

Issue 24  
April 22, 2022

# Wildcat Echo

A publication by the students of Maquoketa Valley High School

## Wildcats learn, earn degrees at state convention



In mid-April, 30 MV FFA members participated in the state FFA convention in Ames. Throughout the three-day event, students participated in contests, workshops, and some recreational activities.

Four Wildcats earned the highly prestigious Iowa Degree: Jeremy Weber, Courtney Goedken, Lane Domeyer and Lucas Orcutt.



## 2022 cheer squad named, gearing up for fall

Cheer squad tryouts were held earlier this month, and the squad has been assembled. In the fall, you'll see these faces leading some MV spirit!

Front row: (new members) Emily Hogan, Ava Goldsmith, Jesús Rumbo, Lainey Deutmeyer  
Back row: Isabella Mensen, Kaitlyn Nolan, Livia Hermanson, McKenna Thompson, Maddyx Rieniets, Josie Teymer, Clairra Gray. (not pictured Titi Morgan)





## MV students represent Wildcats at I-STEP



On April 19, Noah DeVore, executive counsel member for I-STEP (Iowa Students for Tobacco Education and Prevention), and five eighth grade students (Ty Hoeger, Zach Leytem, Derrick Mohr, Kalynn Freiburger, and Rachael Hoefer) attended the summit at the Iowa State Fairgrounds in Des Moines.

Students from all over the state came together to celebrate being tobacco free and learn how to assist others in making that choice by educating them on the dangers of tobacco and the lies that big tobacco tells to lure youth into getting hooked on their products.

"It was a very educational, interactive, and fun experience for everyone who attended," stated Nurse Mary.



# Cutie

by Matthew Brehm

This cutie is a sophomore with brown hair. She lives in Hopkinton and some of her favorite activities at school are dance, cheer, track, speech and TEL. She has three brothers. Something interesting about her is that she has had glasses since she was 2 years old.

*Last week's Cutie was Alissa Bush.*



## Fine Artists of the Week

Name: Noah DeVore

**What is your role in the spring play?**

Wadsworth

**What do you enjoy most about being a part of this show?**

I love the fast-paced scenes that never seem to stop. Throughout practices, I feel like we are just performing one giant scene.

**What will audience members enjoy most about the play?**

I think that the audience will also enjoy the fast-paced feel of the show. Another reason the audience will enjoy the show is the overall story, and how the characters interact with each other.

**If you could star in any TV show, what would it be?**

I would be in a show that Marvel does on Disney+, like *Loki* or *WandaVision*.



Name: Carlie Lewin

**What is your role in the spring play?**

I play Mrs.

White. She is a very mysterious character that might have killed her past husbands...

**What do you enjoy most about being a part of this show?**

I enjoy the atmosphere and that everyone is happy to be there.

**What will audience members enjoy most about the play?**

I think the audience will love the hidden jokes and humor.

**If you could star in any TV show, what would it be?**

If I could be in any TV show I would be in *The Walking Dead*. I have loved that show for years.



# Sports Connection

## Boys track team makes some moves

by Leah Ries

Despite all of the canceled meets due to weather this season the boys track and field team was able to get a meet in. The team traveled to Jesup and finished the night in fourth place with 82 points.

Point Contributors:

Discus - Brock Trenkamp, second, 136-10

Shot Put - Brock Trenkamp, sixth, 44-02

Devin Smith, seventh, 42-11

100M - AJ Ambundo, seventh, 12.13

200M - Cy Huber, third, 23.77

Michael Schaul, sixth, 23.96

400M - Cy Huber, first, 51.49

400M Hurdles - TJ Cook, eighth, 1:03.75

800M - Nolan Ries, sixth, 2:16.25

1600M - George Livingston, fourth, 5:17.43

3200M - Michael Van Meter, sixth, 11:32.65

George Livingston, seventh,



Seniors Michael Schaul and Cy Huber sprint to the finish in the 200M dash at the meet at Alburnett. Huber finished third, and Schaul was sixth.



Nolan Ries hands off to Domarius Strickland in the 1600M medley at Alburnett last week. The relay team finished third. (photos by Lesa Parmely)

11:33.27

4x100M - Preston Roling, Devin Meeks, Tate Intorf, Domarius Strickland, ninth, 49.11

Shuttle Hurdle Relay - Intorf, Cook, Carter Klaren, Logan Clemen, ninth, 1:18.31

4x200M - Ambundo, Roling, Strickland, Michael Schaul, third, 1:36.56

800 Sprint Medley Relay - Klaren, Intorf, Cook, Ries, seventh, 1:44.14

4x400M - Huber, Ambundo, Ries, Michael Schaul, first, 3:37.48

1600 Distance Medley Relay - Roling, Strickland, Cook, Ries, third, 4:04.22

4x800M - Huber, Matthew Schaul, Arion Rave, Michael Schaul, second, 9:01.89

The team competed at Alburnett on Tuesday and placed second in the team competition with 116 points.

Point Contributors:

Shot Put - Brock Trenkamp, first, 47-00

Devin Smith, third, 43-02

Discus - Brock Trenkamp, first, 142-03

Devin Smith, fifth, 108-06

110M Hurdles - Lance McShane, seventh, 18.98

400M - Cy Huber, first, 51.01

400M Hurdles - TJ Cook, fourth, 1:00.90

800M - Michael Schaul, second, 2:07.73

1600M - George Livingston, first, 5:02.80  
Matthew Schaul, second, 5:

06.12

3200M - George Livingston, second, 10:50.92

4x100M - AJ Ambundo, McShane, Preston Roling, Cook, third, 46.35

Shuttle Hurdle Relay - Carter Klaren, Tate Intorf, McShane, Cook, fourth, 1:13.11

4x200M - Ambundo, Nolan Ries, Roling, Domarius Strickland, fifth, 1:38.17

800 Sprint Medley Relay - Klaren, Intorf, Strickland, McShane, sixth, 1:44.21

4x400M - Huber, Ries, Ambundo, Michael Schaul, first, 3:33.93

1600 Distance Medley Relay - Intorf, Ries, Michael Schaul, Arion Rave, third, 3:59.61

4x800M - Huber, Matthew Schaul, Ries, Michael Schaul, first, 8:39.48

The last meet was Thursday night at Monticello. The next chance to catch the Cats in action will be Monday night at home.



# Girls track team competes well at Central City, Tipton

by Chantel Crowley

The girls track team finally got some good weather to compete in, and they are finding their stride.

On Tuesday, April 12th, the girls track team traveled to Central City on Tuesday April 12th. Overall, they scored 107 points, earning them 3rd place. Coach Dunlap comments, "The MV girls really did well last night at Central City. We are down a couple of kids due to some nagging injuries that will hopefully sort themselves out soon. I expect to be fully healthy soon and be in the conference mix in a few short weeks. We haven't ran the 4x8 or the shuttle in a while and I am hoping we will have both of those races in the next meet or two."

Athletes scoring points were:

100M Dash: Lili Bauers, 14.42, 4th

200M Dash: McKenna Thompson, 28.81, 5th

400M Dash: Emma Doyl, 1:11.79, 2nd;

Saige Hunt, 1:12.09, 3rd

800M Run: Isabel Imler, 2:47.08, 1st



Senior Kylie Chesnut competes in the distance medley Tuesday night. Chesnut made her return Tuesday after nursing an injury.

3000M Run: McKenna Bush, 15:30.34, 4th

Discus Throw: Paige Winter, 94-8.25, 4th;

Maddyx Kemp, 84-3.50, 5th

High Jump: Jordan Hogan, 4-2.00, 6th

Long Jump: Emma Richter, 14-1.50, 4th;

Lili Bauers, 12-8.00, 6th

Shot Put: Erin Knipper, 34-9.75, 1st; Maddyx Kemp, 30-9.00, 2nd

4x100M Relay: Lily Huber, Leah Ries, Emma Richter, McKenna Thompson, 54.06, 3rd

4x200M Relay: Amaya Hunt, Izabella Heffernan, Emma Richter, Lili Bauers, 1:57.67, 3rd

4x400M Relay: Emma Doyl, Saige Hunt, Lili Bauers, Amaya Hunt, 4:44.39, 3rd

800 Sprint Medley: Lily Huber, Emma Doyl, Leah Ries, Amaya Hunt, 2:00.15, 2nd

1600 Distance Medley: Lily Huber, Leah Ries, McKenna Thompson, Isabel Imler, 4:55.99, 2nd

100M Hurdles: Leah Ries, 17.69, 1st

Coach Dunlap commented, "The upperclassmen really stepped up last night and made some big improvements. It is great to have some awesome senior leadership. They get after it every time and I know I can count on them to bring others up. I am lucky to get to work with these kids."

The girls' next meet was on Tuesday, April 19th at Tipton.

Athletes earning points were:

100M Dash: Lily Huber, 13.81, 4th

400M Dash: Amaya Hunt, 1:02.93, 1st

3000M Run: McKenna Bush, 14:53.00, 8th

4x100M Relay: Lily Huber, Leah Ries, Emma Richter, McKenna Thompson, 54.53, 7th

4x200M Relay: Lili Bauers, Saige Hunt, Izabella Heffernan, Lily Huber, 1:57.82, 6th

4x400M Relay: McKenna Thompson, Kylie Chesnut, Lili Bauers, Amaya Hunt, 4:37.28, 5th

4x800M Relay: Emma Doyl, Jordan Hatfield, Livia Hermanson, Isabel Imler, 12:29.30, 7th

100M Hurdles: Leah Ries, 17.32, 3rd

800 Sprint Medley: Lily Huber, Emma Doyl, Leah Ries, Amaya Hunt, 2:00.29, 1st

Distance Medley: Leah Ries, Emma Richter, McKenna Thompson, Kylie Chesnut, 5:05.22, 6th



Junior McKenna Thompson battles in the distance med at Tipton.

Shot Put: Erin Knipper, 36-05.25, 1st

Discus Throw: Paige Winter, 97-10, 2nd;

Maddyx Kemp, 91-03, 3rd

Last night the team competed at West Delaware. Results will be in the next issue.



Senior Amaya Hunt rounds a corner in the 400M dash which she won at Tipton. (photos courtesy of Pete Temple)

# Best Buds



**Ashtyn Porter & Emma Doyl**  
by Amaya Hunt

**How long have you two known each other? Were you close when you were younger?**

Emma: We have known each other since I came to Maquoketa Valley in 5th grade. Ashtyn and I actually hated each other until about the end of 7th grade--she didn't like me because I used two spoons at lunch and she found it wasteful! After that, we became really close :)

Ashtyn: We've known each other since 5th grade when she came to Maquoketa Valley around seven years ago. We may not have started close, but that's because she used two spoons at lunch.

**If you were to spend an entire day together doing your favorite things, what would that look like?**

Emma: We'd go to Starbucks and get our favorite coffee before going shopping at Target and Hobby Lobby. Before we'd leave the city, we'd probably go to Starbucks again, lol :) We'd jam to music the whole time, too.

Ashtyn: We would start the day by sleeping in! Do a little shopping, go night-time swimming or hot tubbing, and then finish the day off by staying up late. Emma would down an entire bowl of Spaghetti-Os.

**If you could travel somewhere (anywhere in the world) together, where would you go and why?**

Emma: Ashtyn and I both love the ocean and hate cold weather. I'd love it if we went to Florida together because the weather is beautiful and we could go to the beach all day.

Ashtyn: Florida, of course!! I can't wait for this summer when we go; it's gonna be wild! :)

**What's your favorite quality about the others? And what annoys you the most about them?**

Emma: Ashtyn has a lot of great qualities, but my favorite one would be how goofy she is. No matter how bad my day is, she always finds some goofy way to make me laugh. The thing that annoys me the most is how loud she chews her food--and she knows how mad it makes me, too.

Ashtyn: My favorite quality would be her cheerfulness. No matter what's going in her life, she's always there to make those she cares about smile. One thing that annoys me is that she's always LATE!! She always gets where she needs to be, though. I don't know how.

**If you had to pick one song that reminds you of the others, what would it be?**

Emma: "Umbrella" by Rihanna.

Ashtyn: "Umbrella" by Rihanna.

**What's your favorite memory created together?**

Emma: During quarantine, we went to Backbone and hiked the whole day. The weather was beautiful and we got Dairy Sweet Ice Cream afterwards :)

Ashtyn: Going to Backbone and having to catch Emma before she fell off the cliff while trying to take a photo together.

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

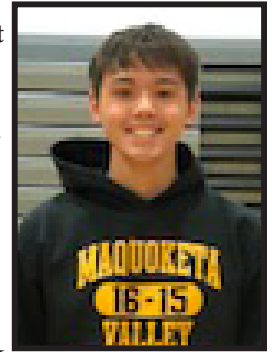
Emma: I picture her becoming a graphic designer and still bullying me for using too many utensils :)

Ashtyn: I see Emma living in my basement, eating all of my food even though she has her own home and husband! :)

## Athletes of the Week

Name: Cy Huber

**What do you enjoy most about track?** Challenging your body both mentally and physically. Running a new PR is another exhilarating feeling as you only achieve this rarely throughout the season. Seeing



what you can do in the individual events while also getting to combine them with a relay team creates great self-reliance and bonding with others on the team.

**What do you think your best event will be?** Most definitely the 400M.

**What life lessons have you learned through track?** A master of all is a master of none. Basically one cannot expect to be the best at the 400M dash while also expecting to be the best at the 3200M. You can be good at both, but to become the best of the best you have to choose one over the other to specialize in.

**What's the hardest part of practice?** Knowing that you have a targeted pace and falling short of it.

**Who is your track role model?** Nick Symmonds

Name: Isabel Imler

**What do you enjoy most about track?**

I enjoy the meets because everyone cheers each other on

**What do you think your best event will be?**

The 800

**What life lessons**

**have you learned through track?**

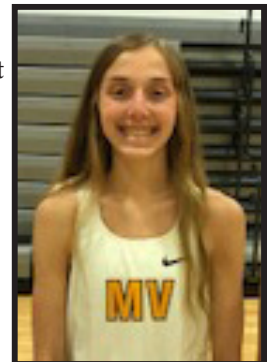
Whatever you put into something is what you get back

**What's the hardest part of practice?**

Running when it's cold and windy

**Who is your track role model?**

Mrs. Dever





# Big Games on the Big Stage

Collegiate basketball, wrestling, and gymnastics have reached their end for the Iowa Hawkeyes and Iowa State Cyclones. Adeline Kenlin, a Hawkeye sophomore gymnast, ended her season by placing second on the balance beam at Nationals behind Suni Lee (USA Olympic gymnast) with a score of 9.950.

Many spring sports are in season! Stay tuned next week for more information as the Hawkeyes and Cyclones shine in the NCAA.



by Kaitlyn Nolan

## JO-JO'S CLOSET

by Josie Teymer

We as Americans have made some interesting choices when it comes to fashion. Today I want to talk about my least favorite fashion trends that we have seen over the past few years. Remember, this is MY opinion.

The first trend I want to talk about is capris. I strongly dislike capris. I'm not really sure why but in my opinion they are one of the ugliest kinds of pants. Another pair of pants that upset me are low rise jeans. Specifically the ones with bling on the back pocket. I know that this one might upset a few people but I disapprove of cold shoulder shirts. In my opinion they look sloppy and I don't see the point in showing just your shoulders. I know this is con-

troversial but Birkenstocks are the worst shoes out there. I don't really have a reason for this one I just don't like them. My last fashion flop that I want to discuss is shoes with fur in them. Your feet sweat. Why would you want to wear a shoe that if you start to sweat they are ruined.

If you disagree with any of these I want you to know that that's okay. Fashion is what you make it. So wear what YOU want.



# Abstractions

by Matthew Brehm

I'm currently in the process of reading Betty Friedan's 1963 scholarly smash hit, *The Feminine Mystique*, and though I'm only about a third of the way through it, I can't help but take the concept of the novel and analyze it.

To those unfamiliar with *The Feminine Mystique*'s premise, it is an in-depth study of America's infamous and extreme "functionalist" culture in the post-WWII era. Women were told by society (and, in turn, by themselves) that they needed to be housewives in order to "fulfill their feminine role." Likewise, the intellectual world was thought to revolve entirely around the breadwinning man.

Interesting phenomena arose from this instance. Women reported, hesitantly, that they felt an emptiness gnawing away inside of them at their lack of greater purpose in life. Time and time again, they were gaslighted and made to think that there was something inherently wrong with them for wanting to pursue such a "masculine" possession—a career.

A curious point that Friedan explores is the history of feminism in the U.S. The 1800s and early 1900s saw huge gains in women's rights. By the pre-WWII decades, women were being encouraged to reach for independence. Egalitarianism was on the ascension, slowly but surely.

Of course, it is no wonder that the feminine mystique began to crumble with Friedan's spark and the Pink Power Movement. Though the media worked hard to produce a picture-perfect image of exactly how all women should live (or, perhaps, not live), it was only a matter of time before society realized the detrimental falsehood it had fabricated.

It seems apparent that there is a natural human disposition, impartial to sex or gender, that pervades the human experience. People want to grow, they want to learn more about themselves, about their world and their place in it. They want the independence necessary for self-fulfillment and development. For as long as humans have been on Earth, they have been creating, studying, and searching for more. It is this desire that has taken us to the moon and back, started revolutions, saved countless lives.

Though it's easy to indulge in only the bleak prospects of today, I find it comforting to remind myself of the beauty of humanity's capacity for growth.



# Emma Richter



**Activities involved in during high school:**

**Volleyball**  
Basketball,  
Track,  
Softball,  
Concert  
Band, Pep  
Band, Jazz  
Band, Pit  
Orchestra,  
Marching  
Band

**Which activity affected you the most?**

Track has affected me the most be-

cause I put in a lot of hard work and effort and it all paid off last season, and it is pushing me harder this season.

**What is a favorite elementary/middle school memory?**

When Keziah, Adrienne, and I would play the shoe game at the Hopkinton park

**If you could give advice to a freshman, what would it be?** DO NOT PROCRASTINATE! It makes you feel rushed and you don't put in your best effort.

**What do you appreciate most about Maquoketa Valley?**

The teachers want you to succeed and they will do lots of things to help you along the way

**If you could relive any moment in high school what would it be and why?** When our 4x100 made it to state track last season

**Who is your most inspirational teacher?** My most inspirational teacher would be Mrs. DeVore because she always puts in lots of time and effort no matter how stressed she is.

**If you wanted people to remember you by a song, which one would it be?** "Hey Baby"

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

Going to Kirkwood for an Associates of Liberal Arts Degree, and maybe a major after that

**What is your dream job?** Be an olympian

**What's the hardest thing you've ever had to do?** Watch my grandma go through cancer

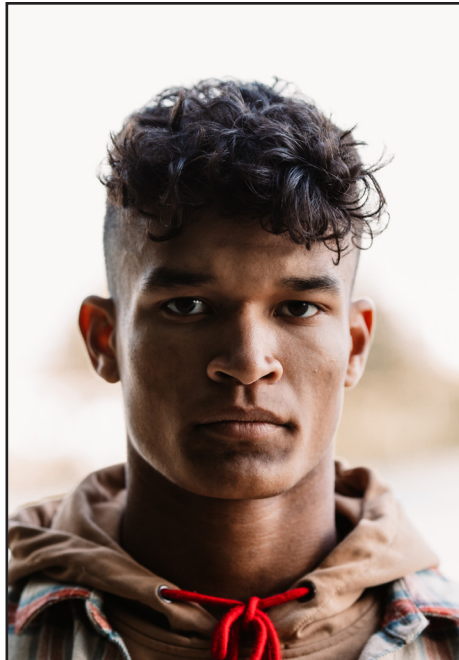
**What one event has most impacted your life so far?**

Making it to state track

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

Willie the Wildcat walking out on the basketball court

# A.J. Ambundo



**Activities involved in during high school:** Cross Country, Football, Basketball, Track, Baseball, Individual Speech, Large Group Speech, FFA, TEL

**Which activity affected you the most?** Football affected me the most. It gave me both the highest and lowest points of my life, yet I still love it. Tearing my ACL was heartbreaking, but being able to play again at the college level is something not everyone gets the opportunity to say they've done.

**What is a favorite elementary/middle school memory?** Almost beating

Mrs. Zietlow in around-the-world multiplication in 3rd grade.

**If you could give advice to a freshman, what would it be?** Find peace in yourself before you exert all of it to others.

**What do you appreciate most about Maquoketa Valley?** I appreciate the community around the school. Everyone in the county is proud to support MV, regardless of how good or bad of a season you're having.

**If you could relive any moment in high school what would it be and why?** Playing basketball in the summer of '21. It was definitely the most memorable summer season, and the bond that our basketball team had off the court was one you don't even see between family members.

**Who is your most inspirational teacher?** Mrs. Temple is my most inspirational teacher. No matter what she's going through in her life outside of school or during school, she always keeps a positive attitude. She cares about her students as if they were her own children, and she always treats her students with the highest of respect.

**What does your future (college and career) look like?** I plan on attending Coe College to continue my football career, and to get a degree in Business Management. I plan to use my degree to open a lawn care and landscaping business in urban Iowa or out-of-state.

**What is your dream job?** Playing in the NFL.

**What's the hardest thing you've ever had to do?** Sit on the bench my entire senior basketball season due to injury.

**What one event has most impacted your life so far?** Losing Teige has had the biggest impact on my life. It has made me appreciate the things in my life much more, and it has strengthened my relationship with God.

**What event from high school do you hope your classmates still talk about at your five-year class reunion?** *Two and a Half Men* theme song recreation.



# Amanda Mohr



**Activities involved in during high school:**

Band, jazz band, pit orchestra, TEL, large group speech, individual speech, NHS, TAG, musical, play, teacher's assistant, and mentoring

**Which activity affected you the most?** Speech. Large group and individual speech have definitely pushed me outside of my comfort zone and helped me gain confidence with public speaking. Plus, I have so many great memories

from speech practice!

**What is a favorite elementary/middle school memory?** Having recess at Hopkinton and playing our variation of johnny made me cross the ocean out on the blacktop.

**If you could give advice to a freshman, what would it be?** Get involved in as many activities as you can while maintaining a healthy balance with school work. Being involved provides so many skills, great experiences, and memories that make it so enjoyable and worth the stress the activities may cause.

**What do you appreciate most about Maquoketa Valley?** I appreciate how much the teachers care about their students and want them to succeed. They are always there to talk to you, give support, and help you if you need it.

**If you could relive any moment in high school what would it be?** I would relive all of the fun moments at pit, speech, and play practices and the great times I have had with my friends. I will definitely treasure all the small moments throughout high school.

**Who is your most inspirational teacher?** Mrs. DeVore. She is extremely creative, hard working, and driven. As a speech coach, play director, and a teacher, Mrs. DeVore puts her all into every role she has. She pushes her students to realize their potential, while also providing a helping hand. No matter how much stress she is under, she stays positive and perseveres.

**If you wanted people to remember you by a song, which one would it be?** "What Doesn't Kill You" by Kelly Clarkson

**What does your future look like?** While I have not made my final decision, I will either be attending University of Iowa or University of Northern Iowa for a math related degree.

**What is your dream job?** I want to find a job that makes me happy and isn't monotonous.

**What's the hardest thing you've ever had to do?** Taking APUSH. While I put a lot of effort into the class, I also put a tremendous amount of stress and pressure on myself to do well. Despite how intimidating the AP exam was and my nervousness leading up to the test, it was all worth it in the end.

**What one event has most impacted your life so far?** I would say it has been a compilation of many events. However, one in particular would be the loss of my aunt and uncle. This taught me how important it is to treasure every moment I get to spend with the people who are important in my life.

**What event from high school do you hope your classmates still talk about at your five-year class reunion?** All the good memories and events, such as Prom, Homecoming, Graduation, and our last day of high school.

# Kendra Hillers



**Activities involved in during high school:** Volleyball, Cheer, Dance, Track, Softball, Speech, TEL, NHS, Academic Excellence, and Student Council

**Which activity affected you the most?** Although I have learned many life lessons from them all, speech is the activity that affected me the most. I came in freshman year not being able to speak in front of people and would get nervous about everything to now being a senior who isn't afraid to speak in public situations. This is a skill that I will carry throughout my life and I

will forever be thankful that I participated in it.

**What is a favorite elementary/middle school memory?** Every year on Halloween when the witch would walk around the school and everyone would be so scared. The jump scares and everyone freaking out is something I will never forget.

**If you could give advice to a freshman, what would it be?** Take in and enjoy every moment because time flies. You will hear this a lot and think four years is a really long time because that is exactly what I thought, but now I'm writing this to you. Never take for granted the opportunities and experiences you get to have at Maquoketa Valley because they are truly special.

**What do you appreciate most about MV?** I appreciate the family atmosphere it has. I have always felt like I can go to any teacher for anything and they would be willing to help. Being able to do that has helped me a lot throughout these last four years.

**If you could relive any moment in high school what would it be and why?** Either going to state track freshman year or going to state dance this year. I had so much fun with both of these events and would go back in a heartbeat.

**Who is your most inspirational teacher?** Mrs. Temple. I love walking into her room every morning because she always has the biggest smile on her face. You can tell that she loves what she does and the energy she has is contagious.

**If you wanted people to remember you by a song, which one would it be?** "Dancing Queen" by ABBA

**What does your future look like?** My future plans are to go to the University of Iowa to become an Ultrasound Technician.

**What is your dream job?** I can't imagine being anything other than an Ultrasound Technician. I have gone on many job shadows and have experienced getting an ultrasound first hand. So being able to pursue the dream that I have had for a while is very rewarding.

**What's the hardest thing you've ever had to do?** Losing people that were close to me, my Great Grandpa Streif in particular. He was always the type of person to put a smile on my face and was always there when I needed a good laugh. His personality was contagious and that is what I miss most about him.

**What one event has most impacted your life so far?** Covid-19 was very impactful. I got to experience something that some people never experienced in their lifetime and it truly changed my life. Being quarantined and missing the last few months of sophomore year will be something I will never forget.

**What event from high school do you hope your classmates still talk about at your five-year class reunion?** Powderpuff and Ironman senior year. Seeing the competitive side come out in all of us was so funny and then watching the guys win Ironman just put the icing on the cake.



# Kylie Chesnut



**Activities involved in during high school:** Volleyball, Cheer, Basketball, Track, Speech, TEL, Mentoring, Wildcat Echo

**Which activity affected you the most?** I would say that basketball impacted my life the most because it has been in my life the longest. I have built so many friendships through basketball and have been taught many valuable lessons.

**What is a favorite elementary/middle school memory?** Playing Ready-Set-Go and racing to the big tree everyday at recess.

**If you could give advice to a freshman, what would it be?** My advice to freshmen would be to not put too much pressure on yourself. A lot of people stress about being perfect, but mistakes are inevitable. The best part about making mistakes is that we have a great community at our school that will get you the help you need to be successful.

**What do you appreciate most about Maquoketa Valley?** I love how close the school is. All the teachers here are always willing to help, and the relationships you can build with your peers is great with all the opportunities at MV.

**If you could relive any moment in high school what would it be and why?** If I could relive any moment in high school, I would relive state basketball 2021 because of the memories I made with my teammates and the experience itself are unforgettable.

**Who is your most inspirational teacher?** I would say Mrs. Temple. She has made me feel very prepared for college, but also has continuously kept a positive attitude in efforts to help us reach our goals.

If you wanted people to remember you by a song, which one would it be? **"Brown Eyed Girl" - Van Morrison**

**What does your future (college and career) look like?** I will be attending Iowa State University to major in Animal Science. I will eventually be going to Veterinary school and become a veterinarian.

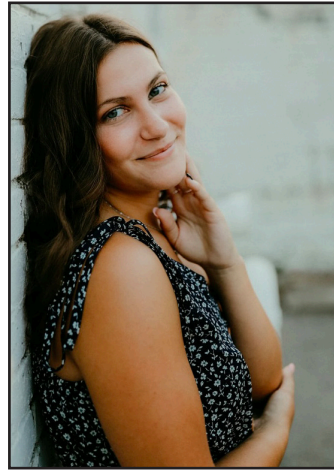
**What is your dream job?** I have always wanted to be a vet since I was a little girl.

**What's the hardest thing you've ever had to do?** I would say so far that COVID-19 has been the most difficult thing I have had to live through. It has caused a lot of changes for a lot of people.

**What one event has most impacted your life so far?** Covid-19 and quarantine in general definitely impacted life in many ways, and still continues to make changes. In the summer of 2020 when everything was shut down a lot of opportunities were created.

**What event from high school do you hope your classmates still talk about at your five-year class reunion?** In 5 years I hope our class still talks about our COVID summer and all the memories we made.

# Molly Andereg



**Activities involved in during high school:** Choir, Vocal Jazz, Track, TEL, Speech, Softball, Volleyball,

Dance, Cheer, Play, and Musical

**Which activity affected you the most?** Speech has affected me the most because it truly helped me gain confidence in not only speaking or performing in front of people, but also in myself. I have learned countless life lessons through my time with the speech program, and I couldn't be more grateful.

**What is a favorite elementary/middle school memory?** My fa-

vorite memory from elementary school is probably when we would all play vampires versus werewolves at recess. Cy Huber was also THE BEST merry-go-round pusher and I swear nothing was funnier than seeing everyone else on the merry-go-round be parallel to the ground because we all had such bad whiplash from going so fast.

**If you could give advice to a freshman, what would it be?** I would tell them to make the best of your years at MV. Take advantage of the resources we have here, and don't be afraid to ask questions or speak up in class. Also, don't be a slowpoke in the halls.

**What do you appreciate most about MV?** Definitely the teachers. As often as you hear it, it's true- the teachers here truly care about each and every student that walks through the doors, and they want the best for all of us. Don't take them for granted.

**If you could relive any moment in high school what would it be and why?** Being in the student section when the girls basketball team won the state qualifying game at West Delaware last year.

**Who is your most inspirational teacher?** Mrs. Temple. I've never felt more comfortable in a class than I do in Mrs. Temple's room. She constantly makes an effort to make sure everyone feels happy, important, included, and has fun (all while making sure we get homework done on time). Not only is she an amazing teacher, she is one of the most kind and accepting people I have come across.

**If you wanted people to remember you by a song, which one would it be?** "American Honey" by Lady Antebellum.

**What does your future look like?** I plan to go to Kirkwood Community College to major in Business Management. Career wise, I hope to start a dog boarding and grooming business. As long as I am working with dogs in my future, I will be perfectly happy.

**What is your dream job?** My dream job is the job I will be working towards in college- an owner of a dog boarding/grooming business.

**What's the hardest thing you've ever had to do?** The hardest thing I have ever had to do was deal with the passing of my childhood dog, Meg. It is something I continue to struggle with from time to time and it happened five years ago.

**What one event has most impacted your life so far?** Like I assume most will say, Covid has had the biggest impact on me. Reason being that I discovered a lot about myself during the months of quarantine and it's something I am oddly grateful for.

**What event from high school do you hope your classmates still talk about at your five-year class reunion?** I hope people still talk about the adventures and memories that always came with Homecoming Week, whether it was good or bad.

# Matthew Brehm



**Activities involved in during high school:** Musical, choir, band, jazz band, speech (LG & IE), Wildcat Echo, Diversity Club

**Which activity affected you the most?**

I'd have to say two: jazz band and Wildcat Echo. Jazz band made me discover my passion for music, and I plan to keep making music in the future. Writing my column for the Wildcat Echo gave me a deeper understanding and appreciation for the world around me, helping me with my critical thinking skills and letting me learn more about myself. It also improved my writing skills.

**What is a favorite elementary/middle school memory?** Our last-day-of-school field trips to Bailey's Ford in middle school

were wonderful experiences in themselves. What a beautiful and sentimental way to end the school year, spending time with friends outdoors and making the most of a warm summer day. I'll miss those bonds.

**If you could give advice to a freshman, what would it be?** If you graduate knowing more about yourself than you did freshman year, you've successfully done high school. Of course, the only way to accomplish this is by trying different things. You never know what activity will change your life.

**What do you appreciate most about Maquoketa Valley?** The small size of our school means that everyone gets an opportunity. If you want to be involved in an extracurricular activity, there is a very high chance that you will get to participate in it. This opens up many doors for MV students that may not be as accessible in bigger schools.

**If you could relive any moment in high school what would it be and why?**

The sense of accomplishment I felt after finishing the A.P.U.S.H. exam junior year, combined with the group experience of the rest of my classmates. The picture I have of us eating lunch after finishing the test is one of my favorite photos to this day. The end of our journey as a small class felt rewarding, and I assume graduation will be similar.

**Who is your most inspirational teacher?** The teacher who has inspired me the most has probably been Mr. Ford. As a new teacher five years ago, he wasted no time jump-starting the MV music department in marching band and jazz band. Without his hard work and dedication, we would not be going to the Iowa Jazz Championships this year.

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

"Addict with a Pen" - Twenty One Pilots

**What does your future (college and career) look like?** As of right now, I'm not certain about my future career specifically. However, what I do know is that I plan to get an AA degree at Kirkwood and transfer to the University of Iowa to study psychology.

**What is your dream job?** A job that challenges me and forces me to grow, but also doesn't feel too stressful, restricting, or tedious. I really don't know what that would be...

**What's the hardest thing you've ever had to do?** Learning how to navigate my environment and become comfortable with myself and my abilities has been a long journey since freshman year.

**What one event has most impacted your life so far?** I want to say COVID-19. I grew a lot as a person between winter and fall 2020, and I think that was partially due to all of the things going on and the time I had to think.

**What event from high school do you hope your classmates still talk about at your five-year class reunion?** Going on the 2019 band and choir trip to Nashville.

# Wyatt Steil



**Activities involved in during high school:** baseball, golf and TEL

**Which activity affected you the most? How?** Baseball. I made closer friends.

**What is a favorite elementary/middle school memory?** Laughing at memes with friends

**If you could give advice to a freshman, what would it be?** Get good grades so you can get scholarships for college. Also don't be scared to try new things.

**What do you appreciate most about Maquoketa Valley?** I appreciate that the teachers are almost always willing to help at any given moment.

**If you could relive any moment in high school what would it be and why?** Putting my car in the ditch

**Who is your most inspirational teacher? Why?** I don't have just one inspirational teacher; they all are willing to help if asked to.

**If you wanted people to remember you by a song, which one would it be?** "You're Gonna Miss This" by Trace Adkins

**What does your future (college and career) look like?** I'm undecided right now. I may go to college; otherwise I'll go into the work force to save money.

**What's the hardest thing you've ever had to do?** Going through the passing of loved ones.

**What one event has most impacted your life so far?** Covid, how it impacted school with wearing masks and having to quarantine



# Amaya Hunt



**Activities involved in during high school:** Track, Volleyball, Cheer, Large Group Speech, Individual Speech, TEL, Student Council, NHS, Spanish Club, Wildcat Echo, and Play

**Which activity affected you the most?** Though I've loved every single activity I've been involved in, I think being a part of Speech has affected me the most. There's a part of me that comes alive when I'm on stage or talking about something I am passionate about and the rest of the world seems to fade away. Besides being a part of the Wildcat Echo, Speech uncovered my fervor for writing, and I'm forever thankful for the program.

**What is a favorite elementary/middle school memory?** I don't have a specific memory, but I miss being so excited for the first day of school that I couldn't sleep the night before. My mom would lay my first-day-outfit on the floor beside my bed for the morning, and I'd spend all night just peeking at it with nothing but anticipation. I'd get the same feeling the night before field trips, too.

**If you could give advice to a freshman, what would it be?** You don't have to follow the crowd or do what the person next to you is. Looking back, I wasted so much time in high school trying to be like everyone else that I didn't really give myself enough time to do what I wanted for me. It's cliché to say, but high school flies by so so so fast--make the most of it by doing what feels right to you.

**What do you appreciate most about Maquoketa Valley?** The teachers, for sure. I've always heard other students from different schools talk about their interactions with staff, and it never fails to sound like a nightmare or remind me of Miss. Trunchbull from Matilda. The teachers here take care of us as if we are their own kids, and I don't think we appreciate it enough.

**If you could relive any moment in high school what would it be and why?** I would go back and do-over every single Homecoming week that I was lucky enough to have in high school. There's something about the atmosphere--excitement, anticipation, and pure joy--that can't be replicated at any other point in life. Tp-ing, dress-up days, the dance, Friday Night Lights... the whole week makes you feel so young and alive. I absolutely loved it, and I'll miss it so much.

**Who is your most inspirational teacher?** I look up to Mrs. DeVore in a multitude of ways. Never in my life have I ever met a woman more dedicated to her students and all of their individual activities. She puts her students before herself in every situation, and never hesitates to ask what she can do for us before taking into consideration what she may need from herself first. She's MV's biggest cheerleader.

**If you wanted people to remember you by a song, which one would it be?** "The Life" by Kenny Chesney

**What does your future (college and career) look like?** As of right now, I plan on attending the University of Iowa to major in Journalism and Mass Communications. A college out of state somewhere is still calling my name though, so I might end up at Florida Gulf Coast University somewhere down the road--who knows!

**What is your dream job?** In a perfect world, I wouldn't really have a job but a passion. I would love to travel the world and write about all that I see and tell the stories of the people I meet along the way. If you know of anyone looking for a travel journalist, send them my way :)

**What's the hardest thing you've ever had to do?** I lost my best friend and a piece of myself and have never quite recovered. I have been looking for myself ever since, and I still don't really know where I belong or who I am as a person anymore. Realizing I'll never be that girl again has truly been a hard pill to swallow.

**What one event has most impacted your life so far?** Traveling, traveling, traveling! I've been blessed to have a family that prioritizes experiences over materialistic things, so I feel as though I've seen so many places and met so many people in just 18 years. Going out of the country and all across America has made me realize there is so much more to life than just Delaware County--the world is ours to discover.

**What event from high school do you hope your classmates still talk about at your five-year class reunion?** The whole four years. I've loved every single second of it (even though you'll hear me say that I hate school a lot) and wouldn't trade any memory for the world. At our five-year reunion, I just know there will be a lot of laughs.