

The Eagle Spotlight



Volume 1, Issue 1

A feature dedicated to spending just a little bit of time learning about what makes our school such a special place. One student or staff member at a time. Each issue we'll introduce you to some of our students or staff, grab a glimpse into their story, experiences, interests, accomplishments, goals, and the things that matter most to them.

Through these conversations, we get to celebrate and get to know the individuals who make up our school community and highlight the many different ways they contribute to the culture and success of our school and community. One person, one story, and one Eagle at a time.

This Issue we've got the pleasure of talking with: Kooper Grover & Katherine Hellinger Both Juniors.

Katherine:

1. **Tell us a little about yourself, your family and your hobbies?**

"I play volleyball, basketball, and track, and am a current member in the Joseph FFA Chapter. I am very close with my family, and my parents are always supporting me. We love to spend time together whether we are hiking, traveling, playing games, or making food together".

2. **What are some things you enjoy doing or goals you have for the future?**

"I enjoy baking, reading, hiking, and spending time growing in my faith. My faith is a foundational part of who I am, and I hope to show it through my words, actions, and how I treat others. Looking ahead, I want to attend at least four years of college. I am not exactly sure what I would like to study yet, although I am interested in science or a related field".

3. **What do you enjoy most about being a student at Joseph HIgh School?**

"What I love most about JHS is the incredible sense of family and community. Because it is so small, everyone knows each other. For this reason, I feel like I will never have to face a challenge alone. The teachers always go a mile out of their way to help us succeed, my classmates and friends are always there to talk to or help me out, and the community has supported us by showing up to games and helping with countless other projects. This sense of fellowship is because of the people that make up our school and community, and I don't think it would be the same if we were in a bigger school".

4. **Tell us about a person, experience, or moment that has made a difference in your life?**

"The first person that comes to mind when I think about what has made a difference in my life is my sister, Mary. Whether we're both tired from a long day of school and practice, stressing about inconsequential things, on a family vacation together, arguing with each other for some reason or other, or anything else, my sister has always supported me. She has been there every time when I need a hug, a laugh, or just a word of encouragement. She has strengthened me and encouraged me to grow into the person I am today, and I can't imagine what my life would look like without her".

5. **What is something you're most proud of that you'd like others to know about?**

"I don't know if proud is the best word for this, but I am grateful for my ability to quietly lead others and be a good role model, while balancing everything else. Balancing sports, keeping up with my schoolwork, FFA, helping others, and staying true to my values and beliefs as a Christian takes a lot of hard work. I want others to know that I would not have this ability if it were not for my family and my friends that have taught me so much, and for this reason I am proud of them".

6. **If you could share one piece of advice with a much younger version of yourself, what would it be and why?**

"If I could share one piece of advice with my younger self, it would be to place all of my trust in God's plan and not to worry so much about being perfect. Because everyone knows you, it is easy to feel the pressure of everyone watching you and judging your decisions and actions, but it is important to be the person you want to be instead of the person you think that everyone else wants you to be. I would tell myself to enjoy every single moment, because they have gone by so much faster than I thought they would".

Kooper:

1. **Tell us a little about yourself, your family and your hobbies?**

"I am Kooper Grover, a junior at Joseph High School. I was born in Enterprise, Oregon, and couldn't see myself living any other way. I love the small town school that I attend and all the wonderful people I get to see every day. Living here in the county also offers many other pathways to the outdoors. All my hobbies entail the outdoors, such as hunting, fishing, camping, and cutting wood. I enjoy all these activities, but most of all I love doing all these activities with my family".

2. **What are some things you enjoy doing or goals you have for the future?**

"Living in a smaller area, everyone always thinks that there is not as much opportunity. Every year I come back to school, and there are more opportunities than the year before. My passion is to become a Paramedic. Being a Paramedic is a goal I have for my long-term life. Another one of my absolute passions is baseball. I hope to play baseball at the next level. I have been playing baseball since I was able to walk, and it has stuck with me ever since. One more short term goal is I would like to get my EMT license before I graduate. This is one of the opportunities that is offered that many may not know about".

3. **What do you enjoy most about being a student at Joseph HIgh School?**

"Being at Joseph High School has always been something that I feel like you can look forward to. I have made many friends who have stuck with me through each and every year of school. Joseph is such a small school it doesn't even feel like school. Everyone knows everyone, and we are all like a big family. We all strive for academic excellence, and it pays off in the end for all of us. We push each other to be better every day, just like a huge family. When something goes wrong, we are all there for one another. That is what I like the most about Joseph: feeling like one huge family".

4. **Tell us about a person, experience, or moment that has made a difference in your life?**

“One experience that has changed my outlook on a lot of things is my freshman year playing Prairie City in football. We were not supposed to win that game; no one thought that we were going to end up on top. It was a very hard-fought game and by far my best game of that season. It really made me realize that there is not much you can't do when you outwork the other team or other person or whatever it may be. As a freshman, it opened many doors for me realizing that there is no age limit to who you are and how successful you can be”.

5. **What is something you're most proud of that you'd like others to know about?**

“One thing that I take a lot of pride in is working hard at everything. People may not know how much I value hard work. Working hard is something that is instilled in me and has been since I was very young. I strive to do my best in everything I do, including school. I work at keeping my GPA as high as possible and being a successful academic student. I love playing sports and understanding the work that it takes to be successful. It teaches many lessons. But school is something that people should value more than anyone does because of how much you have to go through just from a standpoint of putting in the work to be successful”.

6. **If you could share one piece of advice with a much younger version of yourself, what would it be and why?**

“One piece of advice that I would give to myself if I could go back in time would be to just get it done. It is way too easy to just push something off to next week or tomorrow, but it is so much easier to just get it done. I have learned that the feeling of having everything done after all the work is better than the feeling of having freedom for the small margin of time that you are free until you eventually have to finish the assignment or whatever it may be. One other thing that I would go back and tell myself is, why care? So many people have opinions on you and how you look or anything that really has no meaning to you. There is obviously a time to listen and a time to just turn the other cheek to what anyone has to say. You are your own person, and anyone who wants to change you in any way should not have any influence on anything you do and surely shouldn't have a say in how you change and become who you want to be”.

Thanks for sharing Katie and Kooper.

Go Eagles!