114th Annual Commencement Ceremony

Mount Pulaski High School

Class of 2026

May 17, 2026



206 S. Spring St., Mount Pulaski, IL 62548

Program

Processional
Candlelight Walk in Remembrance of Classmate, Vincent Trauner

Pledge of Allegiance
Miss Josie Bard & Mr. Conner French, Class Officers

Welcome & Opening Remarks
Miss Josie Bard & Mr. Conner French, Class Officers

Recognition of Scholastic Achievement
Mrs. Heather Fricke & Ms. Melanie Hinson

Student Address
Miss Kya Matson

The President's Address
Mr. Keaton Roemer

Senior Slideshow

Presentation of the Class of 2026
Mrs. Heather Fricke, Principal

Awarding of Diplomas
Roll Call by Mr. Keaton Roemer, Senior Class President
Mr. Doug Martin & Mr. Aaron Wilham, School Board Members

Closing Remarks
Miss Elayna Marten & Miss Addison Maus, Class Officers

Recessional
"Pomp and Circumstance"

Faculty & Staff

Board of Education

Mrs. Dezaray Brookshire, Mrs. Ashley Combs, Mr. Douglas Martin,
Mr. Ryan Mott, Mr. Blane Olson, Mrs. Breann Titus, Mr. Aaron Wilham

Administration

Superintendent, Mr. Jason Spang
Principal, Mrs. Heather Fricke
Activities Director, Mr. Joel Washko

Faculty & Paraprofessionals

Mr. Ralph Allen*, Ms. Jan Bowers, Mr. Troy Burgard, Ms. Hannah Cameron,
Mrs. Tricia Campbell, Mrs. Brooke Charron, Mr. Gale Clark*, Mrs. Michele Clark,
Mr. Mark Clem, Mr. Michael Copley, Mr. Ryan Deibert*, Mr. Brian Erlenbush,
Ms. Melanie Hinson, Mrs. Donna Koehler, Ms. Skye Kretzinger,
Mrs. Sarah Lambert*, Mrs. Courtney Matheny*, Mrs. Emily McCubbin,
Mr. Ryan McVickers, Mrs. Krissy Mercer, Mr. Calob Pluhm, Mrs. Jamie Selinger*,
Mrs. Rebecca Shankles, Ms. Hannah Smith, Mrs. Cindy Stoll, Mr. Wyatt Waterkotte,
Mrs. Jamie Whitwood, Ms. Julie Wubben, Ms. Heidi Zenor

*Denotes Class Sponsor

Support Staff

Mrs. Kellie Aikman, Mrs. Sarah Cooper, Mrs. Sarah Farris, Mr. Steven Grigg,
Mrs. Stacy Hickey, Ms. Brittany McCain, Mrs. Deanne Mott, Officer Josh Pharis,
Mrs. Ashley Schneider, Mr. Gene Schoth, Mrs. Ellen Smith, Mrs. Linda Smith,
Mrs. Kathy Tschantz, Officer Chris Twente, Mr. Louis Volle, Officer Matthew Watts

Ushers

Mr. Keoni Charron, Miss Audrey Cooper,
Mr. Kai Selinger, Miss Karsyn Wilham

Zoey Awe



Activities: Art Club, Day of Service, Yearbook
Favorite Class: English 4
Best Year: Senior
Favorite Food: My Mom's Chicken Alfredo
Favorite School Food: Chicken Patty only junior year
Favorite Song: "You are so beautiful" by Joe Cocker
Favorite TV Series: *Grey's Anatomy*
Favorite Movie or Book: *Ratatouille*

Plans for the future: I plan to get my CNA and finish my education by working towards a sonography license.

Kayla Aylesworth



Activities: Day of Service, Managed eSports
Favorite Class: Social Skills
Best Year: Senior
Favorite Food: Spaghetti
Favorite School Food: Nachos
Favorite Song: "Better Than Revenge" by Taylor Swift
Favorite TV Series: *High Potential*
Favorite Book: *Lord of the Flies*

Plans for the future: I plan to go into the workforce.

Josie Bard



Activities: Day of Service, FCCLA, Spanish Club, Student Council, Yearbook
Favorite Class: Nutrition
Best Year: Junior
Favorite Food: Chocolate Lava Cake
Favorite School Food: Walking Tacos
Favorite Song: "Change My Mind" by Riley Green
Favorite TV Series: *Arcane*
Favorite Movie or Book: *We Were Liars*

Plans for the future: I plan to make tons of money and work with animals.

Cameron Baylor



Activities: Cooperative Work Program, Day of Service, FFA
Favorite Class: Co-op
Best Year: Senior
Favorite Food: Chicken Alfredo
Favorite School Food: None
Favorite Song: "Good Time" by Alan Jackson
Favorite TV Series: *Gotham Garage*
Favorite Movie or Book: *None*

Plans for the future: I plan to further my career at Baum Chevrolet as a Automotive Technician.

Bailey Birdwell



Activities: Day of Service, eSports, Pep Band, Topper Tees
Favorite Class: Entrepreneurship
Best Year: Junior
Favorite Food: Hamburger Helper
Favorite School Food: N/A
Favorite Song: "American Idiot" by Green Day
Favorite TV Series: *The Walking Dead, Wednesday*
Favorite Movie or Book: *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, The Black Phone 2, Five Nights at Freddy's 2*

Plans for the future: I plan to attend Lincoln Land and get a degree in either truck driving or vet. technician.

Jayden Brown



Activities: Cooperative Work Program, Day of Service, Choir, Youth Group
Favorite Class: Life Skills
Best Year: Freshman
Favorite Food: Shrimp Alfredo
Favorite School Food: Chicken Sandwiches
Favorite Song: "Idk" by Allison Eide
Favorite TV Series: *Grey's Anatomy*
Favorite Movie or Book: *Reminders of Him*

Plans for the future: I plan on going to college and getting my degree in Early education.

Sophia Buenrostro



Activities: Cheerleading, Cooperative Work Program, Drama, FCCLA, FFA, NHS, Pep Band, Science Olympiad, Soccer, Spirit Squad, Student Council, Track, Yearbook
Favorite Class: Advanced Chemistry
Best Year: Junior
Favorite Food: Oreo Milkshake
Favorite School Food: Super Nachos
Favorite Song: "Oh! Darling- Remastered 2009" by The Beatles
Favorite TV Series: *How I Met Your Mother*
Favorite Movie or Book: *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*

Plans for the future: Attend Illinois State University to study Interior Design.

Celestina Clay



Activities: Art Club, Day of Service, Topper Tees
Favorite Class: Art
Best Year: Senior
Favorite Food: Tacos
Favorite School Food: Pizza
Favorite Song: "Megalovania" by Toby Fox
Favorite TV Series: None
Favorite Movie or Book: *FNAF 1, FNAF 2, FNAF 3*

Plans for the future: I plan to get a job and self-teach myself to animate 2D animation smoothly.

Eric Cooper



Activities: Academic Challenge, Baseball, Basketball, Cross Country, Day of Service, FFA (Officer), Illinois State Scholar, NHS, SAAC, Spanish Club
Favorite Class: Any Agriculture Class
Best Year: Senior
Favorite Food: Ribeye Steak
Favorite School Food: Homemade - Thanks Mom!
Favorite Song: "Bad Luck Looks Good On Me" by Tucker Wetmore
Favorite TV Series: *Chicago P.D.*
Favorite Movie or Book: *Moneyball*

Plans for the future: I plan to attend college and major in agriculture while continuing my athletic career playing baseball.

Preston Cowan



Activities: Baseball, Basketball, Cooperative Work Program, Day of Service, FFA, SAAC, and Spirit Squad
Favorite Class: Civics
Best Year: Junior
Favorite Food: Ribs
Favorite School Food: Meatball Sub
Favorite Song: "Burnin it Down" by Jason Aldean
Favorite TV Series: *One Tree Hill*
Favorite Movie or Book: *Top Gun*

Plans for the future: I plan to attend Lincoln Land Community College for Ag Business and MTI in the summer to get my CDL.

Tyler Cross



Activities: Baseball, Day of Service, FFA
Favorite Class: U.S. History
Best Year: Senior
Favorite Food: Popcorn
Favorite School Food: None
Favorite Song: "You Shook Me All Night Long" by AC/DC
Favorite TV Series: *Breaking Bad*
Favorite Movie: *Star Wars*

Plans for the future: I plan to attend college.

Brayden Dorsey



Activities: Cooperative Work Program, Day of Service
Favorite Class: Freshman Biology
Best Year: Senior
Favorite Food: Cheeseburger and Fries with a Sprite
Favorite School Food: Vending Machine Food
Favorite Song: "Ain't Talkin' 'Bout Love" by Van Halen
Favorite TV Series: South Beach Tow
Favorite Movie or Book: Second hand lions

Plans for the future: Enjoy life.

Tucker Fitzpatrick



Activities: Baseball, Collecting Cards, Cooperative Work Program, Day of Service, FFA, Video Games
Favorite Class: U.S. History
Best Year: Senior
Favorite Food: La Gondola Sandwiches
Favorite School Food: Walking Taco
Favorite Song: "It'll Be Ok" by Limp Bizkit
Favorite TV Series: *South Park*
Favorite Movie or Book: *The Jester*

Plans for the future: Continue to pursue baseball and figure out what I want to do.

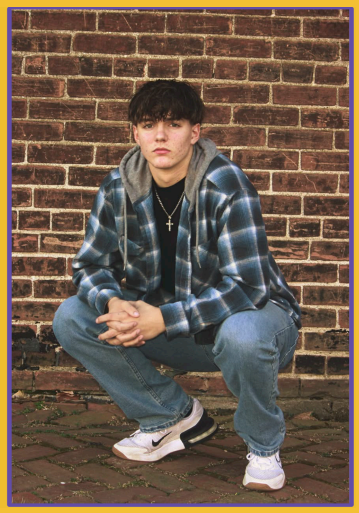
Conner French



Activities: Day of Service, Drama, FCCLA (State Officer), Soccer, Student Council, Track & Field, SAAC
Favorite Class: Contemporary America or Nutrition
Best Year: Sophomore
Favorite Food: 3 AM Burger
Favorite School Food: Drumstick
Favorite Song: "Fire Water Burn" by Bloodhound Gang
Favorite TV Series: *Community*
Favorite Movie or Book: *The Crow*

Plans for the future: I plan to attend EIU and study History Education .

Jaeden Jackson



Activities: Baseball, Day of Service, Football
Favorite Class: PE
Best Year: Sophomore
Favorite Food: Wings
Favorite School Food: Pizza
Favorite Song: "One" by Metallica
Favorite TV Series: *Breaking Bad*
Favorite Movie or Book: *End of Watch*

Plans for the future: I plan to attend Lincoln Land Community College and study criminal justice.

Aaron Kuznik



Activities: Basketball, Cooperative Work Program, Day of Service, FFA, Golf, SAAC
Favorite Class: Biology
Best Year: Freshman
Favorite Food: Pancakes
Favorite School Food: Vending Machine
Favorite Song: "Champagne Supernova" Oasis
Favorite TV Series: *Outerbanks*
Favorite Movie or Book: *Prisoners*

Plans for the future: I plan to work at Ameren.

Clay Leonard



Activities: Day of Service, FFA, Golf, Shotgun Sports
Favorite Class: Anything Mrs. Koehler teaches.
Best Year: Senior
Favorite Food: Pizza
Favorite School Food: Nachos
Favorite Song: "Port A" by Treaty Oak Revival
Favorite TV Series: *Outer Banks*
Favorite Movie or Book: *Step brothers*

Plans for the future: I plan to major in business in college.

Tyler Lowe



Activities: Day of Service, Golf, Shotgun Sports
Favorite Class: Ag
Best Year: Junior
Favorite Food: Cheesecake
Favorite School Food: None
Favorite Song: "No Role Modelz" by J. Cole
Favorite TV Series: *Cobra Kai*
Favorite Movie or Book: *Dune*

Plans for the future: I plan to be a commercial airline pilot.

Elayna Marten



Activities: Basketball, Club America, Day of Service, FFA, NHS, SAAC, Spanish Club, Student Council, Theater, Track, Volleyball, Yearbook
Favorite Class: Algebra 2
Best Year: Senior
Favorite Food: Chocolate
Favorite School Food: None of It
Favorite Song: "Fade Into You" by Mazzy Star
Favorite TV Series: *The Vampire Diaries*
Favorite Movie or Book: *The Shining (book)*

Plans for the future: I plan to attend Lincoln Land Community College to receive a degree in nursing.

Luke Martin



Activities: Baseball, Basketball, Cooperative Work Program, Day of Service, FFA (Officer), Volunteer Services
Favorite Class: Ag Business
Best Year: Senior
Favorite Food: Ribeye Steak
Favorite School Food: None
Favorite Song: "Sniffing Cigarettes" by Lustra
Favorite Paramount+ Series: *Landman*
Favorite Movie or Book: *Forrest Gump*

Plans for the future: I plan to attend Heartland Community College to play baseball and earn a degree in Agriculture Sales.

Kya Matson



Activities: Cheerleading, Day of Service, LTEC, Spirit Squad, Track
Favorite Class: Criminal Justice
Best Year: Sophomore
Favorite Food: Greek Burgers
Favorite School Food: Mashed Potatoes and Gravy
Favorite Song: "Humble and Kind" by Tim McGraw
Favorite TV Series: *My Life with the Walter Boys*
Favorite Movie: *Forever My Girl*

Plans for the future: I plan to go to college online while working, to eventually go into the law field and be a criminal profiler.

Addison Maus



Activities: Day of Service, Drama Club, Cooperative Work Program, FFA, Spanish Club, Student Council, Volleyball, Yearbook
Favorite Class: Ag
Best Year: Senior
Favorite Food: Meatloaf
Favorite School Food: Chicken Strips
Favorite Song: "Love Me Tender" by Elvis Presley
Favorite TV Series: *The Society*
Favorite Movie: *Coraline*

Plans for the future: I plan to attend SIUE and major in elementary education.

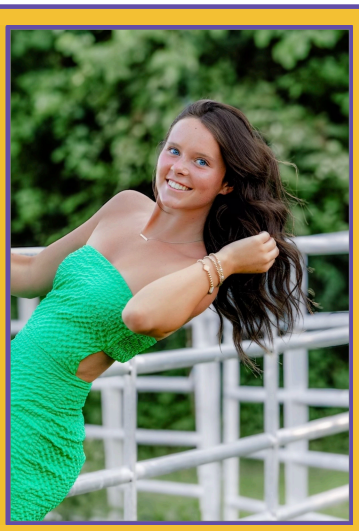
Bryce Mitts



Activities: Cooperative Work Program, Day of Service
Favorite Class: Co op
Best Year: Senior
Favorite Food: Horseshoes
Favorite School Food: Chicken Patty
Favorite Song: "Jesus Saves" by Riley Green
Favorite Movie or Book: *Hard ball*

Plans for the future: Own a diesel shop.

Alyson Murphy



Activities: Basketball, Volleyball, FFA, Spirit Squad, Yearbook, NHS, Spanish Club, and Day of Service
Favorite Class: Any Agriculture Class
Best Year: Senior Year
Favorite Food: Pulled Pork Mac and Cheese
Favorite School Food: Corn Dog
Favorite Song: "Don't We" by Morgan Wallen
Favorite TV Series: *Nashville*
Favorite Movie or Book: 8 Seconds

Plans for the future: I plan to attend Lakeland College to further my education and athletic career playing basketball.

Summer Neaville



Activities: Day of Service, Soccer, Track
Favorite Class: Anything with Mrs. Campbell or Mrs. Whitwood
Best Year: Senior Year
Favorite Food: Chicken
Favorite School Food: Biscuits & Gravy
Favorite Song: "If I Die Young" by The Band Perry
Favorite Hulu Series: *The Rookie*
Favorite Movie or Book: *The Hate You Give*

Plans for the future: I plan to attend school and major in social work.

Isabella Niccolls



Activities: NHS, FCCLA, Soccer, Student Council
Favorite Class: Anatomy
Best Year: Freshman
Favorite Food: Kitchen Sink Cookie
Favorite School Food: Pizza
Favorite Song: "Fight the Feeling" by Mac Miller
Favorite TV Series: *Dexter*
Favorite Movie or Book: *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom

Plans for the future: I plan to receive my doctorate to become a psychiatrist. My plan B is to work in a lab with microbiology and viruses (btw thanks for making me read The Hot Zone Mrs. Clark).

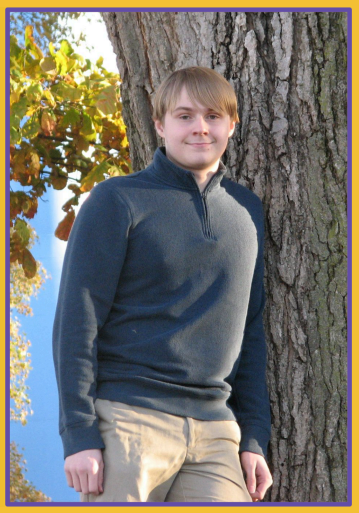
Meridith Nixon



Activities: Art Club (President), Day of Service, Drama Club, FCCLA, FFA, Scholastic Bowl, Soccer, Volunteer Services, Yearbook
Favorite Class: Textiles
Best Year: Sophomore
Favorite Food: Sushi
Favorite School Food: Corn Dog
Favorite Song: "Song for Isabelle" by Pierce the Veil
Favorite TV Series: *Bojack Horseman*
Favorite Movie: *Lovely Bones or The Blades of Glory*

Plans for the future: I plan to go to Lincoln Land Community College and major in Astronomy.

Keaton Roemer



Activities: Class President, Day of Service, Drama Club, eSports, Pep Band, Student Council
Favorite Class: Woodworking
Best Year: Senior
Favorite Food: Bananas
Favorite School Food: Spicy Chicken Patty
Favorite Song: "Viva La Vida" by Coldplay
Favorite TV Series: *The Rookie*
Favorite Movie or Book: *Fantastic Beasts*

Plans for the future: I plan to become an electrician.

Adison Sanchez



Activities: Day of Service, Drama, FCCLA, FFA, Scholastic Bowl, Yearbook
Favorite Class: Anatomy and Physiology
Best Year: Senior
Favorite Food: Lasagna Soup
Favorite School Food: I don't eat that stuff.
Favorite Song: "Just a Girl" by No Doubt
Favorite TV Series: *The Pitt*
Favorite Movie or Book: *Everything, Everywhere, All At Once.*

Plans for the future: I plan to attend UIC chicago and eventually get my P.H.D in microbiology.

Griffin Skelton



Activities: Basketball Cameraman, Day of Service, eSports, Track
Favorite Class: PE
Best Year: Senior
Favorite Food: Breakfast Horseshoe
Favorite School Food: None
Favorite Song: "Mount Sinai" by $uicideboy$
Favorite TV Series: *Cobra Kai*
Favorite Movie: *Karate Kid*

Plans for the future: I plan to go to trade school and make money.

Brooke St James



Activities: Art Club, Drama, FCCLA, FFA, Humane Society Volunteer, Scholastic Bowl, Spanish Club
Favorite Class: Entrepreneurship
Best Year: Senior
Favorite Food: Birria tacos
Favorite School Food: Grilled Cheese and Tomato Soup
Favorite Song: "Time in a Bottle" by Jim Croce
Favorite TV Series: *Game of Thrones*
Favorite Movie or Book: *Uptown Girls*

Plans for the future: I plan to go to the University of Wisconsin Stout to major in Biology so I can then become a Wildlife Conservationist and travel around the world.

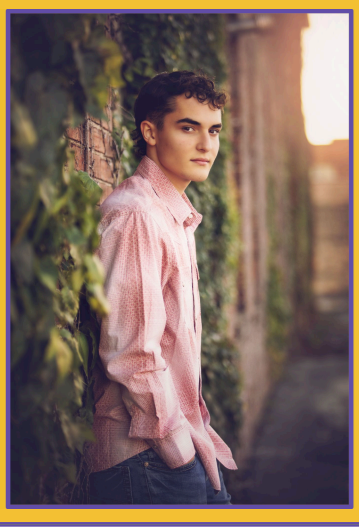
Beau Tschantz



Activities: Basketball, Cooperative Work Program, Day of Service, Golf, Shotgun Sports
Favorite Class: Ag Mechanics
Best Year: Senior
Favorite Food: Steak
Favorite School Food: Nachos
Favorite Song: "Old Farm Drive" by Gavin Adcock
Favorite TV Series: *All American*
Favorite Movie or Book: *Dukes of Hazzard*

Plans for the future: I plan to start farming right out of High School.

Deegan Tschantz



Activities: Basketball, Cross Country, Day of Service, Drama Club, Golf, Shotgun Sports
Favorite Class: Nutrition
Best Year: Senior
Favorite Food: Steak Burrito
Favorite School Food: Pizza
Favorite Song: "Down Under" by Men at Work
Favorite Netflix Series: *Stranger Things*
Favorite Movie or Book: *Blades of Glory*

Plans for the future: I plan to attend Lincoln Land Community College.

Franklin B. Wade IV



Activities: Baseball, Basketball, Day of Service, FFA, Golf, Illinois State Scholar, NHS, Spanish Club
Favorite Class: Introduction to Ag.
Best Year: Freshman
Favorite Food: Steak and Potatoes
Favorite School Food: Pizza
Favorite Song: "The Next Episode" by Dr. Dre / Snoop Dogg
Favorite TV Series: *Suits*
Favorite Movie or Book: *Coach Carter*

Plans for the future: I plan to attend college to major in business and finance. Then, I will continue my education by attaining my Law Degree.

Johnathan Walsh



Activities: Day of Service, LTEC
Favorite Class: English
Best Year: Senior
Favorite Food: Bacon Macaroni and Cheese
Favorite School Food: Pizza
Favorite Song: "Morning" by Hypnotix!
Favorite TV Series: *Jurassic Park*
Favorite Movie: *Pineapple Express*

Plans for the future: I will attend a trade school or go to work at the prison.

Blayton Watkins



Activities: Cooperative Work Program, Day of Service

Favorite Class: Physical Education

Best Year: Senior

Favorite Food: Tacos

Favorite School Food: None

Plans for the future: I plan to become a diesel mechanic.

Aaliyah Wayne



Activities: Day of Service, Drama Club, Nursing LTEC, FCCLA, Spirit Squad, Spanish Club
Favorite Class: Consumer Education
Best Year: Senior
Favorite Food: Chicken Alfredo
Favorite School Food: Meatball Sub
Favorite Song: "I'm Not Pretty" by Megan Moroney
Favorite TV Series: *The Resident*
Favorite Movie: *10 Things I Hate About You*

Plans for the future: I plan to become a nurse and get my BSN.

Addisen Williams



Activities: Cheerleading, Cooperative Work Program, Day of Service, FFA
Favorite Class: Co-op
Best Year: Senior
Favorite Food: Spaghetti
Favorite School Food: None
Favorite Song: "Sex On Fire" by Kings of Leon
Favorite TV Series: Shameless
Favorite Movie or Book: *The Perks Of Being a Wallflower*

Plans for the future: I plan to go to Lincoln Land Community College for Neurodiagnostic Technician program.

Charity Woodford



Activities: Academic Challenge, Day of Service, Drama Club, FCA, FCCLA, Illinois State Scholar, Scholastic Bowl, Science Olympiad, Soccer, Spirit Squad
Favorite Class: Entrepreneurship
Best Year: Senior
Favorite Food: Strawberries
Favorite School Food: Nachos
Favorite Song: "I'm Yours" by Jason Mraz
Favorite TV Series: *New Girl*
Favorite Movie: *White Chicks*

Plans for the future: I plan to attend Illinois State University, become an elementary school teacher, and hopefully compare to the fantastic teachers I've had along the way.

Lily Woodworth



Activities: Academic Challenge, Art Club, Day of Service, FCCLA (Parli Pro), Science Olympiad, Soccer, Softball, Spirit Squad, Student Council, Topper Tees, Writing Club
Favorite Class: Entrepreneurship
Best Year: Sophomore
Favorite Food: Dumplings
Favorite School Food: Whatever leftovers I brought!
Favorite Song: "He's Fine" by The Secret Sisters
Favorite TV Series: *Bob's Burgers*
Favorite Movie and Book: *Pitch Perfect* & *Powerless*

Plans for the future: I plan to go play softball at Jefferson College and receive my associates in health sciences.

Class of 2026 Graduates

Zoey Lyn Awe
Kayla Beth Aylesworth
Josie Lynn Bard
Cameron Grant Baylor
Bailey Rea Birdwell
Jayden Ray Lynn Brown
Sophia Helene Buenrostro
Celestina Nicole Clay
Eric William Cooper
Preston Scott Cowan
TylerJohn Cross
Brayden Michael Dorsey
Tucker Wayne Fitzpatrick
Conner James French
Jaeden Alexander Jackson
Aaron James Kuznik
Clay William Leonard
Tyler Scott Lowe
Elayna Catherine Marten
Luke Aaron Martin
Kya Leaann Matson
Addison Marie Maus
Bryce Austin Mitts
Alyson Kate Murphy
Summer Rose Nicole Neaville
Isabella Marie Niccolls
Meridith Jo Ann Nixon
Keaton Bobbie Alan Roemer
Adison Noelle Sanchez
Griffin Anthony Skelton
Brooke Lynne St James
Beau Griffin Tschantz
Deegan Bronson Tschantz
Franklin Benjamin Wade IV
Johnathan Christopher Walsh
Blayton Christian Watkins
Aaliyah Anne Wayne
Addisen Grace Williams
Charity Hosanna Woodford
Lillian Kate Woodworth