Joliet West Chamber of Commerce Top 25 Students 2025

Riley Bryll

Riley Bryll, daughter of Joshua and Laura Bryll, has had an impressive high school career. She was a key member of the Varsity Girls' Soccer Team, where she earned the Varsity Soccer Player of the Week award, and was also part of the Girls Volleyball Team. Additionally, she holds a Black Belt in Taekwondo and is a member of Buddies Unite. Riley has been recognized as an AP Scholar, Illinois State Scholar, Alpha Omega Finalist, and the Lions Club Student of the Month. Her academic accomplishments include induction into the National Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta. She has also received the Project Lead the Way Certificate of Achievement and the Joliet Chamber of Commerce Hawk Scholarship. Throughout her high school years, Riley completed over 100 hours of community service and has taken 6 AP and 4 Dual Credit courses. She plans to attend Valparaiso University College of Nursing and Health Professions to earn a bachelor's degree in health sciences and ultimately become a Physician Assistant in Pediatrics, specializing in trauma and oncology.

Paul Coffey

Paul Coffey, son of Dan and Diana Coffey, has been a dedicated athlete throughout high school. He played Varsity Boys Tennis for all four years, serving as captain for two, and was also part of the Freshman Football Team. Paul has been involved in several extracurricular activities, including the Joliet West Concert Band, Math Team, Chess Club, Men's Chorus, and the Student Advisory Council. He has earned induction into both Mu Alpha Theta and the National Honor Society, where he currently serves as president. Paul is an Illinois State Scholar and received the National Indigenous Recognition from College Board. He completed 300 hours of community service at Silver Cross Hospital and with the Joliet West Girls Tennis Team. Paul has taken 8 AP and 3 Dual Credit courses and plans to attend the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign to study biology with aspirations of attending medical school for orthopedic surgery.

Jessica Cole

Jessica Cole, daughter of Mike and Stephanie Cole, has been an active participant in multiple sports, including the Girls Volleyball Team, Girls Basketball Team, Girls Cross Country Team, Girls Track and Field, and the Girls Softball Team, in addition to being involved in the Academy Roundtable. Jessica was inducted into the National Honor Society and completed 59 hours of community service through Academy Roundtable and the Special Populations Dance. She has taken 4 AP courses and will attend the University of South Alabama to major in Elementary Education.

Lanna Douangchampa

Lanna Douangchampa, daughter of Sengdeuane Douangchampa and granddaughter of Champa,

has excelled as the captain of the Girls Badminton and Girls Flag Football Teams. Lanna is a member of several clubs, including Key Club, Academy Roundtable, Winner's Club, Student Ambassadors Union, and the Chick-Fil-A Leadership Academy. She has been inducted into both the National Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta and was recognized as an AP Scholar and AP Scholar with Distinction. Lanna completed 140 hours of community service volunteering at school sporting events, local schools, and around the Joliet community. Having taken 9 AP courses, she will attend the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign to study Actuarial Science.

Taea Guseman

Taea Guseman, daughter of David and Karla Guseman, has been a standout member of the Varsity Dance Team, earning All-Conference honors for two years and qualifying for state three times. She is involved in the Key Club and Student Ambassador programs and is a member of several honor societies, including the National Honor Society, Science National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Rho Kappa, and Mu Alpha Theta. Taea has been recognized as an AP Scholar, Illinois State Scholar, and Alpha Omega Finalist, and completed over 65 community service hours. She has taken 10 AP courses and will attend the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign to major in molecular and cellular biology.

Hope Hughes

Hope Hughes, daughter of Robert and Renea Hughes, participated in the Girls Softball and Girls Tennis Teams and is a member of the Academy Roundtable. Hope was inducted into the National Honor Society, Science National Honor Society, and Mu Alpha Theta and is recognized as an Illinois State Scholar and Joliet Rotary Club Student of the Month. She completed 40 hours of community service and has taken 4 AP courses. Hope plans to attend Concordia University in Wisconsin to major in Nursing.

Benjamin Klein

Benjamin Klein, son of Anthony and Margaret Klein, was a member of the Mathletes and Scholastic Bowl. He has been inducted into the National Honor Society, Science National Honor Society, and Mu Alpha Theta. Benjamin is an Illinois State Scholar, AP Scholar with Distinction, National Merit Commended Scholar, and Alpha Omega Nominee. He completed 40 hours of community service at the Joliet Public Library and has taken 12 AP courses. Benjamin will attend the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Grainger College of Engineering to pursue a bachelor's degree in computer science.

Angelita Lacsamana

Angelita Lacsamana, daughter of Hanayasmeen and Joaquin Lacsamana, participated in Girls Track and Field and Cheerleading and was a member of the Academy Roundtable and Key Club. She was inducted into Mu Alpha Theta and recognized as an AP Scholar with honor and an

Illinois State Scholar. Angelita completed 30 hours of community service and has taken 7 AP courses. She will attend DePaul University to become a cybersecurity specialist.

Daniel Markun

Daniel Markun, son of Daniel and Katie Markun, was a member of the Boys Baseball Team for all four years. He also participated in the Chick-fil-A Leadership Academy, Academy Roundtable, and Wild West. Daniel was inducted into the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, and the National Science Honor Society. He was recognized as an AP Scholar, Illinois State Scholar, Kiwanis Student of the Month, and National Merit Commended Scholar. Daniel completed over 80 hours of community service and has taken 5 AP courses. He will attend the University of St. Francis to major in business.

Mackinzie Mertes

Mackinzie Mertes, daughter of Jerry and Amanda Mertes, captained the Girls Varsity Soccer Team. She was a member of the Academy Roundtable and Chick-fil-A Leadership Academy and was inducted into the Spanish Honor Society, Science National Honor Society, Rho Kappa, Mu Alpha Theta, and serves as Vice President of the National Honor Society. Mackinzie was recognized as an AP Scholar, Alpha Omega Finalist, and Illinois State Scholar and completed over 110 community service hours. Having taken 9 AP courses, she plans to attend the University of California San Diego to major in Cognitive and Behavior Neuroscience.

Sophia Nguyen

Sophia Nguyen, daughter of Cindy Nguyen, co-founded and served as Vice President of the Asian American Appreciation Club. She was also involved in the Dental Club, Key Club, and Culinary Club. Sophia was inducted into Mu Alpha Theta and recognized as an AP Scholar, Illinois State Scholar, National Quest Bridge Finalist, and Alpha Omega Finalist. She received the College Board National First Gen Award and completed over 95 community service hours. Sophia has taken 6 AP courses and will attend the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign to study Chemical Engineering.

Jacob Polacek

Jacob Polacek, son of Tom and Dawn Polacek, played Club Soccer for 13 years and was a member of the Varsity Boys Soccer Team for all four years, earning All-Conference, All-Sectional, and All-Arena honors, as well as Team MVP and top goal scorer. He co-founded and serves as President of the World Debate Club. Jacob was inducted into the National Honor Society, Science National Honor Society, Rho Kappa, and Mu Alpha Theta. He was recognized as an AP Scholar with honors, Illinois State Scholar, Alpha Omega Finalist, and Kiwanis Club Student of the Month. Jacob completed over 50 hours of community service and has taken 8 AP courses. He plans to attend the University of Dubuque to study History and play on the Soccer Team.

Thomas Polacek

Thomas Polacek, son of Tom and Dawn Polacek, participated in the Boys Soccer Team and Boys Track and Field. He was inducted into the National Honor Society, Rho Kappa, and Mu Alpha Theta and is recognized as an Illinois State Scholar. Thomas completed over 40 hours of community service with the Northern Illinois Food Bank and has taken 7 AP courses. He will attend the University of Dubuque to study business.

Hannah Rasmussen

Hannah Rasmussen, daughter of James and Rebecca Rasmussen, participated in Girls Soccer and Girls Cross Country. She was a member of the Academy Roundtable and the Chick-Fil-A Leadership Academy. Hannah was inducted into the Science National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, and serves as Treasurer of the National Honor Society. She is recognized as an Illinois State Scholar and completed over 230 community service hours. Having taken 4 AP courses, Hannah will attend the University of Missouri to pursue a degree in nursing.

Kylee Rempel

Kylee Rempel, daughter of Seth and Laura Rempel, was inducted into the National Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta and is recognized as an AP Scholar and Illinois State Scholar. She completed over 40 community service hours through Sunday School, Feed My Starving Children, and missionary work. Kylee has taken 4 AP courses and will attend Trinity Christian College to pursue a degree in Elementary Education.

Ava Tuider

Ava Tuider, daughter of Debbie Tuider, was a member of the Varsity Cheerleading Team. She is recognized as an Illinois State Scholar and inducted into Mu Alpha Theta. Ava completed over 30 community service hours at church events and kids' cheer camps and has taken 9 AP courses. She will attend Western Kentucky University to study meteorology.

Andrea Uzdzinski

Andrea Uzdzinski, daughter of Richard and Dominique Uzdzinski, participated in Varsity Scholastic Bowl and Student Council. She was inducted into the Science National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, and participated in the Mini Medical School at Midwestern University. Andrea was recognized as an Illinois State Scholar and AP Scholar and received the White Coat and Pin through Project Lead the Way. She completed over 40 community service hours gardening with Joliet Area Hospice and has taken 5 AP courses. Andrea plans to attend the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign to major in Neuroscience.

Claudia Villaflor

Claudia Villaflor, daughter of Tino and Mary Villaflor, was a member of the Girls Badminton Team and student council. She was inducted into the National Honor Society, Rho Kappa, Mu

Alpha Theta, Science National Honor Society, and the Spanish National Honor Society. Claudia is recognized as an Illinois State Scholar and an AP Scholar and completed 50 hours of community service. She has taken 4 AP courses and will attend the University of Iowa to study Creative Writing.

Hanna Williams

Hanna Williams, daughter of Bill and Leslie Williams, is a Level 9 AAU Gymnast and a gymnastics coach. She was inducted into the Science National Honor Society and is recognized as an Illinois State Scholar. Hanna completed over 95 hours of community service as a special needs gymnastics coach and has taken 6 AP courses. She will attend Joliet Junior College to study meteorology.