# THE PAPER CHASE!



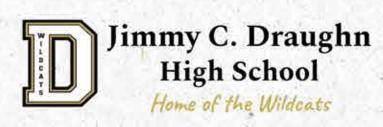
## CONGRATULATIONS 2023 GRADUATES



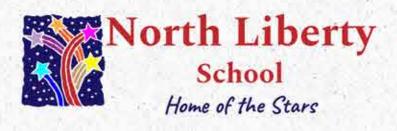














## Dear High School Graduates,

**CONGRATULATIONS ON REACHING this im**portant milestone in your lives! As your

> superintendent, I want to take a moment to encourage you as you move forward into your future.

The world is full of opportunities, and I hope that you will take advantage of them. Whether you

choose to pursue higher education, enter the workforce or join the armed forces. I urge you to be persistent and work hard. Remember that success is not always easy, but it is always worth it.

Be open to new experiences and don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone. The world is changing rapidly, and it is important to be adaptable and willing to learn from different perspectives.

Finally, I want to remind you that your education does not end with high school. Continue to seek knowledge and grow as individuals throughout your lives.

Once again, congratulations on your graduation. I wish you all the best in vour future endeavors!

BUT ... WHILE THE 158 WORDS ABOVE are heartfelt, sincere, on point and true, they are not my real words. They were generated using AI — artificial intelligence. I did this for two reasons. One, I'm personally curious about AI, and two, I wanted to try to capture how the unimaginable can become possible within half a lifetime.

During my teenage years, Windows 1.0 was released; the first pocket cell phone cost \$2,500; hypertext was invented to create the Internet - known then as the World Wide Web; the first webcam monitored a coffee pot at Cambridge University; and the first text message

Fast forward 33 years and the latest Windows 12.0 is on the horizon; 15 billion people own cell phones; webcams monitor our doorbells; 23 billion texts

are sent a day; and AI can craft "a letter to graduates about their future from the school superintendent." All of these examples were unthinkable for this high school graduate who spent time as a deckhand before deciding what to do with his life.

If we let it, the future can be scary: AI; cloning; virtual reality; 3D printers; autonomous cars; drones. All of these can be used for good in this world, but can also raise some tough ethical concerns.

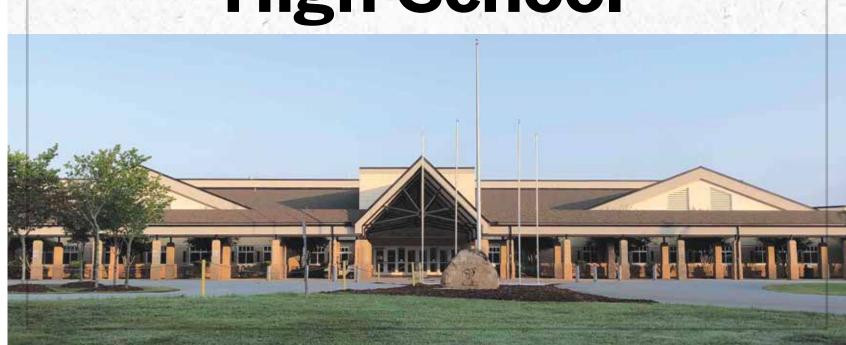
As my AI generated letter stated, the world truly is full of opportunities. And from my heart, I truly am hopeful that the class of 2023 will not only discover technology beyond our current imaginations, but that you also will do it for the good and betterment of our world.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mike Swan

SUPERINTENDENT BURKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# Jimmy C. Draughn High School



## Dear Senior Class of 2023,

**THE FACULTY AND STAFF** of Jimmy C. Draughn High School would

like to congratulate the Class of 2023! It has been a privilege to watch each of you continue to grow and mature into adult-

vear.

hood over this past

As you watched me walk the halls last year, I am sure you were probably wondering, "Who is this old woman?" Now you know. I am the person who is and forever will be invested in you. I have worried when you struggled; I have been ecstatic when you succeeded; I have held you accountable when you made poor choices, and I have genuinely loved you regardless. I understand that you indeed are the future, and I thank you for allowing me to be a part of shaping that future in a positive way.

As I further reflected upon this year, I tried to think of a word or phrase that adequately describes you as a group. After much deliberation, I decided to dub you the Class of Endless Possibility. You may be wondering, "Why endless possibility?" In you, I see limitless talent whether that talent is manifested academically, athletically, or artistically. As you leave Draughn High School, these talents will take you in many different directions and introduce new adventures and trials. I am confident that the time you have spent with us at Draughn will give you the sensibility, discernment, perseverance, and integrity to ensure success in your college, career, or military pursuits.

Class of 2023, you are ready to make your way in the world. Go forth and shape your community, your nation, and your world, remembering that you are FOR-

**EVER WILDCATS!** 

Congratulations to the Class of 2023!

**Jeanene Burris** 

PRINCIPAL JIMMY C. DRAUGHN HIGH SCHOOL



FORTHE PAPER

#### Top 10 Graduates

FRONT ROW: Karrigan Bennett, Charis Hyde, Sarah Mull, Lainey Proffitt, Geneva Smith, and Ashley Say Puac. SECOND ROW: Ella Abernathy, Elijah Pritchard, Zachary Heile, and Carson Childers.

#### JIMMY C. DRAUGHN HIGH SCHOOL



FOR THE PAPER

#### **Honor Graduates**

FRONT ROW: Karrigan Bennett, Lillian Britt, Elizabeth Toole, Wonhee Kim, Lilly Apperson, Seezong Xiong, Kyla Yee, Anna Peeler, Maddison Powell, and Ashley Say Puac.

SECOND ROW: Chassity Hitchcock, Landon Reed, Kimberly Agustin Godoy, Genesis Becerra Robles, Alexis Diaz, Sarah Mull, Ellie Bartlett, Katelyn Cozort, and Kelly Chun Morales.

THIRD ROW: Thomas Lambert, Benjamin Thao, James Mercer, Emma Lewis, Geneva Smith, Lainey Proffitt, Katherine Cline, Charis Hyde, Jakob Ross, and Kevin Hernandez Cruz.

FOURTH ROW: Carson Childers, Savannah Gentieu, Bella Williams, Regen Bridges, Ethan Clark, Justin Branch, Ronald Wilkins, Lainey Stinson, and Cora Hunt

FIFTH ROW: William Kilpatrick, Elias Phipps, Dimitri Souvanhna, Zachary Pinkerton, Ryker Suchocki, Zaydin Pritchard, Aubrie Snyder, and Ella Abernathy.

LAST ROW: Elijah Pritchard, Zachary Heile, Yates Jensen, John Robert Abernathy, and Wyatt Bevins.



#### Ushers and Marshals

FRONT ROW: Addison Aldridge, Chelsea NIchols, Luke Stafford, Benjamin Zimmer, Corey Powell, Ashton Mears, Grady Scronce, Jenna Abernathy, Ambria Blalock, and Ellery Smith.

**BACK ROW:** Helena Hatley, Madison Crouch, Paul Hilton, Speed Hatley, Naiyenne Nemorin, and Kaleigh Poteet. FOR THE PAPER



#### JIMMY C. DRAUGHN HIGH SCHOOL



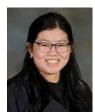
Ella Abernathy



John **Abernathy** 



**Kimberly Agustin Godoy** 



Lilly **Apperson** 



Ellie Chandler **Bartlett** 



Anna **Barus** 



Genesis **Becerra Robles** 



Karrigan Bennett



Wyatt **Bevins** 



Dawson **Bollinger** 



Justin **Branch** 



Regen **Bridges** 



Lillian **Britt** 



**Brayden Brown** 

**Barker** 



Carson **Brown** 



**Dalton Buchanan** 



Kori **Buchanan** 



**Taylor Buchanan** 



**Adrianna Bumgarner** 



Jessica **Burleson** 



Caleb Cameron



**Emily** Campbell



Gabriel Carswell



Matthew Carswell



Carson Childers



Caleb **Childres** 



**Kelly Chun** Morales



**Ethan** Clark



**Katherine** Cline



Xavier



**Allisha** Cox



Katelyn Cozort



**Bentley Darnell** 



**Alexis** Diaz



Joshua **Elkins** 



**Bianca Escudero** 



Gaither



Savannah **Braxton** Gentieu Greene



Stephanie Griggs



Christopher Gupta



William Harris

Cora



Kaitlyn Harvey

**Charis** 

Hyde



Ella Heavner

Addison

Ingold



**Peyton** Hensley

Trey

Jensen



**Hernandez Cruz** 

**Parker** 

Jeter



**Spencer** 

**Sydney** 

Mitchell

Kilpatrick





Jackson Kirkley

**Alexander** 



Zoe

**Thomas** 

Lambert

Estella



**Emma** 

Lewis

Sarah

Mull



Joycelynn March





**Nicholas** McGee







Kaleb **ODell** 



Addison

Miracle

Christian



Anna Peeler



**Jorge** 

MoralesYoc

Wonhee

Kim

Gabriel

Perry



Elias **Phipps** 

Alicia

Mosby



Zachary **Pinkerton** 



John **Port** 



Gabriel **Powell** 



**Tywan** 

Nemorin



Lilli

Newton

Maddison **Powell** 



Makenzie

Norville

**Madison Powell** 



Garen **Price** 



William **Price** 



Pritchard



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#### DRAUGHN HIGH SCHOOL



Lainey Proffitt



Damari **Ramos** 



Blake



Rhoney **Roberts** 



Cherish **Emma** Sams



**Ashley** 



Caleb Say Puac



Lance **Aubrie** 



Alison

Storm

Suddreth



Stinson



Benjamin Thao

**Karter** 

Devon

**Carrie** 

Woodard

Williams

Waycaster



Ayden

Ward



Bella Williams



**Abigail** 

Wood



Locc

Reilly

Yang





Luke **Yates** 



Luke



Connor Robinson



Landon

Reed

Jakob Ross



Bryan Sanchez



**Taylor Silvers** 



**Bryan Saucedo** 

Andrade

Geneva Smith

Summer

Speagle

Ryker

Isaac

**Vargas** 

Ronald

Wilkins

Ryan

Williams

**Benjamin** 

Xiong

Suchocki



Dimitri Souvanhna



Kerrigan



Annie



Lillian



Harrison Williams



**Tanner** 



Isaac Yang



Yang



Kyla Yee



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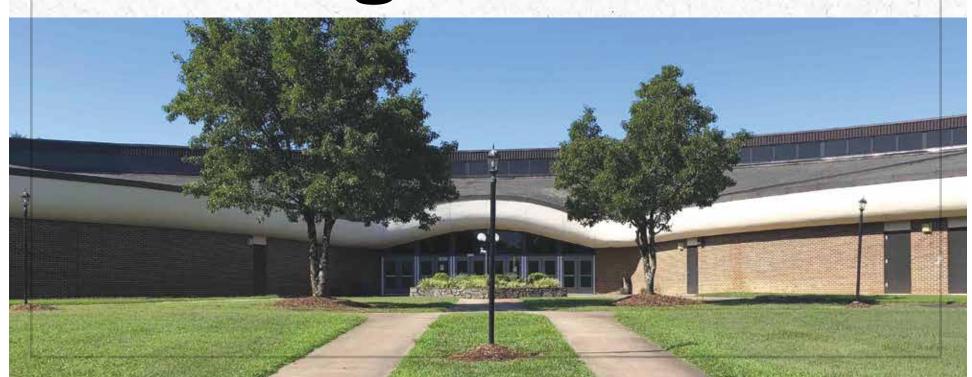
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## **East Burke High School**



## Letter to the Cavalier Class of 2023,

**AS THE PRINCIPAL** of East Burke High School, I am delighted to extend my heartfelt congratula-

> tions to the graduating class of 2023. It is with great pride and admiration that we celebrate the achievements of these exceptional young individuals.

Our graduating students have demonstrated remarkable dedication, perseverance, and resilience throughout their educational journey. They have embraced academic challenges, explored diverse fields of knowledge, and acquired the skills necessary to navigate the complexities of the modern world. These graduates have not only excelled in the classroom but have also made significant contributions to our school community and beyond.

This year's graduating class has shown exceptional leadership qualities, a strong commitment to service, and an unwavering passion for making a positive impact. They have actively engaged in various community service initiatives, organized fundraisers for charitable causes, and demonstrated a genuine concern for the well-being of others. Their acts of kindness, empathy, and selflessness have left a lasting impression on our school and the broader community.

As our graduates embark on the next chapter of their lives, whether pursuing higher education, entering the workforce, or joining the armed forces, I am confident that they will continue to make significant contributions to society. Their passion, resilience, and determination will undoubtedly lead them to achieve remarkable successes and positively impact the communities they become a part of.

I would like to express my gratitude to the teachers, staff, parents, and community members who have played a crucial role in nurturing and supporting our graduating students. Your unwavering commitment to their growth and development has helped shape them into the exceptional individuals they are today.

Once again, I extend my warmest congratulations to the graduating class of 2023. May their future be filled with endless opportunities, fulfillment, and success. I have no doubt that they will continue to make us proud and inspire future generations.

While your time as East Burke High School students culminates at commencement, I look forward to seeing you come back to visit. It goes without saying,

"Once a Cavalier, Always a Cavalier."

#### **Katie Moore**

PRINCIPAL

EAST BURKE HIGH SCHOOL



#### Summa Cum Laude Honor Graduates

ROW 1 (bottom): Ben Jacob Abernethy\*+^, Eli Paul Carico\*^, Gracie Marie Hall\*^, Marabeth Frances Huffman\*^

ROW 2 (top): Arin Alexandria Mace\*^, Joselyn Olvera-Salgado\*^, Riley Alexander Stilwell\*^, Meah Laney Walsh\*+^, William Timothy Weidner\*^

(NOT PICTURED: Joseph Michael Williams\*^)



#### Magna Cum Laude Honor Graduates

**ROW 1 (bottom)**: Macy Tayla Carson\*, Kendall Nichelle Cook\*, Arielle Elysabeth Evans\*, Rashell Ann Wright\*, Macie Laine Whitener\*, Deserly Kasia Lor\*

ROW 2 (top): John Benjamin Mast\*, Alia Nya Riley\*, Raleigh William Slutsky\*, Roxy Jane Taylor\*, Trysten Kaylee Hare\*, Jaccob Alexzander Fair\*+

(NOT PICTURED: Hollan Channing Cline\*, Noah Jacob Craft\*+, Mekenzie Dakoda Harris\*, Jordan Paige Robinson\*)

ADDITIONAL SCHOLARS NOT PICTURED: Ian Michael Cox (Presidential); Chiashee Yang (NC Scholar)

#### ALL CAPTIONS READ LEFT TO RIGHT BY ROW

- \*Indicates NC Scholar
- +Indicates Presidential Scholar ^Indicates Top Ten

#### EAST BURKE HIGH SCHOOL



#### **Cum Laude Graduates**

ROW 1 (bottom): Karli Mikaela Brown\*, Kaleb Gavin Castle\*, Jadon Maxwell Gilbert\*, Nicholas Chase Greer, Dominic Vincent Grippi\*

ROW 2 (top): Ella Geraldine Huffman\*, Madyson Baleigh Johnson\*, Chia Kaley Lor, Karlyna Marie McDaniel\*, Luke Ryan Wilson, Aubree Pearl Grigg\*

(NOT PICTURED: Sierra Rain Addison\*, Ester Ambrocio\*, Matthew Dillon Barrier, Juliana Kathleen Herrell, Ashley Daniela Medina-Amaro, Kaley Madison Smith\*, Jackson Ryan

Spencer\*, Piper Ryleigh Strong\*, Alyssa Pajnra Yang, Nasuda Pacha Yang, Sienna Kajsuab Yang)



#### **SGA Executive Council**

Arielle Elysabeth Evans, Student Body Vice President; Trysten Kaylee Hare, Student Body President; Ella Geraldine Huffman, Student Body Treasurer; Joselyn Olvera-Salgado, Student Body Secretary



#### **Senior Class Officers**

Eli Paul Carico, Vice President; Raleigh William Slutsky, Secretary; Roxy Jane Taylor, Treasurer (Not pictured: Ashley Daniela Medina-Amaro, President)



#### **Junior Marshals**

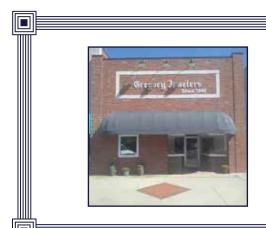
ROW 1 (BOTTOM): Ava Elise Childers, Kasey-Lyn Mackey Frazier, Sydney Jordan George, Nokona Gage Grindstaff, Ashley Hernandez,

ROW 2 (TOP): Alston Jacob Lowman, Noah Aidan Smith, Emma Grace Stamey, Joshua Peyton Thomas, Paxton Levi White



#### **Junior Ushers**

ROW 1 (BOTTOM): Samuel Tristen Carswell, Asher Nicholas Gebhard, Rylee Christine Giles, Mason Christopher Harris, Adan Reyes Lopez ROW 2 (TOP): Spencer Adair Mast, Caroline Faith Pruitt, Raylee Nickole Swink, Kassie Grace Turner



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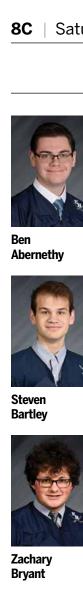
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#### EAST BURKE HIGH SCHOOL



Reese **Abernethy** 







**Ambrocio** 



**Palmer** 



**Trenton** 





Maria





Kearia

**Bast** 

**Taylor** 

Eli



**Jacob** 









**Boyette** 











Carson

Blake



**Bostain** 

Carson



**Bowman** 

























Leslie







































Michael













































**Ashley** 

Medina-Amaro





Leeann

Moore



Conner

Newton



Andrew



John

Mast





Salgado





Corbin

McNeil





**Alexis** 

Miller











Jacob Alia Rhyne Riley











Smith

Smith

Kaley Smith

#### EAST BURKE HIGH SCHOOL



Jackson **Spencer** 



**Jasmine Spencer** 



James **Starnes** 



**Jauhliya** Steele



Aaron

Stilwell



Gannon Stotts





**Piper** Strong



Roxy **Taylor** 



Makayla Terry

Walsh



Jessica **Torres** 









William Weidner



Mason Westcott



White-Coleman



Whitener



Joseph



Williams





Shawnna Winstead





Zane

**Stanley** 

Kongmeng

Yang

Style

Yang

Xiong



**Brandon** Woodall

Tshaj

Xiong

Nasuda

Yang

Luke

Wilson



**Nathan** 

Wilson

Eden

















**Breanna** Yang Young



Yang



Hannah Yount





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Congratulations to the Class of 2023!





## Freedom High School



## Dear Graduates of Freedom High School,

**CONGRATULATIONS!** You made it! I am so incredibly proud of you all. Your hard work and perseverance during your high school

journey has finally paid off. It was not easy, but your hard work will be worth it in the long run. Having your high school diploma will open up doors and opportunities you could have

never imagined. Some of you worked hard to earn extra credits toward college and will pursue higher education. Some will head to the military soon after graduation, while others will go directly into the workforce as a result of certificates you earned in the Career and Technical Education classes that you attended at Freedom. Many of you have worked jobs in addition to attending school to help support your families. However you arrived at this point, I am so proud of all of you who have achieved this goal.

Your futures are bright! Even during these uncertain times, keep focused on your goals. We have so many talented students at Freedom High School and your talents are unique to you. Use your talents to better yourself and the world around you, and do not be afraid to make mistakes. Learn from them and never give up on your dreams. People will come into your life, both good and bad; choose to listen to those who are trying to help you be a better version of yourself and set your goals high while working hard to achieve them.

Never give up! You have already shown your grit in making it this far. The days ahead are unknown but you have what it takes to preserve. You are part of history! You will have stories to tell for generations to come.

Never forget where you came from and who helped you get here. Take time to thank them and let them know how much you appreciate their sacrifices and what they have done to help you achieve this great accomplishment. And always remember the Golden Rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you," so that you will someday be able to give to others the way your people have given to you.

Whatever path you take after graduation, I know you will succeed! Freedom has prepared you well, you are ready for the next adventure!

Congratulations, Class of 2023, I am so proud of you! You've made it, and have earned your celebration. And wherever your future takes you, never forget "Once a Patriot, Always a Patriot."

Sincerely, **Shanda Epley** 

**PRINCIPAL** FREEDOM HIGH SCHOOL



#### Senior Class Officers

Kevin Tumax Puac (President), left, and Aaron Ajqui-Marin (Vice President)



#### **SGA Officers**

LEFT TO RIGHT: Amy Walton (Public Relations), Caroline Epley (Treasurer), Kenneth Hernandez-Villanueva (President), Alex Walker (Vice President), and Katherine Bristow (Secretary).



#### **Presidential Scholars**

LEFT TO RIGHT: Brett Bedard, Katherine Bristow, Courtney Buchanan, Caroline Epley, and Sara Byrd Succop



#### **Honor Graduates**

1ST ROW: Teague Ballew, Brett Bedard, Katherine Bristow, Abby Bryant, Courtney Buchanan, Jaiden Corpening, Elliott Deacon, Katheryn Deacon, Dyson Dellinger, Asher Ellis, and Caroline Epley

2ND ROW: Logan Gardner, Kenneth Hernandez-Villanueva, Ciara James, Isabella Jimenez, Cole Johnson, Carson King, Kadence Lo, and Joel Logan **3RD ROW**: Emmerson Miller, Jenny Ortiz-Ortiz, Avery Pollard, Emily Propst, Gerald Rodriguez-Sepez, Mikayla Shelton, Sara Byrd Succop, Marco Velasquez Orozco, Alexander Walker, and Amy Walton



#### **NC Scholars**

1ST ROW: Teague Ballew, Brett Bedard, Abner Berduo-Ortiz, Katherine Bristow, Abby Bryant, Courtney Buchanan, McKenna Carver, Scout Conrad, Jaiden Corpening, Elliot Deacon, Kathryn Deacon, Deisy DeLeon Lopez, Dyson Dellinger, Asher Ellis, and Caroline Epley

2ND ROW: Oasis Evans, Chloe Frady, Logan Gardner, Kailey Gunn, Kenneth Hernandez-Villanueva, Ty Holland, Shirlleys Jimenez Zaldivar, Isabella Jimenez, Cole Johnson, Carson King, Kadence Lo. and Joel Logan

**3RD ROW**: Emerson Miller, Jenny Ortiz-Ortiz, Avery Pollard, Emily Propst, Kelly Rodriguez Martinez, Gerald Rodriguez-Sepez, Mikayla Shelton, Sara Byrd Succop, Kevin Tumax Puac, Marco Velasquez Orozco, Alexander Walker, Amy Walton, and Ethan Xiong

**NOT PICTURED**: Ciara James



#### **Junior Marshals**

FRONT ROW: Connor Cork, Leland Evans, Kelli Ashmore, and Taylor Ashmore.

BACK ROW: Madison Banner, Lucy Yelton, Johana Garcia-Barreno, Mariah Wilson, and Kennedy Owens.

**NOT PICTURED**: Statlee McGee



#### **Junior Ushers**

FRONT ROW: Sheyla Hernandez-Hernandez, Michael Cates, Maxwell Taylor, Jake Kota, and Andrew Vasile. **BACK ROW**: Alexander Burrell, Alex Bock, Sydnie Demiter, Caroline McRacken, Hana Piercy, and Carolina Juarez-Ortiz.

## THE PAPER -CONGRATULATES THE CLASS OF 2023!

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Bradley Adkins



Jefferzon **Aguilar Barreno** 



John Aguilar **Ramirez** 



**Kevin Agustin-**Hernandez



Luis Chavez **Ailon-Chunux** 



Melvin Ajpacaja **Aaron** 



Abisai **Alcon-Lopez** 



**Andres-Tomas** 



Teague Ballew



Sacred **Baylor** 



**Brett Bedard** 



Anthony Bell



Dezmarae Bell



**Abner Berduo-Ortiz** 



Ajqui-Marin

Cheyenne **Blanton** 

Sheldon



Katherine **Bristow** 

Gianna

Campbell



Armando

**Brown** 

Jacob

**Blake** 



**Abby** Bryant



Jonna

Cato



Courtney Buchanan

Tarryn

Chase



Zalie

Chase



**Chavez-Garcia** 

Jessica



Steven Cherry



Cheyanne Clark



Jacob Clark



Keegan Clark



McKenna

Carver

**Dionte** Code



**Scout** Conrad



Jaiden Corpening

Kathryn

Deacon



**Sydney** Corpening

**Deisy DeLeon-**

Lopez



Corpening

Dyson

Dellinger



Landon Cox

Deysci

Domingo-Lopez



Jessi Domingo-

Morales

**Alondra** 

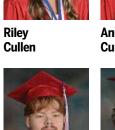


**Anniya** 

Chase

Ford

Dula



Josiah

Duncan

**Alexis** 

**Forney** 



**Davis** 

**Asher** 

Chloe

Frady

Ellis





Caroline



Petrona Francisco-Mendez



**Anthony** Frasca

Kailey

Gunn



Yolanda Garcia-Solis

Cora

Hall

**Parker** 

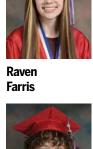
Helton



Logan Gardner

Olivia

Hamilton



Christopher

Garrington

**Aidan** 

Haney

Yessica

**Hernandez Ailon** 



**Francisco** 

**Wallace** 

Hanna

Kenneth

Castillo

Hernandez



**Gonzalez-Andres** 

**Emma** 

Harbison

Ricardo

**Hernandez Soto** 



Quentin

Harbison

Kenneth

Hernandez-

Villanueva

**Shirlleys** 



Gregory

Hollifield

Michael

Johnson



Alayna Mekhi Harper **Harris** 



**Ethan** Houpe



Rilee Hasty

Christopher Huffman



Kennedy



Jeulenea

Khang

Christopher

Hensley







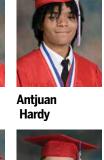


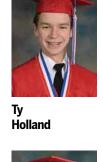


Johnson Rebecca Laws















**Bryson** Lee











Lipscomb

Jason Marroquin-

**Pascual** 







**Santos** 

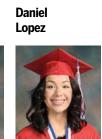
**Martinez-Cortes** 











Marlie

Mauney

Francisco



Benjamin

Mazlish





Solis



**Tecum** 







Mike Marroquin-

**Pascual** 



**Jaxston** 

Martin







**McCorkle** 

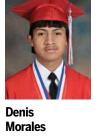




















































**Kylie** 

**Price** 



















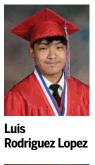




Price











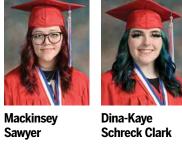












Erik

**Smith** 



**Jacey** 

Smith



Katelyn

Smith

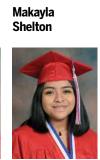


**David** 

Socop



Solis



Michelle

Solis















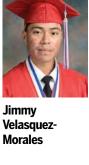








Jeronimo



. W	
hristopher	Kevin
ımax-Puac	Tumax-Puac



Velasquez





Joshua

Macario

















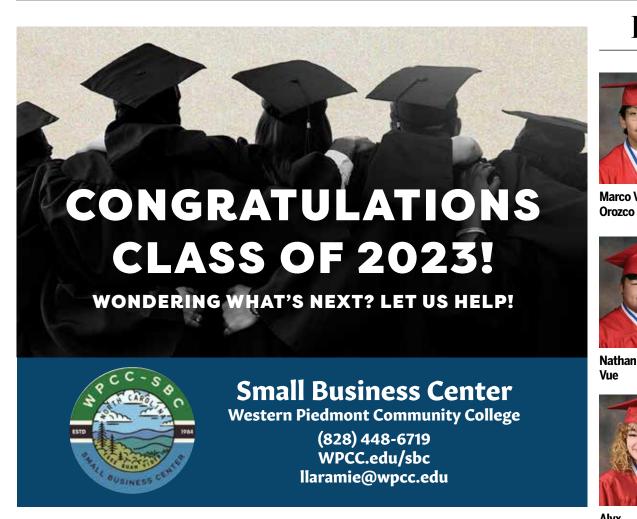












#### **Congratulations Class of 2023!**



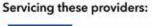
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**Fredy** Velasquez **Vicente-Perez** 



Nathan



Alexander Walker



Amy Walton



Henry **Waters** 

Chase

Whitaker



Hannah

Matthew

Yang

Wilson Tucker

Alyx Watson





Ethan

Xiong

**Natalie** 

Yelton



Kairr Yang



La Yang



Elizabeth Zamarripa Rodriquez



Priscilla Zazueta-McGalliard





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## Robert L. Patton **High School**



## Dear Graduates,

**AS YOU STAND** at the threshold of a new chapter in your lives, I am reminded of a quote from one of the greatest American

leaders, Theodore Roosevelt. In his speech "Citizenship in a Republic," he spoke of the "man in the arena," who strives valiantly and makes great efforts, despite the possibility of failure and criticism.

You, as graduates, have been that "man in the arena" for the past four years. You have worked tirelessly, faced countless challenges, and overcome numerous obstacles to reach this moment. You have pushed beyond your limits, and you have emerged stronger and more resilient as a result.

But your journey doesn't end here. You are now entering a new arena, one that is even more challenging and demanding than high school. You will face new obstacles and setbacks, and you will have to work even harder to achieve your goals.

However, I have no doubt that you will rise to the occasion, just as you have done in the past. You have already demonstrated your strength and determination, and you will continue to do so in the years ahead. You will become the doctors, the lawyers, the engineers, the teachers, the healthcare workers, the tradesman and the leaders that this world needs.

But you must never forget the lessons you have learned in this arena. You must always strive to be the best versions of yourselves, to work hard and never give up, to be kind and compassionate towards others, and to make a positive impact on the world around us.

As you leave this arena, take with you the memories, the friendships, and the experiences that have shaped you into the individuals you are today. Be grateful for the support and guidance you have received from teachers, family, and friends.

Remember that you are not alone in this journey. You are part of a community of graduates who have faced the same challenges and overcome the same obstacles. You are part of a generation of young people who have the power to change the world for the better.

Embrace the future with courage and hope, knowing that you have what it takes to succeed. Be the "men and women in the arena" who strive valiantly and make a difference in the world.

Congratulations to the Class of 2023!

Dr. Dillon Sain

PRINCIPAL ROBERT L. PATTON HIGH SCHOOL



#### **Senior Class Top 10**

Kinley Attaway, Judge Avery, Brianna Baker, Hayley Caraway, Izora Gragg, Leah Haithcock, Admy Palacios-Gonzalez, Kelsey Powell, Hailey Snodgrass, and Aleea Wortman.



#### 2023 Senior **Class Officers**

Senior Class President Christina Skelly, Senior Class Vice President Kinley Attaway, Senior Class Treasurer Kimber Wilson, Senior Class Senators Judge Avery, Juli Stewart, and Georgia Wood (Not Pictured).



## 2023 Student Body Executive Council

Student Body President Caleb Logan (Not Pictured), Student Body Vice President Danny Marshall, Student Body Secretary Randan Clarke, Student Body Treasurer Hayley Caraway, and Student Body Historian Annie Hensley. SGA Senators are Laura Beshears (Not Pictured), Kaden Bostian, Tay Brawley (Not Pictured), Joseph Franklin (Not Pictured), Izora Gragg, Leah Haithcock, Emberlyn Holt, Rachel Jantes-Ramirez (Not Pictured), Admy Palacios-Gonzalez, Kelsey Powell, and Aleea Wortman.



#### 2023 North Carolina Academic Scholars

TO BE CONSIDERED A NC ACADEMIC SCHOLAR, students must meet the following requirements: have an unweighted 3.5; had a 4th math for university; have taken physics or chemistry; had 2 world language; have 4 or more elective credits in one content area; and have taken 3 higher level courses during 11th and 12th grades.

THE SCHOLARS ARE Ryder Anderson, Kinley Attaway, Judge Avery, Nicole Beckmann, Riley Berry, Kaden Bostian, Lucas Brown, Alex Buckner, Hayley Caraway, Joy Chen, Randan Clarke, Marlee Cooper, David Devine (Not Pictured), Makenna Edwards, Joseph Franklin (Not Pictured), Natalie Franklin, Izora Gragg, Cameron Greene, Chloe Greene (Not Pictured), Leah Haithcock, Ellie Hamby, Heaven Henning (Not Pictured), Annie Hensley, Nate Holland (Not Pictured), Emberlyn Holt, Brooke Johnson, Ada Jose Caballero, Keiven LaFevers, Shelby Lail, Bailey Lambert, Melissa Lopez Mejia, Marissa Lor (Not Pictured), Daniel Marshall, Mackenzie Neaves, Admy Palacios-Gonzalez, Kelsey Powell, Virginia Richardson, Hannah Shores, Christina Skelly, Hailey Snodgrass, Kamden Stephens, Juli Marie Stewart, Erica Vicente Rodriguez, Ashley Vicente-Lopez, Faith Webb (Not Pictured), Coley Welch, Georgia Wood, and Aleea Wortman.



#### 2023 Presidential Scholars

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS ARE RECOGNIZED for a 3.5 or higher unweighted GPA at the end of 1st semester of senior year and a 28+ Composite Score on the ACT or a 620+ score on the SAT Critical Reading/Writing and/or a 630+ score on a SAT Math subtest.

THEY ARE Judge Avery, Lucas Brown, Leah Haithcock, Ellie Hamby, Benjamin Johnston, Hannah Shores, Hailey Snodgrass, Kamden Stephens, Juli Stewart, and Kimber Wilson.



#### 2023 Honor Graduates

TO BE CONSIDERED an Honor Graduate, students must have a minimum GPA of 4.0 on the weighted scale.

**PATTON'S HONOR GRADUATES ARE Kinley** Attaway, Judge Avery, Brianna Baker, Nicole Beckmann, Jessey Belton, Riley Berry, Kaden Bostian, Lucas Brown, Alex Buckner, Hayley Caraway, Joy Chen, Anna Christensen (Not Pictured), Randa

Clarke, Marlee Cooper, David Devine, Makenna Edwards, Natalie Franklin, Joseph Franklin (Not Pictured), Chesnie Freeman, Izora Gragg, Cameron Greene, Lea Haithcock, Ellie Hamby, Heaven Henning (Not Pictured), Annie Hensley, Nate Holland (Not Pictured), Emberlyn Holt, Broooke Johnson, Keiven LaFevers, Shelby Lail, Bailey Lambert, Clara Lane, Rachael Lloyd, Melissa Lopez Mejia, Maris-

sa Lor (Not Pictured), Danny Marshall, Admy Palacios-Gonzalez, Panha Ponn, Kelsey Powell, Virginia Richardson, Hannah Shores, Christina Skelly, Hailey Snodgrass, Kamden Stephens, Juli Stewart, Erica Vicente Rodriguez, Ashley Vicente-Lopez, Faith Webb (Not Pictured), Coley Welch, Kimber Wilson, Georgia Wood, and Aleea Wortman.



#### 2023 Patton Senior Scholar Athletes

TO BE CONSIDERED a Patton Senior Scholar Athlete, students must have at least a weighted 3.75 and participated in a Varsity sport.

THEY ARE Kinely Attaway, Brianna Baker, Nicole Beckmann, Riley Berry, Kaden Bostian, Lucas Brown, Alex Buckner, Haley Caraway,

Joy Chen, Randan Clarke, Makenna Edwards, Karolyn Francisco (Not Pictured), Natalie Franklin, Izora Gragg, Cameron Greene, Leah Haithcock, Emberlyn Holt, Brooke Johnson, Ada Jose Caballero, Bailey Lambert, Clara Lane, Keiven LeFevers, Ethan Lo (Not Pictured), Marissa Lor (Not Pictured), Danny

Marshall, Ava Michaels (Not Pictured), Ella Norris (Not Pictured), Admy Palacios-Gonzalez, Savanna Pinkerton (Not Pictured), Kelsey Powell, Jayla Rector (Not Pictured), Christina Skelly, Hailey Snodgrass, Kamden Stephens, Ashley Vicente-Lopez, Faith Webb (Not Pictured), Coley Welch, and Kimber Wilson.



#### Western Piedmont Community College Completers

THOSE EARNING ASSOCIATE IN ARTS DEGREES ARE Brianna Baker, Riley Berry, and Ava Michaels (Not Pictured).

THOSE COMPLETING THE TRANSFER PATHWAY ARE Hayley Caraway, Leah Haithcock, Clara Lane, Josue Mendez Solis (Not Pictured), Savanna

Pinkerton (Not Pictured), Kelsey Powell, Hannah Shores, and Coley Welch.



#### **2023** Junior Marshals and Ushers

JUNIOR MARSHALS are recognized for having the top ten weighted GPAs from the graduating class of 2024. They will be recognized and participate in the graduation ceremonies. Ties are recognized.

THE JUNIOR MARSHALS ARE Piper Atkins, Charlie Bennett, Elias Cardona Lopez, Brady Chamberlain, Haidyn Hartman, Mary Lindley Jones, Jessica Lloyd, Austin Mcguire (Not Pictured), Kinsey Snodgrass, and Rayne Taylor (Not Pictured).

JUNIOR USHERS are recognized for having weighted GPAs 11-20 from the graduating class of 2024. They will be recognized and participate in the graduation ceremonies. Ties are recognized.

THEY ARE Miranda Alvarado Gamborino, Grace Arrowood, Laya Bolds, Logan Bolds, Kaylee Davis, Shane Marshall, Kason Punch, Allison Redwine, Katie Riebel, and Jimena Vasquez-Lopez.



**Jeffry Ailon-Vicente** 





Ryder



**Otto Andres** 

Francisco



Madison



Kinley



Judge

















Aiden



Alex



Jordan



Hayley



Francisco



Chase

Carswell



Dawson

Carswell



Hannah

Carswell

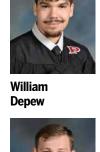


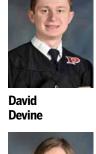
Libby

Carswell













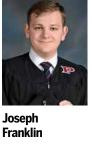












































Olivia





Jacob





















































**Palmer** 









Mackenzie







Savanna **Pinkerton** 



**Panha** Ponn



Reid **Pons** 



Lainey **Poteet** 



**Jack Powell** 



Kelsey **Powell** 



**Evans** Puac-Puac



Jose Raymundo-Vicente





Joseph Reece



Nikhia Reed



Ardlai **Regino-Pinto** 



Virginia Richardson



Carly Rodriguez



Wade Roper





Stanley Roten



Stephen Shook III



Hannah **Shores** 



Jayla

Rector

Emma **Shorthouse** 



Christina Skelly



**Emma Smith** 



**Sydney** Smith



Trevor Smith



Weston **Smith** 



Hailey **Snodgrass** 



Kali **Sprouse** 



Kamden **Stephens** 



Juli Stewart



Brasen **Tallent** 



Lehulum Tilahun



**Ashley Vicente-Lopez** 



**Erica Vicente Rodriguez** 



Christian Vue



**Eevon** Vue



Nouchee Vue



**Braleigh** Wall



**Zachary** 



Cooper Webb



Webb



Welch



**Zachery** 



**Xaiver** Williams



Willis



Jaden



**Kimber** Wilson



Witherspoon



**Aislyn** Wood



Georgia

Wood



Aleea Wortman



Kairi Xiong

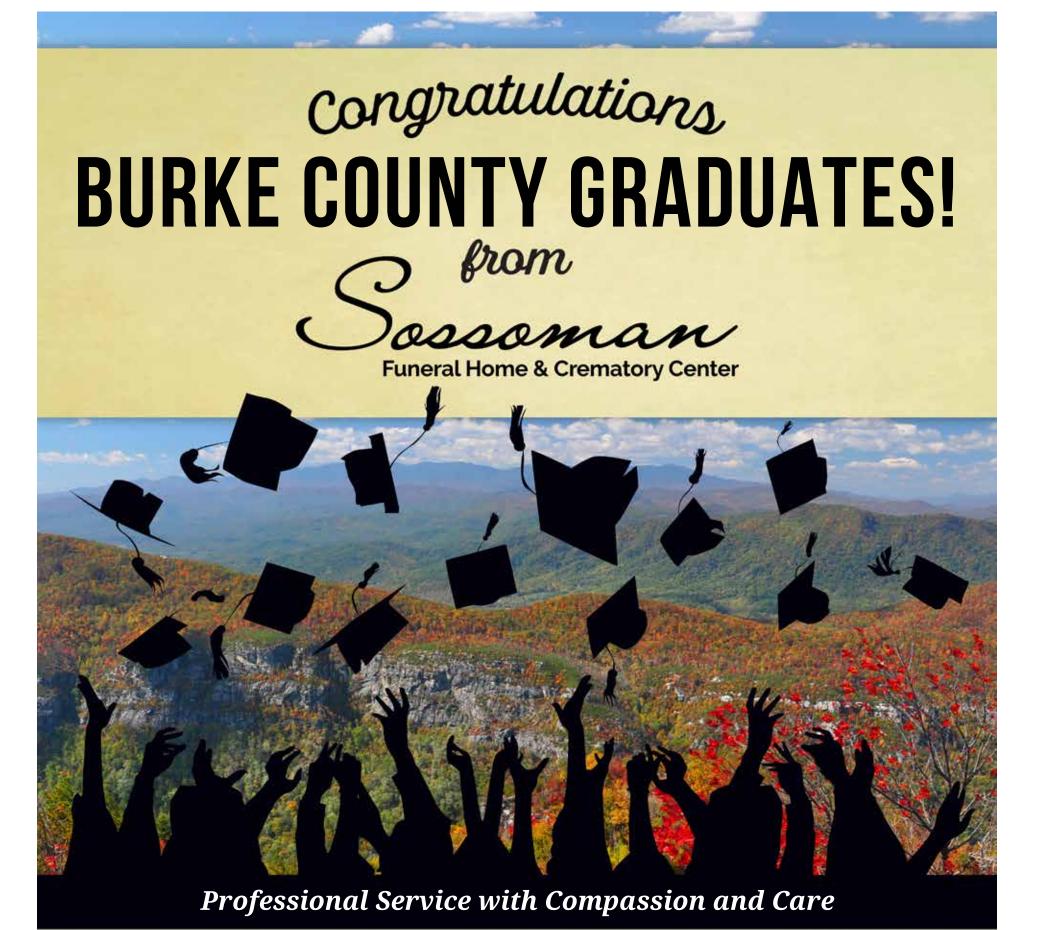


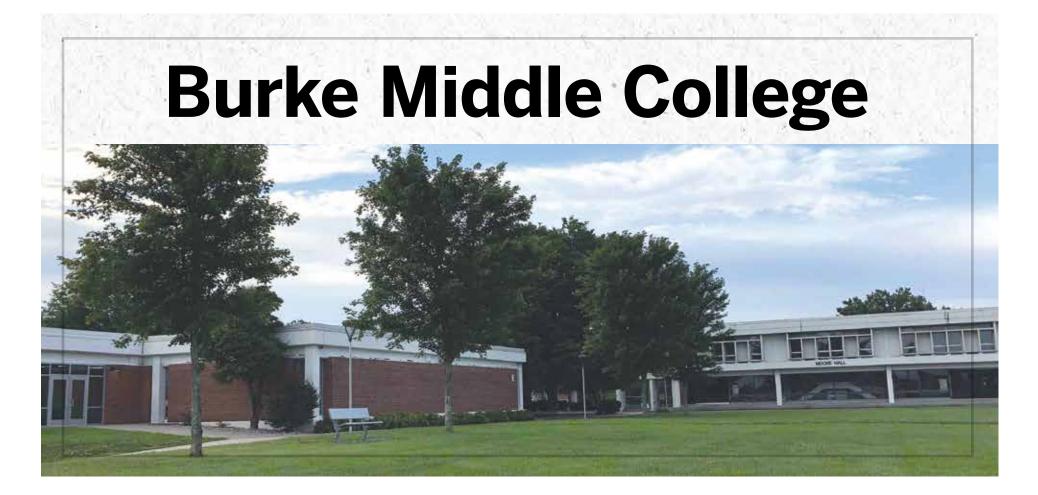
**Wantws** 

Xiong



Dyson Young





## Dear Graduating Class of 2023,

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the graduates of Burke Middle College Class of 2023! We are so proud of

you in all of your accomplishments that have led up to this exciting milestone in your life. When you came to BMC two years ago you entered as the first cohort under our Career Academies. We hope this

academy experience has provided a more personalized and connected innovative high school experience. Since you are the first cohort of graduates that we have under the academy model, we will recognize you through a more personalized graduation based on your academy that you started when you first came to BMC. We are so excited to celebrate you and all of your accomplishments during the graduation ceremony.

Through the Academy model 87% of our graduating class is leaving high school with an associate's degree or college certificate. Fifty two percent of our students are graduating with a college transfer associate's degree that will allow them to enter into a university as a sophomore or junior. Thirty three percent of our students are graduating with a Career and Technical Education certificate that has prepared you to enter the workforce upon graduation.

We are so proud of you. I am excited to see what wonderful things all of our Burke Middle College students will accomplish in the future. You are an amazing group of young adults and will soon make your mark on the world by giving your all to make it a better place. You should be proud of all that you have accomplished this year and during your time in high school.

I encourage you to always dream big and work hard to accomplish your dreams. Theodore Roosevelt said it best, "Believe you can and you're halfway there." Always believe in yourself and uplift those around you. Success is within your grasp, so always go for your dreams and anticipate the unexpected no matter how difficult the road.

The unexpected is what will allow you to grow and develop your potential. It is not what happens, but how we handle it that makes us stronger. We believe in you!

On behalf of your teachers and staff at Burke Middle College, please know how proud we are of you. our parents, families, and friends have supported you and watched you grow towards this moment in time.

I also congratulate them for ceaselessly supporting you on your academic journey. Enjoy your time as a graduate and we can't wait to see all of the awesome things that you achieve in the future.

**Dr. Christie Abernathy** 

PRINCIPAL BURKE MIDDLE COLLEGE



#### Summa Cum Laude

ROW 1: (L to R) Esmeralda Mejia Tecum, Destiny White, Colby Anderson, Matthew Wellman, Kiera Hawkins, and Nathan San Juan.

ROW 2: Om Patel, Karly Jones, Calista Poarch, and Ella Styles.

**ROW 3:** Aterea Melvin.



#### **National Honor Society**

ROW 1: (L to R) Destiny White, Fatima Marroquin Miguel, Athena Lo, and Lacey Lowman.

ROW 2: Priya Patel, Nikki Her, Matthew Wellman, Calista Poarch, Schaffer Strong, and Colby Anderson.

ROW 3: Gracie Park, Shikha Patel, Aterea Melvin, Larkin Bowman, Qwinton Hemphill, Alexia Lyne, and Karsen Hallyburton.

ROW 4: Emma Penland, Om Patel, Justice Foster, Emma Whisnant, Makayla McLean, and Emma Grindstaff.

#### BURKE MIDDLE COLLEGE



### Magna Cum Laude

ROW 1: (L to R) Priva Patel, Fatima Marroquin Miguel, and Emma Penland.

ROW 2: CiaSiab Xiong, Shikha Patel, Schaffer Strong, and Rafael Lopez Geronimo.



#### Cum Laude

ROW 1: (L to R) Nikki Her, Gracie Park, Claire Cook, and Lana Huffman.

Bowman, and Emma Whisnant. **ROW 3:** Justice Foster and Karsen



# Completed Degrees at Western Piedmont Community College

ROW 1: (L to R) Fatima Marroquin Miguel and Esmeralda Mejia Tecum.

ROW 2: Priya Patel, Nikki Her, Matthew Wellman, Lana Huff-

Colby

Anderson

man, Kiera Hawkins, and Calista Poarch.

**ROW 3:** Rafael Lopez Geronimo. Aterea Melvin, Karly Jones, Larkin Bowman, Ella Styles,

and Mackenzie Huffman.

ROW 4: Om Patel, Mahaylee Grigg, Justice Foster, Emma Whisnant, Makayla McLean, and Emma Penland.



#### **Junior Marshals**

ROW 1: (Left to right) Selina Rice and Sammy Xiong.

ROW 2: Kathryn Golden and Pauv Xiong.

**ROW 3:** Emma Myers and Lanie Shuping.

ROW 4: Ashton Kentch and Tyler Xaysana.



Abee



**Justice** 



**Foster** 



**Karly** 



Makayla McLean



**Callie Poarch** 



**Destiny** 

**McPeters** 

Jennifer

**Richards** 

Xiong





**Don Nathan** San Juan



**Bowman** 



Mahaylee



**Athena** 



**Esmeralda** Mejia Tecum





Dylan

**Boyle** 

Karsen

Hallyburton

Larkin



**Emma** 





Alejandra

Lopez

**Aterea** 

Melvin

Alayna

**Smart** 



Rafael Lopez

Kaylie



**Schaffer** Strong



Kyle



Chloe

Cook

Kiera

**Hawkins** 

Wyatt



Gracie

**Park** 

Ella

**Styles** 





Lacey

Lowman

Om



Matthew Wellman



Cook



Qwinton Hemphill



Alexia



Priya



Kerrigan Whaley



Cook



Nikki

Shikha

**Patel** 

**Emma** 

Her



**Alexis** 

**Foster** 

Huffman



McFarlin



**Penland** 



Whisnant



White



CiaSiab Xiong



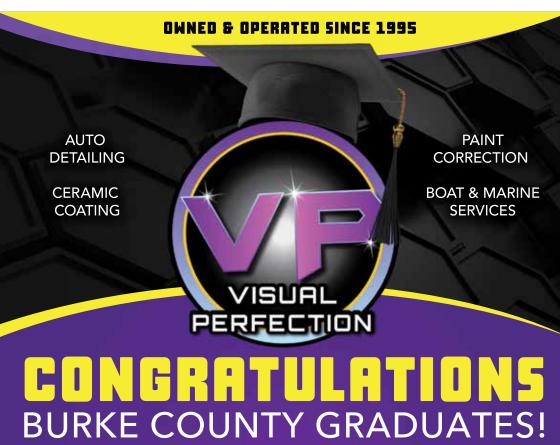


ROW 2: Mahaylee Grigg, Larkin

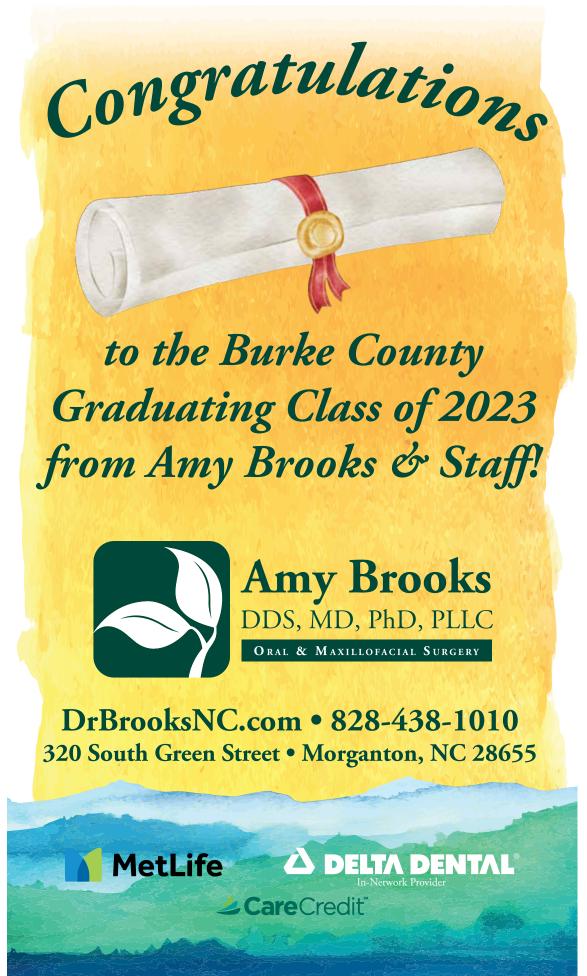
Hallyburton.

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## **Dear 2023** Graduates,

FIRST AND FOREMOST, I would like to thank you for being a part of my first year at Hallyburton and making it a successful year for me. It has been an honor and privilege to be your principal during your final year of high school.

On behalf of our entire school staff and those in our community who support us, congratulations! We could not be more proud of the students and citizens you have become, and we are so happy to share in the excitement of your graduation.

I think I am speaking to most of our graduates when I say you are a deserving graduate. You are deserving because you have overcome obstacles that not every high school student faces. You have successfully completed the challenge and proven you are worthy of what you

have earned. I hope that the knowledge you have gained, and the relationships you have built with peers, as well as the staff, will springboard

you into the next chapter of your lives with success.

This ending is

just the beginning. There are so many opportunities out there for each and every one of you. Continue to grow and embrace lifelong learning. Use your life skills to your advantage as you enter into a competitive world that will have its challenges. As you face these challenges, focus on your goals, and don't be afraid to ask for help. If we can assist you in any way as you enter this

know. Best of luck to you all! **Rich Linens PRINCIPAL** 

HALLYBURTON ACADEMY

next phase, please let us



**Emanuel Aguilar-Jaramillo** 



**Brayden Baker** 



Natasha



Raysean Cloud



**Edgerton** 



**Fleming** 



Freeman



Gladden



**Izzard** 



Alfredo Miguel **Jimenez** 



Kyle **McMurray** 



**Melvin Moises** Chanchavac Mejia



Nehemiah Chanchavac Mejia



**Timothy Phillips** 



Olivia **Powers** 



Junipurr Santos



**Sydney** 



Gavin Sweeney



**Michael** Teofrio



## Dear North Liberty **Class of 2023,**

**GRADUATION** from high school is certainly one of the most tremendous milestones in your life. I have had the privilege of

watching you "Reach for the Stars" for five years. I am so proud of you!

Your teachers have supported you in your classrooms-- ensuring achievement in loving and supportive environments. Your parents, guard-

ians, family members, and friends, have provided nurturing, supportive spaces for you to mature and thrive outside of school. Your shine has always been within you. NLS Graduates, shine brighter than a shooting star.

Your North Liberty family and I love you and have learned some invaluable lessons along this journey. These truths continue to change me, and I am thankful for the changes. Each time I see you, or a picture of what you are accomplishing, I smile. It has truly been an honor to share this journev with vou.

Lessons you have taught us:

- 1. How to give and receive pure, strong, unconditional love with no strings attached.
- 2. We are all valuable and communicate differently!!
- 3. A child with special needs will inspire you to be a special person.
- 4. That success is not found in outward performance, but in accomplishing even the small tasks. Celebrate them!!!
- 5. Pause... to witness the determination in others to reach new milestones, and the effort, strength, and grit it requires.

You have made the lives of those who have shared your journey much brighter by allowing us to be a participant.

Again, congratulations, North Liberty Stars, Class of 2023!

Shine your light up high,

For you are destined to touch the sky. Reach for the Stars!!

With love and appreciation,

Mrs. Lisa Summey

PRINCIPAL NORTH LIBERTY SCHOOL



**Adkins** 



**Dafne** 

Lopez-Garcia

Hein



**Phillips** 

**Carlos** 

Ortega



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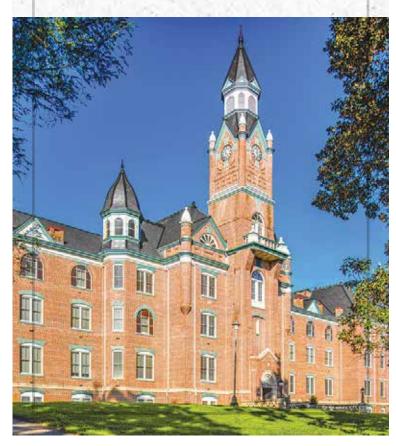
Congratulations 2023 Graduates!

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## N.C. School for the Deaf



## To the NCSD Bears **Class of 2023**,

THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR has been an amazing year of growth for each one of you. Congratulations for all your accomplishments. You are about to complete one of the most important milestones of your life. It is also a time for independence. Many of you will go on to college and some of you will go on to work. Your future will be determined by your decisions. Your success is determined by your actions. The staff at NCSD wish you the best and we hope that each

We also hope that you approach your new indepen-

of you will enjoy life to its

fullest.

dence seriously. You will need all your skills and all things you have learned here at NCSD to master your new

world. Remember to always bring energy, enthusiasm, and hope into your life. These three things will help surround you with pos-

itivity and guide you to

many successes. Best wishes to all of you and I hope that you will always be proud to be an alumnus of the NC School for the Deaf. Go Bears.

Our best, Mark D. Patrick

SCHOOL DIRECTOR

**Shirley Fore** 

INTERIM SCHOOL PRINCIPAL N.C. SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF



Anja McKinney is the 2023 Valedictorian at NCSD.



**Autumn Rudiger is the** 2023 Salutatorian at NCSD.



Castro

McKinney



Costa



Rudiger



**Phillips** 



Frizzell

Mickles



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