

THE 55<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
*Commencement*

❧ *Class of 2023* ❧



*Highlands High School*

NATRONA HEIGHTS, PENNSYLVANIA

THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 2023

6:00 P.M.

# *55th Commencement Highlands High School*

## *High School Administration*

*Principal* - Mr. Michael Toole

*Assistant Principal* - Dr. Nicholas LaMantia

*Dean of Students* - Mr. Jefrie Funtal

## *Senior Class Sponsors*

Mrs. Sherry Armstrong

Mrs. Melinda Eckenrod

## *Senior Class Officers*

*President* - Mr. Nicholas O. McQuade

*Vice President* - Mr. Luke Andrew Vunora

*Secretary* - Mr. Zachary Noah Dunlap

*Treasurer* - Miss Cassidy Cambal



## *Prelude Music*

Highlands High School Honors Choir

Mr. Michael Zeiler, Choir Director

*Found / Tonight*.....arr. Jacob Narverud

*Until We Meet Again*.....arr. Ruth Morris Gray

Highlands High School Concert Band

Mr. Matthew D. Beresik, Band Director

*Accolade*.....Mark Lortz

# Program

## Processional

**Pomp and Circumstance** .....Edward Elgar, arr. Howard E. Akers  
Mr. Matthew D. Beresik, Band Director

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** .....**Mr. Zachary Noah Dunlap**  
Senior Class Secretary

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** .....**Mr. Michael Toole**  
High School Principal

**REMARKS** .....**Dr. Monique Mawhinney**  
Superintendent

## Guest Speaker

**Mrs. Michelle Thompson Peters**  
First Distinguished Alumni Commencement Speaker  
Highlands Class of 1990

**PRESENTATION OF ALUMNI GIFT** .....**Mr. Nicholas O. McQuade**  
Senior Class President

**PRESENTATION OF CLASS GIFT** .....**Miss Kassidy Cambal**  
Senior Class Treasurer

**RECOGNITION OF VALEDICTORIAN  
AND SALUTATORIAN** .....**Mr. Toole  
& Mr. Gene Witt**  
Highlands School Board Director

**VALEDICTORIAN** - Miss Rachael Anne Babinsack

**SALUTATORIAN** - Miss Kassidy Cambal

# Commencement Address

## PERFECTLY IMPERFECT

*Presented by Miss Helayna Cirino*

### SENIOR CHORAL ENSEMBLE

***A Million Dreams* . . . . .arr. Mac Huff**

Featuring Senior vocalists Austin Ciciarelli, Helayna Cirino, Miakoda Clevenger, Zachary Dunlap, Catherine Erb\*, Grace Fennell\*, Noelle Hurley\*, Elijah Majocho\*, Dante Monteleone, Emma Polliard\*, Emma Pomaybo, Helena Vasey\*, Luke Vunora\* (\*song soloists)

**CERTIFICATION OF CLASS . . . . .Mr. Toole**

**ACCEPTANCE OF CLASS . . . . .Dr. Mawhinney**

**CONFIRMATION OF CLASS FOR GRADUATION . . . . .Mrs. Bobbie Neese**

*President, Highlands School Board*

## Granting of Diplomas

### SENIORS ANNOUNCED BY

*Mr. Nicholas O. McQuade, Senior Class President*

*Mr. Luke Andrew Vunora, Senior Class Vice President*

*Dr. Monique Mawhinney, Superintendent*

*Dr. Cathleen Cubelic, Assistant Superintendent*

*Mr. Michael Toole, High School Principal*

**ALMA MATER . . . . .Highlands High School Honors Choir**

*arr. Charles Davis / Mr. Michael Zeiler, Choir Director*

**VALIDATION OF GRADUATES . . . . .Dr. Mawhinney**

## Recessional

***Allied Honor* . . . . .Karl L. King, arr. James Swearingen**

The audience is asked to remain until the graduates have left the field.

# *The Class of 2023*

ELLA ADOLPH (N)

BRENNA ALLIAS (N)

MICHAEL ALWORTH

JILLIAN AMENT (N)

CLARISSA BRIANNA ANKNEY

RILEY ARCHER

BRIANNA M. ATKINSON

RACHAEL ANNE BABINSACK (N)

CODY BAUGHMAN

TYLER WILLIAM BENDER (N)

LANIE BLACK

AVA BOLLINGER

BRENNA AVERY BONNETT

MADISON BOUCH

AMANI BOWIE

JUSTIN BRINK

OWEN BURKETT

AVA JOY BUSSOTTI

JAMES PAUL CALLENDER

KASSIDY CAMBAL (N)

WILLIAM CELKO

JAMAL CHAMBERS JR.

DOMINIC CHIFULINI

AUSTIN CICIARELLI

HELAYNA CIRINO (N)

MIAKODA LEE CLEVINGER

DOMINIQUE CRATSENBERG

ISAAC CROWE

CASSIDY DAVIS

MADISON LYNN DAVIS

ABBIE DEISEROTH

MARIA DeSTEFANO

MACEY DIETZ

ZACHARY NOAH DUNLAP (N)

CATHERINE ERB (N)

ISABELLA M. ERB

GRACE FENNELL

BRANDON FIELD

MADISON FRESHWATER

GARRETT FROST

GRACIE GAMBLE

CYRENITY GAMBLE-CSIZMADIA

ALPHONSUS PHEBUS KOFA GIBSON

JAKE ALEXANDER GIBSON

CAMILLE GIGON

JOHNNA GRZANDZIEL (N)

JACOBY SCOTT MALACHAI GUY

AGUSTINA GUTIERREZ-COLLADO

IZABELLA HAILS

ASHTON HATAJIK

BENJAMIN HAUGHEY

RONDEAL HEWLETT

*The Class of 2023 cont.*

ELLA MARIA HILTERMANN

CALEB HILTY

BENJAMIN HOLLENBECK

NATALIE HOLLER

AVA HOUSEHOLDER

CODY HUBERT

NOELLE HURLEY

MICHAEL IMLER

MAJA INGEBRIGTSEN

MARIELY JIMENEZ SALAS

EVE JOHNSON (N)

ASHTON JONES

KAZMIR RAIN JONES

IAN KAMINSKI

KAITLYN MARIE KARNS

VICTORIA RAE KILBY

RACHEL ELIZABETH KLINE

HANNAH GRACE KONOPSKI

NOELLE KRAEGER (N)

SHAWN KRAMER (N)

KEVIN JAMES KRESS

NOAH MATTHEW KUCHEK (N)

JAMES KUNST (N)

HOLDEN LANE

KATELYN ANDREA LASKA

CAMERON LAYHEW

ETHAN DOYLE LENTZ

LOGAN LESLIE

NOAH SCOTT LESLIE

DANIEL LONG

LOGAN HUNTER LOTT (N)

KENDALL LUECHTEFELD

ELIJAH MAJOCHA (N)

EMMA PAIGE MANN (N)

BRIANNA MARRA

AYDAN MATTHEW MARTINKA

MALLORY MARTINKA (N)

CONNOR ROBERT MAZZA

ZACHARY McINTYRE

NICHOLAS O. McQUADE

NAHIA MEGATS (N)

ETHAN MELL

SARA E. MOCK

DANTE MONTELEONE (N)

ADRIANA ELIZABETH MONTEMURRO (N)

JAMES MOODY

MAKENZIE MORROW

AVA NITOWSKI (N)

AIDAN OCHOA

TYLER OLIGEE

ABIGAIL PETTIGREW

RILEY KATE SAGAN POINTKOWSKI (N)

EMMA POLLIARD

VASYL POLYAK

EMMA GRACE POMAYBO (N)

KENISHA PRICE

AVA VICTORIA REA	TYLER ANDREW TEAL
RA'CHELL REUBEN	CHANDLER WILLIAM THIMONS
SAVANNAH ROSE RODGERS	TYLER ANTHONY TOMAYKO
DEACON TYLER SAMPLE	HARRISON TRISCHLER
BEATRIZ SANTOS	LOUIS TUCCI
ALEXA MAE SCHRAG (N)	HELENA PAULINE VASEY
TIMOTHY SEAGRIFF	TYLER JORDAN VISNICK
ALANA SETTNEK	ROMAN A. VIVIRITO
LANDAN HUNTER SIGNORELLA	LUKE ANDREW VUNORA
BAILEY ELENA SINGER	MADISON WATTERSON
KYLEE SLOBODNIK	LUCAS WENDT
DOMINIC EDWARD SMITH	LOGAN WETMORE
MADYSEN MARGARET SMITH	JESSICA BEEN WHITE
TYLER DAVID SMITH	CONNOR JOSEPH WHYEL
ZACHARY THOMAS SMITH	AYDAN BENJAMIN WINTER
JOSEPH N. SNYDER	RILEY ANDREW WISLIE
ZACHARY SOWINSKI	BROOKLYN D. WITHERSPOON-HOLMES
MATTHEW STANONIS	SHAMAR ANTWOINE WRIGHT
MAKAYLA STEFANCIC	TAYSHAUN WRIGHT
DOMINIC SCOTT STOBERT (N)	CASSADI ZAWART
DILLON MICHAEL STONER	MALLORY MARIE ZAWART



(N) - Indicates National Honor Society Member

NOTE: Students whose names appear in this program are members of the Class of 2023, but are officially graduated only upon receipt of a diploma.

# HIGHLANDS HIGH SCHOOL

## *Class of 2023 Future Plans, Scholarships, Honors & Awards*

*Special thanks to High School counselors Mrs. Marilyn Skwartz and Dr. Susie Gurrera for preparing this information based on self-reported senior surveys and senior spotlights. Information compiled as of June 5, 2023.*

**ELLA ADOLPH:** Penn State Altoona / Communications

**BRENNA ALLIAS:** Robert Morris University / Nursing; RMU Merit Scholarship

**JILLIAN AMENT:** CCAC / Fire Science

**CLARISSA ANKNEY:** Artist

**BRIANNA ATKINSON:** Apprenticeship Program / Oberg Industries

**RACHAEL BABINSACK:** St. Vincent College / Finance/Law; Bowling Team; The Challenge Program Academic Excellence Award; Erma Rice Davis Benesch Scholarship

**CODY BAUGHMAN:** Bioengineering or Acting

**TYLER BENDER:** Washington & Jefferson University / Bio/Pre-Med & Football Team, Wrestling; Thrive Scholarship; Outstanding HHS Biological Science Student

**AVA BOLLINGER:** Penn State New Kensington / Radiology Sciences

**BRENNA BONNETT:** Indiana University of PA; Swimming & Diving Team

**MADISON BOUCH:** Nursing School / Pediatric Nurse

**AMANI BOWIE:** Montclair State University / Psychology/Music minor; Montclair State Scholarship

**JUSTIN BRINK:** Tiffin University / Psychology/Sports Psychology & Soccer Team; Soccer Scholarship; Highlands Education Association Scholarship

**OWEN BURKETT:** CCAC / Electrician

**AVA BUSSOTTI:** Business, Art or Communications

**KASSIDY CAMBAL:** St. Vincent College / Data Science & Softball Team; St. Vincent Chancellor's Scholarship; Highlands Area Rotary Scholarship; Highlands Class of 1983 Scholarship; Highlands Education Association Scholarship; Highlands Lunch Ladies Scholarship; Erma Rice Davis Benesch Scholarship

**WILL CELKO:** Penn State New Kensington / Real Estate Business & Baseball Team; PSNK Blue & White Scholarship

**DOMINIC CHIFULINI:** Kent State University / Psychology; Kent State Merit Scholarship

**AUSTIN CICIARELLI:** Employment / ABC Transit

**HELAYNA CIRINO:** Edinboro University / Business Administration; PennWest Premier Scholarship

**DOMINIQUE CRATSENBERG:** Esthetician School

**ISSAC CROWE:** Military / Army/Intel

**CASSIDY DAVIS:** Slippery Rock University / Cybersecurity

**ABBIE DEISEROTH:** Kent State University / Fashion & Design; Kent State Scholarship

**MARIA DESTEFANO:** Penn State New Kensington / Radiology Sciences; PSNK Blue & White Scholarship



**ZACH DUNLAP:** *Robert Morris University / Graphic Design; Nulph Family Achievement and Arts Scholarship; National School Choir Award*

**CATHERINE ERB:** *CCAC or Slippery Rock / Early Childhood Education*

**BELLA ERB:** *Florida Atlantic University / Health & Science*

**GRACE FENNELL:** *West Penn School of Nursing; National School Choir Award*

**MADISON FRESHWATER:** *Army Reserves & Penn State University*

**GARRETT FROST:** *CCAC / IT & Cybersecurity Support Specialist; Highlands Class of 1983 Scholarship; Robert E. Marshall Scholarship*

**GRACIE GAMBLE:** *CCAC / Secondary Education*

**ALPHONSUS GIBSON:** *Military / Navy*

**JAKE GIBSON:** *Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire; Louis Armstrong Jazz Award*

**CAMILLE GIGON:** *Return to France to finish high school / Medical School*

**JOHNNA GRZANDZIEL:** *La Roche University / Psychology/Criminology; La Roche Merit & Touring Scholarships; Soccer Essay Scholarship; CMU Scholarship*

**AGUSTINA GUTIERREZ-COLLADO:** *Return to Chile to finish high school; College / Marine Biology*

**JACOBY GUY:** *Employment / Business/Marketing & Real Estate*

**IZABELLA HAILS:** *CCAC*

**ASHTON HATAJIK:** *CCAC/Slippery Rock University / Sociology/Psychology*

**BEN HAUGHEY:** *CCAC / English & Creative Writing*

**RONDEAL HEWLETT:** *St. Vincent College*

**ELLA HILTERMANN:** *Medical School in Germany/Netherlands*

**CALEB HILTY:** *Tech/Trade School / Carpentry*

**BENJAMIN HOLLENBECK:** *Employment / Business*

**CODY HUBERT:** *Robert Morris University or CCAC / Sports Management; various scholarships*

**NOELLE HURLEY:** *CCAC / Biotechnology; Arion Award*

**MICHAEL IMLER:** *Slippery Rock University / Music or Music Theory; John Philip Sousa Award*

**MAJA INGEBRIGTSEN:** *Return to Norway to complete final year of high school*

**MARIELY JIMENEZ SALAS:** *Return to Costa Rica to finish high school; College / Mech. Engineering*

**EVE JOHNSON:** *University of Pittsburgh / Medical Science; US Marine Corps Distinguished Athlete Award*

**ASHTON JONES:** *Penn State New Kensington; Penn State Provost's Award; PSNK Blue & White Scholarship*

**KAZMIR JONES:** *Employment / Nursing*

**RACHEL KLINE:** *Robert Morris University / Accounting/Finance*

**HANNAH KONOPSKI:** *Indiana University of PA / Interior Design*

**NOELLE KRAEGER:** *Penn State University / Secondary Education - Art; Louis J. Baldassare Arts Scholarship; HHS Global Scholars Award; Art Department Service "Above and Beyond" Award*

**SHAWN KRAMER:** *Military / Army/Black Hawk Mechanic; US Marine Corps Distinguished Athlete Award; Thomas H. Gough Memorial Award*

**KEVIN KRESS:** *Employment / Freelance Concept Designer*

**NOAH KUCHEK:** *Oberlin College / Economics*

**JAMES KUNST:** *Eastern Michigan University / Pre-Med or Biology & Baseball Team; EMU Emerald Scholarship; US Marine Corps Scholastic Excellence Award*

**HOLDEN LANE:** *Apprenticeship / Real Estate; related scholarship*

**KATELYN LASKA:** *Military / National Guard Reserves/Psychology*

**CAMERON LAYHEW:** *Career Technical Institute / Carpentry*

**ETHAN LENTZ:** *Slippery Rock University / Secondary Education - Social Studies/History*

**LOGAN LESLIE:** *Tech/Trade School; Highlands Gridiron Scholarship*

**NOAH LESLIE:** *Tech/Trade School; Highlands Gridiron Scholarship*

**DANIEL LONG:** *Slippery Rock University / Exercise Science*

**LOGAN LOTT:** *Penn State Behrend / Computer Science; Penn State Provost's Award; US Air Force Math/Science Award; John & Mary McGinley Scholarship*

**ELIJAH MAJOCHA:** *Chatham University / 4+1 Masters in Political Science; Criminology minor; Chatham Academic Scholarship; National School Choir Award*

**EMMA MANN:** *Penn State New Kensington / Radiological Sciences; PSNK Blue & White Scholarship; Highlands Lunch Ladies Scholarship*

**BRIANNA MARRA:** *Employment/College - Marra Enterprises/Business*

**AYDAN MARTINKA:** *Tech/Trade School; Employment*

**MALLORY MARTINKA:** *Penn State University / Spanish or Psychology*

**NICK McQUADE:** *CCAC / Business; Employment*

**ETHAN MELL:** *Slippery Rock University / Film*

**NAHIA MEGATS:** *Kent State University / Sports Medicine; Kent State Scholarships*

**SARA MOCK:** *Nursing/Health-Related School / Phlebotomy*

**DANTE MONTELEONE:** *Penn State New Kensington / Business*

**ADRIANA MONTEMURRO:** *Slippery Rock University Honors College / Biology with concentration in Medical Technology; SRU Merit Scholarship; Tarentum Area Lions Club Scholarship; Highlands Class of 1983 Scholarship; US Marine Corps Semper Fidelis Award for Musical Excellence; Veterans of Foreign Wars Scholarship; The Challenge Program Academic Improvement Award; Live Like Eli Scholarship; Highlands Lunch Ladies Scholarship*

**JAMES MOODY:** *Employment/Apprenticeship / Swank Construction/Pipeline Welder*

**AVA NITOWSKI:** *Indiana University of PA / Business & Marketing; Arnold Bud Colin Scholarship*

**AIDAN OCHOA:** *Clarion University / International Business and Sports Management / Swim Team; HHS Global Scholars Award*

**TYLER OLIGEE:** *Employment / Pitt Ohio Auto Body Tech; The Challenge Program Attendance Award*

**ABIGAIL PETTIGREW:** *College/Trade School; Bidwell Job Corp / Culinary Arts/Food Business Mgmt.*

**RILEY POINTKOWSKI:** *University of Pittsburgh / Chemistry; University of Pittsburgh Academic Scholarship; P3R Scholarship; Highlands Area Rotary Scholarship; Outstanding HHS Earth Science Student*

**EMMA POLLIARD:** *Penn State Behrend / Mechanical Engineering Technology; Highlands Area Rotary Scholarship; Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship; Highlands Education Association Scholarship*

**EMMA POMAYBO:** *Duquesne University / Nursing; Arion Award*

**VASYL POLYAK:** *PSNK, University of Pittsburgh or La Roche University / Computer Science; PSNK Blue & White Scholarship; The Challenge Program Community Service Award*

**PEACH PRICE:** CCAC/Slippery Rock University / Graphic Design  
**AVA REA:** CCAC / Secondary Education - Social Studies  
**RA'CHELL REUBEN:** CCAC / Criminal Justice  
**DEACON SAMPLE:** La Roche University / Criminology  
**BIA SANTOS:** Attend College in Portugal / Physics  
**ALEXA SCHRAG:** Phoenix University & Kent State / Business/Fashion  
**TIM SEAGRIFF:** California University of PA / Digital Media Technology  
**ALANA SETTNEK:** CCAC / Psychology  
**LANDAN SIGNORELLA:** Undecided / Employment at 1-Tom Plumbing Un-Flood It  
**KYLEE SLOBODNIK:** Robert Morris University / Environmental Science  
**DOMINIC SMITH:** Rosedale Technical College / Automotive Technology  
**TYLER SMITH:** Rosedale Technical College / Electrician  
**MADYSEN SMITH:** CCAC / Chemistry  
**MATTHEW STANONIS:** Slippery Rock University / Computer Science  
**MAKAYLA STEFANCIC:** CCAC & Shaler-Hampton EMS / Radiology Technology  
**DOMINIC STOBERT:** CCAC / HVAC & Refrigeration; Principal's Leadership Award  
**DILLON STONER:** Tech/Trade School / Forbes CTC / Veterinary Sciences  
**TYLER TEAL:** Military / Marine Corps  
**CHANDLER THIMONS:** Waynesburg University / Elementary Education & Football Team  
**TYLER TOMAYKO:** Two-Year College or Tech/Trade School  
**HARRISON TRISCHLER:** Rosedale Technical College / Welding

**HELENA VASEY:** AMDA or Indiana University of PA / Musical Theater; IUP Scholarship; National School Choir Award

**ROMAN VIVIRITO:** Slippery Rock University / Business Management

**LUKE VUNORA:** Penn State Behrend / Computer & Electrical Engineering Technologies / Tennis Team; College Scholarships; Tarentum Area Lions Club Scholarship; US Marine Corps Semper Fidelis Award for Musical Excellence; Michael J. Ferlan Scholarship

**LUCAS WENDT:** Youngstown State University / Chemical Engineering; YSU Merit Scholarship; The Challenge Program STEM Award; Outstanding HHS Physical Science Student; John & Mary McGinley Scholarship

**LOGAN WETMORE:** Employment / Production  
**CONNOR WHYEL:** Slippery Rock University / Digital Media

**AYDAN WINTER:** Slippery Rock University / Graphic Design/Digital Media; SRU Scholarship; HHS Music Director's Award

**RILEY WISLIE:** Slippery Rock University / Bio/Pre-Physical Therapy; SRU Academic Scholarship  
**BROOKLYN WITHERSPOON-HOLMES:** CCAC/University of Pittsburgh / Pediatric Nurse  
**TAYSHAUN WRIGHT:** Duquesne University / Sports Medicine/Physical Therapy  
**CASSADI ZAWART:** Indiana University of PA / Nursing  
**MALLORY ZAWART:** CCAC / Rehabilitation/Physical Therapy



*Congratulations & Best Wishes!*  
*R12*

# *School District Administration*

*Superintendent ~ Dr. Monique Mawhinney*

*Assistant Superintendent ~ Dr. Cathleen Cubelic*

*Coordinator of Curriculum & Instruction ~ Dr. Catherine M. Russo*

*Student Service Director ~ Dr. Amber H. Dean*

## *School Board Directors*

*President ~ Mrs. Bobbie Neese*

*Vice President ~ Mrs. Nicole Kocon*

*Mrs. Kristie Babinsack, Mrs. Laura Butler,*

*Mrs. Kelli Canonge, Ms. Ashley Javier,*

*Dr. Debra Lehew, Mrs. Judy Wisner, Mr. Gene Witt*

## *Highlands High School Alma Mater*

Hail to thee, O Highlands High School,

We with reverence sing thy praise,

May we ever keep thy memory,

Bright and true through all our days.

Gold and brown and white the colors,

Of our Alma Mater proud,

Let our zeal be fervent

As we sing our glories loud.

Hail to thee, O Highlands High School,

We with reverence sing thy praise,

May we ever keep thy memory,

Bright and true through all our days.

PLEASE NOTE:

A Nurse/EMT is on duty if needed.

2023

*Highlands*

[www.goldenrams.com](http://www.goldenrams.com)

