

Jazz band to compete at Iowa Jazz Championships, first time since 2010

by Matthew Brehm

The lights were low, only the stage illuminated by dim spotlights. We sat only a couple of rows away and to the left of the platform where we had previously performed. I remember how I felt, hanging onto every word from the announcer's mouth: "Second place, Maquoketa Valley!" I exchanged silent glances with an astonished Mr. Ford before his excited whisper asked me to go claim our trophy.

Five years ago, Mr. Ford began teaching at MV; five years ago, he took on the challenge of reviving our school's jazz band program. When he got here, MV really didn't have a dedicated jazz band program. "Even in my interview, Mr. Tuetken [former MV superintendent] was like, 'Hey, would you be interested in starting up a jazz band?' and I said, 'Absolutely, that would be great.'"

Mr. Ford's first year, the jazz band practiced once a week and didn't even compete. By year three, we had placed third in districts. The band director comments on this phenomenon: "It's been huge the amount of growth, and not just because kids are getting better at [jazz], but also because there's a certain culture that has emerged from it. I think it's been really cool to kind of see that progress."

That takes us to present-day. Mar. 5, the MV jazz band competed in the NEIBA Jazz Festival at Union, where five other class-2A bands performed. By achieving second place, we've secured a spot at Iowa Jazz Championships in Ames Apr. 5, something MV hasn't accomplished in 12 years. We are one of 15 class-2A jazz bands that will be in attendance.

Of course, this great success could not have come without the hard work and dedication of the band's members.

Senior Michael Van Meter appreciates jazz for the way it creates a common language for musicians. "When I was an 8th grader I saw the jazz band at MV as a great way to socialize and have some fun. Now I still see it that way, but countless hours behind the bass guitar have shown



The jazz band earned a spot at IJC after finishing second at NEIBA Mar. 5. Members include: front row from left: Rachel Hoefer, Amanda Mohr, Josie Teymer, Keziah Ambundo, Michael Van Meter, Brock Trenkamp, Kacla Clemen, Matthew Brehm and Emma Richter; back row: Mr. Ford, Maya Smith, Logan Beaman, Sebastian Charles, Brady Eike, Noah DeVore, Logan Clemen, Arion Rave, Jake Gellersen and McKenna Bush.

me that it is specifically the power of jazz that brings great musicians together, not the fact that people are getting together in a specific place at a specific time."

Those who are slightly newer to the scene value jazz band as well. Freshman McKenna Bush comments, "The atmosphere of jazz band is more relaxed and fun than concert band. You can really enjoy and 'get into' the music."

Though Mr. Ford notes that jazz was his favorite part of band as a high schooler at Mid-Prairie (who coincidentally will be performing right before MV), he also brings light to the importance of its cultural aspect. "It is the only truly American style of music. Jazz came from Black people bringing all of their different influences down to New Orleans. [There were] all of these big influences who were making music in the streets, playing it in bars, and just kind of doing it their way. To be able to teach that is super important." Just like learning a language, learning the style of jazz is a method that takes time and practice, but if done right, can unite people of all backgrounds.

One essential element in the implementation of a jazz program is the incorporation of important jazz literature. Each

year, Mr. Ford includes a set of at least one jazz standard and multiple different jazz styles. This helps musicians become more familiar with the language and culture surrounding the jazz world. This year's set includes the pieces "Work Song," "Willow Weep for Me," and "Honk."

As for the future of MV's jazz band, Mr. Ford is excited to see what lies ahead. "I think there's a culture built now of, 'Hey, this is really cool, this is really fun, this is something worth doing, we can be really good at it, and we can compete at a high level.'" He also points out the success of MV's vocal jazz, and how he's glad the two groups are coming to reach a similar standing and reputation.

If you were to ask me what I see for the future of Maquoketa Valley's jazz band, I'd give a simple answer: as long as our talented musicians continue to search for those new challenges and embrace the welcoming spirit of jazz, this program will always prosper. Students will inspire one another, and Mr. Ford will be there to provide the tools and support needed.

Advisor's note: Matthew was awarded an Honorable Mention Outstanding Soloist Award at the NEIBA competition Mar. 5.

Smooth Harmony earns second place at state

by Paige Winter

If you've been following the progress of the vocal jazz choir here at Maquoketa Valley this season, you know that throughout the process of all the clinics and competitions, they qualified for the Jazz Championships. This was a competition unlike the others that the group had performed at this year. At previous "competitions" there were no real ranking systems, only division rating and feedback in clinics; however, at the championships the group was competing against only seven other vocal jazz groups in the class 2A from all over the state. Senior Michael Van Meter added that these groups are really "the best of the best for vocal jazz in Iowa."

Watching other groups perform was good motivation for our own students. Our group of Wildcats managed to win second place and Sophomore Jesús Rumbo earned one of the two Outstanding Performer Awards for his solo!

Ms. Huber commented that before the performance during warm-ups the whole group felt like they were in a good spot and ready to go, which obviously paid off with their second place rating. "After that run I didn't have any comments. The students all looked to me waiting for my inevitable thoughts on how to improve, but when I said they were good and to have fun there was an immediate sense of relief on all of their faces as they realized it was time."

Best Buds

Arion Rave & Logan Beaman

by Amaya Hunt

Were you two close when you were kids? If so, what did you like to do?

Arion: No, we weren't close at all. We didn't really meet each other until fourth grade, and we really started to become friends in like sixth grade.

Logan: Nope, I never knew him because he lived in the big city of Hopkinton.

Are you guys involved in anything together in school? What do you like to do together outside of school?

Arion: We're both in band. Outside of school, we like to break things, party, and flex in the mirror together.

Logan: In school, we're both in band & jazz band together, and I think I can toot my horn better than him.

What do you enjoy most about the other? What gets on your nerves the



Smooth Harmony poses with its second-place trophy. Front row: Cece Trenkamp and Kaitlyn Nolan; second row: Carlie Lewin, Keziah Ambundo and Chantel Crowley; back row: Addie Rudd, Michael Van Meter, Jesús Rumbo, Brock Trenkamp and Noah DeVore. Rumbo earned an outstanding-soloist award.

With a couple changes to the set early in the year and towards the end, this group of students showed remarkable flexibility and were able to master their music for the championships. Van Meter remarked that the experience was thoroughly enjoyable: "I feel fulfilled. We ended our last season with another win. What more could I ask for than to get to finish my career at MV with the strong singers we have in our group?"

If you're wondering what's in

store for vocal jazz next year, Sophomore Kaitlyn Nolan added that she's looking forward to how the group will turn out seeing that half the students are seniors and will be graduating: "All that's left is the five sophomores, so you can probably expect a young and small group next year." But that won't stop them. Kaitlyn also mentioned, "Let's just say we don't want to be the first Smooth Harmony group that doesn't make it to the Jazz Championships at MV."

one word, what would it be?

Arion: Uncoordinated.

Logan: Weird.

Give an inside joke, or tell us about a funny memory with the other.

Arion: "Waldo" or "Turtle shell."

Logan: "PJ Therapy."

What's your favorite memory created together?

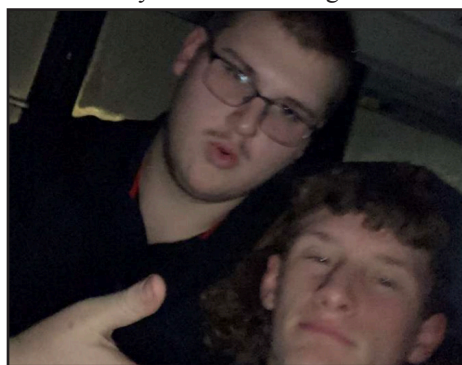
Arion: When we were in the bathroom at a party just flexing, and then everyone else came in and started flexing, too.

Logan: Probably snowmobiling & 'blowing up' a cat. It wasn't an actual cat, and we didn't actually blow it up. I'll leave the rest up to you.

As always... Where do you see the others in ten years?

Arion: I can see use working together in construction, but I can also see us not working at all.

Logan: Maybe we'll be working together in a concrete business somewhere and making a lot of cash. I bet we'll blow it all on bad financial purchases.



most?

Arion: I like that we can joke around with each other and not get made about it.

He gets on my nerves, though, when he doesn't let me talk when we are on a call with each other.

Logan: I like that we can say anything to each other and not really care at all if it's mean. But it annoys me that he won't join any group chat, but when he finally does, he leaves. The whole situation kind of reminds me of my truck's oil pressure.

If you could describe the other in just

Sports Connection

Maquoketa Valley girls track season begins

by Chantel Crowley

On Friday, March 25th, the MV Girls Track team traveled to Dubuque to start the season. Coach Dunlap is positive about this season: "Although the team didn't place overall we had a lot of really nice positives at the TRC indoor meet. I believe these girls are going to start to put things together and have some great successes this season. What I am really happy about is to see some good things happen in every group on the team. If we keep working we could be a well rounded team," he stated.

Athletes who earned points included:

55 Meter Dash: Lily Huber, 8.01, 4th

200 Meter Dash: Leah Ries, 30.55, 7th

800 Meter Run: Isabel Imler, 2:51.77, 3rd

55 Meter Hurdles: Leah Ries, 9.68, 2nd

4x200 Meter Relay: McKenna Thompson, Emma Richter, Lili Bauers, Lily Huber, 1:58.84, 6th

4x400 Meter Relay: Kylie Chesnut, Saige Hunt, Lili Bauers, Amaya Hunt, 4:35.31, 5th

4x800 Meter Relay: Amaya Hunt, Isabel Imler, Jordan Hatfield, Emma Doyl, 11:46.09, 5th

1600 Sprint Medley: Lily Huber, McKenna Thompson, Kylie Chesnut, Emma Doyl, 5:08.05, 7th

Shot Put: Erin Knipper, 10.74m, 1st

Coach Dunlap added, "The biggest success that we had at the TRC Indoor was our throwers. They have worked really hard and are making huge improvements on last season, each throwing consistently near the 30' mark. Erin Knipper had a great throw (35' 3") in the shot putting her in first place on the night.

"Another nice surprise is the success of the long distance kids already. We are relatively young with a good number of underclassmen. Allison Hogan was our only 1500m runner on the night and had a nice PR of 7:18.65. Our 4x800m relay is also getting some nice times running an 11:46.09. The team (Amaya Hunt, Isabel

Imler, Jordan Hatfield and Emma Doyl) had some impressive splits with Isabel Imler leading the pack with a 2:43 800m. They placed 5th with some very good teams in front of them.

"Both the Distance Medley (Lily Huber, McKenna Thompson, Kylie Chestnut and Emma Doyl) and the 4x4 (Kylie Chestnut, Saige Hunt, Lili Bauers and Amaya Hunt) placed 5th with the Distance Med team being placed in a slower heat initially. They will make some jumps in time now with better competition to come. The 4x4 ran in a very great race with some excellent teams running in front of them. The teams are all close enough that we can get them with some work. Our 4x200m relay (McKenna Thompson, Emma Richter, Lili Bauers and Lily Huber) ran a respectable 1:58.84 placing 6th.

"We had a few individuals that ran some nice times as well. Isabel Imler once again ran an 800m this time in the open, placing 3rd with a time of 2:51.77. Leah Ries ran a nice 55m hurdle time of 9.68 putting her in second place. She clipped her last hurdle otherwise she might have gotten first. She also ran in the 200m dash running a 30.55 placing her 7th. Lily Huber ran a PR in the 55m dash placing 4th in a stacked group of sprinters."

The next track meet is scheduled for Tuesday, Apr. 5 at Jesup.

Track takes off indoors

by Leah Ries

The boys track and field team kicked off their season at the Tri-Rivers Indoor Conference Meet hosted at the University of Dubuque last Friday. The team placed in eight of the thirteen events. The boys team was suppose to travel to West Delaware on Tuesday to compete but the meet was canceled due to weather.

Results:

Shot Put: second, Brock Trenkamp – 44-6.50

third, Devin Smith – 43-11.5

55 M: third, A.J. Ambundo – 6.90

55 M hurdles: sixth, Lance McShane – 9.11

400 M: second, Cy Huber – 53.99

third, Michael Schaul – 54.18

1600 M: George Livingston – 5:11.84

4x400: first, Cy Huber, A.J. Ambundo, Nolan Ries, Michael Schaul – 3:40.84

1600 M Relay: fifth, Preston Roling, T.J. Cook, Lance McShane, Arion Rave – 4:09.66

4x800: second, Cy Huber, Matt Schaul, Nolan Ries, Michael Schaul – 8:56.53

Coach Meehan commented on the team's performances, "All the boys competed well which signals more good things to come. Notable performances which did not show up in the above results were Domarius Strickland (200 Meter), Michael Van Meter (1600 Run) and T.J. Cook (Hurdles). George Livingston ran 50 seconds faster in the 1600 run than he did last year. Brock Trenkamp and Devin Smith set personal best in the Shot Put. This team is a nice bunch of young men, with a work ethic that will allow them to improve. That has shown through so far this season and will prove to be helpful as the season goes on."

The next time you can catch the team in action is next Tuesday at Anamosa.

Time matters

Shot clocks have been installed in the high school gym. Starting this fall, the high school basketball games will have a 35-second shot clock.



Fine Artist of the Week

Name: George Livingston

What is your role in the spring play?

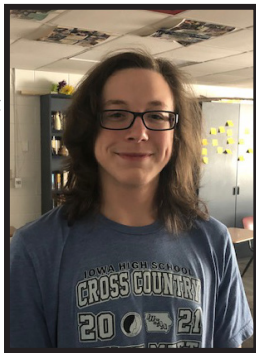
I play Mr. Green in the Spring play.

What do you enjoy most about being a part of this show? What I enjoy the most is how much fun we have making this show for the community, and how hard we work

to bring a classic to the stage.

What will audience members enjoy most about the play? I think they will really enjoy the humor, both high and low brow, in the play. It will be a really fun and quirky show!

If you could star in any TV show, what would it be? I guess anything involving Sherlock or the 19th century since the costuming and culture are some of my favorites.



what's up?

What is your favorite flavor of PopTart?

by Paige Winter

Emma Richter: strawberry

Leah Ries: cookies and cream

Mianna Gosche: brown sugar

Kendra Hillers: s'mores

Preston Roling: hot fudge sundae

Carter Klaren: cookies and cream

Jenna LeGassick: brown sugar

Emily Supple: cinnamon roll

Avery Holtz: hot fudge sundae

Matthew Brehm: hot fudge sundae

MV TEL-ALL

compiled by Paige Winter

Top 5 reasons for teenage drug abuse: peer pressure, escape, academic or performance pressure, coping with trauma or other underlying mental health issues, media influences

Athletes of the Week

Name: George Livingston

What do you enjoy most about track?

What I enjoy most has to be the environment and benefits. Track is a fun, supportive, and close group that only wants to see you improve and stay healthy through activity.

What do you think your best event will be? My best event will be the mile since I have gotten faster, and I am still proficient in running distance.

What life lessons have you learned through track? The biggest lesson I learned from track is to not hold yourself back. There are so many talented people out there who don't realize how awesome they really are since they don't try to push their limits.

What's the hardest part of practice?

The hardest part of practice, for me at least, is whenever we do anything involving sprinting. I seem to struggle with going very fast over a short distance, but I know the techniques that I work on are crucial to my success.

Who is your track role model? It is really hard to name one. Every person you meet in your life can have a lesson to teach you, and this is very much the case in track. Though I will say Cy, Nolan, and Michael have impacted me the most, so I look up to them the most.

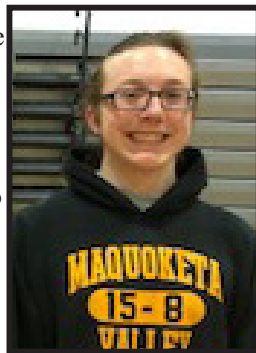
Name: Brock Trenkamp

What do you enjoy most about track?

I just enjoy how it can intertwine individual and team goals into one sport. You go and run, jump, or throw in your events but all that scoring comes together to help the team win. It's also always a great environment at meets and I really enjoy talking to athletes from other schools and getting to know them.

What do you think your best event will be? Discus will definitely be my best event, but I've gone back to glide for shot put this year and I wouldn't be surprised if I saw a lot of improvement in shot put compared to last year's distances.

What life lessons have you learned through track? I've learned that if you truly want to be good at something you



have to devote a lot of time to it. You can't just go to team practices and expect to be a top tier athlete in your event.

You really have to put the work in outside of practice and make sure you're always improving whether it's only by a little bit or by huge margins.

What's the hardest part of practice? It's always really hard for the throwers as the weather gets warmer because we typically have to keep sweats on well into the warm weather. Besides that I don't find much about practice hard because I enjoy it, so it doesn't feel too difficult.

Who is your track role model? I really like to watch discus throwers like Fedrick Dacres, Daniel Stahl, and I even like to watch some shot put throwers like Ryan Crouser. However, my track role model has always been Steve Prefontaine. Even though he's a runner and I mostly just throw now, I still find his grit and determination inspiring and I strive to be able to go to my limits like he was capable of.

Name: Erin Knipper

What do you enjoy most about track?

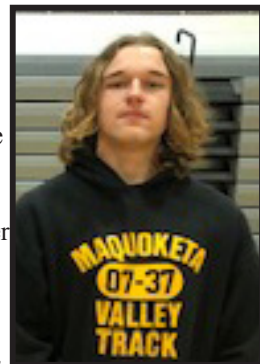
I enjoy practicing with my teammates along with being able to individually achieve your goals.

What do you think your best event will be? I believe that my best event will be shot put.

What life lessons have you learned through track? I have learned is that you can't let the little things in your life stop you from achieving your goals.

What's the hardest part of practice? The hardest part about practices is not being able to take off our sweats when the weather is decent.

Who is your track role model? Lydia Helle; my freshman year was cut short due to Covid, but she was always willing to help me during practices.



FFA Student of the Month

What do you enjoy most about FFA?

The amount of fun we have, while also working hard. For example I am in Horticulture II this semester

and we have loads of fun while also getting the greenhouse looking great.

What events have you been involved in throughout your time in FFA? I have been involved in Extemporaneous Speaking

What is your biggest accomplishment in FFA? Making it to districts just a few months after I found out what the event even was.

What is your biggest takeaway from being involved in FFA? Trying new things is always a good thing, before this year I wasn't involved much in FFA, but it has turned into a great time.

What skills have you gained from FFA? Extemp. Speaking has definitely helped my speaking skills, but I would say I have learned a lot about the agriculture community as a whole.

Explain your SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience). My SAE is my job. I work at Theisens in Dyersville mainly on the weekends and I do a multitude of different things there that help my skills as a worker.

What advice would you give to underclassmen involved in FFA? Try an event. You never know how far you can make it.

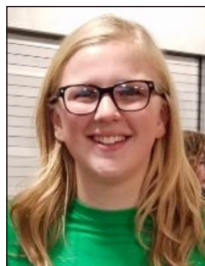
Why would you recommend someone to join FFA? It is an amazing atmosphere. There are a lot of different events you could try, and the people involved are great people.



Hall Smarts

by Cadence Freiburger

After just honoring our Vietnam Veterans, I thought it would be good to ask some Maquoketa Valley students about the war and the memorial holiday.



1. The two 200-foot-long walls contain how many names at the memorial?

Leah Ries: around 50,000

Adrienne Freiburger: 6,153

Jesús Rumbo: 50,000

Answer: 58,000 names

2. What year was the memorial statue revealed?

Leah: 1980

Adrienne: 1970

Jesús: 1965

Answer: 1984

3. What do the three figures in the memorial represent?

Leah: They are three different soldiers who fought in the war

Adrienne: The diversity of the people who served in the war

Answer: a Hispanic man an Black American man, and a Caucasian man

Cutie

by Matthew Brehm

This cutie is a senior with orange hair. He lives in Earlville and is involved in cross country and track. Something interesting about him is that he has different shades of orange in his hair depending on the length.



Last week's Cutie was Anna Deutmeyer.

Abstractions

by Matthew Brehm

Recently, I went to meet my college roommate for the first time. We decided that we would get something to eat and watch a random movie in Dubuque, which produced...interesting results. (The only school-appropriate thing I can say about the film is that it is a slasher.)

Of course, going into it not knowing what to expect ended up creating a great memory. We saw the film unfold simultaneously, and afterwards, we talked about what we thought it meant. We now have more common ground (and a hilarious inside joke) that brings us closer.

This event has prompted me to write about something I've been thinking about for a long time: movie theatres.

With the arrival of COVID-19, something interesting happened. TV- and movie-streaming platforms began expanding their services. Disney+ launched its Premier Access feature, which allowed subscribers to view not-yet-released Disney films with an additional fee. Other services such as Hulu and Netflix created features that allowed friends to watch content together virtually.

While this was happening, a respectable portion of the population wondered when the cinema would return. People missed the feeling of witnessing a great piece of visual art alongside anonymous peers. One such podcast (MCU Fan Show) commented on the return to theatres, "That energy—I can buy a big TV, I can get a great sound system...the one thing that I can't get at home is that collective energy of everybody being so excited to see the movie. That's home for me."

I'm not much of a sports fan, but I presume that sitting in a stadium carries the same energy. Being in one place with thousands of people who have similar interests is an exciting feeling. You know that within those stands, you can find a friend any direction you look.

You hear it everywhere: humans are social creatures. While sitting in a dark room in silence may not be the common idea of socializing, it really is. An atmosphere comes to life—a certain energy flows through a crowded theatre. Complete strangers feel emotions as one. They laugh, cry, and gain deeper insights as a collective unit, and this is something that simply can't be reproduced at home.



Comedy Corner

—compiled by Paige Winter

"What does a sprinter eat before a race?"

"Nothing, they fast!"

"Where do you learn to make a banana split?" "Sundae school."

"What has more letters than the alphabet?"

"The post office!"

"Dad, did you get a haircut?" "No, I got them all cut!"

"What do you call a poor Santa Claus?"

"St. Nickel-less."

Nolan Ries



Activities involved in during high school:

Cross Country, Track, Basketball, Speech, TEL

Which activity affected you the most?

How?

Cross Country and Track helped me develop into who I am today by exposing me to a different

environment with different people who taught me lessons along the way.

What is a favorite elementary/middle school memory?

Winning the state cross country meet in 7th grade

If you could give advice to a freshman, what would it be?

Do not coast through freshman and sophomore year. Put in the work and effort to get better, but take time to enjoy life for what it is.

What do you appreciate most about Maquoketa Valley?

The staff is extremely supportive and they are willing to help if you go to them.

If you could relive any moment in high school what would it be and why? The day we got 2nd place at the state cross country meet as a team and 12th individually. It was a special day when my hard work paid off.

Who is your most inspirational teacher? Mrs. Downs because she is great to talk to about anything and will give the best advice.

If you wanted people to remember you by a song, which one would it be? "Live Before I Die" - Mike Posner

What does your future (college and career) look like?

I will be attending Buena Vista University to major in exercise science. After college, I want to move to Colorado to become a personal trainer and open up my own gyms and a recreational center.

What is your dream job? Being a personal trainer who owns gyms and recreational centers in Colorado.

What's the hardest thing you've ever had to do? Competing in my first triathlon with barely any training

What one event has most impacted your life so far?

Going to my first high school summer running practice for cross country

What event from high school do you hope your classmates still talk about at your five-year class reunion?

When Demar walked out onto the court as the mascot to give a high five to AJ

Courtney Goedken



Activities involved in during high school:

Speech, FFA, 4-H, TEL, Spanish Club

Which activity affected you the most? FFA has affected me the most because it has taught me many life skills and allowed me to get out of my comfort zone.

What is a favorite elementary/middle school memory? My favorite elementary school memory was the parachute game that we played in P.E.. It was so fun being a little kid and hiding under the parachute.

If you could give advice to

a freshman, what would it be? Do what makes you happy and what you are passionate about and not about what your friends do that is best for you. Also enjoy every moment because it goes by in the blink of an eye.

What do you appreciate most about Maquoketa Valley? I appreciate how much the staff and teachers care for the students. The staff and teachers really put the importance of the students above anything else. I also appreciate how I know all of my classmates.

If you could relive any moment in high school what would it be and why? It probably would be at the National FFA Convention when we got to walk across the stage because looking back on that moment I never realized how big of a deal it really was.

Who is your most inspirational teacher? I don't have a most inspirational teacher. Each teacher inspires me in different ways because they all specialize in different categories. But, each teacher pushes me to be a better person and I am very thankful for that.

If you wanted people to remember you by a song, which one would it be? "How They Remember You" by Rascal Flatts

What does your future (college and career) look like? I will be attending Kirkwood Community College to major in Agricultural Business.

What is your dream job? I do not know what my dream job is but I want a job that makes me happy and one that I look forward to going to every day.

What's the hardest thing you've ever had to do? The hardest thing that I have had to do is choose my plans after high school. Graduating from high school closes one chapter and opens another chapter to your entire future. Another one of the hardest things was build my self-confidence, embrace who I am, and not care what others think of me.

What one event has most impacted your life so far? One event that impacted my life the most this far is probably being super close with my sisters and family and this past year us all having to split up was really hard on me and taught me how important it is to communicate with each other.

What event from high school do you hope your classmates still talk about at your five-year class reunion? I hope that in 5 years our class still talks about the basketball game that Domarius walked out on the court.

Caelyn Sands



Activities involved during high school: I was involved in basketball, track, Spanish Club, TEL, speech, volleyball, a musical, and a 4H club named Milo Livestock.

Which activity affected you the most? Basketball had the biggest impact on me because I had been playing ever since I was a little girl. The love of the sport was always there and I enjoyed playing with my teammates no matter the circumstances.

What is a favorite elementary/middle school memory? My favorite middle school memory was when Kendra Hillers fell through the trampoline at Leah Ries' birthday party. She didn't get hurt so it was a great laugh for all of us.

If you could give advice to a freshman, what would it be? Don't care about what others think of you. High school is where you find out who YOU really are. You find your real friends and you realize that you don't have to be the most popular to be happy. Welcome change in your life, and enjoy it while it lasts because it goes by fast.

What do you appreciate most about Maquoketa Valley? One thing I love about Maquoketa Valley is the teachers and their willingness to just give up their time to help students. They are so flexible even with their busy schedules and they genuinely care about their students.

If you could relive any moment in high school what would it be and why? I would relive my freshman year of state track because of the whole experience. Running on the blue oval was an experience alone. We also had to run out of the stadium because of a huge thunderstorm that hit us right before our race. And the hotel room with the girls was the best two way duo.

Who is your most inspirational teacher? Why? Mrs. DeVore is my most inspirational teacher because even with everything she has on her plate (plays, musicals, speech, and teaching many different grades/students) she still has time to stop and listen about your day. She genuinely cares about how you are feeling. I remember one day in class she pushed back all of her lesson plans just so we could have a brain break.

If you wanted people to remember you by a song, which one would it be? "Memories" by David Guetta or the OG song "Good Old Days" by Macklemore

What does your future (college and career) look like? I plan to go to Hawkeye Community College for two years to get my RN and then transfer to Allen to get my LPN. I will get my Associates Degree and possibly my Bachelor's Degree.

What is your dream job? My dream job is to successfully become a travel nurse and travel the world!

What's the hardest thing you've ever had to do? The hardest thing I ever had to do was say goodbye to my dog, Gracie. I grew up with her and she became my best friend so it was really hard when she passed away.

What one event has most impacted your life so far? COVID. The virus took out a whole track season and the last half of school my sophomore year. Online school was very hard and quarantining was not fun. At work the mandates for masks and face shields were set in place and still are today.

What event from high school do you hope your classmates still talk about at your five-year class reunion? When Domarius was in the Wildcat mascot uniform and went out on the court during the boys basketball game and gave high fives to all the players during a freethrow.

Landen Deutmeyer



Activities involved in during high school:

Football, Basketball, Track, and Baseball

Which activity affected you the most?

How? Basketball has affected me the

most. It has taught me many lessons and it let me feel like a family.

What is a favorite elementary/middle school memory? When Brock Trenkamp was drinking his milk in like 2nd grade and spit it all over the table because we made him laugh.

If you could give advice to a freshman, what would it be? Just listen. And understand that respect isn't given. You can't just walk somewhere and expect everyone to give you everything and anything just because you want it.

What do you appreciate most about Maquoketa Valley? The teachers and the community

If you could relive any moment in high school what would it be and why? Winning conference Freshman year in track

Who is your most inspirational teacher? Why? Mr. DeVore. He cares about all of his students and is always in a good mood. He is always busy and involved with something no matter what.

If you wanted people to remember you by a song, which one would it be? "If It Wasn't for Trucks" by Riley Green

What does your future (college and career) look like? I will be attending Hawkeye Community College for programming and web development.

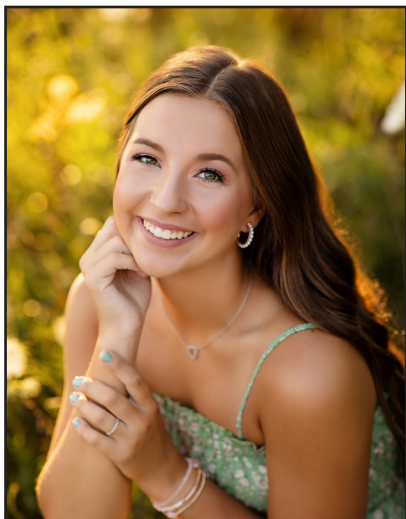
What is your dream job? To be playing in the NFL

What's the hardest thing you've ever had to do? Sit through my grandpa's funeral

What one event has most impacted your life so far? My little brother was born.

What event from high school do you hope your classmates still talk about at your five-year class reunion? Demar walking out on the court in the middle of a game.

Avery Krapfl



Activities involved in during high school: Volleyball, softball, track, basketball, T.E.L., NHS, Speech, Spanish, Academic Excellence

Which activity affected you the most? How? Speech has affected me the most. I never realized how important speech was until my senior year. I was getting interviewed for jobs and meeting a lot of new people. It is so important to be able to speak publicly and

not get nervous. Speech has definitely helped me mature a lot throughout the years.

What is a favorite elementary/middle school memory? When I had all of my friends over for a SpongeBob themed birthday party.

If you could give advice to a freshman, what would it be?

Getting involved is great. However, if you are unhappy with the activities you are in then don't do them. High school goes by so fast and you should spend the time doing things you truly enjoy.

What do you appreciate most about MV? I appreciate the trust and respect that the teachers have in students. We are able to have fun in our free time but we also know when it is time to get to work.

If you could relive any moment in high school what would it be and why? Junior prom. It was one of those nights that you looked forward to since you were a little girl and it didn't disappoint.

Who is your most inspirational teacher? Mr. Cassutt. He was the perfect mix of laid-back and studious. He is aware of hard work when it is present and knows how to teach to all different types of students. Not only did he teach well, but he taught about real life. His class was more of a conversation than a lecture. Mr. Cassutt was also easy to talk to in your free time and he always has something worth listening to.

If you wanted people to remember you by a song, which one would it be? "Africa" by TOTO

What does your future (college and career) look like?

I plan to attend the University of Northern Iowa to study pre-nursing. After UNI, I will attend Allen College and obtain my BSN.

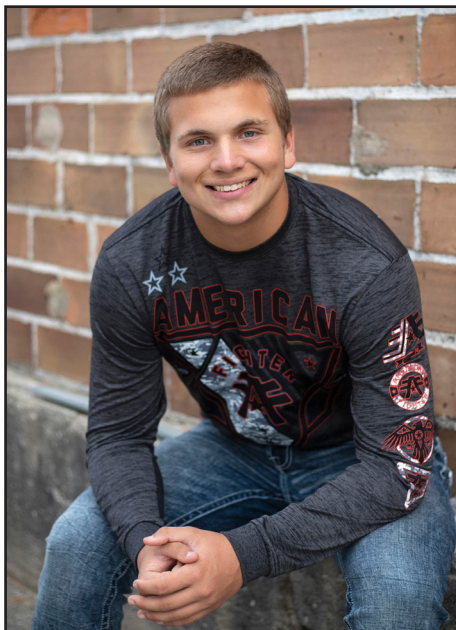
What is your dream job? A nurse practitioner.

What's the hardest thing you've ever had to do? I don't think I have faced the hardest thing I've had to do yet. In my eyes, this is good because the challenge still lies ahead.

What one event has most impacted your life so far? Covid-19. My life would be so different if we had never gotten out of school for those two months.

What event from high school do you hope your classmates still talk about at your five-year class reunion? When Nolan Ries and I saw Lane Domeyer sitting on his couch in his underwear as we were TP-ing his house.

Devin Smith



Activities involved in during high school:

Football, Wrestling, track and field, baseball, musical, play, group speech

Which activity affected you the most? How?

Wrestling, the sport taught me how to be mentally tough and that your brain will give up before your body will so you can push further even when your brain says you can't.

What is a favorite elementary/middle school memory?

Playing football during recess at Earlville Elementary, or playing ready set go during recess

If you could give advice to a freshman, what would it be? I would say that getting involved is very important because it would teach you many lessons like time management and how to properly manage your time so that you get your work done on time.

What do you appreciate most about Maquoketa Valley? I appreciate how caring and helpful the teachers really are. Every student should understand that the teachers are here to help prepare us for the future and want us to succeed probably just as much as our parents do

If you could relive any moment in high school what would it be and why? Winning conference track freshman year

Who is your most inspirational teacher? Why? Ms. Huber because she has helped me really come out of my shell as not only a student but also as a performer. Before my senior year I was too frightened to perform alone on stage, and then this year (with her help) I got a lead in the musical and performed many songs alone on stage. She really pushed me to get better and she gave me a lot of confidence on stage and in the classroom.

If you wanted people to remember you by a song, which one would it be? "Hell & Back" by Kid Ink

What does your future (college and career) look like? Attending Kirkwood Community College, transferring to Iowa to get a degree in engineering. Then pursuing a job in that field and later on down the road coaching football (hopefully high school)

What is your dream job? Playing in the NFL, or coaching/working for an NFL team

What's the hardest thing you've ever had to do? Basic Training

What one event has most impacted your life so far? Both of my grandparents dying in October of 2020

What event from high school do you hope your classmates still talk about at your five-year class reunion? Domarius walking out onto the court as Willy the Wildcat and giving AJ a high five, or Domarius getting stuck under the sled freshman year in football camp

Adrienne Freiburger



Activities involved in during high school: Activities that I was involved in through the school included softball (1 year); TEL (4 years); Large Group Speech (4 years); Band (4 years); Individual Speech (1 year); Mentoring (2 years); Teacher's Aide (2 years); Diversity Club (1 year); Spanish Club (4 years); **Activities that I was involved in outside of school:** 4-H (7 years); Camp Fire USA (10 years); **Which activity affected you the most? How?** Large Group Speech. It gave me the opportunity to meet and talk to both upper- and underclassmen that I otherwise would not have been able to. It opened up my eyes to the talent that we have within the school and even within myself. **What is a favorite elementary/middle school memory?** Playing games on the blacktop with all of the Hopkinton kids.

If you could give advice to a freshman, what would it be? You aren't going to be remembered for your grades or how good you were in a sport. You will be remembered for the type of person that you are to others. Be a good person. Respect yourself, teachers, and peers. If how you are acting and what you are saying isn't how you would treat your "biggest hero," then reevaluate your decisions. The teachers, staff, and upperclassmen keep track of who is respectful; use that knowledge to your advantage because it carries into the outside world too.

What do you appreciate most about Maquoketa Valley? The atmosphere of the teachers and students (who choose to be good, respectful people) is one that I wouldn't trade for any other. The teachers truly want you to succeed and, generally, the students are polite and helpful. I'm sure many of us can recall the praise we received from other schools about our courtesy to others. That's what makes us Wildcats.

If you could relive any moment in high school what would it be? I don't think that I would relive any of it. Everything turned out as it should have and to relive those memories would make them less memorable.

Who is your most inspirational teacher? Personally, I would have to say Mrs. DeVore. She's always had the ability to push me to become more than I thought I ever possibly could. Without her (and with the help of Mr. DeVore as well), I would have never joined Individual or Large Group Speech and I wouldn't have been able to experience one of my favorite high school activities. She was always there for me when I needed to talk, and I appreciate her so very much.

If you wanted people to remember you by a song, which one would it be? "Vienna" by Billy Joel

What does your future look like? I'm planning on attending the University of Wisconsin-Platteville for a Social Science Comprehensive B.A. with an Emphasis in History. From there, I would love to get a job as either a history teacher or a museum curator, but overall, I'm just going to go with the flow. Life takes you where it takes you.

What is your dream job? I would love to be hired by National Geographic as a Photo-Journalist. It would encompass my love for writing, photography, and travel.

What's the hardest thing you've ever had to do? The hardest thing I have ever had to do was push myself to perform at Individual Speech. It was something that I told myself that I was never going to do and that I wouldn't be good at. After the DeVores' talked me into it, I still wasn't sold into the idea, but I managed to perform at a State level despite my extreme fear of public speaking. Although it wasn't my favorite activity, I'm glad to say that I accomplished something that I was terrified to do.

What one event has most impacted your life so far? I would have to say the passing of my grandmother when I was in first grade. It truly opened up my eyes to the fact that no one is immune to the inevitability of death, even the people who you think are larger than life. I can say that I have lived my life in the hopes that she would have been proud of me and that I am becoming the person she thought I would be and more.

What event from high school do you hope your classmates still talk about at your five-year class reunion? I hope that my friends are able to look back on the moments when we would spend hours playing games with each other and forming the bonds that couldn't have been achieved without our shared interests.

Caleb Livingston



Activities involved in during high school: Football, Baseball, Cross Country, 4-H

If you could give advice to a freshman, what would it be? Participate in as much as you can while in school. There are a lot of fun opportunities in extracurricular activities, so it's best to do a lot while the chance is still available.

What do you appreciate most about Maquoketa Valley? I appreciate the size of the school. Having a smaller school means that everybody knows each other, and that the teachers are able to help individual students more.

If you could relive any moment in high school what would it be and why? Freshman year football. I had the most fun in my entire football career during that season. If I was able to go back with the confidence I have now I'm sure I would have gotten to do a lot more for the team. Plus I would be able to mess around with a lot of my old buddies who have graduated.

What does your future (college and career) look like? I intend to go to college for an engineering degree. I am leaning towards getting a bachelors in electrical engineering, but I am also interested in nuclear and aerospace engineering. It will have to depend on the courses offered and the cost of tuition.

What is your dream job? My dream job is to be a nuclear engineer.

What one event has most impacted your life so far? Joining Cross Country.

What event from high school do you hope your classmates still talk about at your five-year class reunion? The pep rally speeches Mr. Meehan would give at homecoming.

Kaelynn Clark



Activities involved in during high school: Dance Team-4yrs
Which activity affected you the most? I was only involved with the dance team through the school, but in the summer I was/am on the Waterhawks and it brought me lifelong friends and taught me a lot about leadership with a board

position for two years.

What is a favorite elementary/middle school memory? Telling on Rayce Meyers for throwing indoor sand in my eyes in Junior Kindergarten

If you could give advice to a freshman, what would it be? Make time for yourself and don't take the teachers for granted because they really do care about you if you care about them.

What do you appreciate most about Maquoketa Valley? The teachers really do care about you.

If you could relive any moment in high school what would it be and why? Freshman year state dance, I didn't appreciate that I would only get four of them and because of covid I ended up only getting three.

Who is your most inspirational teacher? Mrs. Downs is the sweetest and down to earth human I know.

If you wanted people to remember you by a song, which one would it be? "The Best of Both Worlds" - Hannah Montana

What does your future (college and career) look like? I plan to go to Capri college in Waterloo and I continue my ski career and live with two of my closest friends.

What is your dream job? To own or co-own my own business

What's the hardest thing you've ever had to do? Physical Science 8th hour my junior year

What one event has most impacted your life so far? The "2 week" break junior year

What event from high school do you hope your classmates still talk about at your five-year class reunion? Demar gives AJ a high five as the mascot in the middle of a basketball game and gets kicked out.

Mianna Gosche



Activities involved in during high school: Dance, golf, play, musical, band, choir, Speech and cheer

Which activity affected you the most? Dance affected me the most because I created a family bond with my girls and coach. I learned how to be myself in front of an audience. Every practice I tried to make it a safe and fun environment for the team, I know how scary it was to be a freshman once.

What is a favorite elementary/middle school memory? Kennedy Ott and I thought we were professional gymnasts and vloggers so we posted videos on YouTube. To this day they are still available to the public because she forgot her YouTube account password. If you would like a laugh, click on the video entitled, "Gym with Mianna," and skip to 4:07.

If you could give advice to a freshman, what would it be? Don't be scared to try different activities and leave your comfort zone in regards to extracurriculars. Academically, do not procrastinate. Also do not be afraid to reach out to teachers; they can be your motivation and support system.

What do you appreciate most about Maquoketa Valley? I appreciate the teachers and staff of Maquoketa Valley, without their encouragement I don't know where I would be. These teachers truly care about their students on a personal level and push their students to be the best versions of themselves.

If you could relive any moment in high school what would it be and why? I have had so many great moments I have gotten to experience throughout high school, it is hard to choose one.

Who is your most inspirational teacher? Mr. Huegel. Although he seems intimidating, he has a really big heart and cares for his students.

If you wanted people to remember you by a song, which one would it be? "Dancing in My Room" by 347aiden or "Juicy" by Notorious B.I.G

What does your future (college and career) look like? I am going to graduate Kirkwood's nursing program and further my education at a different college to achieve my dream of being a pediatrician.

What is your dream job? I want to be a pediatrician.

What's the hardest thing you've ever had to do? Watch everyone around me grow up and know that we will have to go our own ways in just a few short months.

What one event has most impacted your life so far? Becoming a certified nurses aide at the Good Neighbor Society has impacted me a lot over the past year. I learned a lot about people and myself throughout my experience. I realized that long term care is not for me, however I have learned that I love the medical field.

What event from high school do you hope your classmates still talk about at your five-year class reunion? I can't think of one specific event, but my dance girls would talk about me falling into a garbage can.