

SENIOR EDITION

Valedictorian



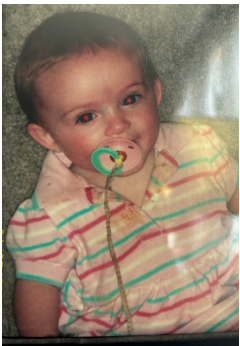
Congratulations to this year’s Valedictorian, Ariana Mapes. She is graduating with a GPA 4.0, and intends to attend Trine for psychology.

Salutarian



Congratulations to this year’s Salutarian, Ethan Smazenko. He is graduating with a GPA of 3.9, and intends to attend Rose- Hulman after he graduates.

2026 Senior Profiles



Skye Allen

Years attended: 6
Activities: Softball 4 years, basketball 3 years, Track 4 years,
Future Plans: Go to college

Favorite Memory: Bringing a port-a-potty into the school for our senior prank-- that was pretty funny.

Who I want to become: A NICU Nurse.

Senior Quote: "High school was easy. It was like riding a bike... except the bike was on fire."



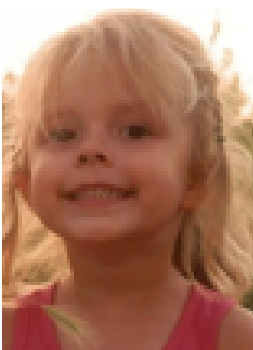
Braden Case

Years attended: 12
Activities: Culinary Impact, ICE program.
Future Plans: Joining the work force

Favorite Memory: Hanging out with everyone at Senior Skip Day, and making sure it was a good time.

Who I want to become: I want to join the work force and be a little nicer to my sister.

Senior Quote: “Covid sixth grader out.”



Avrie Casebere

Years attended: 1
Activities: None
Future Plans: My future plans are to get a Chrysler 300 and move to Traverse City, Michigan.

Favorite Memory: Getting those dirty sodas with Mya Stowell.

Who I want to become: I would like to become a RN who does infusions.

Senior Quote: “Livin' like Larry!” -Spongebob



Tristen Creager

Years attended: 13
Activities: Volleyball 4 years, basketball 2 years, cheerleading 2 years, softball 4 years, NHS 2 years
Future Plans: Attend Purdue Fort Wayne

Favorite Memory: My favorite memory is really anything at Hamilton, I loved playing sports with friends, and being able to hangout with them. Improvising in all of my sports was great too.

Who I want to become: I want to become even more determined, fun to be around, and amazing teacher.

Senior Quote: " I am the one thing in life I can control" - Leslie Odom Jr.



Larsen Dilts

Years attended: 1
Activities: Cross-country 1 yr, 1 year basketball, 1 year baseball
Future Plans: Work at Hamilton Street Department

Favorite Memory: Trip to Buffalo Wild Wings after basketball senior night with some of the buds.

Who I want to become: CDL truck driver.

Senior Quote: “You’re never done learning.” - David Dilts



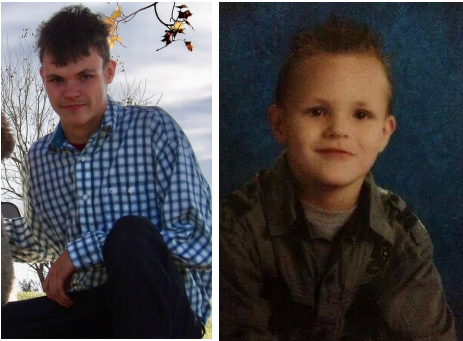
Haley Ellert

Years attended: 13
Activities: Softball 4 yrs, golf 3 years, FFA 2 years, cheer 1
Future Plans: Become an EMT

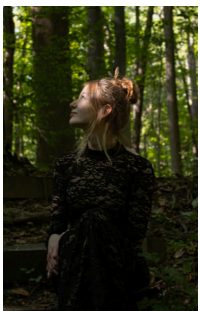
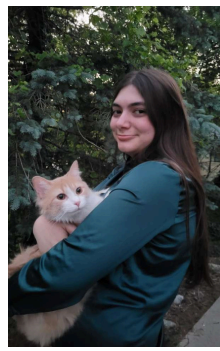
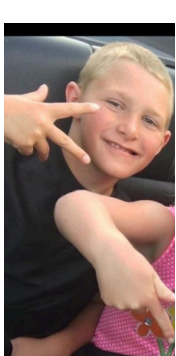
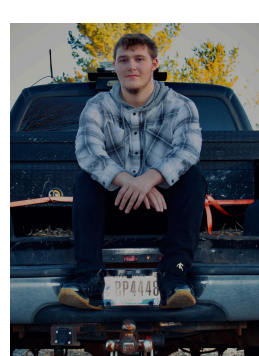
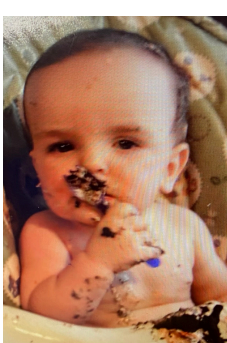
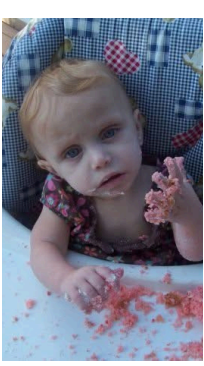
Favorite Memory: Our senior prank, and spending that time with friends.

Who I want to become: An EMT/Firefighter.

Senior Quote: “Touch Grass...”

SENIOR PROFILES CONT.	
 McCoy Elzy Years attended: 6 Activities: Baseball 1 year, golf 1 year Future Plans: Join a union and be a pipe fitter Favorite Memory: Doing ICE Who I want to become: A Pipe Fitter Senior Quote: “I learned more from working than I did in all four years of high school.”	 Brandon Everret Years attended: 4 Activities: None Future Plans: Become a YouTuber Favorite Memory: Running in gym class. Who I want to become: YouTuber. Senior Quote: N/A
 TeigAnn Freed Years attended: 6 Activities: Volleyball 4 years, softball 1 year, basketball 4 years, track 2 years, NHS 2-years Future Plans: attend Indiana Tech to pursue my Nursing degree Favorite Memory: Making memories with my friends through school events, track season, and all the moments that brought us closer together. Who I want to become: a hardworking, successful, and dependable person who continues to grow, support others, and become the best version of myself. Senior Quote: "Let all that you do be done in love" - 1 Corinthians 16:14	 Johannes Geeraedts Years attended: 4 Activities: Track 3 years Future Plans: Become an airplane welder Favorite Memory: Sitting at lunch with my friends, and having some interesting conversations with them. Who I want to become: A good one. Senior Quote: “It was worth it.”
 AJ Grilly Years attended: 4 Activities: Bowling, track, basketball Future Plans: Become a teacher. Favorite Memory: Playing games. Who I want to become: A teacher. Senior Quote: none.	 Olivia Hurraw Years attended: 8 Activities: Academic Bowl 2 yrs Future Plans: To make sure my parents don't have to go to my funeral. Favorite Memory: It’s hard to name just one, but in the 4th grade we would have donuts and get a story read to us. I miss that. Who I want to become: Garfield the Cat, so I can be a fat, happy cat that is cared for. Senior Quote: “I think there are people that help you become the person you end up being, and you can be grateful for them, even if they were never meant to be in your life forever" - Diane (Bojack Horseman)
 Emalynn Kline Years attended: 10 Activities: Volleyball 4 years Future Plans: To finish getting my pilot’s license and enter into the workforce makin’ bank. Favorite Memory: Roaming the halls, always somehow running into Furness or Watkins. Who I want to become: IDK. Senior Quote: “What, like it’s hard?” - Legally Blonde	 Kristie Kuhn Years attended: 5 Activities: Volleyball 2 years, softball 1 year, cheer 2 years, FCA for 2 years. Future Plans: The workforce, then trade school for diesel mechanics. Favorite Memory: When Annalise flung a rubber chicken into Aiden's Saxophone, and when the song began the chicken flew out of his instrument with a weird sound, getting stuck to the wall while Mr. Richter yelled at us. Who I want to become: A Diesel Mechanic, Author, and Artist. Senior Quote: “A crazy person doesn't know that they are crazy. I know that I'm crazy, therefore, I'm not crazy. Isn't that crazy?” - Jack Sparrow

SENIOR PROFILES CONT.

 Aidan Lingo Years attended: 13 Activities: Track 4yrs, 1 year baseball, 4 years academic bowl, 1 year cheer Future Plans: Attend Trine University for Civil Engineering Favorite Memory: Bus rides to and from track meets were some of the best memories I've made at Hamilton. Who I want to become: The best civil engineer there ever was. Senior Quote: “If it doesn't challenge you, it doesnt change you and you have gained nothing from it.”	 Sam Lockwood Years attended: 13 Activities: Basket Ball, CC, track, FFA, FIST, Academic Bowl, Big Buddy Future Plans: Crayon Eater (Joining the USMC) Favorite Memory: I have many, but my favorite is when Aidan almost broke my head. Who I want to become: To become like Samwise from LotR. Senior Quote: “I know what's wrong with it, it ain't got gas in it!”
 Malorie Magginnis Years attended: 8 Activities: Culinary at Impact for 1 year, yearbook photography for 1 year, volleyball for 1 year Future Plans: Join the workforce Favorite Memory: Being able to spend time in Mr Howard’s room, doing art, talking about life, and meeting new people. Who I want to become: Undecided. Senior Quote: “Always strive for higher standards, don’t hold yourself back.”	 Ariana Mapes Years attended: 13 Activities: N/A Future Plans: Attend Trine for Psychology Favorite Memory: Meeting my best friend, Alena Queen on that bus in 5th grade. Who I want to become: Alena Queen. Senior Quote: “Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind.” -Dr. Seuss
 Marissa Mercer Years attended: 13 Activities: Volleyball 4 years, basketball 2 years, cheer 2 years, softball 4 years, Student Athlete Leadership Council 3 years, FIST 5 years, FFA 3 years, NHS 2 years Future Plans: Become Firefighter and paramedic. Favorite Memory: Winning the Northside tournament during softball. Who I want to become: Someone people look up to. Senior Quote: “If it doesn't challenge you it wont change you”	 Caleb Monchilov Years attended: 13 Activities: N/A Future Plans: Military and marine mechanics. Favorite Memory: none. Who I want to become: A rich person. Senior Quote: “Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, but today is a gift. That is why it is called the present.”
 Kraeden Preston Years attended: 5 Activities: None Future Plans: Taking my rightful place on the throne of Carcosa Favorite Memory: Spending time with those who have made me happy and made this year bearable during my worst moments. Or, more specifically, our senior trip to Cedar point. Who I want to become: The ruler of all kings and emperors. Senior Quote: “Where the shadows of men's thoughts lengthen in the afternoon, when the twin suns sink into the lake of Hali; and my mind will bear for ever the memory of the Pallid Mask.”	 Alena Queen Years attended: 7 Activities: 2 years academic bowl, 2 years newspaper. Future Plans: Attend college to become a social studies teacher. Favorite Memory: When I sat in Mr. McKnight’s history class and learned my passion for the subject. Who I want to become: Ariana Mapes. Senior Quote: “I think being angry is what keeps me motivated” - CM Punk

SENIOR PROFILES CONT.



Tsumiya Sato

Years attended: 7
Activities: Softball 4 yrs, Student Council 4 years, FFA 4 years, Academic Bowl 3 years
Future Plans: Become a DNR officer.

Favorite Memory: “My favorite memory is every away game sitting next to Brenna and knowing I would always have my throwing buddy.”

Who I want to become: I want to become someone who is always outdoors.

Senior Quote:“You and your opponent want the same thing so you have to work the hardest for it.”



Ethan Smazenko

Years attended: 13
Activities: National Honor Society 1yr, Academic Super Bowl, 3yrs, Track 1 yr, X-country 1 year.
Future Plans: To attend Rose-Hulman.

Favorite Memory: Taking advantage of free will in class.

Who I want to become: Mechanical engineer with focus in aerospace engineering.

Senior Quote: “Life gave me lemons, so I made a brick house.”



Mya Stowell

Years attended: 1
Activities: N/A
Future Plans: I am going to be exploring opportunities as a receptionist, or even just being in the office industry.

Favorite Memory: Mrs. McConnell’s classes, and the senior trip.

Who I want to become: I plan on being a insurance agent.

Senior Quote: "Aspire to inspire before you expire" - Kim Kardashian



Makenna Warner

Years attended: 4
Activities: None
Future Plans: Attend the CHOICE program in Kendallville

Favorite Memory: Making new friends

Who I want to become: The boss of Mcdonalds.

Senior Quote: “Make good choices”



Austyn Willibey

Years attended: 4
Activities: 4-H 8 years, baseball 2 years, basketball 3yrs, track 1yr
Future Plans: Drive semi and hall cattle.

Favorite Memory: Buffalo Wild Wings with the buds.

Who I want to become: Larry Bird.

Senior Quote: “Just keep life simple.”

Senior Class Wills, 2026

I, **Skye Allen**, leave my team spirit to Iley Dunakin, Leslee Steigerwald, and other freshman.

I, **Braden Case**, leave everything to my wonderful, superior, and lovely younger sister Sophia Case.

I, **Avrie Casebere**, leave my pencils and drinks my brother, Trent Casebere.

I, **Tristen Creager**, leave my humor to Heidi Richter, maturity to Gianna Ceci, determination to Lilli Dager, sportsmanship to Lydia Hicks, and being on time to Baylee Bartrom.

I, **Larsen Dilts**, leave Robert (Roberto) Schiek to lead the cross country team. Graysen Ford Dilts, and Xzavier Schieber to lead the Basketball team. And Brendon + Dalen Pfferkorn, and Graysen Ford Dilts to lead the baseball team.

I, **Haley Ellert**, leave my ability to not be able to putt to Karl Nester.

I, **McCoy Elzey**, leave my working skills to all the younger class man

I, **Brandon Everret**, leave my dance movies to the younger kids.

I, **TeigAnn Freed**, bequeath my hustle to the next generation, my heart to the ones who look up to me, and my memories to the gym, fields and halls that helped shape who i became. I leave my determination to the athletes who think they aren't strong enough yet. Keep showing up! Even on the hard, stay humble, and never forget to cheer for others along the way.

I, **Johannes Geeraedts**, leave everything to Kristie

I, **Olivia Hurraw**, leave my favorite award, to Mrs. McConnell (aka school mom.)

I, **Emalynn Kline**, leave everything of mine my trucks and money etc to my dad.

I, **Kristie Khun**, leave my random laughing spurts and psychotic outbreaks to Annalise Lingo to ensure her life is always entertaining.

I, **Aidan Lingo**, leave my will to Kevin and my siblings, they shall holdeth the power to cram study and become masters in the art of procrastination.

I, **Sam Lockwood**, leave all my depth of random ball knowlege to Zander Baker, Copper Farnham, The less superior Lockwood, Magnus (stringbean) and Ace Hill, Kevin Lanning, Lucas Taylor, and Phoenix Vaughn.

I, **Malorie Magginnis**, pass on the title of “senior” to all of the 2027 graduates.

I, **Ariana Mapes**, bequeath my fur babies to Alena Queen.

I, **Marissa Mercer**, bequeath my GPA to Brenna Mercer.

I, **Caleb Monchilov**, leave my humor to Chloe Monchilov

I, **Kraeden Preston**, hereby leave my mental aptitude to the entirety of the high school students. A swarm of locusts to eat the crops of everyone who enters senior year. And lastly for the rabbit of the ag classroom to hate all it encounters.

I, **Alena Queen**, leave my ankle breaking temper tantrums to Mr. Howard.

I, **Tsumiya Sato**, leave every hit i’ve ever gotten in softball, to Karly.

I, **Ethan Smazenko**, Leave my perfected procrastination skills and towering height to Copper.

I, **Mya Stowel**, leave Bambi the bunny to Harlow Price.

I, **Makenna Warner**, bequeath the clasroom to other classrooms

I, **Austyn Willibey**, leave the basketball team to Jace Bean and the track team to Copper Farnham and that’s all.

Dear Seniors: Messages from the Hamilton Teachers & Staff

Mrs. Ellis

Braden Case- I didn't have you in my K class but you have always come to me to have a conversation or tell me something exciting in your life! I am praying for you family during this difficult time. Accomplish all you can in life!

Tristen Creager- I love the way you have become such a leader in your class. Do great things with your future!

Haley Ellert- I remember you being such a great student, leader, and keeping your best friend (McCoy) in line in Kindergarten. I am so proud of who you have become throughout the years.
Keep staying true to yourself!

McCoy- I loved being able to be your Kindergarten teacher. You have always been funny and you wear your heart on your sleeve. You have always found a way to make me smile through life even through the tough times or when I was frustrated with you. You are a good person and will do wonderful in the real world. I love you and hope you always remember that you are an amazing son, brother, uncle, child of God, and you can do hard things!

Emalynn- You were such a sweet girl in Kindergarten. You are so beautiful. Don't ever let anyone take that away from you! I love how you love your family! I want you to show the world the amazing person you are!

Aiden- I loved having you in my Kindergarten class. You were so smart and such a great student. You have overcome so much through high school and I know you will continue to overcome anything life throws your way! Work hard and you will always see the fruits of your labor!

Samuel- It's been fun watching you develop your own unique personality and the way you enjoy life. You will be great at whatever you choose to do in life because you have your faith and family behind you!

Ariana- You are still the quiet, pretty girl you were in Kindergarten. I am so proud of what you have accomplished at Hamilton. Please always stand up for yourself and what you believe in and you can never go wrong!

Caleb- You have had to endure what most never have to face. I am so proud of you for making it through high school and I know you will make it through life and always keep those good memories of you and your mom in your heart. You can do hard things and you will make a great adult in this sometimes cruel world.

Ethan- I remember you being so quiet until you felt strongly about something, then you would stand up and give your opinion boldly. I am so proud of what you have accomplished in high school. Always stand up for yourself and what you believe in and you will do great things and make a difference.

Marissa- I didn't have you in Kindergarten but I am so proud of the leader and sister you are. You are a great role model for others and I hope you always continue to do the right thing even when others aren't looking. People notice this and you will go so far in life by being your true self.

Mrs. Warner

To All: I have had many of you over the years between art and other classes. I am very proud of you all and can't believe you are graduating already! Best of luck to you in all you choose to do!

Dear Seniors: Messages from the Hamilton Teachers & Staff (cont.)

Mr. Wagner

- Skye Allen-** Do your best not to go viral on social media. I’ve no interest in being interviewed for background info & anecdotes.
- Avrie Casebere-** Such a short time here, but we’ve been happy to have you.
- Braden Case-** Good luck.
- Tristen Creager-** You carried the Creager banner well, Tristen. You’ve been an excellent NHS member, student, athlete, and classmate. The Program’s got nothin’ on you!
- Larsen Dilts-** Stop tempting the Universe, Mr. ‘There’s no chance of a blizzard.’ Mother Nature will always call your bluff.
- Haley Ellert-** Looking forward to watching you become Secretary of Agriculture, so we can have some sensible farm policy.
- McCoy Elzey-** Good Luck, McCoy. I know you’ll do your best.
- Brandon Everett-** Congratulations, Brandon, and good luck!
- TeigAnn Freed-** One day you will awaken with the startling realization that you are indeed “Teig-Ann.” And there I will be, to laugh with you. Ok, who am I kidding; I’ll be laughing AT you!
- Johannes Geeraedts-** You know, you could save yourself a lot of headaches (and \$\$\$) by just buying a Toyota.
- AJ Grilly-** AJ, we’ll miss seeing your bright, smiling face all over school. Good luck!
- Olivia Hurraw-** Too young to be so cynical, but we both know it’s a bit of a front. Disappointment can’t be avoided in this life, nor adversity. It’s how we choose to respond that matters.
- Emalynn Kline-** M&M! How clever of you to skip out on my government class by graduating early. May your wits continue to serve you well.
- Kristie Kuhn-** My little bookworm! Great to see you compete in Academic Bowl this year. Don’t let the Dew do to you what it has done to me.
- Aidan Lingo-** Four years of Academic Bowl, and a plethora of laughs. Let it be known throughout Lingo-land, you are truly “The Fabulous Lingo.”
- Samuel Lockwood-** Sam-Well, off and away to Mr. Curious. Keep asking questions, Sam. You will learn a lot. And thanks for the chocolate-covered treats. That was very thoughtful.
- Malorie Magginnis-** The whims of fate and fortune can be cruel, even funny, but you, too, have agency. Don’t resign yourself to mere chance. Act.
- Ariana Mapes-** It’s always the quiet ones. If you notice one of my agents keeping an eye on you (and your nefarious sibling), we all know why. Of course, you won’t actually notice them, as they are too well trained.
- Marissa Mercer-** Stay in line, Mercer, or else. 
- Caleb Monchilov-** What an improvement you’ve shown this past year. Keep it up!
- Kraeden Preston-** KKrrraaaeeden, try to lay off the video games once in a while, and don’t lean back in your chair.
- Alena Queen-** Good luck to a fellow social studies aficionado. Here’s hoping you choose the only social science worth pursuing—do I really need to say it? Give ‘em heck, Your Majesty.
- Tsumiya Sato-** Best of luck to our Academic Bowl mainstay. So many teams, so many competitions, so many questions... you set a good example.
- Ethan Smazenko-**  last time. See ya’ around, big fella.
- Joshua Sprague-** Congrats on staying awake just long enough to finish.
- Mya Stowell-** So long, Morticia. May all your embalming projects go as planned. Just make sure they’re dead first. We don’t want another Morocco.
- Makenna Warner-** Congratulations Makenna. Best of luck!
- Austyn Willibey-** See around, Longshanks. Keep working on yourself. We can all see the improvement.

Mrs. Farnham

To All: I wish all of you the best of luck with your future endeavors. I have enjoyed my time with you, in and out of classrooms, but now is the time for all of you to begin your future! Congrats.



For years, Hamilton has had the honor of our newspaper (and history classes) being run by Mr. Wagner. (SWagner), but this year we say goodbye to his tyrannical rule over the unpaid labor of our newspaper satff (Still waiting for my paycheck...). Being the layout person this year was a honor I held greatfully.

For a man who’s life has no end, his time here in comparison was short. Teachers like Mr. Wagner are hard to come by, but he has graced hamilton with his excellence for so long.

From myself, and the students of Hamilton, thank you for your time and work here sir.

-Alena “Her Majesty” Queen