



# Canistota’s Graduating Class of 2026

This year’s graduation ceremony was filled with laughter, memories, and advice as four students shared their journeys through 13 years of school.

Seniors Jadzia Pierson, Malachi Weber, Ember Schenkel, and Hadassah Church reflected on the memories made throughout their school years and thanked the teachers and staff for their patience, encouragement, and support in helping them reach graduation. Jadzia spoke about how much the class had changed since middle school, remembering classmates who joined and left along the way while highlighting how everyone matured over time. Advice given included encouraging classmates to move, explore, and experience life, while reminding everyone to simply be good people. While other speakers reminded everyone that high school goes by quickly and that growth often comes from failure. A special word of advice for the underclassmen: be themselves, be kind every day, get involved, try new things, and make the most of every opportunity.

Canistota had twenty-three graduates this year. Fourteen students graduated as Honor Students, which required them to have a 3.5 GPA or higher, and nine students graduated as members of the National Honor Society.

Ember Schenkel was Canistota’s Valedictorian this year, while Hadassah Church and Jadzia Pierson shared the role as Salutatorian. Congratulations to every graduate and best of luck to you all!



*Pictured left: Sophia Crotty and Jylynn Schryvers*

*Pictured top right: Class of 2026 girls*

*Pictured middle right: Class of 2026 boys*

*Pictured bottom right: Members of NHS*

## 5th Graders Celebrate Moving to Middle School

Families gathered at Canistota Elementary to celebrate the 5th grade graduation as students completed their elementary school journey and prepared to move on to middle school. Parents watched as students received a variety of honors, including the Character Award, Miss Congeniality Award, Kindness Award, and Academic Awards for students earning a 94% average or higher. Congratulations to our soon-to-be middle school students!

*Pictured below and bottom right: 5th Grade students at their graduation celebration*

## Kindergarten Graduation

Kindergarten graduation is celebrated with kindergarten students and their families. For graduation, we have a short ceremony where students share their favorite kindergarten memory and receive a kindergarten diploma. In the past, kindergarten graduation signified the end of students' first year of school in Canistota and the excitement that came with completing it. Since the preschool started, it has remained a special time for Canistota kindergarten students to be recognized for their first-year learning accomplishments. Congratulations to our graduating kindergarten class of 2026!

*Pictured below: 2025-26 Kindergarten class with their certificates*



### Mark Your Calendar

- May 20**  
Track and Field meet in Hanson (rescheduled from 5/18)
- May 21**  
Varsity Gold-Region 3B in Dell Rapids 8:00AM-4:30 PM
- May 21**  
Dan Clarke Track Meet in Bridgewater at 8:30 AM
- May 28-30**  
South Dakota State Track and Field Meet in Sioux Falls-All Day

### The CHS PRESS Staff

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