



2019 VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN ANNOUNCED

Everyone is invited to attend the forty-fifth (45th) commencement exercises at Westwood High School in the gymnasium on Thursday, May 30, 2019, at 8:00 p.m. Courtney Johnson, Westwood High School Alumna, will deliver the commencement address to the 72 seniors. Nathan Beckman, Amanda Matznick, and Nathan Ostlund have earned the distinction of being named the **Valedictorians** of the Class of 2019. They have earned a GPA of 4.0. The **Salutatorians** for the Class of 2019 are Jill Laiho, Zachary Niemi and Rebecca Woolard. They have all earned a GPA of 3.963.

Nathan Beckman is the son of Jon and Sara Beckman. He has participated in basketball, football, and track, serving as team captain for several years in all three sports. Nathan is an All-U.P. football dream team member. He is three-time All-Conference in football, three-time All-Conference in basketball, four-time All-State in track. He has been the class vice-president for four years and is a member of the chess and ping pong clubs. He was also a state qualifier in Business Professionals of America for three years and a member of the National Honor Society. Nathan has been chosen to be Westwood's Student of the Week and has received the Day of Excellence honor for five years. He has received the following scholarships: Excellence in Education, U.P. Sports Hall of Fame, Husky Innovation Leaders, Michigan Competitive, MTU Presidential Platinum Level, Elks National Most Valuable Student, NICE Teachers' Association, Teal Lake Masonic Lodge, Westwood Sports Booster Club Athletic, and Westwood Alumni. In his spare time he enjoys lifting, watching Netflix, spending time with his friends, and spending time at his camp. Nathan has volunteered with a bike race, Marquette County Medical Care's elderly prom, Cliffs' health expo, alumni softball tournament, and youth sports camps. After high school, Nathan plans to attend Michigan Tech University to pursue a bachelor's degree in engineering while also playing football.

Amanda Matznick is the daughter of Lance and Heidi Peterson. She has been a member of band, chorus, Voices in Motion, the cross country team, Business Professionals of America, National Honor Society, Quiz Bowl, Future Historians, Rotary Youth Exchange, and the Youth Advisory Committee. Amanda has received the Day of Excellence honor for five years and is the music department's outstanding musician. She has received the following scholarships: Excellence in Education, MTU Husky Innovation Leaders, MTU Alumni Legacy, MTU Presidential Platinum Level, MTU Visual & Performing Arts Talent, NMU Wildcat Achievement Level 5, NICE Teachers' Association, and the Professional Women in Building. In her spare time she enjoys playing the piano, hiking, photography, reading, and watching Netflix. Amanda enjoys playing the piano at nursing homes. She has volunteered at the U.P. 200 sled dog race, Project Keep Kids Warm, and many other local community events. After high school, Amanda plans to attend Michigan Tech University to pursue a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering.

NATHAN BECKMAN



AMANDA MATZNICK



NICE NEWS CONTINUED...



Nathan Ostlund is the son of Peter and Karen Ostlund. He has participated in tennis, Robotics (team captain for two years), chess club (vice-president), National Honor Society, ping pong club (founder), and Student Council (representative for two years). Nathan has been chosen to be Westwood's Student of the Week, has received the Day of Excellence honor for five years, and is the math department and science department student of the year. He has also received the following scholarships: Excellence in Education, Michigan Competitive, MTU FIRST, MTU Alumni Legacy, MTU Presidential Platinum Level, NMU Wildcat Achievement Level 5, Cliffs Natural Resources, and the TruNorth Federal Credit Union. In his spare time he enjoys fishing and hunting and playing soccer and tennis. Nathan has volunteered with youth tennis camps and with MDOT Adopt-A-Highway. After high school, Nathan plans to attend Michigan Tech University to pursue a premedical degree then go on to pursue a career as an anesthesiologist.

Jill Laiho is the daughter of Steven and Lois Laiho. She has been a member of National Honor Society (serving as vice-president), Key Club, ACTION Troupe and Ping Pong club. Jill has received the Day of Excellence honor for five years and the Society of Women Engineers Recognition in math and science her junior and senior year. She has also received the Excellence in Education, Bell Auxiliary, and the NMU Wildcat Achievement Level 1 scholarships. In her spare time she enjoys traveling, hiking, paddle boarding, cooking and baking, and spending time with family and friends. Jill has volunteered at local grocery stores bagging groceries, elementary carnival, Adopt-A-Highway, the iCan bike disability camp and Bell Hospital for the Women's Health Expo and a mock emergency drill. After high school, Jill plans to attend Saint Cloud State University for nursing. She would like to then try travel nursing around the United States and hopefully abroad.

NATHAN OSTLUND



JILL LAIHO



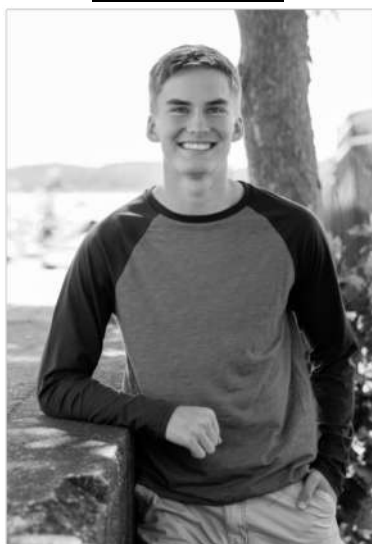
NICE NEWS CONTINUED...



Zachary Niemi is the son of Brad and Maija Niemi. He has participated in basketball, football, tennis and track. He is also a member of the chess, ping pong and Spanish clubs and National Honor Society. Zachary is a tennis U.P. Champion in Division 3 doubles and was part of the Mid-Peninsula Conference All-Defensive team and the Football Team of the Year. Zachary has been chosen to be Westwood's Student of the Week and has received the Day of Excellence honor for five years. He has also received the following scholarships: Excellence in Education, General, Michigan Competitive, MTU Alumni Legacy, MTU Presidential Platinum Level, MTU Student, NMU Wildcat Achievement Level 4, and the Elks National Most Valuable Student. In his spare time he enjoys playing and watching sports, hanging out with friends, listening to music, watching TV shows and movies, playing video games and eating. Zachary has volunteered with youth basketball and football, flag football, the Ishpeming Township National Night Out and the Marquette County Medical Care Facility's elderly prom. After high school, Zachary plans to attend Michigan Tech University to pursue a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering.

Rebecca Woolard is the daughter of Mark and Laura Woolard. She has been a member of band, chorus, Voices in Motion, drama, forensics (president for two years), Key Club (co-president for two years), and National Honor Society. Rebecca has been chosen to be Westwood's Student of the Week, has received the Day of Excellence honor for five years, is the choral and social studies student of the year, and received a 1 rating on a musical-theatre solo for WSMA District Solo and Ensemble. She has also received the following scholarships: Excellence in Education, Cedarville Dean's Excellence, Cedarville Fund, Cedarville Excellence, Bernadette Reider, General, and the Westwood High School. In her spare time she enjoys hiking, hanging out with friends, skiing, music, theatre and eating tacos. Rebecca has volunteered with Feeding America, Salvation Army, Young Authors, Key Club, Girl Power (Big Brothers, Big Sisters) and Lake Ellen Bible camp. After high school, Rebecca plans to attend Cedarville University in Ohio to pursue nursing. She hopes to one day work in a children's hospital as a registered nurse.

ZACHARY NIEMI



REBECCA WOOLARD



UPCOMING BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

The NICE Board of Education appreciates your interest in the school district. Public participation and open lines of communication are vital to maintaining a successful educational program for students. All regular and special board meetings are open and the public is encouraged to attend. Board meetings are held at 6:30 PM on the third Monday of the month in the Westwood High School Media Center. Dates and times for upcoming Board meetings are located on the district website at www.nice.k12.mi.us.

GRADUATION DATES

Thursday, May 30, 2019, 8:00 p.m., Westwood High School Graduation, WHS Gymnasium
Wednesday, June 5, 2019, 7:00 p.m. Aspen Ridge Middle School 8th Grade Graduation, AR Gymnasium



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