

# **Congratulations to these St. Matthew's Graduating Seniors**

*It is our privilege to honor and congratulate them today – June 4, 2023*

**Eliot Began:** I am graduating with Honors from Wauwatosa West High School. In high school I was involved in theater, art, cross country and track (pole vaulting), orchestra and German. This fall I will be attending UW Madison where I will be majoring in Graphic Design.

**Matthew Byrne:** Matthew Byrne is a senior graduating from Wauwatosa West High School. In his time at west he has been a hardworking and involved student. He has participated in all 8 musicals, played as a 4-year band member, served as student class president, and more. Outside of school he enjoys hanging out with friends, rollerblading, and crocheting. Through his job working as a Certified Nursing Assistant he has fostered a love for the medical field. Next year he will be attending to University of Wisconsin Madison to become a nurse practitioner.

**Drew Freeborn:** I will soon be a Wauwatosa West High School grad. In school, I was active in theatre all four years, captain of the swim team senior year, and was involved in APPSE my junior year. I was also active with Boy Scout Troop 21 and recently completed my Eagle Project by cleaning up and restoring the fence in St. Matt's parking lot across the street. I grew up at St. Matthew's and enjoyed being involved in Sunday school, confirmation, choir and drama. In the fall, I will attend Xavier University in Cincinnati to pursue a degree in philosophy, politics and the public.

**Emily Gastrau:** I will be graduating from Wauwatosa East, where I have participated in many activities, including golf, Best Buddies, band, and more. At St. Matt's, I have been involved in VBS since kindergarten and have gone on two youth mission trips. I plan on attending Illinois Wesleyan University next fall, where I will be majoring in business and playing on the golf team. I am grateful for the support that I've received from St. Matthew's over the years!

**Tyler Goeckermann:** I have been a member of the Wauwatosa West Band for 4 years, pep, band and Full Orchestra and a Member of Best Buddies. I have been in the Engineering Launch program with Brookfield Central and Tosa West. I am graduating with honors and will be attending UWM Biomedical Engineering program in Fall. Being a member at St. Matts and being involved with the mission trips has broadened my Faith. It has taught me to serve the Lord with others who are less fortunate.

**Zolbayer Granger:** Zolbayer Granger graduates from Wauwatosa East High School. He completed the CNA course at Tosa East in 2021, with the ambition of becoming an RN. He worked as a CNA at Harwood Village for one year and is now at Froedtert in the Step Down Unit. He has also taken three years of sign language. Zolbayer has been accepted into the nursing program at WCTC in the fall. His long time interest is in law and becoming a judge. A future career may be Nurse Ombudsman.

**Olivia Iding:** Olivia Iding will graduate with Honors from Wauwatosa East High School. She plans to attend the University of Wisconsin, majoring in Kinesiology in preparation to study Physical Therapy. While at Wauwatosa East, Olivia was in National Honor Society and Tri-M, the Band National Honor Society. She played clarinet in the Marching Band and played Soccer, Basketball and Golf as well. Clubs she enjoyed include Best Buddies and Link Crew. As her English teacher, Megan Sampson wrote: "Olivia is a smart and hard-working student who cares about others and engages in her community."

**Grace Kasdorf:** My name is Grace Kasdorf and I'm going to be graduating from Tosa East this year. Through my years in high school I was part of the tennis team, Best Buddies, as well as being a teacher's assistant in special education classes. At St. Matthews I was part of the New Orleans mission trip and was a teacher assistant for VBS for many years. I am very grateful to be part of the St. Matthews community. It has been a great place to create friendships and to grow a stronger connection to God. In the fall I will be attending St. Norbert College where I will be studying Elementary Education.

**Michaela Kobinsky:** I am graduating from Wauwatosa East this year. Throughout my high school journey, I have received multiple student athlete awards from my involvement in Cross Country and Track and Field, Academic Achiever Awards, a scholarship and have been an active member of multiple clubs to better my school and community. At St. Matthews, I have gone on three mission trips, which have taught me to always give back to the community to help the world to be a better place. Additionally, I have participated in being a teacher assistant at VBS for many years and have enjoyed being in the plays, choir and bells. I am very grateful for St. Matthews, and for all the experiences this community has brought me. I am attending UW-Madison in the fall and I'm beyond excited to see what the future will bring!

**Emily Kramer:** I am graduating from Wauwatosa West this year. I'm so grateful for all that St. Matthew's has given me throughout my childhood. From VBS, bells, choir, skits, and family camp to the unforgettable discussions in Sunday school and all of the friendships forged throughout, I know I will cherish these memories forever. As high school comes to an end, I am incredibly excited to begin the next chapter of my life. In the fall I will be attending the University of Wisconsin - Madison to pursue my passion for English.

**Miranda McIlheran:** I am graduating from Brookfield East this year and attending Marquette University this fall for Exercise Physiology in the direct admit physical therapy program. I have been involved in Key Club, the Writing Center (an essay tutoring program), and received awards for both my painting and German skills. I also ran varsity Cross Country for three years and was a captain my senior year. At St. Matthews, I have enjoyed helping out in VBS, volunteering at service events, and attending two mission trips. I am grateful for St. Matthews and the experiences it has given me.

**Richie Nickel:** At St Matthews, I have really enjoyed the music during the services. I've been involved in choir and bells, as well as volunteering for services and helping teach VBS. Outside of church, I run sound for Tosa East Theater, play soccer and tennis, and play violin in MYSO. In the fall, I will be attending the University of Southern California to study sound design and industrial engineering. I am very grateful for the St Matthew's community!

**Evan Olson:** My name is Evan Olson and I will be graduating from Wauwatosa West High School. Throughout my high school career, I have maintained a strong GPA while taking rigorous classes. I played football for all four years, basketball for two, and enjoyed skiing in the school's Ski and Snowboard club. My volunteer opportunities included activities through the National Honor Society, Key Club, and church. I went on the Milwaukee based mission trip and volunteered with VBS. I am looking forward to attending University of Wisconsin-Madison studying biology.

**Stephen Searing:** My name is Stephen Searing and I am graduating from Wauwatosa East High School. I have been an active member of the Tosa East Orchestra throughout high school, and I have played with the Barcel Suzuki Academy Briosio advanced violin group for the past two years. I was a member of the National Champion chess team and have enjoyed playing intramural sports. I have enjoyed participating in the St. Matthew's mission trips to Milwaukee and Kenosha, and I plan to travel with the group this summer to help serve in Kentucky. I will be attending UW-Madison in Fall to study chemistry and pharmacy.

**Hope Stangel:** My name is Hope Stangel and I have been involved in the church since I was little, attending services, singing in the choir, and volunteering/attending VBS. I am graduating from Wauwatosa East High School and going to be attending the University of Memphis in the fall. There, I am committed to pole vault on the track team and will be studying biology.

**Hannah Veenendaal:** I will be graduating from Wauwatosa West as a valedictorian. In high school I was involved in many activities including APPSE, National Honor Society, Student Senate, Key Club, Best Buddies, and Spanish Honor Society. I also participated in Varsity Cross Country and Soccer for four years and was captain of both my senior year. In the fall I plan to attend The University of Tennessee-Knoxville and major in Nursing.

**Aidan Weileder:** My name is Aidan Weileder and I will be graduating with Honors from Brookfield East. In school I'm involved in activities such as French honor society, Model United Nations, and Political Action Club. I also competed in Cross country and Track and field all four years of high school receiving multiple awards and recognitions, as well as being JV Captain for cross country. At St. Matthews I have enjoyed participating in choir, hand bells, and plays since I was little. In the fall I will be attending IUPUI in Indianapolis to study Motorsports Engineering.

**Annabelle Wooster:** I am graduating with honors from Wauwatosa West High School. Throughout my time in school I've been involved in Key Club, National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, APPSE, Best Buddies, and writing for the school paper, The Tosa Compass. Outside of school I am captain of both the varsity soccer and tennis teams. I've loved growing up at St. Matthew's and some of my favorite memories include volunteering at VBS, acting in Christmas pageants, and packing meals for homeless shelters in Milwaukee. In the fall I will attend the University of Missouri to major in broadcast journalism with the hopes to one day appear on a TV near you!

