

Poland Student Newspaper

Senior Issue

DEAR JUNIORS

By Kaitlyn Barlow

You've waited your whole high school career to be seniors, which will be the highlight of your time here. All those years of hard work are finally going to pay off and you'll be the one walking down the aisle while they play the Pomp and Circumstance in just a few short months. You've made your way to the top and you can't wait to eat in the courtyard and hang out in the lounge. But there is easy to let things slide that you so much more to being a senior than just walking with a sense of superiority in your step, and you have to make sure you live up to those expectations.

One thing about being a senior that many people fail to live same way. They have two, three, up to is that they are the role models for the underclassmen. You may not realize it, but the lower grades look up to you and think, "I am going to be like that someday." This is a responsibility that shouldn't be taken lightly and should cause each one of you to want to behave in an upstanding manner. You have the ability to

shape the culture of the school for years to come, so you should want to make that impact as positive as possible.

To do this, you should be as involved in their interactions as you can. It's easiest to be an upstander when you are seen as socially powerful, and as a senior, you are at the top of the food chain. This is your last year, so it's wouldn't have when you were younger on the grounds that you're probably never going to see any of these people ever again, but be understanding of the underclassmen when they can't feel the four, or maybe even more years left of school, so their perspective is very different than yours.

If you see someone picking on someone else, or if they are making a ruckus in the hall, be sure to vocalize your issue with it. You have more influence on them than their teachers do, so make sure you are sending them the

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Graduation will be on Friday, June 23rd at 7pm in the Trzepacz Gym

Congratulations to the Class of 2017! right messages.

You should also make an effort to be friend some of them; it will do wonders for their self esteem to be friends with one of the big guys, and you will feel as if you're making a difference in their life.

Be someone to live up to and create new roles in the school that must be filled upon your exit. Don't ever let being a senior go to your head or think that just because you're in the 12th grade you have suddenly become better than those in the grades below. They play an important role in the school just as you do, so don't be afraid to let them influence you, too. They will certainly miss you once you're gone, but they will undoubtedly fill your place once it opens. They are your chance to having a legacy, so make sure it's a great one.

Though it is important to live up to the expectations of being a senior for others, it is also important that you do some things for yourself. No one wants to look back on their last year in high school with regrets and wish they had done more or hadn't passed that chance up.

Don't overlook the simple things that you know you'll miss the most. The things you'll miss the most are the things you don't realize are there to miss at all. We all know we're going to miss our best friends and teachers and the simplicity of high school life, but it's going to be the little things that really kill you later in life and make you wish you'd paid more attention. You're going to miss high school sooner or later, so make sure you truly appreciate all that you can.

Make your best effort to understand that the actions you are making now are going to be what makes your senior year yours. You're going to look

back on your senior year of high school more than any of the others and remember the things you did then more than any other time.

How you leave the school this time is how the people you have grown up with will remember you forever; there is no coming back at the end of the summer and showing off your tan or how you've grown three inches. This is a chapter of your life that's coming to an end, so don't blink, and don't forget to appreciate everything.

The most important thing to keep in mind, even when you're making the most of your time, is that you not lose sight of your larger goals, because that is what you are doing all of this for.

Don't lose yourself in the chaos of college visits and financial aid applications, because though you are preparing for the next chapter of your life, the one you're in hasn't ended yet. Try out for that team, join that club, and go for the gold so you have no regrets and you won't have to wonder, "What if?"

Be the person that you wanted to be when you were younger, and be that person for someone else so you leave this place with your signature all over it. Never forget to live for the simple and maybe even stupid memories, because you'll never know how much they mean once they stop coming.

When it's June and it's hot and you and your classmates are all wearing your caps and gowns with cords and tassels, you'll look around the room and think how there isn't another group of people you would've rather done this with. You'll have a mutual understanding that nothing will ever be the same, and you will look back on your final year and know that you are ready to move on with your life.

Peer Leadership's Quote of the Month

"Moving on is tough, but staying behind is tougher"

~ Kaitlyn Barlow, Vice President

Class of 2017 Top Ten Profiles

By Leah Basel

The Tornado Times staff conducted interviews with the class of 2017's top ten graduating seniors. We asked them about their plans after graduation, who their biggest influences in high school were, and what they took the most pride in during their high school career. We also asked them to give advice to the underclassmen, what their favorite part of PCS was, and to tell us what extracurricular activities they plan on participating in during college. All except valedictorian and salutatorian are in alphabetical order.

Congratulations to the top ten, and good luck to all of the class of 2017!

Valedictorian: Sarah Braunlich

I will be attending SUNY New Paltz to major in biology and minor in chemistry, on the pre-med track. Once I receive my bachelors degree, I will attend med school to become a physician's assistant. As for work, I am a certified Phlebotomist, and I plan to use that, and be a tutor. In college, I plan to continue with band and be a member of the honors program. My sister Bekah is one of my greatest influences. She is the biggest reason, aside from my mom, who is an RN, as to why I chose a career in the medical field. She has always encouraged me throughout high school to try my best, and helped me pick my career path. She is majoring in Biology and has a consistent 4.0 GPA, showing me that anything is possible with hard work and dedication. My friends and teachers have also influenced me throughout high school, as they have set me on the right path and encouraged me to succeed. Without them, I wouldn't be the person I am today. In my high school career, I could say that I am proud of my improvement academically, musically, and mentally. Each achievement has helped me get to this point, and

I believe they are all equally important to my success. To my fellow underclassmen, I was in your shoes, daydreaming of senior year and graduation. Although it seems like an eternity, I have realized that high school is really over as soon as it begins. Make the most of high school, and cherish every second you spend with friends and teachers, so you can look back and thank yourself for making each moment count. Make a difference in the lives of others; volunteer for things, help your teachers and peers, truly make your time count. Remember that a little bit of hard work and dedication will get you far, and never succumb to peer pressure or attempt to be someone you're not. Nurture, and allow yourself to grow. Have faith in yourself to succeed, because you are your own best support system. If you abide by this with a positive attitude, good things will come your way. My favorite part of PCS has been the supportive community and teachers and friends throughout the years. My other favorite part has been the classes I have taken that have furthered my interest in math and science.

<u>Salutatorian:</u> Kaitlyn Barlow

After graduation, I plan to attend MVCC majoring in Adolescent Education with a concentration on mathematics. After that, I plan on transferring to a 4 year school to obtain a bachelor's degree, and finally go to graduate school to get a master's degree to become a high school math teacher. My greatest influence in high school would by far be my teachers, especially Mrs. Tullar and Mr. Smith. Mrs. Tullar dragged a math genius out of me and inspired me to take the career path I am on now. Mr. Smith has pushed me to be a better student and person, and always reminds me of what I am capable of. They helped shape me as the person I am today, and have shown me that I can do anything I set my mind to and that I can achieve great things if I believe in myself. They are wonderful people and I could never thank them enough. The things that I am proud of that come to mind first are the work I have done as the student board representative, creating and running the school newspaper, graduating salutatorian, the community service I've done, and a million other things I've

done to make the school and community a better place. But what I am really most proud of is my progress. I came from being an awkward freshman in exactly zero clubs and without a clue whom my classmates found easy to overlook, to being a student body leader graduating in the top of my class. I am living proof that you can work your way to the top if you put in a little effort and have a good attitude. To the underclassmen, I will say don't ever sacrifice your integrity in the face of peer pressure. Stand tall and do what ceed. Being such a small school, we really got to exyou know is right, even if it means standing alone. Never forget to thank your teachers, they do a lot for you and they deserve some appreciation. Work hardest required classroom observations and student teaching, in the subjects you don't like and never say that school I plan on being a peer tutor. I also plan to be a part of is stupid, because you have to be there whether you like it or not, so isn't it better to like it? Never underestimate your own abilities/potential because great endings often have humble beginnings. Do your personal

best and don't compare yourself to others. And finally, don't take for granted what you have at Poland and cherish everything, because high school is over in the blink of an eye and you don't want to have regrets. My favorite part of Poland has definitely been the support and caring individuals found around every corner. You can always go to anyone with anything and feel better for it. The teachers and the administrators treat us with respect and care, and want to see us all sucperience a personal connection to our teachers, our classmates, and our school. In college, aside from my student government and the honors program, as well as continuing my community service and involvement.

Taylor Allen

After graduation, I plan to become an elementary school teacher. I will be attending Herkimer College for 2 years, and I then plan to transfer to Utica College for 2 years to be certified in childhood education. My greatest influence has been my mom, for always pushing me to be a better person everyday. This particular graduating class is quite competitive, and I take pride in being a part of the top 10. To the underclassmen, always work consistently hard in everything you do and enjoy your time at PCS while it lasts- it will go by quickly. My favorite part of PCS has been being part of extracurricular activities- especially soccer and softball.

Katherine Burritt

This fall, I am attending SUNY Oswego for a bachelor's degree in computer science and a minor in theater. I plan on working in the technology field and hope to continue acting, whether it be recreational or paid. Some people who have influenced me to take this path in life are my parents. They have taught me the value of hard work and to never give up on anything even though you may want to. They also helped me try hard in school to receive good grades which is something I take great pride in. I would like to tell the underclassmen that even if you don't have a plan for the future or can't decide on one, don't worry about it. Everything will work out when you least expect it. I'm going to miss PCS. I gained a lot of experiences, memories, and friends from the years I have spent here.

Sydney Comstock

I plan to become a psychologist. For now, I plan on attending Herkimer College and later transferring to another school. In college, I plan to participate in theater and volleyball. My friends have been extremely influential in my performance at PCS. Being best friends with the Valedictorian and Salutatorian of our class has motivated me to better myself in school. They keep me sane with all the chaos that comes with senior year. I am proud of my academic improvement through the years. I poorly performed academically in middle school, however I quickly found myself in the top 10 entering high school. To the underclassmen, know that no matter what your state is, you can better yourself. Do not be afraid to take the extra step to succeed. Be unique and creative- originality is key to success. Stay focused on bettering yourself rather than being better than others. Trying to fit a key in a wrong lock always keeps you outside the doorway to success. My favorite part of PCS has been our tight knit community. Each class is unique to their people, and every year, we watch as a group of what was four-year-olds babbling songs about bear hunts leave Poland as young adults who can cherish those memories of the strong bond we shared through our education.

Rachael Cook

After graduation, I am attending SUNY Cortland, majoring in TESOL and minoring in either special education or elementary education. I plan to become an ESL Teacher. My Aunt Cheryl has been my greatest influence. She has traveled all over the world, and I am inspired by her stories to experience everything I can, while I can. This is why I chose a career path that would let me do so. I take pride in being in the top 10 of such a gifted class. My advice to the underclassmen would be not to stress about a bad grade- of course you should try your hardest, but one bad grade really isn't the end of the world. My favorite part of PCS has been the fun, supporting teachers in our school.

Shiane Irwin

After graduation, I plan to attend St. John Fisher College in Rochester. I have been accepted into the Wegmans School of Nursing where I plan to get my bachelors degree in nursing and then move onto their masters or doctorate nursing program to become a nurse practitioner. I plan to play soccer, and I am contemplating participating in basketball. I plan to be involved in a student body group (similar to our Student Council). My biggest influence has been my sister, who has always been there for me to help and to set my standards for achievement high. I have always admired her work ethic. My advice to the underclassmen is to try to be the very best at everything you do, because when you are a senior, you do not want to look back with regrets, and wishing you had tried harder. My favorite part of PCS has been how close everyone is, how the teachers were always there for academic help or just for someone to talk to. I love how supporting the community is towards the athletic programs at PCS.

Samantha Kraszewski

My future career plan is to become a medical doctor. While I am unsure of what particular field of medicine, surgery is of interest. I plan on attending Northeastern University with a major in Health Science after graduation. My mother has been my greatest influence. As I was growing up, I would see her dedication put into earning her bachelors and masters degrees. She has taught me that you can achieve whatever you set your mind to. My advice to the underclassmen would be to take work seriously, regardless if you like the class or not. The hard work you put in pays off. My favorite part of PCS has been becoming close with teachers. With small class sizes, it is easy to get help in a subject you are struggling with, and the teachers at PCS are always willing to help me out when I request it.

Rebecca Jarvis

I plan to live and work in NYC (or a city) as a Forensic Analyst for the NYPD. This involves evidence analysis in a lab setting. I will be attending Roberts Wesleyan College in Rochester, majoring in Forensic Science for 4 years. Afterwards, I hope to earn a master's degree in Forensic science at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in NYC. I have signed up for a science club. and a Christian outreach club. My parents have been my greatest influence. They have always supported me academically, encouraged me to be unique, and work hard. They are always there to listen and help me, and they are the reason I am attending such an amazing college in my future. I take pride in consistently staying on high honor roll throughout high school, and being top 10 in my class without the expected stress (my study methods were not stressful!). I also take pride in my commitment to establishing the vearbook as president of the club. My advice to the underclassmen would be that you don't have to feel like you fit in. Be fearless and different, and share your passions with others. Look forward to meeting the new people out there in the world after high school. My favorite part about PCS has been the relationships I have established with the teachers. While they of course focus on academics, they could listen to me talk out my personal life. I will miss my peers- the small school setting has brought us all closer.

Tempest Morrissey

After graduation, I hope to find a career in my field of choice. I am attending Seton Hall University, majoring in Communications and the Arts. My brothers influenced me throughout high school by paving the way for me for college and by sharing their successes and failures with me. In my high school career, I take pride in my motivation to keep my grades high even through the senioritis. My advice to the underclassmen would be to not leave papers for Sunday night. My favorite part of PCS has been becoming close with my grade and running track while befriending the underclassmen.

By Gabrielle Stemmer & Ashley Lynch

SYDNEY COMSTOCK

Senior Artist of the Year

Sydney Comstock is being recognized as the Student artist of the year. Her love for the arts started at a very young age. Although she has not been in any art classes for the past two years, that has not stopped her from creating and showing her artwork.

She has been a member of the Drama Club productions at our school where she painted the sets, as well as acted, she even designed the T-shirt for the fall production. She has participated in many art competitions throughout her years in school,

she placed second in the state. She competes in the Sangertown Square Art Exhibit almost eve- so far "has been the younger students looking ry year.

Sydney plans to continue her art in college. She plans on becoming an art therapist where she can "help people struggling with mental illness by allowing them to express themselves through art."

One of her biggest obstacles so far has been with "artist's block," similar to writer's block, where she felt like she could simply not draw anything. She is working very hard to get rid of the feeling of "artist's block" and put it far behind her.

Her tips to young upcoming artist are to practice and think out of the box. She believes that consistency is very important and that you should never be afraid of criticism. When she was saying this, she referenced Vincent Van Gogh. "Vincent Van Gogh was an insane nobody, and 127 years after his death, he is one



Sydney performing in the fall production, Forgiven: A Fairy Tale (right) and the drawing she entered into the Sangertown Square Art Exhibit this year (left)

such as the PTA reflections competition where of the most distinguished artists of his time."

Sydney's Favorite thing in high school up to us," us being the senior class. Throughout her high school career, she tried her best to be a great role model for the underclassmen. She wants to teach the younger students leadership and compassion so that they can carry it into future generations.

The thing that she will miss most is walking into Mrs. Milianta's classroom with a new art project and hearing "I wish you took AP Art!" She will also miss the opportunity to "watch those interested in the arts blossom and grow." Her parting words to the Poland art program, before she goes to become an art therapist are "I wish each and every student here well in their vast endeavors to success"

We all wish Sydney good look and great success doing what she loves, and we also congratulate her on being the Poland Central School artist of the year!

KATHERINE BURRITT

Senior Musician of the Year

Katherine Burritt, the Student Musician of the Year, has a very long and exceptional record of participation in theater and musical arts. She has participated in every musical since 6th grade, she has been in band and choir since 4th grade, she has been in drama club for grades 7-12, she has been a member of Tri-M Music Honor Society for 3 years, and has done All-County for band and chorus. Katherine has also participated in the All-State Women's Choir, she went to NYSSMA for band in grades 6-10, she went to NYSSMA for vocals for two years, and been a contestant in the school talent show.

She is clearly a very talented musician. Her favorite experiences in her high school musical career has been participating in the Women's All-state choir, which is basically like all county, but there is a smaller amount of people who really want to be there, and there is more training in the process. She says it felt good, like she was "part of something really big."

In college, Katherine is majoring in computer science with a minor in theater, taking her talents past just high school. She has already been involved in theater outside of school and in the community, and she is planning on taking advantage of any upcoming opportunities that present themselves.

Some of her biggest obstacles musically include overcoming nerves when performing vocals in front of others. She says she has learned that "If you give it your all and are confident in what you do, it sounds better."

She has also struggled with the



Katherine playing flute in the 2017 Sherburne Pageant of Bands

changing of choir teachers over the years. It can be hard to make connections, but she says it has given her many different experiences and learning perspectives.

To the aspiring musicians, Katherine encourages you to "practice as much as you possibly can, believe in yourself, and remember that everyone hears you different than you hear yourself."

Being in high school music, she has made many friends, many of which she is sad to leave behind. She says she will miss all of the inside jokes from drama, the memories, and all of the great experiences it has given her, but she is looking forward to make new memories and new friends in her future.

We all wish Katherine the best, and congratulate her on being Poland's Student Musician of the Year.

Entertainment

High School: The Musical Vs. Reality

DO THE IDEALS FIT REALITY?

It's that time of year where we celebrate the graduating class. My older sister is graduating from her high school this year and I was told to get her a physical gift, but I opted out. I was never really good at giving gifts. Between the fidget spinner I gave to my grandmother for her birthday and the crumpled-up dollar bill I found in the couch and gave to my younger sister, I'm on a losing streak. So, rather than give my older sister some last minute thing, I wrote this editorial on some of her favorite movies about high school and how they hold up to the real deal. Does she want it? Probably not, but I'm too cheap of a person to actually buy her something.

Let's start with possibly the worst modern depiction of high school in film: High School Musical. At least from my two years in high school, no one has jumped up on a lunch table and broke out into song. This movie, while debatable on whether it is good or bad, is definitely romanticizing high school. The trend I've seen with a lot of high school-themed movies of this type often overplays certain fun, but it's not realistic. Sixteen Candles, elements of what high school is like. It's almost like the writers thought about their best memories of high school and worked them into a film in which kids sing gar-



bage music (yes, the music in this movie is garbage. Sorry. Not really, though), and fall in love and whatnot. It's all in good however...

Sixteen Candles is definitely a step in the right direction for a more accurate depiction of high school. The kids act like, well, kids, and don't sing music about getting their heads in the game, so it's already got my vote. It does, however, suffer from some problems that a lot of high school movies from the 80's have: the party scene. I could be alone here, but I'm not a fan of party scenes in these types of movies. Maybe it's because of how overplayed they became in the future, but they just bore me. Anyway, it's still a pretty accurate high school film for anyone who wants to get their fill on John Hughes films.

And thus, we close with *The Break-fast Club*. I don't know about anyone else, but this movie is my all-time jam. The premise is simple enough: some random kids in Saturday detention, but it shows just how powerful the human interaction can be just by communicating. It acknowledged the various cliques that are rampant throughout high school, and showed that these people aren't actually so different from each other (though they probably won't ever talk to each other again be-

cause, hey, that's just how high school works). Kids don't just always get along and dance on tables (even though that did happen in this film, but that was because of some, er, questionable circumstances...). All in all, it's a good flick that has a tight grip on what life is actually like. My only problem was that it wasn't as the title suggested and featured cereal mascots creating an exclusive club. Would've loved to see Tony the Tiger and Frankenberry together, but that's probably just me.

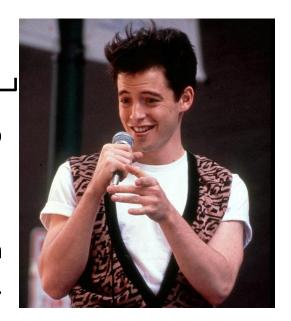
In the end, these types of movies offer valuable insight on what life is like. We shouldn't just expect experiences like high school to be similar to those of a peer or a work of fiction like the three listed because of how different it could be for everyone. The lesson here could be to expect the unexpected, because, more often than not, things often don't go the way one plans.

-Dominic Altamura

Movie Quote of the Month

"Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in awhile, you could miss it."

-Matthew Broderick as Ferris Bueller in Ferris Bueller's Day Off.





Moving Up

Poland says goodbye to many talented senior athletes this year

By Andrej Fedorov & James Kattato

When you practice a craft all of your life, you expect nothing less than excellence by the time you play the sport competitively throughout High School. When it comes time to graduate High School and take the next step into your life, you like to think back to the times when you first started learning the fundamentals of your sport. For senior athlete's James Kattato and Shiane Irwin, it was being involved in and playing every sport since they could walk, such as AYSO Soccer, taking their talents and working on them all the way up to the Varsity level.

Senior male athlete James Kattato has been outstanding throughout his sports career. He reflected on his career by stating

"I think that my sports career at Poland got better as the years went on. I started out with a young core of guys, so we were a bit shaky in some sports, but as we got older, we were able to grow as a team and win which is what made my sports experience here so memorable."

During his time here at Poland, Kattato received many personal and team accolades such as League All-Star, League Champion, Two time captain, Keeper of the Columbus Day Tournament, and Columbus Day Tournament Champion. Aside from his soccer career he was a League All-Star for Golf, and also was successful with Tennis, going to the state qualifier tournament with Dakota Mower this spring.

My best memory as a Poland Athlete was the 2016 season I had with the soccer team. After coming off some of the worst seasons Poland boys soccer had ever seen, we bounced back, worked hard, and finished with a record of 17-2-1. We won our league, Columbus Day Tournament, and were Section Finalists. Even though we came up short in sectionals, I'm proud of where we came as a team and I would do it all again if I could. I'm going to miss playing with this group of guys and I can't wait to come back next year to see the strides that the team has made.

Before he left Poland, Kattato wanted to give some advice to younger athletes striving to be the next revolutionary athlete for the Tornadoes.

"Always work hard, be passionate about the sports you play and what you do, and most of all, enjoy it because it goes by too fast."

After he leaves Poland, Kattato will attend SUNY Oswego and hopes to continue his talents as a soccer player. Good luck to James and congratulations on a memorable sports career!



"My favorite memory? Definitely winning the Soccer State Championship as an 8th grader."

As for Senior Female Athlete, Shiane Irwin, she has been a stud ever since coming up to the Playing sports all of her life meant that she had varsity level for all of her sports. A Scoring champion in basketball, 4 time section champ, 4 time region champ, 3 time state finalist and state champion, Irwin is easily one of the most decorated and accomplished athletes to ever walk through Poland.

"Reflecting back on my sports career here at PCS I wouldn't change a thing. I was lucky enough to have a core group of friends and athletes who made every season memorable and successful. Throughout our success we had amazing memories, and all became so close, I truly wouldn't have wanted any other teammates. I also was blessed to have amazing coaches who pushed us everyday and always showed us our potential, as well as teaching us many life lessons in the process. I'm so thankful to have had the

opportunity to play 4 varsity sports here at PCS because they all taught me different life lessons and developed me into the person I am today."

to dedicate herself to the game, no matter what it was. For young athletes aspiring to follow in Irwin's footsteps, she had this to say.

"Run the extra mile, do whatever it takes to make yourself better, whether it means spending weekends at tournaments or spending nights running and working out, just do it because the harder work will eventually pay off, and when you look back on your athletic career, you will be proud of yourself and know there is nothing more vou could have done."

After she leaves Poland, Irwin will go on to St. John Fisher and continue her talents as a soccer player, but will always bleed Blue and Orange. Good luck to Shiane and congratulations on a memorable sports career!



Mr. Cuthbertson's Corner

"Today, I close the door to my past... Open the door to the future, take a deep breath, and step on through to start the next chapter in my life."

Unknown Author

I would like to congratulate all of the graduating members of the Class of 2017. I am truly proud to have gotten to know and to have worked with each and every one of you. It has been an honor to be called your Principal and I leave with you one last message to take with you. **Have Grit!**

Grit, by definition, means to have courage and resolve; it is your strength of character. For the next chapter of your lives, whether it is college, career, or military, live each day with courage and with the mindset to embrace challenges. You will have times of adversity and difficulty in the future. Be willing to accept these times as valuable learning experiences and find a way to overcome them. You may fail, you may feel like quitting, but be fearless; have grit and you can accomplish anything.

It has been a long ,eventful journey filled with many wonderful memories. I hope that each of you take the experiences and life lessons learned here at Poland Central School and continue to grow and prosper in the next chapter of your lives. Be safe this graduation season, and I hope to see all of you again in the future.

Tornado Times Interactive

Graduation Word Search

By Leah Basel

reame.

F A G U L T Y O E D I R P U P C T N E D U T S U N
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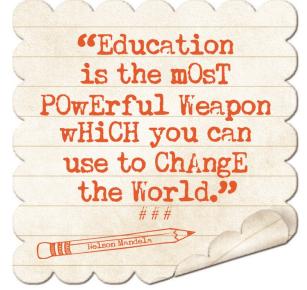
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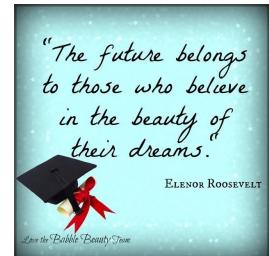
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I hope your dreams take you...
to the corners of your smiles,
to the highest of your hopes,
to the windows of your opportunities,
and to the most special places
your heart has ever known."





Senior Snapshots



