



A Letter From The Editor

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Four years of friendships, experiences, and education all finally come to an end. To the class of '24: We thank you for everything you have contributed to our school. We thank you for all the memories, the hard work, and for simply showing up. Every single one of you has made an impact on this school, and every single one of you matters. We thank you for your crucial help in creating our final edition of the 2023-2024 school year. While we have made a commitment to write about our community as a whole, this edition is for you. Inhale this moment for what it is. You made it here; enjoy it. You will never be this version of you again; sit with them for a while. We wish you luck on your future endeavors. No matter where you end up, make the most of it and cherish it. Remember to be passionate, and to do the things that fill you with joy. Be kind. Have patience with others and have patience with yourself. You have earned it. We are sure each and every one of you will go far. We would also like to thank everyone who has helped us to get this newspaper back into print and everyone who supported us when we thought it might be impossible to continue. We look forward to next year, where we will continue to value the privilege that it is to be able to write for our community. Congratulations class of 2024, and onto the next.

For more stories by *The Trojan Torch*
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Special thanks to Sadie Boven for creating the cover art for this edition.

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An Open Letter to PHS..

Dear Class of 2024,

As we sit down to write this letter we can't help but feel a mix of emotions. On one hand, we are filled with pride and joy as we see you reach a significant milestone in your life. On the other hand, there's a tinge of bittersweetness as we realize that our time together has come to an end. But please know that this ending is also the beginning of a new chapter filled with endless possibilities awaiting each one of you. This newspaper should be handed out at graduation so we thought we should say we are so proud of every one of you.

We have been waiting for this moment for as long as we can remember. We have come so far these past couple of years. With losing big role models and classmates. From the start of Covid and the whole shutdown. We have been together since the start of kindergarten when we all learned to read and write, to spending hours writing essays and working on homework. Some of us have been in the same school for 13 years. Some of us have jumped around meeting thousands of other people. This is the last time many of us will get dressed up together, the last time we will ever be together. At the end of the day, we are all the class of 2024. We are so proud of you guys and wish you the best on your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Ashley Fisher | Class of 2024 President

Ellie Lutz | Class of 2024 Vice President

Plainwell High School Class of 2024

Sian Adam	Andrew Eldred	Maria Johnson	Noah Miller	Lynsey Smith
Evelyn Alward	Jonathan Elliott	Elliana Johnston	Xander Miller	Noah Smith
Nikolas Anastasi	Jacob Erdody	Olive Justice	Tyler Montgomery	McKenna Soderquist
Ainsley Anderson	Ava Erickson	Izabelle Keckler	Emma Mulder	Jessica Spidell
Geronimo Aznarez	Ashley Fisher	Mia Keech	Landon Myner	Tristan Starett
Kayla Baar	Kaden Frank	Miko Kizuka	Shawn Nelson	Emily Stoeffler
Samuel Bacon	Elizabeth French	Zoe Korreck	Kailah Newcomb	Jackson Stouffer
Rosalinda Bazil	Ava Gallas	Federico La Cava	Emma Newman	Calvin Strader
Logan Beauregard	Michael Gonyeau	John Lambert II	Gabrielle Northern	Adam Stull
Zoey Bennett	Maggie Gonzales	Sienna Lancaster	Yuika Ono	Abdiwasa Tahir
Kyan Betts	Joseph Gorton	Andrew LaPenna	Isabelle Pence	Kara Thomas
Haleigh Birdsall	Thomas Gradwell	Maria Launt	Vanesa Perez Veliz	Candace Thornburg
Jack Bliss	Ella Grantham	Alban Ledoux	Olivia Perrin	Alexandra Thornton
Mathias Boest	Nichole Greer	Owen Lemmer	Sidney Perry	Brooklyn Timpe
Alia Bruey	Norah Gregersen	Breanna Lentz	Reija Pike	Allison Tobin
Ryan Burt	Laura Groner	Abigail Lewis	Alexis Poel	Audrey Todd
Makenna Campbell	Addison Hadfield	Abram Longcore	Jackson Powell	Mackenzie Topp
Drew Capman	Julius Hageman	Ellie Lutz	Skylur Powell	Josie Trahan
Aubrey Carpenter	Avery Hall	Bryce MacDonald	Angelika Przybocki	Liam Troutner
Justin Carpenter	Shane Hall	Gavin MacDonald	Angie Raillat	Gage Truitt
Loic Carrel	Sisi Haenninen	Molly Macon	Dennis Redmond	Logan Tungate
Kyle Chapman	Sydney Harper	Audrey MacQueen	Evan Redmond	Lexus VanDenBerg
Bryce Cherghezan	Josephine Hayward	Danielle Maher	Breanna Rhodes	James Vazquez
Ava Collier	Cayden Henckel	Mason Maher	Richard Ritzema	Isaac Veen
James Colwell	Ayaka Higashi	Angel Massey	Mikayla Rooseboom	Irene Vilaplana Burguete
Michael Colwell	Sullivan Hill	Liberty Mathis	Madeline Rose	Ella Villanueva
Jillian Comer	Gavin Hodapp	Dylan McCall	Saidmakhmud Rustamovich	Micah Wagner
Brayden Connor	Madisyn Holbrook	Ryan McDaniel	Mirzoev	Ella Way
Kaylee Cork	Zackary Holtman	Carly McMath	Javon Sampley	Logan Westberg
Spencer Cowles	Alana Hook	Derek Meech	Elizabeth Sanderson	Abigale Westerhouse
Kegan Craft	Madeline Hoskin	David Meeker	Ryan Scalpone	Dylan Wheeler
Caitlyn Davidson	Kylie Howard	Mason Meert	Gavin Schosso	Cody Williams
Emma DeHaan	Lily Inquilla	Kailynn Mejeur	Morgan Schuster	Alyssa Wolthuis
Amelia Dehring	Kayden Jackson	Raya Mergen-Henry	Henry Seaver	Connor Wilson
Landon DeVaney	Bradley Jeffreys	Larissa Meyers	Sofia Seckel	Bennett Zabaldo
Kirk DeVisser	Emma Jepsen	Ian Meyers	Marcel Serra	
Madeleine Dodds	Holden Jimenez	Elle Miller	Sofia Sguissardi	
Desirae Drew	Cody Johnson	Flynn Miller	Landen Shannon	
Lillian Dunithan	Luke Johnson	Jaxson Miller	Laylajean Smith	

Favorite Classes at PHS

By Sophie Munch | Staff Writer

The seniors at Plainwell High School have a variety of favorite classes. Their reasons range from the teacher, to the peers, to the academics. As the 2024 graduating class went through high school they experienced many different classes and teachers. With the options of general ed courses, 11 AP courses, and fascinating electives available to them - students have a lot of options as to what classes they enjoyed most at PHS.

Most students said that their favorite classes were taught by Regina Beltowski. She teaches creative classes like ceramics, digital pho-

tography, and intro to painting. Lillian Dunithan '24 said, "Creating 3D projects was very fun and I was able to get involved." The main reason that students liked art classes was because Beltowski lets the students explore and be creative in her classes.

Ben Bakalyar is the second most liked teacher. He taught AP calculus, pre-calculus, and algebra II. Although the content in AP calculus might be difficult, this was students' favorite class he teaches. Many of the students said that they liked his humor and the people in the class rather than the academics. Aubrey Carpenter '24 stated, "It was fun being with friends and learn-

ing the materials with Mr. Bakalyar."

Marching band was another well liked class. This class is taught by Mr. Hepinstall and Owen Rushford. Xander Miller's '24 favorite class was marching band/symphonic band. He said that he enjoyed this class because, "It helped prove to me how bright my future is."

While this only a small feature of some of our students favorite classes there are memories that have been made throughout all of the halls and classrooms of PHS that both teachers and students will hold onto for the rest of their lives.

Sentimental Bonds

Fond Farewells to Unforgettable Friendships

By Caleb Tucker | Staff Writer

With all the seniors graduating, there are a lot of emotions accumulating within friendships between underclassmen and seniors. When seniors graduate they tend to miss one specific underclassmen because of the memories and bond that they have created with them.

One senior who will miss an underclassman is Ryan McDaniel '24. McDaniel says the underclassman he will miss the most is Adin Young '25. McDaniel says he will miss Young because "He is so sweet, and he is a great teammate and friend." One of the best memories McDaniel has with Young is from sophomore year when the football team put Young in a tire and rolled him all around the football field. McDaniel said Young is one of many underclassmen that he will miss.

Another example is Ella Granthem '24. Granthem says that she will miss Mary McMath '25, "Because she is an amazing person

and has an amazing sense of humor." One of Granthem's favorite memories with McMath is when they would go on random shopping sprees and just mess around with their other friends.

The last of many seniors is Jessica Spidell '24. Spidell said the underclassman that she'll miss the most is Kenzie Horton '25. She said that she'll miss Horton because they were on the bowling team together and those were some of the best times they had. Spidell said whether it was practice or meets her and Horton would always have a great time together. Spidell shares that she will miss a lot of underclassmen but Horton is one that's going to be the hardest to leave.

These are just three friendships shared between under and upper-classmen. Many more are sure to be missed.

What Do You Want to Be When You Grow Up?

By Alivia Meniga | Staff Writer

At the start of everyone's educational career, whether in preschool or kindergarten we are all asked the same question; "What do you want to be when you are older?" This answer typically changes a lot throughout our lives. When kids are asked in early childhood they normally answer with a really big career goal such as being an astronaut or president. As the PHS class of 2024 moves past their time at Plainwell they are asked again the question - What do you want to be when you grow up?

- Kailynn Mejeur wanted to be a vet and now is planning on becoming a real estate agent
- Ellie Lutz wanted to be a marine biologist and now is going to be a nurse practitioner
- Jess Spidell wanted to be a doctor and is now going to be a nurse
- David Meeker wanted to be a firefighter and now is going to be a welder
- Catlyn Davidson wanted to be a scientist and now is going to be a biologist
- Gavin Schosso wanted to be an architect and now is going to study business
- Ava Collier wanted to own a zoo and now is going to be a physical therapist

While plans change throughout life, we are excited to see our class of 2024 pursue their passions after high school.



A Highlight on the Valedictorian of PHS 2024

By Sophia Barth | Media Editor

One well-deserved spotlight at PHS is the valedictorian Elizabeth French '24. French has lived in Plainwell all her life and has been an active member of the Plainwell Swim and Dive team, where she went to state for her relays sophomore year and senior year. Besides swimming, French has been a part of NHS, Tri-M, PALs, musical, choir, AP French club, and also raised enough money to go with the AP French students to Quebec. While being involved in musical since freshman year, her senior year

was when she landed the role of Karen in PHS's musical Mean Girls. French gives many thanks to the music program at PHS; after being asked if she had a mentor she explains, "Choir was a big support system because it was an hour during the day where I could focus on something that wasn't school, and Ms. B was a good supporter."

Through her academic career, she ended with a 4.0 GPA unweighted; she took 8 different AP classes; in her Sophomore year, she took AP US history and AP Bio, junior year, AP French and AP chem, and senior year AP gov, AP lit, AP environmental science, and AP calc. Although

French was always on the track to be valedictorian, she ended up being surprised to receive the award. French states, "It just kind of happened, I hadn't really been first until this year." Despite the fact French didn't see this coming, she had lots of motivation academically. She says, "There was a lot of motivation for some reason. I don't know where the motivation came from, but it was there." French has been a massive asset to Plainwell High School. We wish her luck as she moves onto her next steps after Plainwell High School.

PHS Staff's Favorite Memories with the Class of 2024

By Tessa Thomas | Staff Writer

The PHS staff members are going to miss this year's graduating class as they have made many fond memories over their four years together. Here are some of those memories:

Geometry teacher Natalie Ullrey says that one of her favorite memories from this year's graduating class includes Shawn Nelson '24: "Sophomore year when someone used a roll of tape to tape his hands down to his table during Geometry, and he couldn't get unstuck. I laugh

about it now, I wasn't laughing then. He's grown up a lot since then and I have really enjoyed having Shawn in class as a senior.

Office assistant Tracey Bryant says, about the graduating class, "It is so nice to get to know the students and to have conversations with them about their lives. I see so many students that will do wonderful things in their futures." As a staff member who gets to interact with students in an alternative setting, it allows Bryant to build relationships with students in a different way. Bryant says there is no memory in particular, but it is a

daily occurrence that seniors come down to talk.

French teacher Julie Trahan says, "(The) trip to Quebec was amazing even though I broke my leg. So many fond memories." The seniors that attended this trip were Ashley Fisher '24, Olive Justice '24, Laura Groner '24, Elizabeth French '24, and Calvin Strader '24.

There is an endless amount of impact that is made between both students and teachers. The PHS staff is excited for this the class of 2024 and look forward to their future endeavors.



RANSOM DISTRICT LIBRARY

Senior Spotlight

By Derek Meech | Staff Writer

Plainwell High School's class of 2024 voted on the peers that they believed deserved a spotlight in the newspaper. From that vote, two seniors were elected. Maddie Dodds '24 and Olive Justice '24. Both students are beloved to the community of Plainwell High School.

Maddie Dodds:

Maddie Dodds 'has decided to go into a career involving art and is extremely talented, having her work featured in the KIA. During Dodds' time at PHS, her favorite teacher was Regina Beltowski, and her favorite class was intermediate art with US history coming in a close second. She mentioned her best friend, Olive Justice, who is also a featured senior on the Senior Spotlight. She would not have met Justice if it weren't for Plainwell schools. Dodds' favorite foods are "Breakfast parfaits, a really good sandwich, or maybe a BLT or something." Dodds discovered that Santa Claus wasn't real

"When I was six... I wasn't that heartbroken." The number one pet peeve Dodds has is "People who think they are better than everyone else, and use that to justify their bad treatment of others."

Olive Justice:

Olive Justice is someone who is very involved in Plainwell High School, working with the multicultural club, the musical, GSA, and taking on three AP classes. Her favorite teacher in PHS is Julie Trahan, and her favorite class is AP French because of the excellent way Trahan teaches. Her favorite foods are "Belgium waffles with strawberries and whipped cream, Panera Mediterranean sandwich, and my grandma's mashed potato noodles with green beans." When asked what her number one motivation in life is she said, "My motivation is when I'm older, I want to be able to look back on my life and know that I did what I wanted." Her best advice for everyone is, "Don't live for your parents, live for yourself."

College Athletes in the Making

By Tristan Starett | Staff Writer

A little over seven percent of high school students get signed to colleges for sports, and as a school we are extremely proud of our college-bound athletes. Their hard work, dedication, and commitment is unrivaled. Over ten graduates of the 2024 class are committed to play their sport in college, and still more are getting signed.

Cheerleading

Jillian Comer, Kailynn Mejeur, Larissa Meyers, Raya Mergen-Henry, and Abbey Westhouse all beat the odds and got signed to their respective colleges for cheerleading. Comer got signed to Alma College, Mejeur and Meyers to Central Michigan University, and Mergen-Henry to Western Michigan University. Their reasons for continuing their sport at the higher level is consistent; their coaches, teammates, and family, determination, and passion for the sport. These women have strived for their high school achievements, the most proud being winning regionals and qualifying for state their senior year. They are all looking forward to cheering for in college for a multitude of reasons. Comer is looking forward to being able to continue with what she loves and making new friends, and Mejeur is looking forward to being out on a real stadium field.

Bowling

While the bowling team in Plainwell High School is small, Jessica Spidell's passion for the sport is mighty. Spidell was signed to Goshen College to bowl on their competitive team. Spidell's favorite memory of bowling at PHS was when she bowled her highest ever score in

a match and getting an honorable mention at a bowling tournament. She feels she got signed for her attitude and leadership, her bowling scores, and her friendliness. She will miss the PHS team, stating that connecting with the people on her team made it easy to have a great time while bowling with them.

Soccer

Kailah Newcomb and Cayden Henckel both strived for greatness by getting signed to play women's soccer at the next level. Newcomb is planning on going to WMU to play in college, and Henckel is planning on going to Siena Heights. When Newcomb was asked her three reasons she thinks she got signed, she said she works hard, made soccer a priority, and didn't give up and persevered through the rough times that she faced. Henckel's three reasons were her supporters during the years, attitude towards the sport, and being a leader and supporter towards the underclassmen. For both of the girls, the things they are looking forward to when playing in college soccer is progressing in the sport and playing at a higher level.

Being the only two men's soccer players to get signed, Mason Meert is planning on going to Aquinas College, and Logan Beauregard is planning on going to Grace College, to further their respective educations and love of soccer. The three things that had led Meert to his success are the people he was surrounded by, his family pushing him to succeed, and the hard work and hours he put towards his dream of a new start in college level soccer. Meert's favorite memory of his time with PHS soccer is the boxing matches the team had in the woods. On the other side, Be-

auregard had similar success on the field at PHS, and is now on his way to play Division One ball.

Wrestling

Michael Gonyeau was the only person from PHS to get signed for wrestling, and is going to SMC. The reasons he feels he made it are because of his coaches, work ethic, and discipline. His greatest achievement was overcoming obstacles and "Having a one of a kind senior year." He is looking forward to getting better at wrestling and competing at the collegiate level. In the end, the things that he acquired from his time at PHS which formed his way to his newfound college career is having the best family and supporters, best coaches, and training partners.

More athletes have and continue to commit to colleges to further their education and sport currently, and PHS is beyond proud of the crucial hours, unparalleled drive, and critical mindsets its athletes have represented.

Disclaimer: College-bound athletes may have been signed post publication and may not be featured in this article due to later signings or opting out of being interviewed.



B.C. PIZZA HISTORY



OUR ORIGINS

During high school, brothers Chris and Wayne Nelson set a goal to open a top quality pizzeria. It would be an establishment that customers would choose to visit again and again. Consistent taste and attentive customer service would be the driving factors for success. Night after night, the brothers experimented in their mother's kitchen to develop unique recipes that would bring customers back time and time again.

In 1988 they celebrated the opening of their Boyne City store, and the telephones haven't stopped ringing since. Over the years the B.C. Pizza brand has expanded to over 30 locations.

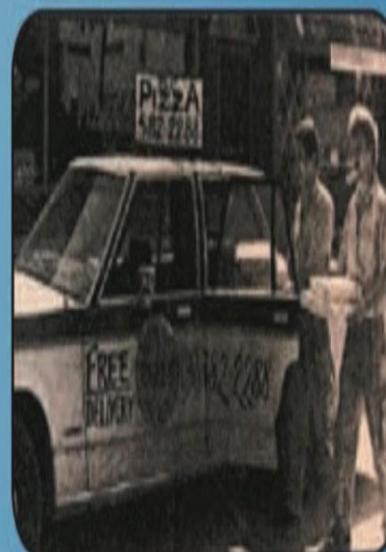
HANDMADE GOURMET

B.C. Pizza's reputation as the "Best Choice" for pizza was built by using only the freshest, top quality ingredients and the brother's SECRET RECIPE for homemade pizza sauce and crust.

Customers continue to be impressed by the one-on-one friendly service and the community support that each B.C. Pizza franchise exhibits in their local area.

WHY IS A COP YOUR MASCOT?

When B.C. Pizza first opened it used old cop cars to deliver pizza to their customers. They would flash the lights in your driveway as they pulled in. They also dressed their delivery drivers as keystone cops. Officer Pizzerelli continues that tradition of community today when he dresses up for special events and parties



WHAT DOES "B.C." STAND FOR?

It used to stand for Boyne City, where the very first B.C. Pizza opened in 1988. As B.C. Pizza added locations it changed its meaning to "Best Choice".

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The Nelson's commitment to consistently providing the best quality products, the most attentive services, and the best pizzeria value anywhere has never wavered. Their philosophy of community support remains a pillar of their success. B.C. Pizza donates talent, food and other support to local causes, and partners with other area businesses to help those in need. Their belief is that what you give to the community makes a big difference in what return you can expect - and they encourage that behavior in others. Chris and Wayne want to thank you for taking the time to learn about their beginnings in the business and the philosophies that continue to guide them along their journey.

B.C. PIZZA - 396 OAKS CROSSING, PLAINWELL - (269) 204-6612

