Joliet Central Chamber of Commerce Top 25 Students 2025

Amber Beach

Amber is the daughter of Jennifer Sweeney. In her time at Central, she has been a member of the STEM Club and Argonne Research Group. She is Secretary of the Science National Honor Society and is an Illinois State Scholar. Amber has taken five Advanced Placement and dual credit courses and has earned over 100 community service hours. In the fall, Amber plans to attend the University of Illinois where she will pursue a degree in Chemical Engineering.

Laila Boys

Laila is the daughter of Melissa Prieboy. She is a member of Fearless Females, Presidents Club, Scholastic Bowl, and is a Head Anchor for the Steelmen News Network. She has been inducted into the National Honor Society, Rho Kappa, and Science National Honor Society. Laila is an Illinois State Scholar, an AP Scholar with Honor, a Ms. J Finalist, and a Lions Club Student of the Month. Laila has earned community service as an office aide and math tutor. She has taken 10 Advanced Placement and Dual Credit courses. Laila plans to attend either the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign or Bradley University to study Mechanical Engineering or Secondary Education.

Esme Bryson

Esme is the daughter of Michael and Laura Bryson. She is a member of the JTHS Orchestra, Student Council, and Key Club. Esme has been inducted into the National Honor Society (where she is Secretary), Science National Honor Society, and the National Art Honor Society. She is an Illinois State Scholar, an AP Scholar with Honor, and Ms. J Finalist. Esme has also won numerous awards for her artwork, including two first place finishes at the SPC Art Competition, one for painting and another for sculpture, and has earned 2nd and 3rd place overall at the JJC High School Art Exhibition. Esme has completed over 280 hours of community service and has taken nine AP and dual-credit courses. In the fall, she plans to attend either Eastern Illinois University or University of St. Francis, where she will major in Studio Art and minor in Biology.

Xavier Eggert

Xavier is the son of Christina and Ryan Eggert. He has been a member of the Football, Wrestling, and Baseball teams throughout his time at Central, and is also a member of the JTHS Orchestra. Xavier is an Illinois State Scholar, AP Scholar, Mr. J Finalist, and received the Southwest Prairie Conference Academic/Athletic Award. He has been inducted into the National Honor Society and the Science National Honor Society. Xavier has served the community by volunteering at the Northern Illinois Food Bank, Feed My Starving Children, and as a church camp counselor. He has taken 10 AP and dual-credit courses. Xavier plans to pursue a degree in Aerospace Engineering at either the University of Illinois, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, or the US Air Force Academy, where he has been awarded an appointment.

Maiya Ellis

Maiya is the daughter of Tiffany Johnson and Wilbert Ellis. In her time at Central, she has been a member of the Dance Team, Presidents Club, and Black Student Union. Maiya was named Steelmen Athlete of the Month and received the Southwest Prairie Conference Academic/Athletic Award. She is President of the National Honor Society and was also inducted

into Science National Honor Society, French National Honor Society, and Rho Kappa. She has served the community by volunteering at Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church, Feed My Starving Children, and YMCA programs. Maiya has taken five AP and dual-credit courses. In the fall, she plans to major in Mass Communication and Marketing and be a member of the Dance Team at either LSU, Ohio St., Penn St. or U of I.

Daniel Garcia

Daniel is the son of Consuelo and Daniel Garcia. In his time at Central, he has been a member of the Science Club and Human Relations Club. Daniel is an Illinois State Scholar, an AP Scholar, and a Mr. J Finalist. He has been inducted into the Science National Honor Society and Rho Kappa. Daniel has completed 108 community service hours and has taken six AP and dual-credit courses. In the fall, he plans to pursue a degree in Forensic Science at either Joliet Junior College, University of Illinois-Chicago, or Lewis University.

Mariana Hernandez

Mariana is the daughter of Lorena Castellanos and Omar Hernandez. She is a member of Fearless Females, Key Club, and the Symphony Orchestra, where she has served as concertmaster for the past two years. Mariana is an AP Scholar with Honor and a Lions Club Student of the Month. She has been inducted into the National Honor Society, Science National Honor Society, and Rho Kappa. Mariana has completed over 60 hours of community service at Ascension St. Joseph Medical Center and has taken six AP and dual-credit courses. In the fall, she plans to attend either Loyola University, University of St. Francis, or St. Xavier to study Nursing.

Joseph Herron

Joseph is the son of Lisa Sherdon and Joseph Herron. He has been recognized as an Illinois State Scholar, and has been inducted into the National Honor Society, the Science National Honor Society, and Rho Kappa. Joseph has served the community by volunteering at the Joliet Public Library and Northern Illinois Food Bank. He has taken five AP and dual-credit courses. In the fall, Joseph plans to attend the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to pursue a degree in Astronomy.

Isaiah Kan

Isaiah is the son of Channa Kan and Ana Ortiz. He has been a member of the Wrestling team, where he served as Varsity captain, and has been a member of the Science Club. Isaiah is also a Mr. J Finalist and received the Southwest Prairie Conference Academic/Athletic Award. He is an Illinois State Scholar, AP Scholar, and has been inducted into the Science National Honor Society. Isaiah has served the community by volunteering at his church and at youth wrestling tournaments. He has taken nine AP and dual-credit courses. In the fall, Isaiah plans to attend the University of Illinois-Chicago where he will major in Civil Engineering.

Andres Lopez

Andres is the son of Rita and Efrain Lopez. He has been recognized as an Illinois State Scholar and has served the community by volunteering at Habitat for Humanity. Andres has taken four AP and dial-credit courses. In the fall, he plans to attend Joliet Junior College or the University of Illinois Chicago to major in Electrical Engineering.

April Ortiz

April is the daughter of Charhitty Landrove and Angel Ortiz. She has been a member of the wrestling, football, and flag football teams, is a member of the Forge Steelmen Athletic Leadership Council and received the SPC Academic /Athletic Award. April was awarded College Board National Hispanic Recognition and First-Generation Recognition. She is also a Ms. J Finalist and Lions Club Student of the Month. April has been inducted into the National Honor Society, Science National Honor Society, and Rho Kappa. She has volunteered in the community at the annual MLK Day of Service and as a youth wrestling coach. She has taken eight AP and dual-credit courses. In the fall, she will attend the University of Iowa where she will major in Criminology and minor in pre-law.

Jose Ortiz

Jose is the son of Jose Ortiz and Maria Rios. He has been a member of the Student Council, Key Club, and Science Club. Jose is an Illinois State Scholar, an AP Scholar with Honor, and has earned the Seal of Biliteracy. He has been inducted into the Science National Honor Society, the Spanish National Honor Society, and Rho Kappa. Jose has volunteered at Feed My Starving Children and UNICEF. He has taken 10 AP and dual-credit courses. In the fall, he plans to attend Lewis University where he will major in Computer Science.

Natalie Pina

Natalie is the daughter of Guadalupe Alondra Vera and Francisco Pina. During her time at Central, she has been a member of the Math Team, Key Club, Student Council, Presidents Club, and Photo Club. She was also in Freshman and Senior Class Committees, is Vice-President of Fearless Females, and was President of Junior Class Committee. Natalie is a Ms. J Finalist, an Illinois State Scholar, an AP Scholar, and was awarded College Board National Hispanic Recognition and First-Generation Recognition. Natalie has been inducted into the National Honor Society, Science National Honor Society, Rho Kappa, National Art Honor Society, and the National Spanish Honor Society. She volunteered at the Northern Illinois Food Bank, Joliet PrideFest, and Family Art Night. Natalie has taken seven AP and dual-credit courses. In the fall, she plans to attend Joliet Junior College and pursue a degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Yareli Ponce

Yareli is the daughter of Yemina and Jose Ponce. She is a member of the Philharmonic and Symphony Orchestras, Fearless Females, and Team Human. Yareli was a Lions Club Student of the Month and is a Ms. J Finalist. She has been recognized as an Illinois State Scholar and AP Scholar and was awarded College Board National Hispanic Recognition and First-Generation Recognition. Yareli has been inducted into the National Honor Society, Science National Honor Society, and Rho Kappa. She has completed over 80 hours of community service and has taken four AP and dual-credit courses. In the fall, she plans to attend the University of St. Francis where she will pursue a degree in Elementary Education.

Mariana Reyes

Mariana is the daughter of Maria Guzman Ibarra. While at Central, Mariana has been a member of Key Club, Science Club, and Fearless Females. She has been named an AP Scholar and was a Kiwanis Club Student of the Month. Mariana has been inducted into the National Honor Society, the National Science Honor Society, Rho Kappa, and the French National Honor Society.

She has completed over 90 hours of community service and taken seven AP and dual-credit courses. Mariana plans to attend Joliet Junior College and pursue a degree in Greenhouse Operations.

Rosa Maria Saenz

Rosa is the daughter of Araceli and Gaspar Saenz. Throughout her time at Central, Rosa has been active in Key Club, Human Relations, and Fearless Females. She is an Illinois State Scholar, an AP Scholar, and a Lions Club Student of the Month. Rosa has been inducted into the National Honor Society and National French Honor Society. She has completed over 60 hours of community service and has taken eight AP and dual credit courses. Rosa will attend Lewis University, where she has been accepted into the Medical Laboratory Sciences Program.

Diego Sandoval

Diego is the son of Gabriela and Ramon Sandoval. He has been a member of Team Human, and the JROTC Archery Team and Raider Team. Diego is an Illinois State Scholar and a Mr. J Finalist. He has been inducted into the Science National Honor Society. Diego has served the community through the JROTC High School Heroes Program and has taken six AP and dual-credit courses. Upon graduation, Diego plans to attend the University of St. Francis where he will study Accounting.

Thomas Slattery

Thomas is the son of Patrick and Amy Slattery. He has been a member of the eSports Team and Welding Club throughout his time at Central. Thomas has been recognized as an Illinois State Scholar and AP Scholar and is also a Mr. J Finalist. He has completed over 50 hours of community service, primarily by preparing and serving food and refreshments at JTHS events along with other Culinary Arts students. Thomas has taken eight AP and dual-credit courses. In the fall, he will attend the University of Minnesota Twin-Cities, where he will pursue a degree in Chemical Engineering.

Makyah Stallings

Makyah is the daughter of Dinah and Tommie Stallings. While at Central, she has been a member of Art Club and Fearless Females. Makyah is an Illinois State Scholar and Lions Club Student of the Month. Additionally, her artwork was awarded the Silver Key from the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, and Best in Show at the Northern Regional Exhibition. Makyah has been inducted into the National Art Honor Society, where she is the Historian. She has served the school and community through various art events, and she has taken five AP and dual Credit courses. In the fall, Makyah plans to attend either Joliet Junior College, Milwaukee Art Institute, or the Art Academy of Cincinnati to pursue a degree in Visual Arts.

Nathan Tallon

Nathan is the son of Jaycie Amick and Rich Tallon. Throughout his time at Central, he has been a member of the Math Team and was recognized as a Steelmen in the Spotlight. He is also an Illinois State Scholar and an AP Scholar. Nathan has served the community by volunteering at Morning Star Mission, Operation Care Package, and Elwood School. He has taken seven AP and dual credit courses. In the fall, he plans to attend Joliet Junior College and pursue a degree in Computer Science.

Alexa Villalpando

Alexa is the daughter of Eusebio Villalpando and Teresa Cisneros. In her time at Central, she has been a member of the Human Relations Club and served as Designs and Clubs Editor for Yearbook Club. Alexa is an Illinois State Scholar, an AP Scholar with Honor, and has earned her Seal of Biliteracy. She has been inducted into the Science National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society, and Rho Kappa. Alexa has completed 336 hours of community service by volunteering at Silver Cross Hospital. She has taken seven AP and dual credit courses. In the fall, Alexa will attend Joliet Junior College to pursue a degree in Nursing or Statistics.

Brody Walsh

Brody is the son of Danielle and Matthew Walsh. He has been a member of the Wrestling, Golf, and Volleyball teams throughout his time at Central, and received the Southwest Prairie Conference Academic/Athletic Award. Brody is an Illinois State Scholar, an AP Scholar with Honor, and a Mr. J Finalist. He has been inducted in the National Honor Society, has completed over 100 hours of community service, and has taken seven AP and dual-credit courses. In the fall, Brody plans to attend Joliet Junior College and study Business or Finance.