

# MEEKER HIGH SCHOOL 116<sup>TH</sup> COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES



MAY 27, 2023 ~ 10 A.M.  
STARBUCK STADIUM ~ MEEKER, COLORADO

## ORDER OF EVENTS

Processional  
National Anthem  
Welcome Address  
Salutatorian Address  
Commencement Address Introduction  
Commencement Address  
Scholarships  
Parent Recognition  
Presentation of the Class of 2022 To the Board of Education  
Receiving of the Class of 2022  
Presentation of Diplomas  
Valedictorian Address  
Passing of the Mantle  
Receiving of the Mantle  
Turning of Tassel  
Closing Remarks  
Recessional

MHS Band  
MHS Senior Musicians  
Amy Chinn  
Connor Blunt and Kate Lockwood  
Elinora Gianinetti  
Pegge Halandras, MD  
*See page 3B for Scholarship Presentations*  
Class of 2023  
Mrs. Amy Chinn  
Mr. Chris Selle  
MSD Board of Education  
Elijah LeBlanc  
Elijah LeBlanc  
Ainsley Selle  
Elinora Gianinetti  
Amy Chinn  
MHS Band



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# MEEKER HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2023

Daniel Robert Anderson  
 Thomas Gale Anderson \*\*  
 Brighton Ann Bair \*\*\*  
 Gracie Lee Blagg\*  
 Athena Rey Blazon  
 Connor Russell Blunt \*\*\*  
 Casey Levit Brink \*\*  
 Chase Edward Callahan  
 Jonathan Andrew Cardile  
 Lily Isabella Cox \*\*  
 Dagon Matthew Dade \*\*  
 Edward John Drussell \*\*  
 Brallan Esquivel Valenzuela  
 Robert Dean Foster  
 Kaden Porter Franklin \*\*\*  
 Ariel Bree Gallegos \*\*\*  
 Brealyn Jean Garcia \*\*  
 Elinora Adalee Gianinetti \*\*\*  
 Zachariah Scott Godwin  
 Corbyn James Hadden \*\*\*  
 Cyros John Halandras \*\*\*  
 Autumn Leann Hobbs \*  
 Ruby Kate Holliday \*\*\*  
 Gwyneth Loretta Hooks \*\*\*  
 Rylie Hannah Justine Jense  
 Alexis Jolivette-Linder \*  
 Tiana Rae Jolivette-Linder \*\*  
 Mackenzie Anne Keetch \*\*\*

Trae Darryl Kennedy \*  
 Hailey Kay Larson \*\*  
 Elijah Dean LeBlanc \*\*\*  
 Kate Alexandra Lockwood \*\*\*  
 Jasmine Elizabeth Long \*  
 Austin Michael Lopez  
 Emma Cheryl Luce \*\*  
 Stacie Marie Mack  
 Abraham Luke Maupin  
 Aiyana Hope McCook \*\*  
 Joseph Kellan McKay  
 Katelynn Rose McPherson  
 Madison Taylor Mendenhall \*\*\*  
 Tanner Nathan Jacob Musser  
 Jayden Renae Nichole Overton-Linsacum \*\*\*  
 Payke Leehin Potetz  
 Logan John Pozorski  
 Gage Daniel Richardson \*\*\*  
 Grace Ann Roberts \*\*\*  
 Carlos Ruiz  
 Andrew Noah Spieth  
 Jericho Raydon Stallings  
 Melayni Grace Wangnild \*\*\*  
 Deana Lee Wood \*\*\*

\*\*\* Graduating with Highest Honors ~ 3.8 and up  
 \*\* Graduating with High Honors ~ 3.5 to 3.79  
 \* Graduating with Honors ~ 3.0 to 3.49



Graduates wearing white stoles are members of the National Honor Society. Graduates wearing blue stoles are officers of the National Honor Society.



Graduates with an FFA Tassel are 1 year FFA Members. Graduates wearing blue and gold cords are FFA members. (Single cord = 2 year member, Double cord = 3 year member, Twisted cord = 4 year member). Graduates wearing medallions are senior FFA officers. Graduates wearing gold stoles have earned a State FFA Degree.



Graduates wearing red and white cords are members of FCCLA. Graduates wearing red stoles are senior FCCLA officers.



## Class Flower

Cactus

## Class Song

"Walking on a Dream"

Empire of the Sun

## Class Motto

"The best way to predict your future is to create it! ~ Abraham Lincoln

## Class Sponsors

Paulette Hanks, Brenda Hummel, Kate Kindall

## Class Officers

President - Elinora Gianinetti  
 Vice President - Casey Brink  
 Treasurer - Edward Drussell  
 Secretary - Cyros Halandras



## ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Chris Selle  
 M.A., University of Colorado ~ B.S., Colorado School of Mines

Mrs. Amy Chinn  
 M.A., Adams State University ~ B.A., Colorado State University

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

Kevin Amack, President  
 Bill deVergie, Vice President  
 Tom Allen, Secretary/Treasurer

Hanna Borchard  
 Robert Dorsett  
 Ann Franklin  
 Anthony Theos

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Graduating with Academic Highest Honors (3.8+) Weighted GPA

Brighton Bair  
 Connor Blunt  
 Kaden Franklin  
 Ariel Gallegos  
 Elinora Gianinetti  
 Corbyn Hadden  
 Cyros Halandras  
 Ruby Holliday  
 Gwyneth Hooks  
 Mackenzie Keetch  
 Elijah LeBlanc  
 Kate Lockwood  
 Madison Mendenhall  
 Jayden Overton-Linsacum  
 Gage Richardson  
 Grace Roberts  
 Melayni Wangnild  
 Deana Wood

### Graduating with Academic High Honors (3.5 - 3.79) Weighted GPA

Thomas Anderson  
 Casey Brink  
 Lily Cox  
 Dagon Dade  
 Edward Drussell  
 Brealyn Garcia  
 Tiana Jolivette-Linder  
 Hailey Larson  
 Emma Luce  
 Aiyana McCook

### Graduating with Academic Honors (3.0 - 3.49) Weighted GPA

Gracie Blagg  
 Autumn Hobbs  
 Alexis Jolivette-Linder  
 Trae Kennedy  
 Jasmine Long

### National Honor Society

Connor Blunt  
 Kaden Franklin  
 Ariel Gallegos  
 Elinora Gianinetti  
 Corbyn Hadden  
 Autumn Hobbs  
 Ruby Holliday - Secretary  
 Gwyneth Hooks  
 Mackenzie Keetch  
 Elijah LeBlanc  
 Tiana Jolivette-Linder  
 Kate Lockwood - President  
 Emma Luce  
 Aiyana McCook  
 Madison Mendenhall  
 Jayden Overton-Linsacum  
 Gage Richardson  
 Grace Roberts - Treasurer  
 Melayni Wangnild  
 Deana Wood - Vice President

### Band

Jericho Stallings: 2019-2023

### FCCLA

Gracie Blagg: 2021-2023

### FFA

Tommy Anderson: 2020-2021  
 Brighton Bair: 2019-2023  
 Gracie Blagg: 2019-2023  
 Connor Blunt: 2019-2022  
 Casey Brink: 2019-2021 & 2022-2023  
 Chase Callahan: 2019-2020  
 Jonathan Cardile: 2019-2021 & 2022-2023  
 Lily Cox: 2023  
 Dagon Dade: 2019-2020  
 Robert Foster: 2020-2021  
 Kaden Franklin: 2019-2023  
 Zach Godwin: 2020-2021  
 Cyros Halandras: 2019-2023  
 Autumn Hobbs: 2019-2020 & 2022-2023  
 Gwyneth Hooks: 2019-2023  
 Tiana Linder: 2019-2023  
 Alexis Linder: 2019-2021  
 Trae Kennedy: 2019-2023  
 Hailey Larson: 2019-2020

Jasmine Long: 2019-2021  
 Austin Lopez: 2019-2021  
 Stacie Mack: 2019-2023  
 Aiyana McCook: 2019-2020  
 Joe McKay: 2019-2021 & 2022-2023  
 Katelynn McPherson: 2019-2021  
 Madison Mendenhall: 2022-2023  
 Tanner Musser: 2019-2023  
 Jayden Overton-Linsacum: 2019-2020 & 2021-2023  
 Payke Potetz: 2019-2023  
 Gage Richardson: 2019-2021  
 Carlos Ruiz: 2020-2023  
 Jericho Stallings: 2021-2023  
 Melayni Wangnild: 2019-2022  
 Deana Wood: 2019-2022

# SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATIONS

Ms. Trina Kennedy - Community & Donor Recognition

Mrs. Naomi Etchart presenting the Fred & Annie Burke Memorial Scholarship

Mr. Steve Coley presenting the Rio Blanco Masonic Lodge #80, A.F. & A.M. and Colorado Masonic Fund Association Scholarships

Ms. Reese Miller presenting the Dan Ilgen Memorial Scholarship

Mrs. Mary Strang presenting the Holt Atherton Memorial Scholarship

Mrs. Vicki Crawford presenting the VFW Post 5843 & Auxiliary Scholarships

Mrs. Amy Chinn presenting the Coach Bob Tucker Scholarships

Mr. Ben Brown presenting the Ben Brown Public Service Scholarship

Mr. Ben Quinn presenting the Johnny Wix Aspiring Artist Scholarship

Ms. Trina Kennedy recognizing the Boettcher Foundation Scholarship

Ms. Trina Kennedy presenting the Rio Blanco Ranch Scholarships

Ms. Amy Chinn recognizing students who have Enlisted in the United States Military

## LOCAL & STATE SCHOLARSHIPS, DONORS & RECIPIENTS

### ◆ Ben Brown Public Service Scholarship

**Description:** This scholarship, sponsored by Meeker resident Ben Brown, is awarded to a graduating senior planning to attend an institution of postsecondary education (preferably located in Colorado) who is pursuing a career in public service.  
**Award Amount:** \$3,000 (\$1,500 first year + \$500 each consecutive year up to 4 yrs w/ 3.5 GPA)  
**2023 Recipient:** Jayden Overton-Linsacum

### ◆ Boettcher Foundation Scholarship

**Description:** Since 1952, the Boettcher Scholarship Program has existed to keep Colorado's most talented high school seniors in-state for their postsecondary years. Scholars are selected based on academics, service, leadership, and character. In addition to receiving an \$80,000 scholarship award across four years, scholars also receive institutional merit and/or need-based aid from their respective campuses. As a comprehensive scholarship, the Boettcher award also includes programming and support to ensure that Scholars reach their full academic and leadership potential.  
**Award Amount:** \$20,000 (Renewable up to four years)  
**2023 Recipient:** Kate Lockwood

### ◆ Classic Air Medical Scholarship

**Description:** This scholarship is awarded to children of Classic Air Medical Employees. Classic Air Medical has been providing air medical transport in the states of Arizona, Utah, Colorado, Idaho, New Mexico and Wyoming for over 30 years.  
**Award Amount:** \$5000 (one-time)  
**2023 Recipient:** Madison Mendenhall

### ◆ Coach Bob Tucker Scholarship

**Description:** These scholarships, given in loving memory of long-time Meeker coach and teacher, Bob Tucker, are awarded to senior student athletes who have demonstrated integrity, sportsmanship and upstanding character. The recipients must have played in two sports for at least three years of high school and been involved in at least two community or extra curricular activities.  
**Award Amount:** \$1500 (\$750 the first year, \$750 the second year)  
**2023 Recipients:** Connor Blunt & Casey Brink

### ◆ Colorado County Clerks Association Scholarship

**Description:** This scholarship, sponsored by the Colorado County Clerks Association, was established to aid outstanding Colorado graduating high school seniors in furthering their education, particularly in the field of public service.  
**Award Amount:** \$500 (one-time)  
**2023 Recipient:** Casey Brink

### ◆ Colorado Farm Show Chuck Urano Scholarship

**Description:** This scholarship, sponsored by the Colorado Farm Show, is awarded to a high school senior who is interested in pursuing an education in agriculture, to help defray the costs associated with obtaining their higher educational goals.  
**Award Amount:** \$2000 (one-time)  
**2023 Recipient:** Kaden Franklin

### ◆ Colorado Masonic Benevolent Fund Association Vocational Grants

**Description:** This one-time vocational grant, given by the Colorado Freemasons Grand Lodge of Colorado, is intended to assist students in obtaining vocational skills from a career and technical / vocational education program within the state of Colorado.  
**Award Amount:** \$1,750 (one-time)  
**2023 Recipient:** Jayden Overton-Linsacum

### ◆ Colorado Snowmobile Association Royal Collard Memorial Scholarship

**Description:** The Colorado Snowmobile Association is dedicated to advancing, promoting and preserving the sport of snowmobiling in Colorado. Each year they

provide one scholarship to a graduating high school senior who has intentions to enroll in an institution of higher education. Applicants are selected based on their GPA, extracurricular activities, involvement in the Colorado Snowmobile Association, and the quality of an original essay.  
**Award Amount:** \$2,500 (one-time)  
**2023 Recipient:** Elinora Gianinetti

### ◆ Colorado State PEO Vocational Scholarships

**Description:** The Colorado State PEO Scholarship fund was established in 2007 for Colorado women who are pursuing further education in career & technical fields or furthering their education in non-traditional areas.  
**Award Amount:** \$1,000 - \$3,800 (one-time)  
**2023 Recipients:** Kate Lockwood (\$3,800), Gracie Blagg (\$3,000), Madison Mendenhall (\$1,000)

### ◆ Craig Calver Memorial Scholarship

**Description:** This award, given in memory of Craig Calver, is to be used to help one MHS graduate obtain training for a career in a vocational or technical field. The recipient is selected upon the quality of their application and strength of personal characteristics.  
**Award Amount:** \$500 (one-time)  
**2023 Recipient:** Gracie Blagg

### ◆ Dan Ilgen Memorial Scholarship

**Description:** This scholarship was developed to celebrate the memory of Dan Ilgen. Dan was a valued member of the Meeker community who always wanted to see others achieve their dreams without being limited by financial hardship. This award is given to a Meeker High School wrestling athlete to assist them in defraying the cost of higher education.  
**Award Amount:** \$500 (one-time)  
**2023 Recipient:** Abraham Maupin

### ◆ Equitable Excellence Scholarship

**Description:** Since 1859, the Equitable Foundation's promise has been to help people pursue what's possible; working hard to build better futures and stronger communities. The Equitable Excellence Scholarship places an emphasis on empowering students' futures so that they can continue to have positive impacts in their community.  
**Award Amount:** \$5000 (renewable)  
**2023 Recipient:** Aiyana McCook

### ◆ Fred and Annie Burke Memorial Scholarship

**Description:** The recipient of this scholarship is a student who has demonstrated a firm level of effort and achievement in high school and who possesses definite plans to further their education. Preference is given to the descendants of Fred and Annie Burke.  
**Award Amount:** \$1,000 (one-time)  
**2023 Recipient:** Mackenzie Keetch

### ◆ Freeman Fairfield Richard G. Lyttle Memorial Scholarship

**Description:** Dick Lyttle was editor and publisher of *The Meeker Herald* for many, many years. This one-time \$250 scholarship is given to a graduating senior who serves his/her community in many capacities.  
**Award Amount:** \$250 (one-time)  
**2023 Recipient:** Elinora Gianinetti

### ◆ Grossman Scholarship

**Description:** Thanks to the generosity of former Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC) Board Member Rick Grossman and his wife Susie, the VOC offers three scholarships each year to graduating high school seniors who have demonstrated a commitment to caring for our environment's natural resources and intend to pursue post-secondary education through an accredited environmental, natural resource, climate or outdoor industry related program in Colorado.  
**Award Amount:** \$5,000 (one-time)  
**2023 Recipient:** Kate Lockwood

### ◆ Holt Atherton Aviation Scholarship

**Description:** This scholarship, given in the memory of Holt Atherton, is awarded to a graduating senior of Meeker High School who plans to pursue an education in the field of Aviation or Aviation Maintenance in an FAA approved course of study. The scholarship is renewable for a second year of study in this field if the applicant maintains a 3.00 GPA or better during their first year.  
**Award Amount:** \$2,500 (renewable once)  
**2023 Recipient:** Aiyana McCook

### ◆ Holy Family Catholic Church Altar & Rosary Society of Meeker

**Description:** This one-time scholarship is offered to a graduating Meeker High School Senior who is of the Catholic Religion.  
**Award Amount:** \$500 (one-time)  
**2023 Recipients:** None in 2023

### ◆ Hopewest Cowboy Scholarship

**Description:** This scholarship, awarded to one Meeker High School HopeWest Cowboy Volunteer, is selected based on the number of volunteer hours, extracurricular activities / other community involvement and the quality of the applicant's essay. The HopeWest Cowboys program, founded in 2015, connects high school students with elementary students who are experiencing grief and/or significant life changes.  
**Award Amount:** \$500 (one-time)  
**2023 Recipient:** Ruby Holliday

### ◆ "I Ride with James" Memorial Scholarship

**Description:** This scholarship is given in the memory of James Sizemore.  
**Award Amount:** \$500 (one-time)  
**2023 Recipient:** Elinora Gianinetti

### ◆ Johnny Wix Aspiring Artist Scholarship

**Description:** This scholarship, given in memory of Johnny Wix, is awarded to a graduating senior who shows an aptitude and passion for art.  
**Award Amount:** \$500 (one-time)  
**2023 Recipient:** Corbyn Hadden

### ◆ Lacey Oldland Memorial Scholarship

**Description:** Mrs. Lacey Oldland, a dedicated and loving Kindergarten teacher, tragically lost her life in an equestrian accident. In her honor, and in loving memory of Lacey's dedication to teaching, the Oldland Family has set up a scholarship to assist a graduating senior who plans to major in: Elementary Education, Education, Equine Science, or Agriculture.  
**Award Amount:** \$500 (one-time)  
**2023 Recipient:** Deana Wood

### ◆ Meeker Arts & Cultural Council Scholarships

**Description:** These scholarships are awarded to Meeker High School graduating seniors who excel in the arts and are planning to pursue post-secondary education. The recipients must have been involved in the performing, visual, or literary arts and have participated in activities that align with the Meeker Arts and Cultural Council's mission of inspiring and educating artists and the community through promotion, advocacy, and enhancement of cultural and artistic efforts.  
**Award Amount:** \$1000 (one-time)  
**2023 Recipients:** Ruby Holliday and Gage Richardson

### ◆ Meeker Assembly of God Church Scholarships

**Description:** These scholarships are awarded to graduating high school seniors who attend, and have actively participated and been involved in, the Meeker Assembly of God Church.  
**Award Amount:** \$2000 (Renewable up to 4 Years)  
**2023 Recipients:** Elinora Gianinetti & Elijah LeBlanc

### ◆ Meeker Cowboy Football Top Hand Scholarship

**Description:** This scholarship is awarded to a senior Meeker Cowboy football player who was on the team for at least three years and exemplifies the qualities of determination, honesty and respect.  
**Award Amount:** \$300 (one-time)  
**2023 Recipients:** Connor Blunt

### ◆ Meeker Friends of the FFA / DeKalb Scholarship

**Description:** This scholarship is awarded to a senior FFA member who has demonstrated a high level of commitment to the agricultural industry and has also been heavily involved in agriculturally related community service activities.  
**Award Amount:** \$250 (one-time)  
**2023 Recipient:** Gwyneth Hooks

### ◆ Meeker Lions Club Scholarships

**Description:** Every year the Meeker Lions Club awards several scholarships to deserving Meeker High School graduates. Scholarship winners are selected upon the strength of GPA, depth of public service activities, quality of their scholarship application, and their personal essays.  
**Award Amount:** \$800 (one-time)  
**2023 Recipient:** Connor Blunt, Elinora Gianinetti, Elijah LeBlanc, Aiyana McCook

### ◆ Meeker PEO Chapter BA Highest GPA in English Award

**Description:** This award, given by members of the Meeker PEO Chapter BA, is given to a senior girl who has earned the highest grades in Language Arts / English.  
**Award Amount:** Varies (one-time)  
**2023 Recipient:** Kate Lockwood

### ◆ Meeker PEO Chapter BA Highest GPA in Math & Science Award

**Description:** This award, given by members of the Meeker PEO Chapter BA, is given to a senior girl who has earned the highest grades in Mathematics & Science.  
**Award Amount:** Varies (one-time)  
**2023 Recipient:** Kate Lockwood

### ◆ Meeker PEO Chapter BA Sally Wilson Memorial Scholarships

**Description:** These scholarships, given in memory of former PEO member, Sally Wilson, honor two senior girls who plan to pursue post-secondary studies in the area of education. Sally worked as a secretary within the Meeker and Juneau, Alaska school systems, as well as a real estate agent. She was a passionate woman, particularly when it came to helping young women further their education; these scholarships were made possible through a donation from one of her loving sons in honor of his mother and her love of PEO.  
**Award Amount:** \$2,500 (one-time)  
**2023 Recipient:** Brealyn Garcia & Mackenzie Keetch

### ◆ Meeker PEO Chapter BA Vocational Scholarships

**Description:** These scholarship, given by members of the Meeker PEO Chapter BA, are awarded to senior girls who will attend a two year college, vocational or technical training school.  
**Award Amount:** \$500 (one-time)  
**2023 Recipients:** Gracie Blagg & Jayden Overton-Linsacum

### ◆ Meeker Sportsman's Club Inc. Scholarship

**Description:** One scholarship award is given to a graduating Meeker High School Senior by the Meeker Sportsman's Club. The scholarship recipient is chosen on the basis of a 500 word, type-written essay that expresses the importance of our Second Amendment Rights.  
**Award Amount:** \$800 (one-time)  
**2023 Recipient:** Brealyn Garcia

# SCHOLARSHIPS, DONORS & RECIPIENTS (CONTINUED)

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3B

## ♦ Mountain Valley Bank / Independent Bankers of Colorado (IBC) Scholarships

**Description:** These scholarship awards are provided to individuals who have had a banking relationship at an ICBC member bank or branch for at least six months and who will pursue postsecondary education during the 2023-2024 school year. Award recipients are chosen based on the quality of their application, grade point average, references, and the strength of their essay.  
**Award Amount:** \$1,000 (one-time)  
**2023 Recipients:** Kaden Franklin & Cyros Halandras

## ♦ Natural Soda Scholarship

**Description:** The recipient of this scholarship has a strong academic record, demonstrates financial need, participated in extra-curricular and/or community activities throughout high school, and is pursuing a career in engineering, geology, physical sciences or similar fields.  
**Award Amount:** \$5,000 (one-time)  
**2023 Recipient:** Elijah LeBlanc

## ♦ Pioneers Healthcare Foundation Scholarship

**Description:** This scholarship is awarded by the Pioneers Healthcare Foundation to a Meeker High School senior who is pursuing collegiate study in a healthcare field. Fields / Degree programs may include: Nursing, Radiological Technology, Respiratory Therapy, Medical Technology, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Pharmacy and Physician.  
**Award Amounts:** \$3,000 (one-time)  
**2023 Recipients:** Jayden Overton-Linsacum

## ♦ Pioneers Healthcare Foundation: CNCC Scholarship

**Description:** In partnership with Colorado Northwestern Community College, Pioneers Medical Center offers this scholarship to increase the number of professionals in the field of nursing (RN or LPN). This scholarship is awarded based on a student's academic performance, community service / involvement, and commitment to pursue pre-nursing and/or nursing studies at Colorado Northwestern Community College.  
**Award Amount:** \$1,000 (one-time)  
**2023 Recipient:** Jayden Overton-Linsacum

## ♦ Pioneers Healthcare Foundation: Employees of Pioneers Medical Center Scholarship

**Description:** This scholarship is awarded to a current Pioneers Medical Center employee (of at least 6 months) wishing to further their healthcare career and

credentialing. The recipient of this award must have already been accepted at a college / university in the program of their choice, or be a current student in good standing with a minimum 2.5 GPA.  
**Award Amount:** \$1,000 (one-time)  
**2023 Recipient:** Jayden Overton-Linsacum

## ♦ Redefining Rural Scholarship

**Description:** Rural students across the state of Colorado are doing incredible work and demonstrating incredible leadership to address and advance important issues in their local communities. This scholarship recognizes 7 individuals (state-wide) who have implemented new programs or projects, expanded existing programs, or have otherwise made a lasting impact on their rural schools and communities.  
**Award Amount:** \$1,000 (Renewable up to four years)  
**2023 Recipient:** Elinora Gianinetti

## ♦ Rio Blanco County Youth Fund Scholarship

**Description:** This scholarship is awarded to a senior who has been a 4-H member for at least five years. The award recipient is selected based upon 4-H involvement, school performance, county fair involvement, leadership roles held within 4-H, and financial need.  
**Award Amount:** \$1,000 (one-time)  
**2023 Recipient:** Kaden Franklin

## ♦ Rio Blanco County Farm Bureau Scholarship

**Description:** This scholarship, sponsored by the Rio Blanco County Farm Bureau, is awarded to a Rio Blanco County senior pursuing a degree in an agriculturally related field.  
**Award Amount:** \$1,000 (one-time)  
**2023 Recipient:** Gracie Blagg

## ♦ Rio Blanco Masonic Lodge #80 A.F. & A.M. Scholarships

**Description:** These scholarships are awarded by the Rio Blanco Masonic Lodge #80 to deserving graduating seniors who are pursuing higher education within the state of Colorado.  
**Award Amount:** \$500 - \$2,000 (one-time)  
**2023 Recipients:** Casey Brink (\$2,500), Carlos Ruiz (\$1,000), and Elijah LeBlanc (\$500)

## ♦ Rio Blanco County Stockgrowers Association Scholarships

**Description:** This scholarship, sponsored by the Rio Blanco County Stockgrowers Association, is awarded to Rio Blanco County seniors who are majoring in agriculturally related fields.  
**Award Amount:** \$500 (renewable once)  
**2023 Recipients:** Kaden Franklin & Cyros Halandras

## ♦ Rio Blanco County Woolgrowers Association Scholarship

**Description:** This scholarship is awarded to a Rio Blanco County graduate who demonstrates an understanding of the sheep industry. This award, sponsored by the Rio Blanco County Wool Growers Association is awarded in the student's second year of college.  
**Award Amount:** \$500 (one-time)  
**2023 Recipient:** None in 2023

## ♦ Rio Blanco Ranch Scholarships

**Description:** These scholarships, sponsored by Rio Blanco Ranch, are awarded to graduating seniors who have achieved high cumulative Grade Point Averages in conjunction with outstanding community service involvement.  
**Award Amounts:** \$1,000 - \$3,000 (one-time)  
**2023 Recipients:** Casey Brink (\$3,000), Deana Wood (\$3,000), Kaden Franklin (\$1,000), Elinora Gianinetti (\$1,000), MacKenzie Keetch (\$1,000), Gage Richardson (\$1,000)

## ♦ Rocky Mountaineers Memorial Scholarship

**Description:** The Rocky Mountaineers have established a permanent memorial college scholarship fund to assist deserving high school students who are endorsed by a Rocky Mountaineer member. The Rocky Mountaineers are dedicated to supporting the many avenues of natural resource careers and to the development of promising young people who are related or connected to the Rocky Mountaineers.  
**Award Amount:** \$1,500 (one-time)  
**2023 Recipient:** Gracie Blagg

## ♦ Rural Pathways Project Scholarships

**Description:** This scholarship, sponsored by the Rural Pathways Project, is awarded to a Meeker High School student who exemplifies self-awareness, curiosity,

leadership and vision by using their unique strengths, gifts, and ambitions to make the world a better place.  
**Award Amount:** \$2,000 (one-time)  
**2023 Recipient:** Kate Lockwood

## ♦ SGM Steve Westhoff Scholarship

**Description:** This scholarship, sponsored by SGM (a civil engineering, consulting, and surveying firm headquartered in Glenwood Springs, CO) is given in memory of Steve Westhoff, whose integrity, humor, and vast technical knowledge were an inspiration to SGM and many clients. Recipients must plan to attend a college or university to pursue studies in either civil engineering, mechanical engineering, or surveying.  
**Award Amount:** \$1,000 (one-time)  
**2023 Recipient:** Elijah LeBlanc

## ♦ Stalwart Agfinity Scholarship

**Description:** Lifelong learning is a core value of the Agfinity Cooperative, which is the founding principle behind the Stalwart Agfinity Scholarship. Individuals are selected based on the positive impact they've had in the agricultural community, as well as their hard work and future in the agricultural industry. Award winners must have a connection to the Cooperative.  
**Award Amount:** \$3,000 (one-time)  
**2023 Recipient:** Kaden Franklin

## ♦ VFW Post 5842 and Auxiliary Scholarships

**Description:** These scholarships, sponsored by the VFW Post 5842 & Auxiliary, are awarded to two members of the senior class who are attending post-secondary institutions of higher learning.  
**Award Amount:** \$1,000 (one-time)  
**2023 Recipients:** Announced at Graduation Ceremony

## ♦ VFW Post 5482 and Auxiliary Voice of Democracy Scholarship

**Description:** This scholarship, sponsored by the VFW Post 5842 & Auxiliary, is awarded to the local winner of the Voice of Democracy audio-essay program, which provides high school students with the unique opportunity to express themselves in regards to a democratic and patriotic-themed recorded essay. The 2022-2023 theme was "Why is the Veteran Important."  
**Award Amount:** \$75 (one-time)  
**2023 Recipient:** Gage Richardson

## ♦ Wagon Wheel OHV Club: Alvin Jones Memorial Scholarship

**Description:** The Wagon Wheel OHV club advocates and promotes responsible use and conservation of our public lands and natural resources to preserve their beauty and recreational qualities for future generations. The Wagon Wheel OHV Alvin Jones Memorial Scholarship recognizes one Meeker High School graduate planning to further their education. The scholarship recipient is selected based on the quality of their 500 word essay discussing their philosophy of responsible stewardship and care for the land and its resources while enjoying motorized recreation.  
**Award Amount:** \$500 (one-time)  
**2023 Recipient:** Ariel Gallegos

## ♦ Wenschhof Vocational Scholarship

**Description:** This scholarship is given in memory of George C. Wenschhof, former rancher and active member of the Meeker community. When asked, George once said that he had a CBE degree, otherwise known as "Cowboy Engineering," meaning that he was able to accomplish many things by relying on his lifetime of vocational life skills learned through on-the-job training, informal, and hands-on learning. The recipient of this award is selected based on their experience in, and commitment to, pursuing a career in a vocational field.  
**Award Amount:** \$1,000 (one-time)  
**2023 Recipient:** Gracie Blagg

## ♦ Western Colorado Community Foundation Hazelbaker Education Fund Grant

**Description:** This grant is awarded to a Meeker High School graduate who demonstrates financial need, has an above average GPA and has a drive to succeed within a higher education environment.  
**Award Amount:** \$1,000 (one-time)  
**2023 Recipient:** Melayni Wangnild

## ♦ White River Alliance Anthony Weiss Leadership in Conservation Scholarship

**Description:** The purpose of the White River Alliance is to promote citizen engagement surrounding the protection and conservation of the White River basin

on the Western Slope of Colorado, to encourage awareness of the value of the river, and protect its water for drinking, abundance for wildlife and area farming, ranching and recreation. This one-time scholarship is awarded to a MHS graduate who is passionate about the conservation of natural resources.  
**Award Amount:** \$1,000 (one-time)  
**2023 Recipient:** Mackenzie Keetch

## ♦ White River Community Association Scholarships

**Description:** These one-time scholarships, offered by the Buford Community Club, are offered to members of the graduating class who plan to further their education at a post-secondary institution.  
**Award Amount:** \$500 (one-time)  
**2023 Recipients:** Casey Brink, Elinora Gianinetti, Deana Wood

## ♦ White River Electric Association Scholarship: Basin Electric Power Cooperative Scholarship

**Description:** This scholarship, jointly sponsored by the White River Electric Association and the Basin Electric Power Cooperative, is given to a graduating senior. The recipient is selected based on the quality of their essay and interview.  
**Award Amount:** \$1,000 (one-time)  
**2023 Recipients:** Kaden Franklin

## ♦ White River Electric Association: Bill Jordan Renewable Scholarship

**Description:** This scholarship, sponsored by the White River Electric Association, is given in honor of Bill Jordan, who served on the WREA Board of Directors for many years. The award recipient is selected based on the quality of their application, their written essay and personal interview.  
**Award Amount:** \$1,000 (renewable up to 4 years)  
**2023 Recipient:** Kate Lockwood

## ♦ White River Electric Association: Board of Directors Renewable Scholarship

**Description:** This scholarship, sponsored by the White River Electric Association, is awarded to a Meeker High School graduating senior, based on the quality of their application and written essay, as well as their personal interview.  
**Award Amount:** \$500 (renewable up to 4 years)  
**2023 Recipient:** Dagon Dade

## ♦ White River Electric Association: Dean Parr Memorial Scholarship

**Description:** This scholarship, sponsored by the White River Electric Association, is given to memorialize the late Dean Parr, who served on the WREA Board of Directors for many years. The award recipient is selected based on the quality of their application, their written essay and personal interview.  
**Award Amount:** \$1,000 (renewable up to 4 years)  
**2023 Recipient:** Elijah LeBlanc

## ♦ White River Electric Association: Gary Dunham Memorial Scholarship

**Description:** This scholarship, sponsored by the White River Electric Association, is given in memory of the late Gary Dunham, who served on the WREA Board of Directors for many years. The award recipient is selected based on the quality of their application, their written essay and personal interview.  
**Award Amount:** \$1,000 (renewable up to 4 years)  
**2023 Recipient:** Connor Blunt

## ♦ White River Electric Association: Renewable Scholarships

**Description:** These scholarships, sponsored by the White River Electric Association, are awarded to seniors, based on the quality of their application and written essay, as well as their personal interview.  
**Award Amount:** \$500 (renewable up to 4 years)  
**2023 Recipients:** Elinora Gianinetti, Ruby Holliday, Gwyneth Hooks, Mackenzie Keetch

## ♦ White River Electric Association: Tri-State Generation & Transmission Scholarships

**Description:** These scholarships, jointly sponsored by the White River Electric Association and Tri-State Generation & Transmission are given to two graduating seniors. Recipients are selected based on the quality of their written essay and personal interview.  
**Award Amount:** \$500 (one-time)  
**2023 Recipients:** Jayden Overton-Linsacum & Melayni Wangnild



## Freeman Fairfield Trust Scholarships

**Description:** The recipients of these awards are selected based on each student's cumulative GPA, SAT/ACT scores, extra-curricular participation, community service, leadership activities, neatness and completeness of the scholarship application and interview skills. The Freeman Fairfield Trust is Meeker's largest scholarship donor, giving \$67,200 to the Class of 2023.

**Award Amount:** \$800 (renewable up to 4 years)

**2023 Recipients:** Brighton Bair, Gracie Blagg, Connor Blunt, Casey Brink, Kaden Franklin, Ariel Gallegos, Elinora Gianinetti, Corbyn Hadden, Cyros Halandras, Ruby Holliday, Gwyneth Hooks, Mackenzie Keetch, Trae Kennedy, Elijah LeBlanc, Tiana Jolivette-Linder, Kate Lockwood, Emma Luce, Madison Mendenhall, Jayden Overton-Linsacum, Grace Roberts, Deana Wood

# VALEDICTORIAN

## ELIJAH DEAN LEBLANC

**Senior Quote:** "If you're not wrecking, you're not riding."  
~ Self

**Postsecondary Education:** Western Colorado University: Gunnison, CO

**Program of Study:** Bachelor of Science: Mechanical Engineering

**Scholarships:**

Western Colorado University Mountaineers STEM Scholarship: \$15,889 (renewable)

Western Colorado University Paul M. Rady Scholarship: \$6,500 (renewable)

SGM Steve Westhoff Memorial Scholarship: \$1,500 (one-time)

Natural Soda Scholarship: \$5,000 (one-time)

Freeman Fairfield Scholarship: \$800 (renewable)

Meeker Assembly of God Church Scholarship: \$2,000 (renewable)

Meeker Lions' Club Scholarship: \$800 (one-time)

Rio Blanco County Masonic Lodge #80 Scholarship: \$500 (one-time)

White River Electric Association / Dean Parr Memorial Scholarship: \$1000 (renewable)

**Thank You:** I would like to thank God for His amazing kindness and mercy towards me along with my parents for pushing me outside of my comfort zone and helping me to become the best I can be. I'd also like to thank my teachers for putting in the time and effort necessary for everyone's education.



# SALUTATORIAN

## CONNOR RUSSELL BLUNT

**Senior Quote:** "You better get to livin!" - Dolly Parton

**Postsecondary Education:** The Flying Academy (Miami, FL or The US Flight Center (Daytona Beach, FL)

**Program of Study:** Aviation

**Scholarships:**

Freeman Fairfield Scholarship: \$800 (renewable)

Meeker Cowboy Football Top Hand Scholarship: \$300 (one-time)

Meeker Lions Club Scholarship: \$800 (one-time)

White River Electric Association: Gary Dunham Memorial Scholarship: \$1,000 (renewable)

Coach Bob Tucker Scholarship: \$1,500 (\$750 first year; \$750 second year)

**Special Awards/Accomplishments:**

White River Electric Association Youth Leadership Camp Awards Winner

Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Nominee

Colorado High School Athletic Association: Academic All-State First Team 2022 & 2023

**Thank You:** I would like to thank my family, friends, and the community for their continuous support over the years. They have truly prepared me to succeed in all of my future endeavors. I will be forever grateful for the opportunities available because of the amazing people of Meeker.

# SALUTATORIAN

## KATE ALEXANDRA LOCKWOOD

**Senior Quote:** "To do a dull thing with style is preferable to doing a dangerous thing without it."

To do a dangerous thing with style is what I call art." ~ Charles Bukowski

**Postsecondary Education:** Colorado College: Colorado Springs, CO

**Program of Study:** Bachelor of Arts: Environmental Studies and Film/Media Studies

**Scholarships:**

Boettcher Foundation Scholarship: \$20,000 (renewable)

Colorado College Boettcher Match Scholarship: \$47,458 (renewable)

Colorado Masons Benevolent Fund Scholarship: \$7,000 (renewable)

Colorado State PEO Vocational Scholarship: \$3,800 (one-time)

Grossman Scholarship (VOC): \$5,000 (one-time)

Freeman Fairfield Scholarship: \$800 (renewable)

Meeker PEO Chapter BA Highest GPA in Language Arts: Amount Varies (one-time)

Meeker PEO Chapter BA Highest GPA in Math & Science: Amount Varies (one-time)

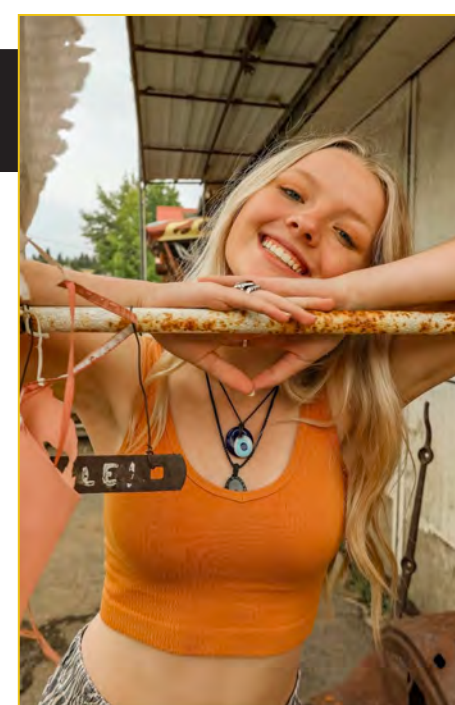
Rural Pathways Project Scholarship: \$2,000 (one-time)

White River Electric Association Bill Jordan Scholarship: \$1,000 (renewable)

**Special Awards/Accomplishments:**

Voted "La Sonadora" (the dreamer) by Mrs. Tapia

**Thank You:** I'd like to thank the places, experiences, and people —family, friends, teachers, coaches, directors, community members, etc.— who have shaped me into the person I am today. You all know who you are, and I love you all tremendously. 🐣 & ❤️



## Congratulations Deana and Meeker Class of 2023!

*You are about to embark on a fantastic journey!*

*"Remember, there is no success without failure and every failure is a life lesson on how to succeed."*

*So, keep doing the hard things and take opportunities without fear, because challenges create the opportunity for success!"*

To your future success,  
The Cimarron Telecommunications Team



## Congratulations Seniors!

Graduation pictures will be available for digital download, print and other keepsakes at

[kaysynkrystalphotography.smugmug.com](https://kaysynkrystalphotography.smugmug.com)



Don't forget to book a family session with your graduate before they head off to college!

**Congratulations class of 2023!**

Stay true to yourself and pursue your passions! You have the ability to make a positive difference and accomplish anything you set your mind to. Have faith in yourself and go out there and leave your mark on the world!

Class of 2023  
CONGRATS GRADUATES!

## KATIE

Congratulations, Katie Al!

All our love,  
Dad, Mom, Izzi



**DANIEL ROBERT ANDERSON**

**Senior Quote:** "The Inner Machinations Of My Mind Are An Enigma" - Patrick Star  
**Postsecondary Education:** Entering the workforce  
**Field:** Construction  
**Thank You:** I'd like to thank my family and friends for everything they've done for me.  
**Lasting Quote:** "I'm so lost"



**THOMAS GALE ANDERSON**

**Senior Quote:** "Cheaters never win; but I just graduated." - Self  
**Postsecondary Education:** Colorado Mesa University: Grand Junction, CO  
**Program of Study:** Bachelor of Science: Biology or Bachelor of Applied Science: Business Administration  
**Thank You:** I would like to thank my parents for supporting me and some of my teachers for going easy on the homework.



**BRIGHTON ANN BAIR**

**Senior Quote:** "Happiness can be found even in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light." - Albus Percival Wulfric Brian Dumbledore  
**Postsecondary Education:** Brigham Young University Idaho: Rexburg, ID  
**Program of Study:** Bachelor of Science: Biomedical Sciences  
**Scholarships:** Freeman Fairfield Scholarship: \$800 (renewable)  
**Special Awards & Accomplishments:** Varsity Letter Cross Country: 2019-2022, Varsity Letter Track & Field: 2021-2023, Varsity Letter Girls Basketball: 2022 Rio Blanco County 4-H Archery Youth Leader, Scholastic 3D Archery National Competitor in Outdoor & 3D Targets: 2nd Place, Young Women's President: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints - Meeker, CO  
**Thank You:** I would not be where I am if I hadn't had my friends and family in my life. Through the love and support of my family, friends, teachers, and members of my church I have grown into the best version of myself that I could have ever imagined.  
**Lasting Quote:** "I don't believe in coincidences so I know that I am here for a reason and I intend to find out what that reason is. I hope that I can share the love and compassion that I have felt from all the people around me with those I will meet along my journey. I am grateful to Heavenly Father for all of my many blessings."



**GRACIE LEE BLAGG**

**Senior Quote:** "Poof Be Gone" - Abby Lee Miller  
**Postsecondary Education:** Colorado Mesa University/Western Colorado Community College: Grand Junction, CO  
**Program of Study:** Associate of Applied Science: Sustainable Agriculture  
**Scholarships:** Colorado Mesa University Louis & Betty Brach Scholarship: \$1,600 (one-time), Colorado State PEO Vocational Scholarship: \$3,000 (one-time), Rocky Mountaineers Scholarship: \$1,500 (one-time), Freeman Fairfield Scholarship: \$800 (renewable), Craig Calver Memorial Scholarship: \$500 (one-time), Wenschhof Vocational Scholarship: \$1000 (one-time), Meeker PEO Chapter BA Vocational Scholarship: \$500 (one-time), Rio Blanco County Farm Bureau Scholarship: \$1,000 (one-time)  
**Special Awards & Accomplishments:** Meeker FFA Chapter Secretary: 2022-2023, Meeker FCCLA Chapter President: 2022-2023, Colorado FFA State Degree: 2023, Colorado FFA State Proficiency Award Winner in Diversified Horticulture: 2023 Colorado FFA State STAR Finalist in Agribusiness: 2023  
**Thank You:** I'd like to thank my Dad and Grandma for everything they have done for me. I would also like to thank the Richardsons for all of their help, as well as my mom, sister and Grandma Dixie. Lastly, thank you to my teachers, classmates, and friends!



**ATHENA RAY BLAZON**

**Senior Quote:** "Always remember to celebrate life" - Anonymous  
**Postsecondary Plans:** Entering the workforce  
**Area of Emphasis:** Mental Health Field; hopefully at HopeWest Mind Springs  
**Location:** Grand Junction, CO  
**Thank You:** I would like to thank my grandparents Sharon and Irven Griffin for never giving up on me, for always believing in me, and for giving me the strength and guidance to fulfill my dreams. I would also like to thank my friends Flor and Hailey for being there, for being my friends, and for helping me find my moral compass as I wish to continue helping people. Last but certainly not least, I want to thank Mrs. Cravens. Not only has she helped me with my grades in school, but she has also helped me push past my fears and reach towards my goals. In between all of the stress, we laughed, and had a blast. I'd like to give a shout out to my parents, sisters, and the rest of my family, as well as to the Turners, the Eskelsons, and the Hightowers for all of their hospitality and help. Finally, I would like to thank all of my teachers and friends for their support as well as take a moment to thank myself for accomplishing so much in so little time!



**CASEY LEVIT BRINK**

**Senior Quote:** "If you don't sacrifice for what you love, what you love becomes the sacrifice" - Jay Shetty  
**Postsecondary Education:** Western Colorado University (Gunnison, CO) or Colorado Mesa University (Grand Junction, CO)  
**Program of Study:** Bachelor of Science: Exercise Sports Science  
**Collegiate Athletics:** Track & Field: Pole Vault  
**Scholarships:** Western Colorado University East Merit Scholarship: \$2,500 (renewable), Colorado Mesa University Merit Scholarship: \$3,500 (renewable), Freeman Fairfield Scholarship: \$800 (renewable), Rio Blanco County Masonic Lodge #80 Scholarship: \$2,500 (one-time), Rio Blanco Ranch Scholarship: \$3,000 (one-time), White River Community Association Scholarship: \$500 (one-time), Colorado County Clerks Association Scholarship: \$500 (one-time), Coach Bob Tucker Scholarship: \$1500 (\$750 first year; \$750 second year)  
**Thank You:** I want to thank my friends, family, teachers, coaches, employers, and the community for supporting me while growing up.



**CHASE EDWARD CALLAHAN**

**Senior Quote:** "All is good." - Self  
**Postsecondary Plans:** Entering the Workforce  
**Area of Emphasis:** Electric Lineworker Apprenticeship with Ameren  
**Location:** Saint Louis, Missouri  
**Thank You:** I'd like to thank my family and friends, and especially Mrs. Cravens for everything that they've done for me.



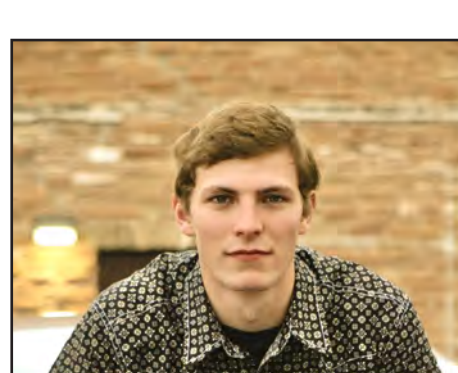
**JONATHAN ANDREW CARDILE**

**Senior Quote:** "No one can win every battle, but no man should fall without a struggle." - Peter Parker  
**Postsecondary Education:** Colorado State University: Fort Collins, CO  
**Program of Study:** Bachelor of Science: Health & Exercise Science  
**Thank You:** Thank you to my family and friends who have motivated me to be better throughout school.



**LILY ISABELLA COX**

**Senior Quote:** "Make progress everyday. Through small steps, or big steps, it doesn't matter. Make progress in everything you do. In your relationships, careers, hobbies, mentality, spirituality, ethics, in prioritizing, in strength, in anything and everything that matters to you and enjoy that process." - Lily Cox  
**Postsecondary Plans:** Lily swore into the Colorado Army National Guard in 2022, and graduated from basic training in Fort Leonard Wood, MO this past August. After graduating from Meeker High School, Lily will be returning to Missouri to complete her A.I.T. training.  
**Area of Emphasis:** Military Police, United States Army  
**Location:** Denver, CO  
**Special Awards/Accomplishments:** Colorado Army National Guard Basic Training Graduate: August 2022  
**Thank You:** I absolutely love each and every individual in my class and couldn't ask for a better group of talented, caring students to graduate with. I would especially like to give a shout out to my best friend Gracie for all her kindness over the years and for the joy that she's brought to my life. I would also like to thank my mother and father for their constant love, support, and encouragement through everything, as well as my brother and sister for being the bestest friends I could ever ask for and for being my biggest role models and source of laughter. Lastly, I would like to thank my grandparents, cousins, aunts, and uncles for all their love and memories I've shared with them. I have known true love through my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and would like to give love to my Savior and to my Church. Finally, I would like to thank the community for their support during my sister's recent health struggles and leave everyone with this verse from 1st Corinthians that says: "Let all that you do be done in love."



**DAGON MATTHEW DADE**

**Senior Quote:** "If you're not scared, you're not going fast enough." - Ken Block  
**Postsecondary Education:** Western Colorado University: Gunnison, CO  
**Program of Study:** Bachelor of Science: Mechanical Engineering  
**Scholarships Received:** Western Colorado University Paul M. Rady Scholarship: \$3,500 (renewable twice) White River Electric Association Board of Directors' Scholarship: \$500 (renewable)  
**Thank You:** I would like to thank my parents and all of my family for helping me get through school. I would also like to thank all of the teachers and faculty of Meeker High School, as well as the community for their continued support of the school district. Lastly, I would like to thank all of my friends for pushing me to be better.



**EDWARD JOHN DRUSSELL**

**Senior Quote:** "However difficult life may seem, there is always something you can do and succeed at." - Stephen Hawking  
**Postsecondary Plans:** Religious Service Mission  
**Area of Emphasis:** Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints  
**Thank You:** I want to thank all of my teachers for always supporting me and being there for me when I needed help - both in and outside of school. I would like to thank my loving family for always being there for me and supporting me through my journey.



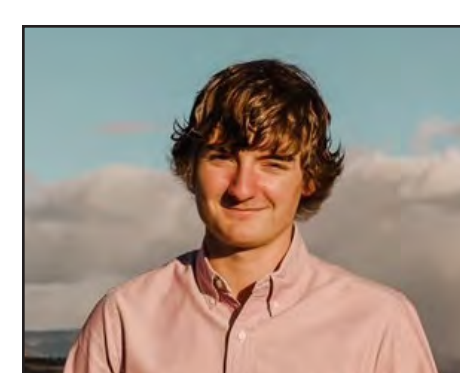
**BRALLAN ESQUIVEL VALENZUELA**

**Senior Quote:** "This isn't the end; it was just a free trial." - Self  
**Postsecondary Plans:** Joining the Workforce  
**Area of Emphasis:** Cyber Security  
**Thank You:** El beanie has passed surprisingly.



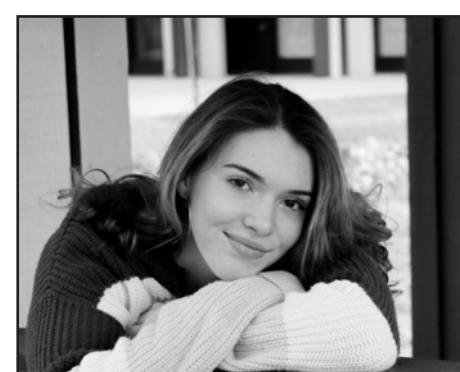
**ROBERT DEAN FOSTER**

**Senior Quote:** "Don't live someone else's dream, find your own." - Steve Jobs (paraphrased)  
**Postsecondary Plans:** Entering the Workforce  
**Location:** California  
**Thank You:** I'd like to thank my friends and family.  
**Lasting Quote:** "You can only be young once. But you can always be immature."



**KADEN PORTER FRANKLIN**

**Senior Quote:** "Can I get participation points?" - Self  
**Postsecondary Education:** Oklahoma State University: Stillwater, OK  
**Program of Study:** Bachelor of Science: Agribusiness  
**Scholarships:** Oklahoma State University Merit Scholarship: \$11,000 (renewable), Oklahoma State University, President's Leadership Council: \$1,500 (one-time), Stalwart Agfinity Scholarship: \$3,000 (one-time), Colorado Farm Show Chuck Urano Scholarship: \$2,000 (one-time), Independent Bankers of Colorado & Mountain Valley Bank Scholarship: \$1,000 (one-time), Rio Blanco County 4-H Youth Fund Scholarship: \$1,000 (one-time), Rio Blanco Ranch Scholarship: \$1,000 (one-time), White River Electric Association: Basin Electric Power Cooperative: \$1,000 (one-time), Freeman Fairfield Scholarship: \$800 (renewable), Rio Blanco County Stockgrowers Association Scholarship: \$500 (renewable once)  
**Special Awards/Accomplishments:** National Honor Society: 2021-2023, Meeker High School Academic Highest Honors: 2019-2023  
**Thank You:** I would like to thank my parents for always pushing me to do well in life.



**ARIEL BREE GALLEGOS**

**Senior Quote:** "When Sebastian said, 'The human world is a mess,' he wasn't kidding. Y'all really are barbarians." - The Little Mermaid (paraphrased)  
**Postsecondary Education:** Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University: Daytona, FL or ADF Flight School: Miami, FL (starting January 2024)  
**Program of Study:** Bachelor of Science: Aviation Maintenance or Obtaining a Private Pilot's License  
**Scholarships:** Women of Excellence Scholarship: \$10,000 (renewable twice), Freeman Fairfield Scholarship: \$800 (renewable), Wagon Wheel OHV Alvin Jones Memorial Scholarship: \$500 (one-time)  
**Special Awards/Accomplishments:** Meeker High School Highest Academic Honors: 2019-2023, CHSAA Academic All State First-Team: 2022 & 2023 Cheerleading Varsity Letter, Volleyball Varsity Letter: 2021 & 2022, Meeker HopeWest Cowboy Volunteer: 2021-2023  
**Thank You:** I'd like to thank my mom and dad for supporting me through everything along with all of my family and friends for helping me make memories I will forever remember. Thank you to all of my teachers for pushing me and teaching me many different skills over the past four years. Lastly, thank you to my classmates for voting me "Most Flirtatious". Seeing you caused turbulence in my heart. ;) #pilatrizz



**BREALYN JEAN GARCIA**

**Senior Quote:** "Well... I'm an American." - Klark Kindler  
**Postsecondary Education:** University of Colorado, Colorado Springs: Colorado Springs, CO  
**Program of Study:** Bachelor of Science: Human Physiology & Nutrition (concentration in Nutrition & Dietetics)  
**Scholarships:** University of Colorado, Colorado Springs Bridge Forward Scholarship: \$2,500 (renewable), Duncan Scholarship: \$6,000 (renewable), Meeker PEO Chapter BA Sally Wilson Memorial Scholarship: \$2,500 (one-time), Meeker Sportsmans Club Scholarship: \$800 (one-time)  
**Thank You:** I would like to thank my parents, brother, sister, friends, and family for their love and support.  
**Lasting Quote:** "Garcia 2 out!"



*Your life is  
your story.*

*Write well*

*Edit often.*

~ Susan Statham

# Congratulations Class of 2023

The best way to predict your future is to create it.

– Abraham Lincoln

~ Minor Myers, Jr.



## NATURAL SODA

THE CLASS OF  
**2023**

**"I DRIVE SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO."**

970-930-2091  
Sober Buddy Shuttle  
Transportation Services LLC

**SOBER BUDDY SHUTTLE LLC • 970-930-2091**  
LONNIE WHITE, OWNER/DRIVER • SOBERBUDDYSHUTTLELLC@GMAIL.COM  
IN MEMORY OF TAYLOR SLAUGH

Way to go Elijah! We are super proud of you and look forward to what God has planned for you.

Love Dad, Mom, Noah,  
Ruth and Micah

Gage we always knew you were the cat's meow! We are so proud of you!!

Love, Mom, Dad, Gabriel, Aunt Angela, Uncle Duane, Aunt Joy, Uncle Steve, and Mark

**We are so proud of you and excited for your next adventure!**  
Love, Mom & Dad

*Congratulations!*

**Stacie Marie Mack**

Love, Gramma, Grampa, Dad, Justine, and all your siblings!

Oh the places you'll go!  
Kid you'll miss Mountain!

**Melayni**

*"We cannot always choose the music life plays, but we can choose how we dance to it."*

...and you are definitely proving what a great dancer you are! We are so very proud of the young lady you are, and always have been. Congratulations! We love you so much!

Mom, Jeff, CJ, Kyle, Jeremy & Taylor

**"Don't be afraid to go after what you want to do, and what you want to be." - Lane Frost**

Trae - your determination, grit and persistence will take you far; in fact, it already has. We are beyond proud of you and the young man you've become and can't wait to see where your next steps take you!

Love - Mom & Larry, Nana & Papa, Dad & Deb, Tannen, Tatumn and Teagan

**Congratulations MHS Class of 2023**

**Congratulations Gwyn!**  
We are your flashlight!

**WE DID IT!**

**Austin,**  
Adventures await!  
Be courageous and enjoy the ride!

Love,  
Mom, Dad, Shelby and Landin

**Congratulations, Abe!** We are so proud of you and can't wait to watch you continue to soar at CSU Pueblo. We love you, Abe!

Dad, Mom, Jacob, and Cooper



## ELINORA ADALEE GIANINETTI

**Senior Quote:** "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." - Ecclesiastes 3:1  
**Postsecondary Education:** Calvary University: Kansas City, MO

**Program of Study:** Bachelor of Science: Business Administration & Counseling

**Collegiate Athletics:** Volleyball

**Scholarships:** Redefining Rural Scholarship: \$1,000 (renewable), Colorado Snowmobile Association Royal Collard Scholarship: \$2,500 (one-time), Freeman Fairfield Scholarship: \$800 (renewable), Freeman Fairfield Richard G. Lytle Scholarship: \$250 (one-time), Meeker Assembly of God Church Scholarship: \$2,000 (renewable), Meeker Lions Club Scholarship: \$800 (one-time), Rio Blanco Ranch Scholarship: \$1,000 (one-time), White River Community Association Scholarship: \$500 (one-time), White River Electric Association Scholarship: \$500 (renewable), "I Ride with James" Memorial Scholarship: \$500 (one-time)

**Special Awards/Accomplishments:** Colorado Scholastic Art Award: Gold Key, Drawing & Illustration-2023

**Thank You:** Thank you to all of my family and friends for years of prayers and encouragement. I want to give specific thanks to my mom for her loving guidance and diligence, my dad for choosing to raise and love me even when it's hard, and my siblings for adventuring with me and coming to all my events even when they didn't have a choice.



## AUTUMN LEANN HOBBS

**Senior Quote:** "Everybody always told me I was blonde but I never knew what they meant." - Self  
**Postsecondary Education:** University of Wyoming: Laramie, WY

**Program of Study:** Bachelor of Science: Microbiology with a minor in Business Management

**Scholarships:** University of Wyoming Brown & Gold Commitment Scholarship: \$2,500 (renewable)

**Thank You:** I would like to thank my parents for supporting me and for always believing in me. I'd also like to thank my brothers for always being there for me, my Grandma Kim for being my best friend, the Mendenhall family for treating me like their own, and last but not least my friends for the countless memories.



## RUBY KATE HOLLIDAY

**Senior Quote:** "Protection and power are overrated. I think you are very wise to choose happiness and love" - Uncle Iroh (Avatar the Last Airbender)

**Postsecondary Education:** Reed College: Portland, OR

**Program of Study:** Bachelor of Science: Environmental Studies

**Scholarships:** Reed College Student Grant: \$72,000 (renewable), Meeker Arts & Cultural Council Scholarship: \$1,000 (one-time), Freeman Fairfield Scholarship: \$800 (renewable), HopeWest Cowboy Scholarship: \$500 (one-time), White River Electric Association Scholarship: \$500 (renewable)

**Special Awards/Accomplishments:** Meeker High School Academic Highest Honors: 2019-2023

**Thank You:** Thank you to my friends and family for being there for me and supporting me along the way.

**Lasting Quote:** "I'll miss my cat the most."



## ZACHARIAH SCOTT GODWIN

**Senior Quote:** "Do not pray for easy lives my friends, pray to be stronger men." - John F. Kennedy quoting Reverend Phillips Brooks

**Postsecondary Education:** Colorado Northwestern Community College: Rangely, CO

**Program of Study:** Associate of Arts: General Studies

**Thank You:** I would like to give a special thanks to my Aunt Amy, my mom Melanie Collins, my brother Nikolas Godwin, and Jeff Kummer.

**Lasting Quote:** "A seizure didn't stop me, but gravity will."



## CORBYN JAMES HADDEN

**Senior Quote:** "You must love yourself before others will love you." - Self

**Postsecondary Education:** Colorado Mountain College: Steamboat Springs, CO

**Program of Study:** Associate of Science: Environmental Engineering

**Scholarships:** Freeman Fairfield Scholarship: \$800 (renewable), Johnny Wix Aspiring Artist Scholarship: \$500 (one-time)

**Thank You:** I'd like to thank my friends, family, and teachers for putting up with me.



## CYROS JOHN HALANDRAS

**Senior Quote:** "There is no elevator to success, you have to take the stairs." - Zig Ziglar

**Postsecondary Education:** University of Wyoming: Laramie, WY

**Program of Study:** Bachelor of Science: Agricultural Business

**Scholarships:** University of Wyoming Brown & Gold Commitment Scholarship: \$7,500 (renewable), Independent Bankers of Colorado & Mountain Valley Bank Scholarship: \$1,000 (one-time), Freeman Fairfield Scholarship: \$800 (renewable), Rio Blanco County Stockgrowers Association Scholarship: \$500 (renewable once)

**Special Awards/Accomplishments:** Meeker High School Highest Academic Honors: 2019-2023

**Thank You:** I would like to give a big thank you to everyone who supported me along the way.



## RUBY KATE HOLLIDAY

**Senior Quote:** "Protection and power are overrated. I think you are very wise to choose happiness and love" - Uncle Iroh (Avatar the Last Airbender)

**Postsecondary Education:** Reed College: Portland, OR

**Program of Study:** Bachelor of Science: Environmental Studies

**Scholarships:** Reed College Student Grant: \$72,000 (renewable), Meeker Arts & Cultural Council Scholarship: \$1,000 (one-time), Freeman Fairfield Scholarship: \$800 (renewable), HopeWest Cowboy Scholarship: \$500 (one-time), White River Electric Association Scholarship: \$500 (renewable)

**Special Awards/Accomplishments:** Meeker High School Academic Highest Honors: 2019-2023

**Thank You:** Thank you to my friends and family for being there for me and supporting me along the way.

**Lasting Quote:** "I'll miss my cat the most."



## GWYNETH LORETTA HOOKS

**Senior Quote:** "Don't be sleeping on your level cause there's beauty in the struggle." - J Cole

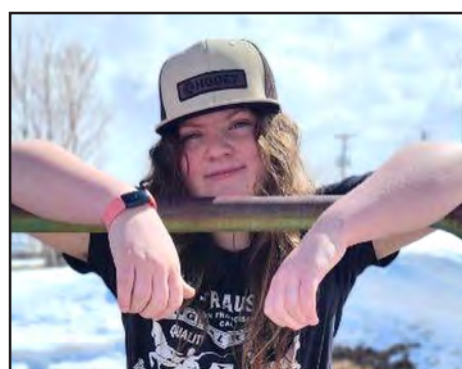
**Postsecondary Education:** Texas Tech University: Lubbock, TX

**Program of Study:** Bachelor of Science: Biology with a minor in Geology

**Scholarships:** Texas Tech University Out-of-State Tuition Waiver: \$12,270 (renewable), Texas Tech University, Scholastic Achievement Scholarship: \$1,000 (renewable), White River Electric Association Scholarship: \$500 (renewable), Freeman Fairfield Scholarship: \$800 (renewable), Meeker Friends of the FFA / DeKalb Scholarship: \$250 (one-time)

**Special Awards/Accomplishments:** Meeker High School Highest Academic Honors, Meeker FFA Chapter Greenhand Degree, Meeker FFA Chapter Degree, Colorado State FFA Career Development Events: Silver Placing - Floriculture

**Thank You:** I would love to thank my parents for teaching me everything I know and for always believing in me and supporting me through failure and success. I also want to thank my brother for inspiring me to go to college and for making it really easy to look like the favorite child. Lastly, I want to thank my Grandpa for always telling me that he's proud of me when I need it and for inspiring my future career path. There's not enough words to thank you all for what you've done for me.



## RYLIE HANNAH JUSTINE JENSE

**Senior Quote:** "Keep on keeping on." - Len Chandler

**Postsecondary Plans:** Entering the Workforce

**Area of Emphasis:** Agricultural Industry

**Long-Term Goal:** Enlist in the United States Armed Forces

**Thank You:** I would like to thank my family for supporting my decisions on the things that I have decided.



## ALEXIS JOYCE JOLIVETTE-LINDER

**Senior Quote:** "We didn't work this hard for nothing, put yourself in a position to make a difference in the world." - Self

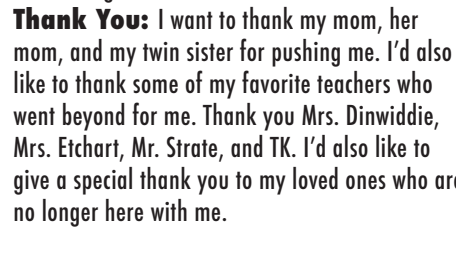
**Postsecondary Plans:** Joining the Workforce

**Location:** Meeker, CO

**Special Awards/Accomplishments:** Meeker FFA Chapter Member: 2019-2021, Meeker Choir Member: 2019-2022, Meeker High School Drama Club Member

**Meeker High School Cheerleader**

**Thank You:** I want to thank my mom, her mom, and my twin sister for pushing me. I'd also like to thank some of my favorite teachers who went beyond for me. Thank you Mrs. Dinwiddie, Mrs. Etchart, Mr. Strate, and TK. I'd also like to give a special thank you to my loved ones who are no longer here with me.



## TIANA RAE JOLIVETTE-LINDER

**Senior Quote:** "Everyone will tell you that these are the best years of your life, but you still have so much to look forward to." - Self

**Postsecondary Education:** Colorado Mesa University: Grand Junction, CO

**Program of Study:** Bachelor of Science: Nursing

**Scholarships:** Colorado Mesa University Academic Achievement Scholarship: \$1,250 (renewable), Colorado Mesa University First Generation Scholarship: \$1,000 (renewable), Freeman Fairfield Scholarship: \$800 (renewable)

**Special Awards/Accomplishments:** Meeker FFA Chapter Vice President: 2022-2023, Colorado FFA District 1 Executive Committee Member: 2022-2023, Colorado FFA District 1 Employment Skills Gold / High Individual: 2023, Colorado FFA State Employment Skills Bronze Individual: 2022, Meeker High School Academic High Honors: 2019-2023

**Thank You:** I would just like to say thank you to everyone who supported me along the way, whether that be teachers who showed tough love through immense amounts of homework, or my mom who was annoyed but supportive when I spent all my time in my room doing homework, or the Chintalas + family who gave me the love and support I needed in order to make it through high school. Thank you everyone; when I succeed, I'll know it was because of you, and all of the love and support you provided to me in some of the most difficult years of my life.

**Senior Quote:** "I reach for the stars, even though I can't reach the top shelf." - Self

**Postsecondary Education:** University of Wyoming: Laramie, WY

**Program of Study:** Bachelor of Arts: Elementary Education

**Scholarships:** University of Wyoming Brown & Gold Commitment Scholarship: \$7,500 (renewable), Freeman Fairfield Scholarship: \$800 (renewable), Meeker PEO Chapter BA Sally Wilson Memorial Scholarship: \$2,500 (one-time), Rio Blanco Ranch Scholarship: \$1,000 (one-time), White River Alliance Anthony Weiss Leadership in Conservation Scholarship: \$1,000 (one-time), White River Electric Association Scholarship: \$500 (renewable), Fred & Annie Burke Memorial Scholarship: \$1000 (one-time)

**Special Awards/Accomplishments:** Meeker High School Student Body Vice President: 2022-2023, Meeker High School Masonic Arts & Sciences Award Winner: 2022, Finally Reached Five Feet Tall

**Thank You:** I'd like to thank my friends and everyone else who has been there for me and supported me throughout the past years. I would also like to thank my family for always supporting me and providing me with opportunities.

**Senior Quote:** "Nothing worth having comes easy." - Theodore Roosevelt

**Postsecondary Education:** West Texas A&M University: Canyon, TX

**Program of Study:** Bachelor of Science: Animal Science & Agricultural Business/Economics

**Scholarships:** Freeman Fairfield Scholarship: \$800 (renewable)

**Thank You:** I would just like to thank my family and friends for getting me to where I am.

**Senior Quote:** "Twelve years of school and this ginger never snapped." - Self

**Postsecondary Education:** Colorado Mountain College: Rifle, CO

**Program of Study:** Associate of Arts: Psychology

**Scholarships:** Colorado Mountain College President's Scholarship: \$1,000 (renewable)

**Special Awards/Accomplishments:** Meeker High School Academic High Honors

**Thank You:** I'd like to thank my parents and grandparents for always being my support system. I'd like to specifically thank my mom, Melody Kracht, for always supporting my choices and being there for me no matter what. Thank you to all of my friends as well, for making some of the best memories with me and for being by my side in and out of school.

**Senior Quote:** "Sunsets are proof that no matter what happens, every day can end beautifully" - Kristen Butler

**Postsecondary Education:** Colorado Mountain College: Glenwood Springs, CO

**Program of Study:** Associate of Arts: Business

**Special Awards/Accomplishments:** Meeker High School Academic Honors

**Thank You:** I would like to thank my mother for being the strongest woman I know. I would also like to thank the rest of my family and friends for all of the support.

**Senior Quote:** "Go the extra mile, it's never crowded." - Wayne Dyer

**Postsecondary Education:** Coconino Community College: Flagstaff, AZ

**Program of Study:** Associate of Arts: Business

**Thank You:** I'd like to thank all the friends and family who have made an impact in my life. All of you have helped turn me into the man I am today.

**Senior Quote:** "I reach for the stars, even though I can't reach the top shelf." - Self

**Postsecondary Education:** University of Wyoming: Laramie, WY

**Program of Study:** Bachelor of Arts: Elementary Education

**Scholarships:** University of Wyoming Brown & Gold Commitment Scholarship: \$7,500 (renewable), Freeman Fairfield Scholarship: \$800 (renewable), Meeker PEO Chapter BA Sally Wilson Memorial Scholarship: \$2,500 (one-time), Rio Blanco Ranch Scholarship: \$1,000 (one-time), White River Alliance Anthony Weiss Leadership in Conservation Scholarship: \$1,000 (one-time), White River Electric Association Scholarship: \$500 (renewable), Fred & Annie Burke Memorial Scholarship: \$1000 (one-time)

**Special Awards/Accomplishments:** Meeker High School Student Body Vice President: 2022-2023, Meeker High School Masonic Arts & Sciences Award Winner: 2022, Finally Reached Five Feet Tall

**Thank You:** I'd like to thank my friends and everyone else who has been there for me and supported me throughout the past years. I would also like to thank my family for always supporting me and providing me with opportunities.

**Senior Quote:** "Nothing worth having comes easy." - Theodore Roosevelt

**Postsecondary Education:** West Texas A&M University: Canyon, TX

**Program of Study:** Bachelor of Science: Animal Science & Agricultural Business/Economics

**Scholarships:** Freeman Fairfield Scholarship: \$800 (renewable)

**Thank You:** I would just like to thank my family and friends for getting me to where I am.

**Senior Quote:** "Twelve years of school and this ginger never snapped." - Self

**Postsecondary Education:** Colorado Mountain College: Rifle, CO

**Program of Study:** Associate of Arts: Psychology

**Scholarships:** Colorado Mountain College President's Scholarship: \$1,000 (renewable)

**Special Awards/Accomplishments:** Meeker High School Academic High Honors

**Thank You:** I'd like to thank my parents and grandparents for always being my support system. I'd like to specifically thank my mom, Melody Kracht, for always supporting my choices and being there for me no matter what. Thank you to all of my friends as well, for making some of the best memories with me and for being by my side in and out of school.



## TRAE DARRYL KENNEDY

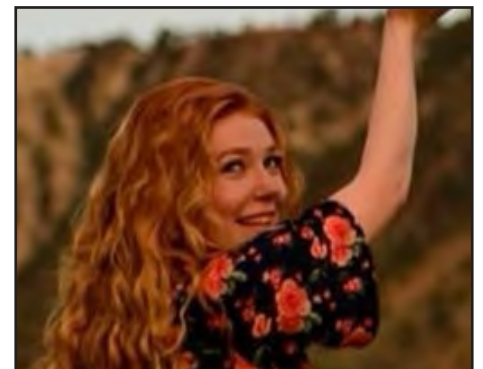
**Senior Quote:** "Nothing worth having comes easy." - Theodore Roosevelt

**Postsecondary Education:** West Texas A&M University: Canyon, TX

**Program of Study:** Bachelor of Science: Animal Science & Agricultural Business/Economics

**Scholarships:** Freeman Fairfield Scholarship: \$800 (renewable)

**Thank You:** I would just like to thank my family and friends for getting me to where I am.



## HAILEY KAY LARSON

**Senior Quote:** "Twelve years of school and this ginger never snapped." - Self

**Postsecondary Education:** Colorado Mountain College: Rifle, CO

**Program of Study:** Associate of Arts: Psychology

**Scholarships:** Colorado Mountain College President's Scholarship: \$1,000 (renewable)

**Special Awards/Accomplishments:** Meeker High School Academic High Honors

**Thank You:** I'd like to thank my parents and grandparents for always being my support system. I'd like to specifically thank my mom, Melody Kracht, for always supporting my choices and being there for me no matter what. Thank you to all of my friends as well, for making some of the best memories with me and for being by my side in and out of school.



## JASMINE ELIZABETH LONG

**Senior Quote:** "Sunsets are proof that no matter what happens, every day can end beautifully" - Kristen Butler

**Postsecondary Education:** Colorado Mountain College: Glenwood Springs, CO

**Program of Study:** Associate of Arts: Business

**Special Awards/Accomplishments:** Meeker High School Academic Honors

**Thank You:** I would like to thank my mother for being the strongest woman I know. I would also like to thank the rest of my family and friends for all of the support.



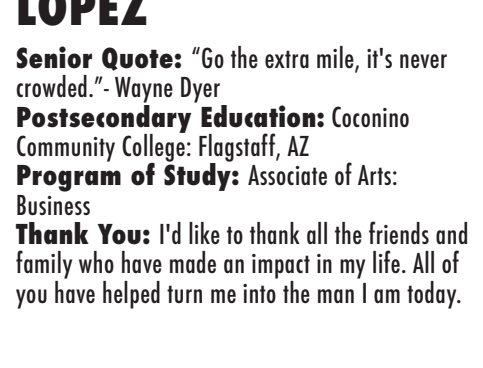
## AUSTIN MICHAEL LOPEZ

**Senior Quote:** "Go the extra mile, it's never crowded." - Wayne Dyer

**Postsecondary Education:** Coconino Community College: Flagstaff, AZ

**Program of Study:** Associate of Arts: Business

**Thank You:** I'd like to thank all the friends and family who have made an impact in my life. All of you have helped turn me into the man I am today.



## AUSTIN MICHAEL LOPEZ

**Senior Quote:** "Go the extra mile, it's never crowded." - Wayne Dyer

**Postsecondary Education:** Coconino Community College: Flagstaff, AZ

**Program of Study:** Associate of Arts: Business

**Thank You:** I'd like to thank all the friends and family who have made an impact in my life. All of you have helped turn me into the man I am today.

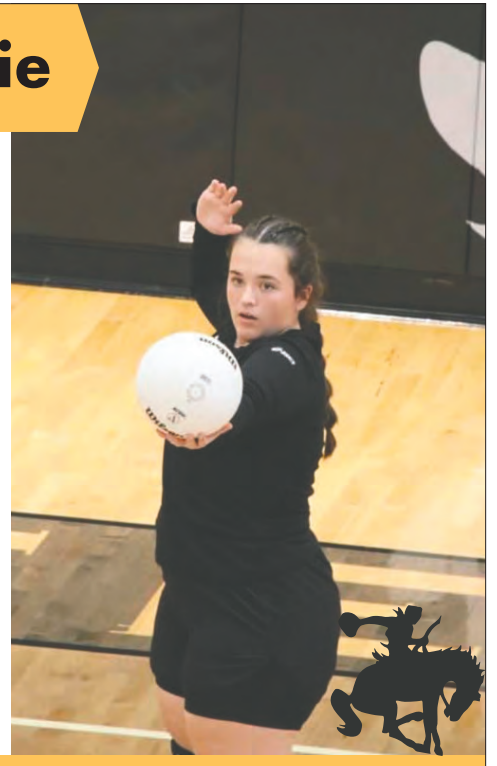


Congratulations to both of you! Great job! Best wishes on your next adventure!  
Tons of love!  
Granny and Grandpa



 **Mackenzie**

Our dear Mackenzie Keetch  
Congratulations on graduating in 2023!  
We know you will go places and make us proud.  
Sending love from Canada!  
Nana & Papa



 **KADEN**

We are so proud of you and your high school accomplishments! We love you very much!!  
Mom, Dad, Grammie and Papa  
Congratulations KK! Way to go!  
Love,  
Grandma Jeannie and Papa Tito  
Congratulations and best wishes on this new chapter in your life, Buddy!  
Love,  
Aunt Holly



From an itty-bitty bundle of joy, you grew into a kind, smart, and courageous woman - and it all seemed to happen in the blink of an eye!  
We're so proud of you!  
Love Mom, Dad, Morgan and Sidney



**BRIGHTON** 

You have become the amazing young woman we always knew you would be. We are so grateful for the last 17 years that we spent raising you. We are so proud of you and excited for the new adventure ahead of you. Remember, the joy we feel has little to do with the circumstances of our life and everything to do with the focus of our life!  
We love you!



**Tommy,**

You did it and we are so proud of you. We know you will go and do great things. This world is such a better place with you in it. We will always be here for you and it has been such a pleasure watching you grow into a wonderful young man. We love you so much!  
Love, Mom, Dad, Grandma, Grandpa, and Crazy



*You're paw-some!*

Congrats to the MHS Class of 2023 and HT interns Kate Lockwood and Stacie Mack!

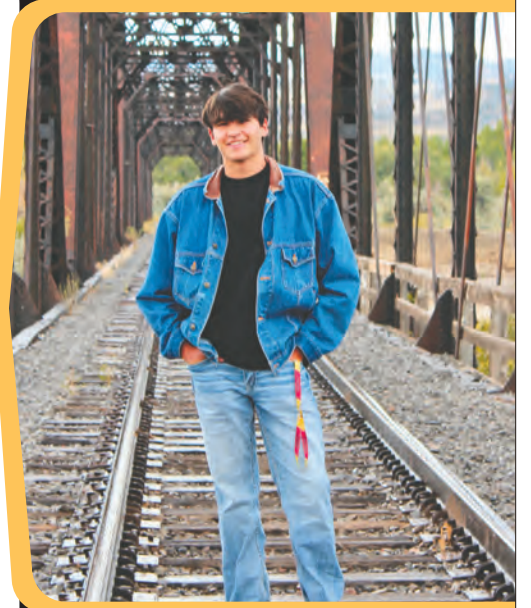
Thanks for putting up with all the floop.

Love,  
Bernie, Nellie and the HT staff



Joe,  
We love you so very much and are so very proud of you. We are excited for all of your new adventures.. Hold on to who you are and don't allow this world to break you.  
Dare to take chances, make mistakes, Own it, Learn from it, and Rise up from it.  
Remember we are here for you day or night.

Love,  
Mom and Dad



*Congratulations*

**CLASS OF 2023**

We Are So Proud Of You!



We Wish You All The Best For Your Future!

*The sky is the limit!*

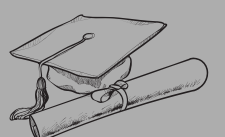


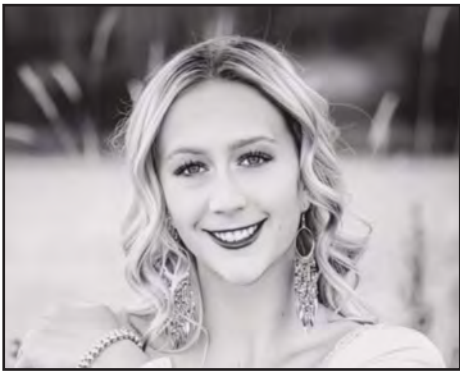
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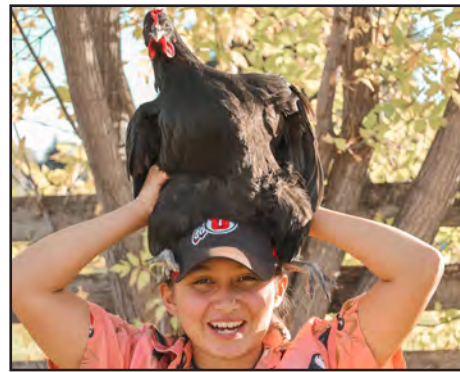
**EMMA CHERYL LUCE**

**Senior Quote:** "In this world you either crank that soulja boy or it cranks you." - Soulja Boy  
**Postsecondary Education:** Stephen F. Austin State University: Nacogdoches, TX  
**Program of Study:** Bachelor of Science: Exercise Science with a Minor in Sports Broadcasting  
**Collegiate Athletics:** Volleyball (DI)  
**Scholarships:** Stephen F. Austin State University Full-Ride Athletic Scholarship: \$39,450 (renewable), Freeman Fairfield Scholarship: \$800 (renewable)  
**Special Awards/Accomplishments:** National Volleyball Player of the Week: 3 Times, CHSAA 2A Volleyball Player of the Year: 2 Times, Western Slope League 2A Volleyball Player of the Year: 3 Times, CHSAA Academic All State First Team: 2023, Western Slope League 2A Volleyball All-Conference Honorable Mention: 2019 & 2020, Western Slope League 2A Volleyball All-Conference First Team: 2021 & 2022, Western Slope League 2A Volleyball All Conference Player of the Year: 2019 & 2022, AVCA Colorado Player of the Week: March 22-28, 2021, AVCA Colorado Player of the Week: August 30-September 5, 2021, CHSAA Top Kill Leader (All Classifications): 2021 & 2022, CHSAA Record Holder: Most Volleyball Kills in a Single Season: 2022, CHSAA All State Volleyball First Team: 2020 & 2021 [Spring COVID season], 2021 & 2022, Colorado Coaches Girls Sports All-State Volleyball First Team: 2022  
**Thank You:** I would really love to thank my mother and father, Chad and Shawn Luce for recognizing my talents, and pushing me to be the best student athlete I can be. I have achieved my goals because of the support I have received throughout my whole life. Thank you for never letting me give up. I would also like to thank my incredible sisters, Kristin and Kasandra Luce who have shown me what strong female athletes should look like. They have always been on my team and helped me make correct decisions. I am sorry I was so annoying for the 17 years you have known me. :) Thank you to my coaches and the staff here at Meeker High School who pushed me academically, and provided so much support in my volleyball career. I would not have been able to accomplish such high achievements without this community as my backbone and this high school as one of my many support systems. Thank you to everyone who supports Meeker High School Athletics, you do not go unnoticed.



**ABRAHAM LUKE MAUPIN**

**Senior Quote:** "You know what they say. . . first is the worst; second is the best." - Self  
**Postsecondary Education:** Colorado State University Pueblo: Pueblo, CO  
**Program of Study:** Bachelor of Science: Mathematics with an emphasis in Secondary Education  
**Scholarships:** Colorado State University Pueblo Academic Scholarship: \$2,500 (renewable), Dan Ilgen Memorial Scholarship: \$500 (one-time)  
**Special Awards/Accomplishments:** CHSAA 2A State Wrestling Tournament State Runner-Up: 2023  
**Thank You:** I would like to thank my mom Kim Maupin for all of the love and support, my coaches for always pushing me in practice, my teachers for keeping me up to standard in class, and especially my dad Larry Maupin for always pushing me and telling me that it wasn't enough. He always told me that it's never enough and to always look for more - but to never get so ambitious that I lose sight of my goals. Without my dad being constantly on me about wrestling and school, I would never have made it as far as I have and I thank him so much for always being an amazing father and an amazing person.  
**Lasting Quote:** "Never forget who you are. The rest of the world will not. Wear it like armor, and it can never be used to hurt you." - Tyrion Lannister.



**AIYANA HOPE MCCOOK**

**Senior Quote:** "Words are hard." - Self  
**Postsecondary Education:** Rocky Mountain College: Billings, MT  
**Program of Study:** Bachelor of Science: Aeronautical Science  
**Scholarships:** Rocky Mountain College Presidential Scholarship: \$15,000 (renewable), Rocky Mountain Promise Grant: \$6,887 (renewable), Rocky Mountain College Visit Scholarship: \$500 (one-time), Equitable Excellence Scholarship: \$5,000 (renewable), Holt Atherton Aviation Scholarship: \$2,500 (renewable once), Meeker Lions Club Scholarship: \$800 (one-time)  
**Thank You:** Thank you to Marty and Kris Casey for everything they have done for me.



**STACIE MARIE MACK**

**Senior Quote:** "My name may be in Stacie's mom's by Adam Schlesinger and Chris Collingwood, but she doesn't have it going on."  
**Postsecondary Education:** Colorado Mountain College: Glenwood Springs, CO  
**Program of Study:** Associate of Applied Science: Graphic Design with a possible double major in Photography  
**Special Awards/Accomplishments:** Meeker FFA Chapter Greenhand Degree: 2020, Meeker FFA Chapter Agricultural Services Outstanding SAE: 2020 & 2023, Meeker FFA Chapter Junior Officer - Secretary: 2020, Meeker FFA Chapter Highest Fruit Salesman: 2021 & 2022, Meeker FFA Chapter Degree: 2021, Meeker FFA Chapter Quiz Bowl Third Place: 2021, Meeker FFA Chapter Senior Officer - Executive Committee Member: 2021, Meeker FFA Chapter Senior Officer - Reporter: 2022, Meeker FFA Chapter Delegate Colorado FFA Convention: 2022, Meeker FFA Chapter STAR in Agriculture Placement: 2022 & 2023, Branson FFA Chapter Virtual Career Development Event: Gold Placing 2023, Plateau FFA Chapter Virtual Career Development Event: Bronze Placing 2023, Colorado FFA District I Career Development Event: Bronze Placing 2023  
**Thank You:** I would like to thank my family and friends for their love and support. I would also like to thank my grandparents for helping me through high school.



**JOSEPH KELLAN MCKAY**

**Senior Quote:** "Life is just a screen, you're either on it or behind it." - Self  
**Postsecondary Education:** Weber State University: Ogden, UT  
**Program of Study:** Associate of Applied Science: Manufacturing & Engineering Technology  
**Special Awards/Accomplishments:** Greenhand Degree Meeker FFA Chapter, HBI Completion Certificate, Western Slope League Champions: 1A Football 2020-2022, Western Slope League Champions: Baseball 2021 & 2023  
**Thank You:** I would like to give a special thanks to my parents and my sister, along with all of my previous and present employers.



**KATELYNN ROSE MCPHERSON**

**Senior Quote:** "Don't follow your dreams, follow my Instagram (@katelynn6255)" - Self  
**Postsecondary Education:** Colorado Northwestern Community College: Rangely, CO  
**Program of Study:** Associate of Applied Science: Dental Hygiene  
**Thank You:** As this school year comes to an end, I would like to thank my parents for always being there for me and for making sure I succeeded. I would also like to give a special thank you to Mrs Cravens who helped me get through my years of high school. I truly believe that if I had not had a teacher like her by my side, there is no way that I would have made it this far. Thank you for always making me push myself; you always knew I was capable of succeeding even when I didn't, so thank you.



**MADISON TAYLOR MENDENHALL**

**Senior Quote:** "God knew I would be too powerful if I could do math." - Self  
**Postsecondary Education:** Southern Utah University: Cedar City, UT  
**Program of Study:** Bachelor of Science: Psychology & Criminal Justice  
**Scholarships:** Southern Utah University Founders Scholarship: \$6,900 (renewable), Classic Air Medical Scholarship: \$5,000 (one-time), Colorado State PEO Vocational Scholarship: \$1,000 (one-time), Freeman Fairfield Scholarship: \$800 (renewable)  
**Special Awards/Accomplishments:** Meeker High School Academic Highest Honors: 2019-2023, National Honor Society Member  
**Thank You:** I would like to thank my family and friends for supporting me throughout it all. I am so beyond thankful for everyone in my life.  
**Lasting Quote:** "Peace out everyone."



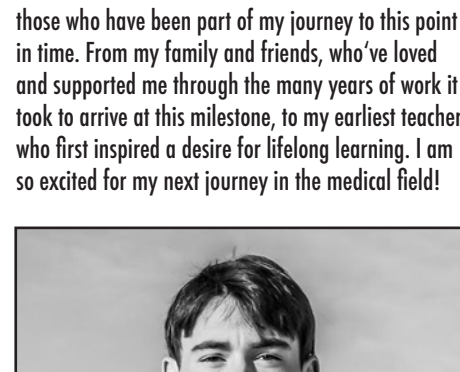
**TANNER NATHAN JACOB MUSSER**

**Senior Quote:** "Boys will be boys."  
**Postsecondary Education:** Colorado Welding Institute: Hayden, CO  
**Program of Study:** Welding Certificates: American Welding Society & American Petroleum Institute  
**Special Awards/Accomplishments:** Meeker High School Varsity Football Letter: 2019-2022, Meeker High School Varsity Wrestling Letter: 2020-2023, 3 Time CHSAA Class 1A State Wrestling Tournament Qualifier, 2 Time CHSAA Class 1A State Wrestling Tournament Placer: 5th & 2nd  
**Thank You:** I would like to thank my family for all of their support through High School. I would also like to give a big thank you to every teacher I have ever had, every step of the way. To all the coaches I have had, thank you for teaching me all the many life lessons, and for pushing me to the best of my abilities.



**JAYDEN RENAE NICHOLE OVERTON-LINSACUM**

**Senior Quote:** "It always seems impossible until it's done." - Nelson Mandela  
**Postsecondary Education:** Colorado Northwestern Community College: Craig, CO  
**Program of Study:** Associate of Applied Science: Nursing  
**Scholarships:** Colorado Northwestern Community College Merit Scholarship: \$2,000 (renewable), Colorado Mason's Vocational Grant: \$1,750 (one-time), Ben Brown Public Service Scholarship: \$1,500 (renewable at \$500 / year), Freeman Fairfield Scholarship: \$800 (renewable)  
 Meeker PEO Chapter BA Vocational Scholarship: \$500 (one-time), Pioneers Healthcare Foundation Scholarship: \$3,000 (one-time), Pioneers Healthcare Foundation: Employees of Pioneers Medical Center Scholarship: \$1,000 (one-time), Pioneers Healthcare Foundation: Colorado Northwestern Community College Scholarship: \$1,000 (one-time), White River Electric Association / Tri-State G&T Scholarship: \$500 (one-time)  
**Special Awards/Accomplishments:** Meeker High School Highest Academic Honors: 2019-2023, Meeker High School Academic Letter: 2019-2023, CHSAA Academic All State First Team: 2022 & 2023  
**Thank You:** This achievement is dedicated to all those who have been part of my journey to this point in time. From my family and friends, who've loved and supported me through the many years of work it took to arrive at this milestone, to my earliest teachers who first inspired a desire for lifelong learning. I am so excited for my next journey in the medical field!



**PAYKE LEEHIN POTETZ**

**Senior Quote:** "I'm just a guy, I'm not a god. If I was, I don't know which heaven would have me." - Frank Ocean  
**Postsecondary Education:** Colorado State University: Fort Collins, CO  
**Program of Study:** Bachelor of Science: Business  
**Thank You:** I would like to thank my friends and family for everything they have done for me.  
**Lasting Quote:** "Yes, I'm changing. Yes, I'm gone. Yes, I'm older. Yes, I'm moving on. And if you don't think it's a crime, you can come along with me..."



**LOGAN JOHN POZORSKI**

**Senior Quote:** "Don't live someone else's dream. Find your own." - Anonymous  
**Postsecondary Education:** Western Welding Academy: Gillette, WY  
**Program of Study:** Welding Certificates: American Welding Society & American Petroleum Institute  
**Thank You:** I would like to thank my family and the teachers at Meeker High School for getting me to where I am today.

970.878.5041

**CONGRATULATIONS**

**GRADUATES!**

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*Hats Off*  
TO THE CLASS OF 2023!

*Crystal Meadow*  
FARMS

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### GAGE DANIEL RICHARDSON

**Senior Quote:** "The key is to keep company only with people who uplift you, whose presence calls forth your best." - Epictetus

**Postsecondary Education:** Western Colorado University: Gunnison, CO

**Program of Study:** Undeclared

**Scholarships:** Western Colorado University Slate Merit Scholarship: \$3,500 (renewable), Meeker Arts & Cultural Council Scholarship: \$1,000 (one-time), Rio Blanco Ranch Scholarship: \$1,000 (one-time), VFW Post 5842 and Auxiliary Voice of Democracy Scholarship: \$75 (one-time)

**Special Awards/Accomplishments:** Meeker High School Academic Highest Honors, Meeker High School National Honor Society Member, Competed on MHS Cross Country Team: 2019-2022 (lettered 3 times)

**Thank You:** I would like to thank my family, my friends, and anyone else who has helped me in my journey. I would especially like to thank my mom and dad for being there for me and supporting me throughout my life. I can't wait to start this next chapter of my life and I hope that I can achieve more than what is expected of me.

**Lasting Quote:** "Never let the future disturb you. You will meet it, if you have to, with the same weapons of reason which today arm you against the present." - Marcus Aurelius



### GRACE ANN ROBERTS

**Senior Quote:** "Speed. I am Speed. 1 Winner; 42 Losers. I eat losers for breakfast." - Lightning McQueen

**Postsecondary Education:** Colorado State University: Fort Collins, CO

**Program of Study:** Bachelor of Science: Landscape Architecture

**Scholarships:** Colorado State University Green & Gold Scholarship: \$4,000 (renewable), CSU Fort Collins 4-H Freshman Scholarship: \$1,000 (one-time), Freeman Fairfield Scholarship: \$800 (renewable)

**Special Awards/Accomplishments:** CHSAA Academic All State First Team: 2022 & 2023, Meeker High School Academic Highest Honors: 2019-2023

**Thank You:** I would like to thank every single one of the people who have been a part of my journey, both negatively and positively. You all have bettered me and created the person I have become today. I would especially like to thank my parents, my little brother, as well as the rest of my family along with all of my friends. Thank you to all of you amazing people! You have done wonders in my life and I will cherish the memories we have shared together. I would also like to thank my family, my coaches, my teachers, my classmates, and everyone in the community. Meeker High School has treated me well, and I appreciate everything you have done for me.



### CARLOS RUIZ

**Senior Quote:** "If you have an opportunity to make things better and you don't, then you are wasting your time on Earth." - Roberto Clemente

**Postsecondary Education:** Northeastern Junior College: Sterling, CO

**Program of Study:** Associate of Applied Science Degree: Welding Technology

**Scholarships:** Rio Blanco County Masonic Lodge #80 Scholarship: \$1,000 (one-time)

**Thank You:** I would like to specifically thank Mrs. Cravens for always being there and for pushing me to graduate from high school.



### ANDREW NOAH SPIETH

**Senior Quote:** "Ishnu Alah Weary Traveler" - Nixxiom / Ilthilain

**Postsecondary Plans:** Enlist in the United States Navy

**Location:** Great Lakes - Chicago, IL

**Thank You:** Thank you to my friends and family for supporting me and helping me get this far.

**Lasting Quote:** I simply want to say "Ishnu Alah, Weary Traveler."



### JERICO RAYDON STALLINGS

**Senior Quote:** "An intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge." - Proverbs 18:15

**Postsecondary Plans:** Joining the Workforce

**Area of Emphasis:** Managing the family ranch & starting a Horse Training Entrepreneurial Business

**Location:** Meeker, CO

**Professional Activities:** Competing in Horse Training & Rodeo Competitions

**Thank You:** I want to thank all of my family for being so supportive throughout my life and ultimately helping me become the man that I am today.



### MELAYNI GRACE WANGNILD

**Senior Quote:** "Giddy up!" - Klark Kindler

**Postsecondary Education:** Tarleton State University: Stephenville, TX

**Program of Study:** Bachelor of Science: Agribusiness

**Scholarships:** Tarleton Impact Scholarship: \$1,000 (renewable), Tarleton Presidential Scholarship: \$1,000 (renewable), Western Colorado Community Foundation: Hazelbaker Education Grant: \$1,000 (one-time), White River Electric Association / Tri State G&T Scholarship: \$500 (one-time)

**Special Awards/Accomplishments:** AP Scholar: 2022, Meeker High School Quigg Newton Award: 2023, Meeker High School Student Body President: 2022-2023

**Thank You:** I would like to thank my teachers, friends, and family for all they have done for me!



### DEANA LEE WOOD

**Senior Quote:** "Don't let bitterness ruin your sweetness." - Self

**Postsecondary Education:** Fort Hays State University: Fort Hays, KS

**Program of Study:** Bachelor of Science: Medical Diagnostic Imaging

**Scholarships:** Rio Blanco Ranch Scholarship: \$3,000 (one-time), Freeman Fairfield Scholarship: \$800 (renewable), Lacey Oldland Memorial Scholarship: \$500 (one-time), White River Community Association Scholarship: \$500 (one-time)

**Thank You:** I would like to thank my family, along with my friends who have become family. I would also like to thank everyone who has opened doors and provided opportunities for me to accomplish my goals.



# Graduation Fun Facts

The Class of 2023 is younger than the iPod, which was released in 2001.

The world population has grown by 1.5 billion during the Class of 2023's lifetime.

The Class of 2023 is about as old as Facebook, which launched in February 2004.

Kermit the Frog has an honorary Doctorate Degree for Amphibious Letters from Southampton college.

The first diplomas were handwritten on dried animal skins.

Traditional graduation gowns have been worn since the 13th century. Scholars wore long robes to stay warm and comfortable in unheated universities, and the tradition stuck around.

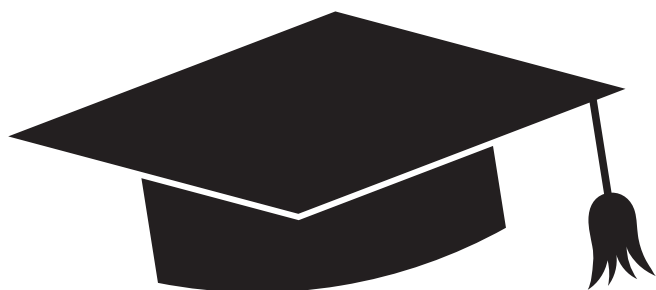
Pomp and Circumstance was composed in 1901 by Sir Edward Elgar, but it was not originally for graduation ceremonies.

Caps are called mortarboards because of their resemblance to a masonry tool of the same name.

Tassels became a tradition in the 19th century. They are worn on the right side of the mortarboard until the degree is received, when they are moved to the left.

Tossing the cap after graduation was started by the U.S. Naval Academy in 1912.

The MHS Class of 2023 has 52 graduates.



# SENIOR VIDEOS



## Senior Slideshow Class of 2023!



**SCAN TO WATCH THE SENIOR SEND OFF VIDEO**



Direct link:  
<https://youtu.be/WNAoa0yZCDM>

**SCAN TO WATCH THE SENIOR GRADUATION VIDEO**



Direct link:  
<https://youtu.be/nAc2QQzQIB4>

**MEEKER HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS**





**We are SO proud of you, Nora!**


*Love, Dad & Mom*


 **BREALYN**

We are so proud of your hard work. We look forward to watching all your future accomplishments.

*Love Dad, Mom, Braydon & Taylor*







Words cannot express how proud we are of you. With this new chapter of life you're about to embark on, continue to grow, explore and find your purpose. Stay true to you! Congratulations!

*Love, Dad, Mom and Orion*


**NORA**

**We will miss you, Sis!**




*Love, Zeek, Iris, & Isaiah*



 **ATHENA** 

**Congratulations!**

**We are so proud of you, we knew you could do it!**

*Love, Gma, Papa, Auntie, Uncle, Big Sis, Niece, and Cousins*







**Congrats! You did it!**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

 **DUCEY'S ELECTRIC**

MEEKER & RANGELY, COLORADO  
(970)878-4144 • (970)675-8368

 **CYROS** 

We are extra proud of our boy today! From one diploma to the next, we have watched you grow into an amazing young man.




*Love you bunches, Dad, Mom, & Tasos*




**AUTUMN**



*Congratulations We are so proud of you, and know you will go far in life.*



*Love Mom, John, Dillon, Kesston*



**Congratulations, Graduates!**

**WATT'S RANCH MARKET**  
*-Your Hometown Grocer Since 1955-*

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**CONGRATULATIONS class of 2023!**



Special congratulations to ERBM lifeguard Eddie Drussell!





[erbmrec.com](http://erbmrec.com) • [@erbmrec](https://twitter.com/erbmrec) • 970.878.3403



Jonboy, we are so proud of you and your accomplishments. Now take on the rest of life the way you do now and there are no limits to what you can achieve. We cannot wait to see what your future has in store for you.

*Love Mom, Rich and all the siblings*







**Emma,**

Congratulations! I love you and I'm so proud of you and all your accomplishments. I can't wait to see how you excel at Stephen F Austin.

Love, Lois

Grace,  
We are very proud of the wonderful person that you have become!! Good luck and we love you, Bug!



Love Mom, Dad,  
Jacob




HAPPY GRADUATION

**G  
R  
A  
C  
E**



We are proud of you! You did a great job! We love you!

Love Grandma and Grandpa


Come by and get your Free Senior Tool Kit Gift!  
\*with proof of graduation



Congratulations  
to our own Seniors Jayden Overton-Linsacum and Brighton Bair!

**McGuire's Parts City**  
AUTO PARTS


314 Market St.  
970.878.9855  
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK!  
M-F 7a - 6p  
Sat. 8a - 4p Sun. 10a - 2p



**TRA E**

Chart Your Course

Love,  
Thomas & Deborah



*The only thing you can do in this life is pursue your passions, celebrate your bloopers and never stop following your fear.*

~ Grace Helbig

# CONGRATULATIONS

## Meeker High School Class of 2023!

START COLLEGE OFF RIGHT WITH COLORADO NORTHWESTERN

- Low tuition and multiple financial aid options
- Guaranteed credit transfer degrees
- Small class sizes and personalized attention



**Colorado Northwestern Community College**

ENROLL TODAY AT: [www.cncc.edu/apply](http://www.cncc.edu/apply)

**GET HELP ENROLLING AT CNCC'S ENROLLMENT DAYS**

Take the next step toward starting your degree program and a rewarding career! Tour our campuses and get help with:

- Applying to CNCC
- Choosing a major
- Enrolling in classes
- Selecting Financial aid

Sign up today at: [www.cncc.edu/e-days](http://www.cncc.edu/e-days)

[admissions@cncc.edu](mailto:admissions@cncc.edu) | 800.562.1105

**RANGELY CAMPUS**  
June 2<sup>nd</sup> | June 16<sup>th</sup> | July 21<sup>nd</sup>

**CRAIG CAMPUS**  
June 9<sup>th</sup> | June 23<sup>rd</sup> | July 28<sup>th</sup>

Registration deadlines are the Friday before each session

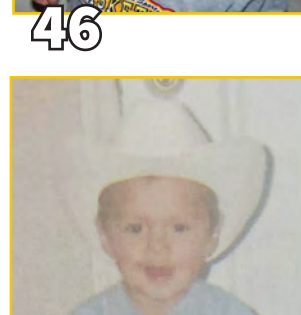
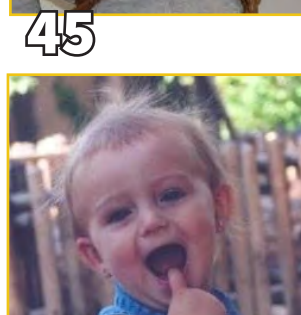
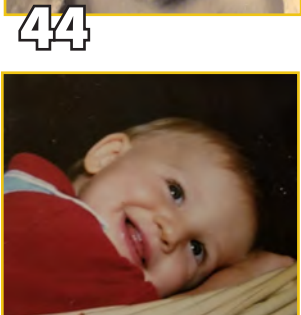
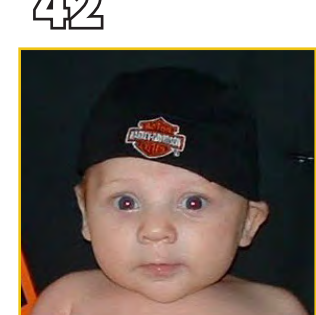
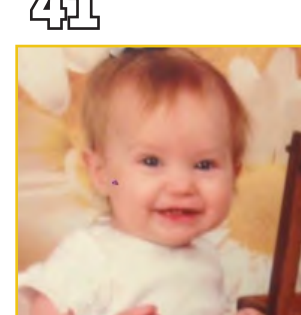
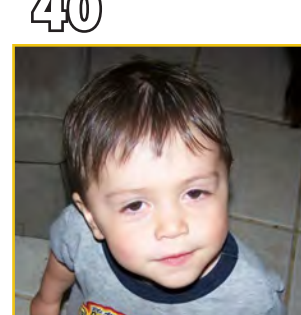
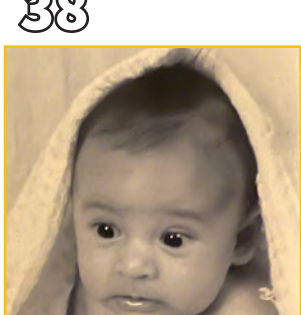
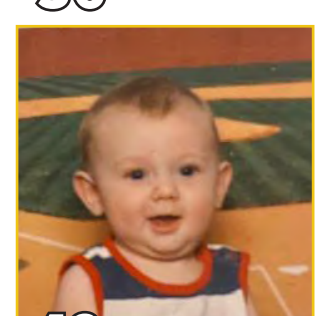
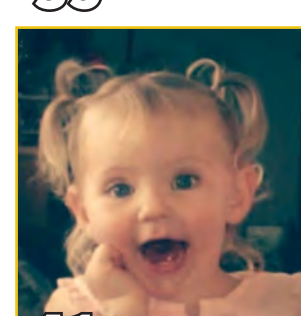
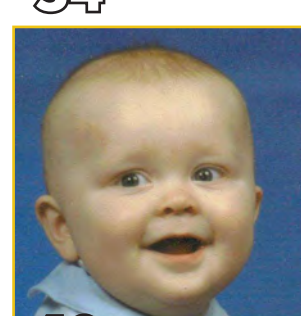
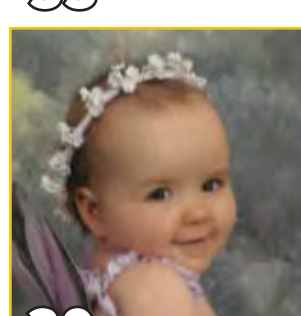
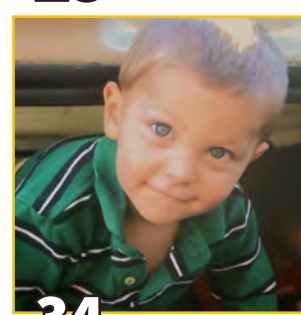
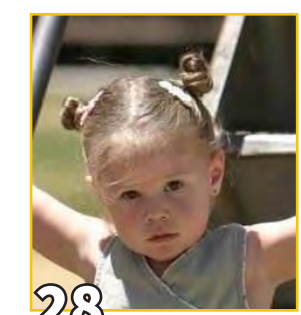
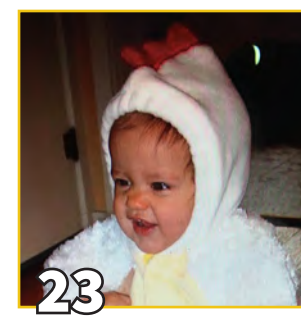
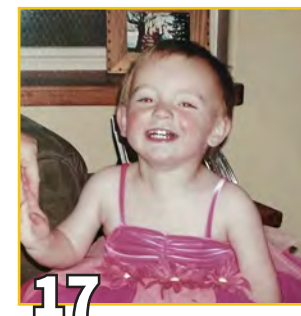
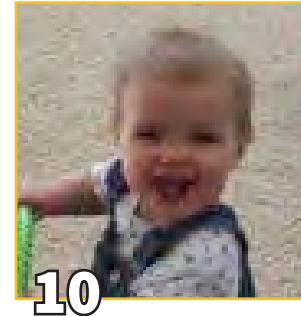
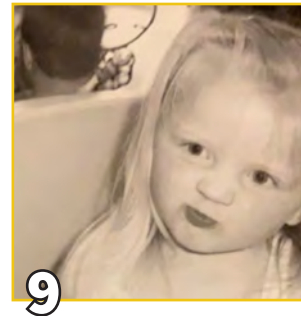
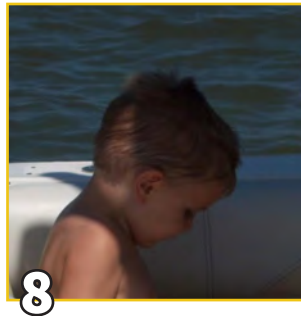
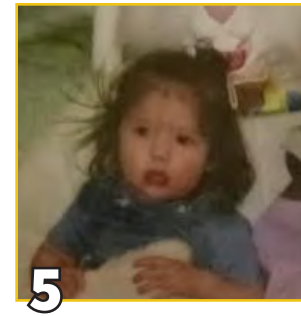
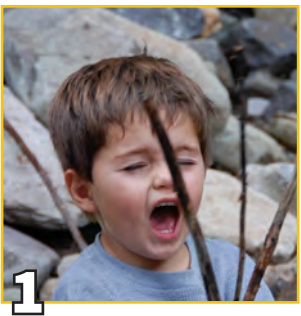
**Colorado Northwestern Community College**

*Go into the world and do well.  
But more importantly, go into the world and do good.*

~ Minor Myers, Jr.

# Guess Who!

Match the graduating seniors with their photos below.



46. Daniel Anderson  
47. Melayni Wangnild  
48. Jericho Stallings  
49. Logan Pozorski  
50. Gage Richardson  
51. Jayden Overton-Linsacum  
52. Carlos Ruiz

37. Casey Brink  
38. Tiara Linder  
39. Breelyn Garcia  
40. Andrew Spieth  
41. Rylie Jense  
42. Chase Callahan  
43. Lily Cox  
44. Joseph McKay  
45. Deana Wood

28. Katelynn McPherson  
29. Elinora Gianinetti  
30. Athena Blazon  
31. Payke Fotez  
32. Gwyneth Hooks  
33. Jasmine Long  
34. Dagon Dade  
35. Grace Roberts  
36. Alexis Jolivet-Linder

19. Hailey Larson  
20. Robert Foster  
21. Zachariah Godwin  
22. Trae Kennedy  
23. Ruby Holliday  
24. Jonathan Cardle  
25. Bralann Esquivel  
26. Tanner Musser  
27. Brighton Bair

10. Madison Mendenhall  
11. Corbyn Hadden  
12. Austin Lopez  
13. Emma Luce  
14. Ariel Gallegos  
15. Connor Blunt  
16. Stacie Mack  
17. Kaden Franklin  
18. Edward Drussell

1. Cyros Halandras  
2. Mackenzie Keech  
3. Autumn Hobbs  
4. Elijah LeBlanc  
5. Aiyana McCook  
6. Thomas Anderson  
7. Gracie Blagg  
8. Abe Maupin  
9. Kate Lockwood