to strive for academic excellence. My dedicated and hard working coaches have helped me strive for greatness.





### #2 Aurora Vaccaro, Salutatorian



Since second grade, I've been given the opportunity to be a part of the West Seneca East school community. From meeting my best friends for life, to learning valuable life lessons, I will never forget everything that this district has provided for me.

Throughout the past few years, I've been involved in many different clubs and activities. I am a member of the Rho Kappa Honor Society, Science Honor Society, National Honor Society, as well as a freshman mentor for the Fresh Start Mentor Program. WSE has also provided me with the resources to carry out my love for music, allowing me to be involved in band for 7 years, play in the pit orchestra, be a member of the jazz band, and be a member of the Tri-M Music Honor Society.

Outside of school, I enjoy spending my time outdoors, baking, and meeting up with my friends. I also have a job that I work year-round.

After high school, I plan on attending UB to carry out my love of science. I would love to work in the drug development and research field to help make the world a better place.

I attribute my success to my own hard work and dedication. If I had to pick the most important thing that I've learned throughout school, it would be that each student needs to be their own biggest supporter. The very first step to achieving goals is to believe in yourself, even when no one else will.

There were so many teachers that have helped me along the way, but I would like to give extra thanks to Mrs. Glavey, Ms. Borowicz, and Mrs. Stermer for helping me to reach my full potential. I am optimistic about the future and look forward to starting a new chapter of my life after graduation.





### **EAST HIGH SCHOOL**

#### **#3 Eleanor Keane**

From Clinton Elementary to East Middle to East Senior, I have been in West Seneca my entire school career. Along the way I've been given the opportunity to meet so many wonderful people that helped shape me into the person I am today. I am very lucky to have had teachers that always believed in me and gave me opportunities to excel.

I joined several extracurriculars and clubs in order to dive deeper into my interests. National Honor Society, National French Honor Society, National English Honor Society, and Rho Kappa were all very welcoming, and fostered an incredible community of like minded people who loved to learn and spread their knowledge in a way that felt meaningful. I also joined Varsity Soccer, Varsity Lacrosse, and Marching Band, and these teams taught me to work hard and to have fun, as well as giving me a sense of togetherness that is invaluable through high school. I also participated in several clubs, such as Mural Club, Masterminds, and Jazz Club, all of which were tons of fun.

Outside of school I have several hobbies such as drawing, writing, reading, and playing the piano and french horn. For this I can thank my parents, Kasey and Brian, who have always supported me in all of my interests, and have never held me back from exploring new subjects.

I plan on studying Engineering next year in college, in order to use my love of math to make the world a better and safer place. If I have any advice for my underclassmen it is to build relationships with the

teachers and students around you. Everything in life becomes easier when you have a supportive environment, and the first step to success is not only believing in yourself, but surrounding yourself with people who believe in you too.



#### **#4 Claire Lamoreaux**



I have been in the West Seneca Central School District since Kindergarten and am very grateful for all the experiences this district has offered me.

I am involved in a wide range of activities including the Girls Varsity Swim Team, which I am proud to have been a captain of this year. Most notably, I have found my passion for STEM, and I am President of East Senior's Science Club. I also tutor AP Chemistry, and I am a member of the Engineering Club, and Science Honor Society. If I'm not in a lab room, I can be found in the music wing playing my cello. I have been in East's Orchestra since fifth grade. I am in Tri-M Music Honor Society, Chamber Orchestra, and Pit Orchestra. Cello is one of my creative outlets, which I hope to continue through college.

Outside of academics, I try to get outdoors as much as possible. My dad and I love hiking in the Adirondacks and have summited six mountains. To stay active over the summer, I also bike and kayak with my family. In addition, I work year-round as a lifeguard and swim instructor at the YMCA.

My parents, Sara and Craig, have given me my passion for learning. Being raised by two educators has kept me motivated in my school career. My mom has been my rock since day one. My parents have always supported me in everything I do, and I would not be who I am today without them.

I plan on attending UB next year and majoring in Environmental Engineering. I am grateful for all of my amazing West Seneca teachers who have helped me throughout the years. I'm looking forward to starting a new chapter, but I will not forget my experience here.





### **EAST HIGH SCHOOL**

### #5 Sienna Riccio

I began my educational journey in the West Seneca Central School District when I was just 4 years old. Throughout my time at Clinton Elementary, East Middle, and now West Seneca East High School, my journey of self discovery and growth has been a constant.

In school, I have been involved in various activities, clubs, and honor societies. I participate in the National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society. I have obtained High Honor Roll status since I began middle school and I also received the Golden Physics Award/Plaque for obtaining the highest grade point average in Physics. I have taken various dual enrollment and AP courses, and I am also a part of Key Club.

Outside of school, I work in the after school program as a paid student intern. In addition, I volunteer once a month in the Buffalo Public School District to work with students and their families at Saturday Academies, which consist of crafts and fun activities. I also volunteered for the West Seneca Reading Rover this past summer, handing out free books. I was also a catcher for travel softball for 9 years. I enjoy working out and spending time with friends.

My parents, Dave and Charlin, are both very hardworking individuals. I attribute my work ethic to them. They have always stressed the importance of finishing what you start and practicing until you get it right. Without their support and guidance, I would not have learned what it takes to focus and stay ahead of the game.

Although I am undecided about my college major presently, I have a few important interest areas that I am researching. These include Pharmacology, Materials Science Engineering and Accounting. I hope to attend the Honors College at University of Buffalo.



### #6 Ella Krumpek



I have been a part of the West Seneca Central School district since kindergarten, attending Clinton Elementary, East Middle and East Senior High. I owe my academic success to some amazing teachers, school counselors, my parents, family, and several friends who have supported me in my educational journey. These people have given me the confidence to push myself past any obstacle that life has thrown my way. They are always my biggest fans and have helped me develop the skills necessary to be successful in life

I would like to thank Mr. & Mrs. Page who have been an important part of coaching my running skills to the next level. I will forever appreciate the time and energy they have put into working with me. I also appreciate all the track and swim coaches who have worked with me along the way, helping to shape me into the athlete I am today.

I also attribute my success in academics and athletics to my discipline, desire to succeed, and my ability to advocate for myself. I believe in putting forth 100 percent effort in everything I do, and I truly believe I can do anything I put my mind and energy into. This mindset has brought me success academically, allowing me to achieve in AP and college-level courses.

After high school, I will be attending Canisius University where I will be majoring in Kinesiology and Pre-medicine. This will help me in my pursuit of a career as a Physician Assistant or a Physical Therapist. I

would like to focus on sports medicine and help people prevent and recover from sports related injuries.

I am also very excited to run Division 1 at Canisius University. I feel fortunate to be given this opportunity, and I look forward to being part of the Canisius University Women's Cross Country and Track teams.





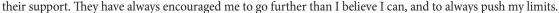
### **EAST HIGH SCHOOL**

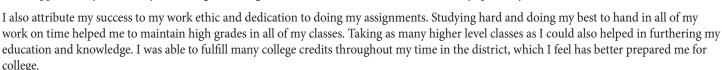
#### #7 Amelia Bové

I have attended East Elementary, Clinton Elementary, East Middle, and East Senior. Throughout my time in the district, I participated in a lot of extracurricular activities.

I have especially spent a lot of time with Rho Kappa and Drama Club. I've also been involved in National Junior Honor Society, Tri-M Music Honor Society, National Honor Society, French Honor Society, and National English Honor Society. I was also a part of the News Crew during middle school. I have also been heavily involved in Drama Club as a stage manager for the past couple of years, an experience that I'm very thankful for.

I wouldn't be successful without my teachers, and would especially like to thank Mrs. Brooks, who has helped me out in so many ways in the last eight years. I would also like to thank my parents, Bree and Chris, for supporting both my academic and extracurricular activities over the years. I could not have participated as much without





I hope to attend Brown University and concentrate in Anthropology. I also hope to eventually attend graduate school and earn a Ph.D, allowing me to do research and teach at the collegiate level.





I've been in the West Seneca Central School District for as long as I can remember. So, I am beyond thankful for the opportunity to achieve my dreams through what West Seneca Schools have given me.

Throughout my time in the district, I've taken part in many activities, clubs, and sports. At the moment, I am in the National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society. However, I have also been in Science Club, and the West Seneca Marching Band. Doing these activities has allowed me to meet new friends and has given me the opportunity to succeed.

Outside of school, I enjoy reading, skiing, studying, and spending time with my family. I also enjoy volunteering, and I volunteer at Chipaway Stables every summer when I can because my family owns a horse over there.

My parents, Ken and Robyn Swan have always supported me in my education and have always stressed the importance of how hard work leads to major success. I am beyond thankful for their support because without their encouragement in regards to achieving my lifelong goals, I would not have been able to succeed in such a remarkable manner up to the present.

I feel that my grades can be credited to the hard work I put into studying and completing homework outside of school, while also taking AP and other advanced classes to further my understanding and level of education.

I plan to attend Daemen University next fall to major in Physical Therapy.

I am beyond grateful to have been in the West Seneca District, because of the multitude of opportunities and ways I was able to further my education. I am grateful that I was able to take many college classes and fulfill college credits while still in high school.







### **EAST HIGH SCHOOL**

### #9 Chase Lisnerski

As a West Seneca Central Schools student, I started out at Clinton Elementary, and moved up all the way through high school. I am very thankful for the education from these schools that have led me to succeeding academically.

I have been a part of many athletic teams and clubs. The sports I have been involved in are football, indoor and outdoor track, and cross country. Also, I've participated in Engineering Club, National Honor Society, Science Honor Society, and the Fresh Start Mentoring Program. These activities have led me to many experiences that I have used to make my future brighter.

Outside of school, I like to spend time with friends and family, and playing video games. I have a passion for throwing shot put, and discus in the summer.

My parents have always supported me in my academics, and have taught me the importance of hard work and dedication to my education. I am very thankful for my family, and friends supporting me through high school. If it weren't for their support to follow my dreams, I would not be as successful as I am today.

I am not set on a college currently, but I hope to get into college next year, and pursue a degree in civil engineering.



#### #10 Natalia Behlok



My name is Natalia Behlok. I have been a part of the West Seneca School District since kindergarten. I started off my career at West Seneca East Elementary. Since then, I have become deeply involved in the school community by participating in sports, clubs, and honors societies.

I have been a member of National Honor Society, Student Council, the Fresh Start Mentoring Program, National English Honor Society, Science Club, Key Club, Volleyball, and French Club. Joining these programs has greatly expanded my understanding of the West Seneca community and allowed for me to become a more prominent member of our school and society.

My parents, Chris and Claudia pushed me to join these clubs as a way to enhance my academic career. I find that these extracurriculars have helped me to become a more productive and independent person.

Along with these clubs and activities, I chose to take my high school education to a higher level by joining AP and advanced classes, as well as the Academy of Life Science. These decisions are what pushed me to become a better student. With increased rigor, my time management skills have vastly improved due to the AP classes I have taken at West Seneca East Senior. I have found that clubs and activities are what make school more enjoyable.

I also enjoy spending time with my friends and family outside of school. My friends and I love to go bowling, ice skating, and shopping. I work two jobs which leaves little time for leisure activities.

The West Seneca schools have provided me with endless opportunities to further my education and challenges to become a hard-working student. I owe my success at my current job to the Academy of Life Science. One hundred hours of internship at a healthcare facility is required in order to graduate from the Academy. I work at a nursing home that I discovered with the guidance of my Academy leaders.

I have found great success in finding jobs and getting into colleges due to the amount of extracurriculars I have participated in, and for this, I am grateful.





### **WEST HIGH SCHOOL**

### #1 Meghan Mulderig, Valedictorian

My name is Meghan Mulderig, and I am the daughter of Chris and Peggy Mulderig.

I am the 2nd of three sisters, and we were all together at West Senior last year. My sister Molly graduated from West in June 2023, and my sister Kate is a sophomore this year. I started attending West Middle in 7th grade, and have had an amazing time in West Seneca Schools ever since.

My 8th grade year marked the beginning of Covid, which put an interesting spin on my high school experience. Remote learning was very different and strange at first, but my teachers at West Senior were wonderful, creative, and flexible in this new educational method. Returning to in-person learning, and walking the halls of West Senior was intimidating at first, although participating in multiple clubs and sports made it much easier.

Getting involved in extracurricular activities makes a large school feel much smaller, and it helped me to find my true interests and meet some of my closest friends. I have been a member of the Varsity Tennis team, as well as Key Club (Vice President 2022-23, President 2023-24) for 4 years. I am also a member of the Ski Club, the Fresh Start Mentoring Program, and multiple honor societies including Rho Kappa, Science Honor Society, and the National Honor Society, for which I am an officer this year.

I have been a member of the Life Science Academy starting in Sophomore year, which opened the door for me to participate in various community medical internships. I am pursuing a career in the medical field, and am hoping to major in Neuroscience or Biology in college.



I attribute my academic success to my parents and sisters, my amazing teachers at West Senior, and the goals I set for myself. Go West!

### #2 Nora Piotrowicz, Salutatorian



I have attended West Seneca Central Schools since third grade. I feel fortunate to have been given the opportunity to succeed academically through the resources that the West Seneca School District has provided to me.

In school, I have participated in many activities, including sports, clubs, and honor societies. I play on the varsity girls lacrosse team. I also participate in National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Science Honor Society, and the Fresh Start Mentoring Program. Additionally, I have a part time job at Leisure Rinks. Participating in these activities has allowed me to meet people with similar interests and has given me many opportunities to succeed.

Outside of school, I enjoy being outside, watching hockey, and spending time with friends and family. I also volunteer at my local church and at West Elementary.

My parents, Steve and Nicole, have always supported me in my education and have stressed the importance of hard work yielding success. I am so grateful for their support. Without their endless support and encouragement to always do my best, I would not have been able to succeed as significantly as I have today.

I believe that my grades can mainly be attributed to the hard work I put into studying and working on homework, as well as all of my teachers who have helped me in various ways, with not only school work, but any life obstacles I face.

Although I do not know exactly what my future plans are, I hope to go to college outside of Buffalo in Syracuse or Boston and major in something business related.

I am very thankful to have attended school in the West Seneca District, due to the many opportunities and ways I have been able to advance my education.





### **WEST HIGH SCHOOL**

### **#3 Eriyon Cowles**

I was homeschooled from 2nd to 6th grade, and transferred to West Middle in 7th. I was a year younger than all my peers, having skipped a grade, and I was extremely confused about how the school system worked. I am grateful to my teachers during this period of adjustment who helped me to gain a new perspective on education and provide me with personal attention to make sure I would succeed.

During my time at West Senior, I have participated in a multitude of clubs, activities and honor societies. I am Co-Captain of Masterminds, Co-President of Spanish Honor Society, Editor of Key Club, an Area All-State violin player, and a member of the Library Advisory Board Member, IRC, Science Honor Society, Tri-M Music Honor Society, Rho Kappa, GSA, and a tutor in Math Club.

In my free time, I greatly enjoy rough sketching, practicing my violin, baking and decorating cakes, collecting rocks, singing along with various musicals, and loving my

three dogs. I now work at Market in the Square as a cake decorator, and previously I worked at Kaylena Marie's Bakery as a general baker.

My endeavors and interests have been supported and nurtured by my mother, Leah Avino; stepdad, Tony Avino; sister Ixondra Cowles; and stepsiblings, Nick and Gabrielle Avino, who are always eager to assist me with absolutely anything including schoolwork and financials.

After I graduate West Senior with mastery in Math and Science, Honors with Advanced Designation, Seal of Biliteracy, and the Seal of Civic Readiness, I will continue to pursue higher education in UB's bachelor's in science program for Geology, and possibly minor in Spanish. West has been kind to me in more ways than ever.

I owe my success to every beautiful soul who believed in me when I could not.



#### #4 Anna Blickwedehl



I have been a member of the West Seneca community my entire life and have attended West Seneca Schools since kindergarten. In school, I am involved in many musical and academic clubs. I am the current Drama Club President and participate in every play/musical/choir I can.

I am on the executive board for the National Honor Society, a member of Rho Kappa, Science Honor Society and Tri-M Music Honor Society. Outside of school I recently closed a production of Into the Woods at the Academy of Theater Arts, where I played the role of Witch. In December, I will be traveling to Rochester to participate in the NYS Conference All-State Vocal Jazz Choir, a select group of the 24 highest ranked vocal jazz singers in the State!

On top of this, I also enjoy photography, trying different types of coffee and spending time with my family/friends. My parents, Jennifer and John Blickwedehl have always encouraged my passions and continue to be my greatest support system. They have also helped me to build an amazing community of encouraging people. My community is always there for me, and I am eternally grateful to the diverse kinds of people in my life.

Academically, I believe that most of my success comes from taking a wide variety of classes and being very involved on campus. My time during the school year is split between many commitments, which has taught me to focus on the present and time management. This has helped my grades and knowledge thrive. I plan to go to a 4-year university, likely in a major US city, to earn a BFA in Musical Theater! I want to work in-and-around the entertainment industry. I am extremely thankful for the positive and encouraging culture at West Seneca Schools.

Go Warhawks!





### **WEST HIGH SCHOOL**

#### **#5 William Dove**

Since Kindergarten, my journey through West Seneca Central Schools—from Winchester Elementary to West Elementary, through West Middle, and now West High—has been foundational to my growth.

I've tried to make the most of my school experience by engaging in diverse activities, notably the West Seneca Marching Band, pit orchestra performances for West's productions like Beauty and the Beast and Mean Girls (soon adding Mamma Mia this winter!), involvement in the district's combined tennis team, West's Rocket Club, and presently, indoor track.

Much of my achievements owe credit to my incredible parents, Matthew and Krista, who instilled accountability and underscored the importance of education. They also taught me how to appreciate a good book, and I still think that reading is the best way to keep your brain sharp and learn new things.

I believe that my academic accomplishments stem from an innate curiosity, a nurturing environment at school and home, and a touch of luck. I advocate for a broader perspective on schooling—not mere information memorization but thoughtful engagement that produces an enjoyable learning experience. My day isn't complete without a few good questions—whether or not they get answered is a different story, but I can't blame Mr. Heitzman for not teaching me the quantum physics behind the speed of light in just one day.

I am eternally grateful for the circumstances enabling my high school success; I'm committed to honoring this by persisting in my academic journey. I aim to study Chemical Engineering at either the University of Pittsburgh or the University of Buffalo. This way I can make an impact on the world while doing what I love, and never stop learning.



From the roots of Winchester Elementary to the branches of West High, West Seneca has shaped my aspirations and cultivated my passion for lifelong learning and discovery.

#### #6 Chloe Mazurkiewicz



I truly appreciate my time in the West Seneca School District. I was able to meet my lifelong friends and my amazing teachers that have helped me in my school career.

In school, I loved to get involved in activities. I was a part of the West Seneca Girls Varsity Tennis team as a doubles player for 11th and 12th grade. I am currently in Science National Honor Society, French Honor Society, French club, International Relations Club, Model UN, and the Life Science Academy.

Over the summer, I became involved in two different internships and volunteered at Children's Hospital. My one internship involved shadowing Marisa Philips, who is a physician's assistant at University at Buffalo Neurosurgery. I also interned at Buffalo Rehab Group with many physical therapists.

I will always be grateful for my parents, Cheryl and Tony Mazurkiewicz, and my sisters, for being there for me every time I needed their help. I will always be appreciative that trying my hardest was always enough for them and that they never placed too much pressure on me. I would especially like to thank my aunt, Jennifer Czarnecki, who passed away in 2020 from breast cancer. She is the reason why I will be pursuing a career in the medical field and for contributing to who I am as a person today. I will forever be grateful for my aunt's endless belief in me and my parents' continued support.

I hope to attend a college in Boston, Massachusetts to major in Biochemistry and minor in French, with a Pre Med track to become a surgeon.

I attribute my academic success to my goals–possessing goals has motivated me to constantly strive to do better. I am so excited for my future and will continue to take every opportunity that comes my way.





### **WEST HIGH SCHOOL**

### #7 Nathan Jachlewski

I stood straight up, grinning ear to ear, squinting my eyes because of how big my smile was. I was posing with my new book bag in front of my house, eager for my first day of kindergarten at Winchester Elementary School.

My smile represented a passion for learning that I carried with me unconditionally as I grew up. Each school year would start with another picture, as I grew taller and taller my personality matured. I developed a competitiveness, a sensor of humor, and an unwavering persistence. Likewise, a love for aerospace engineering was cultivated ever since I designed an airplane of my imagination when I was six.

My earliest years were a base to the dynamic building of my life today. I'm thankful for my parents Dan and Jenn for instilling virtues in me and helping me both leading up to the first day of kindergarten and onwards.



I now attend West Senior and fill my schedule with everything from sports to rocket club. I've enjoyed being a part of a talented cross country team that won the division this year. Additionally I've played basketball, wrestling, and baseball at West. Outside of sports, I have a passion for the viola. I'm a part of both orchestras and have competed in multiple solo festivals. Academically I'm a member of rocket club, Science Honor Society, National Honor Society, and Rho Kappa.

I've also worked many jobs, starting with landscaping for my cross county coach and then making my way to Hot Dog Heaven. Evidently, I'm also in the top 10 at West, and I would attribute my personal success to my virtue of perseverance.

After high school I plan on going to college for aerospace engineering. I'm excited to see what the future holds.

### **#8 Emily Smolinski**



I have attended West Seneca Central Schools since kindergarten. West Seneca has been a great community to grow up in, and I am very thankful to have attended such a great school district. I'm lucky that I got to grow up with teachers and staff who are welcoming and supportive.

In school, I've been a member of multiple honor societies. I am currently a member of Spanish Honor Society, Science Honor Society, and Tri-M Music Honor Society. Being in these honor societies has allowed me to help others and has encouraged me to continue my hard work.

Outside of school, I love to spend time with my family and friends. I also love to travel. This previous summer, I was able to go on the trip of a lifetime to Europe. I went to Paris, the Basque Country, Barcelona, and Madrid. It was an amazing experience that I will never forget.

I am so thankful to have such a supportive family and amazing friends to help me along the way. My family has always encouraged me to do my best each and every day. They have always supported my efforts and have assisted me when I needed it. My friends have also always been there for me, and I am very grateful to them.

My grades and success can be attributed to my hard work and my teachers. I have taken AP courses and college courses that have allowed me to excel in school. My teachers have helped me a lot throughout my years of schooling. They have always helped me when I needed it and have always encouraged me to keep going.

After high school, I want to attend college and obtain a bachelor's degree.

I am very thankful to have gone to West Seneca Schools. It has been a great experience.





### **WEST HIGH SCHOOL**

#### #9 Jenna Litwin

My name is Jenna Litwin. I'm 17 years old and have two sisters, one older (Andrea) and one younger (Victoria).

I am a big part of the music department in our school, specifically in the band. I am in my school's Wind ensemble and Jazz ensemble along with the school's pit orchestra for the musical and Marching band. I play tenor and alto saxophone, but in the marching band I participate in the color guard. I have been a member for 5 years and have participated in our school musicals for 3 years.

In addition to my involvement in music, I am also a member of the National Honor Society, Rho Kappa Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, and Tri M Music Honor Society. I started in Allendale Elementary School, then West Middle, and now I attend West Senior High School. Along with school activities, I also work at Target as a Starbucks barista. I have worked there for almost 2 years as of now.

My parents, Anna and Martin Litwin, have always had my back. I credit them for helping me to succeed to the magnitude that I have.

After graduation, I plan to go to college to study criminal justice, but more specifically, forensic science. My top choices for schools at the moment are SUNY Brockport and Hilbert College. I plan to get my Masters and work in an FBI lab, analyzing DNA and biological human evidence.



I am grateful for the West Seneca School District for giving me the best possible opportunities to be successful. I appreciate the time my teachers have put into my education. To my kindergarten and first grade teachers, Mrs. Komosinski and Mrs. Nowinski; to my high school teachers, Mr. Blickwedel and Mr. Rodemeyer, I give sincere thanks.

#### #10 Ian Hand-Smith



Having attended West Seneca Central Schools since I was in kindergarten, I have been able to find academic success thanks to many great teachers and mentors.

During my time in school, I have participated in many different extracurricular activities to keep my days full. Some of these activities are music related, such as the high school marching band and pit orchestra, while others are athletic, like indoor and outdoor track and field. I am also in the National Honor Society and participated in the Fresh Start Mentoring Program last year.

Outside of school I have been taking guitar lessons every weekend for the past 11 years. Additionally, I enjoy playing sports such as football and basketball with my friends, and I am a very big fan of the Buffalo Bills. Lastly, I have a part time job as a cashier at the local Wegmans.

I attribute much of my success to my incredible parents, April and Eric, who have always been very supportive of my education, helping me understand the importance of consistent work habits. I am so grateful for their assistance throughout the years and wouldn't be where I am today without them.

I believe that my grades are strongly correlated to the amazing environment provided to me at school and at home. Furthermore, the time I have put into school work, in and out of school, and the advanced classes I have taken to push my knowledge, has paid off.

I hope to attend college somewhere in New York State next year, majoring in Aerospace Engineering.

I am very grateful to have attended school in the West Seneca School District, and for the many opportunities I have had to advance my education.



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# Congratulations!

The West Seneca Board of Education is proud of all of our students and so happy for the Top 20 of the Class of 2024.

Congratulations to these hard-working sons and daughters of West Seneca, who are a vital part of our community, as well as their respective schools.

We appreciate you, along with your parents and guardians, your caring and inspiring teachers, and a whole host of individuals who have helped you to succeed along the way!

