

# INSPIRE

MAY 2025

MARTIN  
THE SPARTAN

GUESS WHO?  
8TH GRADE  
BABY PHOTOS!

TEACHERS AND STAFF 8TH GRADE PHOTOS





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## STAFF REPORTERS

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Zuzanna Tylka

Maiyari Manderico

Catherine Sabau

Lily Molina

Angela Sun

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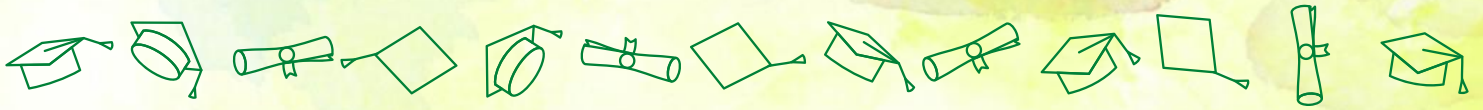
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PAWEL KOCZYJAN  
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HANNAH JANE LARKIN  
DEMARCO E. LEVY  
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COLLEEN ELIZABETH MCCARTHY  
FINN MCCRANEY  
LOGAN JAMES MCHUGH  
BROOKE MENARD  
LUKE MERRITT  
ASHER MILLER-GEHRKE  
WESLEY MONROE MILLS  
TESSA MODINE

LILIAN ROSE MOLINA  
ALEXA FRANCESCA MONTANA  
NICHOLAS MURPHY  
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HEATHER NICOLE PRIM  
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MATTHEW ALAN WILEY  
MELENE AVERY WILL  
JOSEPHINE M. WITTE  
ALTHEA KYUNG HEE WOODS  
ISABELLA ROSE WRUBLIK  
DELANEY FAITH YURCHAK  
KRISTIAN ZAHARIEV  
JULIAN VICENTE ZAPATA  
MILES ZEBRAITIS  
ZI JIA ZHU  
TANNER JAMES ZIELKE





To the 8th Grade Class,

It has been a wonderful three years together. I've truly enjoyed getting to know each and every one of you, from the moment you entered Lakeview to now, as you prepare to graduate in just a few days.

We all began this journey with wide eyes, eager to learn and grow. Along the way, we observed others, sometimes emulating their actions, and at other times learning valuable lessons about whom not to follow.

Each of you has a bright future ahead in high school and beyond. I'll be cheering you on and wishing you continued success in all your endeavors. Please remember, I'm always here for you—don't hesitate to reach out if you ever need anything.

Wishing you all the very best,

Dr. Mark Orszula





# THROUGHOUT THE YEARS

LILY MOLINA

**2021**

## OLIVIA RODRIGO

In January of 2021, Olivia Rodrigo released her single "drivers licence," which started her ongoing career.

**2021**

## SQUID GAMES

Squid Game season 1 came out in September of 2021 and became Netflix's number 1 watched show for a while.

**2022**

## STRANGER THINGS

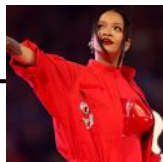
On May 27<sup>th</sup> 2022, Stranger Things season 4 dropped. In the first 28 days it released to Netflix, it gained a 1.35 billion watch time.

**2023**

## THE ERAS TOUR

The Era's tour started on December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and 10,168,008 people attended her shows.

2023

**RIHANNA AT THE SUPERBOWL**

In February 2023, Rihanna performed at the 57<sup>th</sup> Super Bowl and over 120 million people watched her performance.

2024

**WICKED**

In November of 2024, Wicked was released. Worldwide, Wicked made over 750 million dollars.

2024

**KENDRICK V.S. DRAKE**

In 2024, Kendrick Lamar and Drake both released diss tracks toward each other that caused a lot of controversy.

2025

**MAYHEM**

In March of this year, Lady Gaga released her 7<sup>th</sup> album which received 328,081 listens on Spotify.

2025

**FRESHMEN**

You will go to high school and make tons of friends, discover what you want to do when you grow up, and make the world a better place.



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# 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE TEACHERS Q&A

Get to know more about some of our  
amazing 8th-grade teachers!

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# Mrs. Rickert



IF YOU COULD ASSIGN THIS CLASS ONE FINAL EXAM, WHAT LIFE SKILL WOULD IT BE ON?

HOW TO CLEAN UP AFTER YOURSELF!



WHAT'S THE MOST CREATIVE EXCUSE YOU HEARD FROM AN 8TH GRADER THIS YEAR?



NO... BUT SERIOUSLY... I UGH... I MEAN... I DID IT, BUT THEY IT GOT DELETED (JUST KEEPS MUMBLING UNTIL I GIVE UP!)



IF THIS 8TH-GRADE CLASS HAD A MASCOT, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

IF THIS CLASS HAD A THEME SONG, WHAT WOULD IT BE?



## SIGMA



THE "SIGMA BOY" SONG OR THE "SKIBIDI TOILET" SONG



# Mrs. Lavorato



IF YOU COULD ASSIGN  
THIS CLASS ONE FINAL  
EXAM, WHAT LIFE SKILL  
WOULD IT BE ON?



HOW TO PROPERLY KNOCK  
AND OPEN A LOCKED DOOR.  
(JIGGLING AND PULLING ON  
THE DOOR HANDLE WHEN  
THE DOOR IS CLOSED  
DOESN'T OPEN IT FASTER)



WHAT'S THE MOST CREATIVE  
EXCUSE YOU HEARD FROM  
AN 8TH GRADER THIS YEAR?



THERE WAS NO INTERNET IN CALIFORNIA  
SO I COULDN'T DO MY WORK



IF THIS 8TH-GRADE  
CLASS HAD A MASCOT,  
WHAT WOULD IT BE?



IF THIS CLASS HAD A  
THEME SONG, WHAT  
WOULD IT BE?



SAVANNAH BANANA---HIGH  
ENERGY, CRAZY ANTICS,  
LOUD :)



SOFIA THE FIRST THEME  
SONG. THEY ALL KNOW THE  
WORDS AND CAN SING IT.





# Mrs. Nyhlen



IF YOU COULD ASSIGN THIS CLASS ONE FINAL EXAM, WHAT LIFE SKILL WOULD IT BE ON?

HOW TO LISTEN AND PROCESS WORDS, THEN DO WHAT WAS SAID



WHAT'S THE MOST CREATIVE EXCUSE YOU HEARD FROM AN 8TH GRADER THIS YEAR?



MY DOG ATE MY GYM SHOE



IF THIS 8TH-GRADE CLASS HAD A MASCOT, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

IF THIS CLASS HAD A THEME SONG, WHAT WOULD IT BE?



AN EAGLE

THICK OF IT BY KSI







# Mr. Safranski



IF YOU COULD ASSIGN  
THIS CLASS ONE FINAL  
EXAM, WHAT LIFE SKILL  
WOULD IT BE ON?



"CAN YOU REPEAT THE  
DIRECTIONS JUST SAID  
TO YOU THAT ARE ALSO  
PROJECTED ON  
WHITEBOARD?"



WHAT'S THE MOST CREATIVE  
EXCUSE YOU HEARD FROM  
AN 8TH GRADER THIS YEAR?



MOSTLY WHEN CAUGHT RED-HANDED, THEY JUST STARED IN  
CONFUSION WITH THEIR MOUTH OPEN AND HAIR ASKEW LIKE A  
WIG FROM THE HUMIDITY GENERATED BY OUR HALF-BROKEN  
AC UNITS



IF THIS 8TH-GRADE  
CLASS HAD A MASCOT,  
WHAT WOULD IT BE?



IF THIS CLASS HAD A  
THEME SONG, WHAT  
WOULD IT BE?



THE NARWHAL...BECAUSE IT  
IS THE GENTLE UNICORN  
OF THE SEA



STAYIN' ALIVE BY THE  
BEE GEES

# Mrs. DeFors

**IF YOU COULD ASSIGN THIS CLASS ONE FINAL EXAM, WHAT LIFE SKILL WOULD IT BE ON?**

I'D PICK A LIGHTEARTED FINAL EXAM CALLED "THE ART OF THE STRATEGIC SNACK: MASTERING THE BALANCE BETWEEN FOCUS AND FUEL"? THIS "EXAM" COULD INVOLVE TIMED ACTIVITIES INTERSPERSED WITH OPPORTUNITIES FOR SNACKS, REQUIRING STUDENTS TO RECOGNIZE WHEN THEY NEED TO REFUEL TO MAINTAIN CONCENTRATION WITHOUT GETTING SIDETRACKED BY SUGARY DISTRACTIONS. IT PLAYFULLY ADDRESSES THE REALITY OF STUDENT ENERGY LEVELS WHILE SUBTLY HINTING AT SELF-AWARENESS AND RESPONSIBLE CHOICES.



**?**

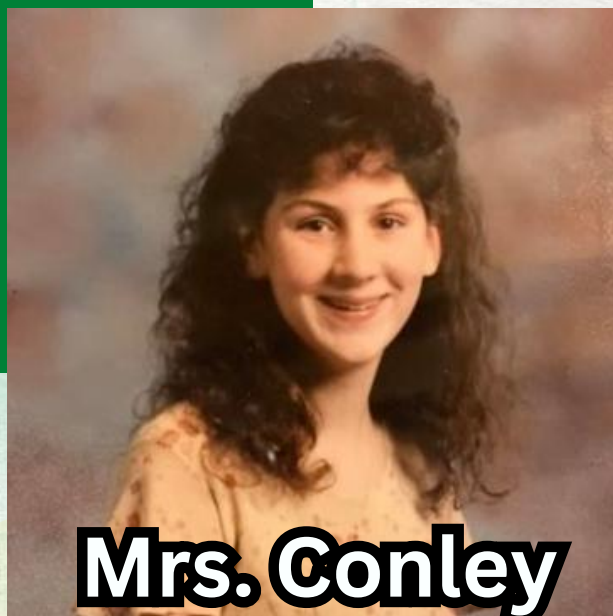
**IF THIS 8TH-GRADE CLASS HAD A MASCOT, WHAT WOULD IT BE?**

CONSIDERING THE CHALLENGES THIS 8TH-GRADE CLASS HAS FACED, A HONEY BADGER COULD BE A FITTING MASCOT. DESPITE ITS SMALL SIZE, THE HONEY BADGER IS KNOWN FOR ITS INCREDIBLE TOUGHNESS, RESILIENCE, AND FEARLESSNESS WHEN FACING ADVERSITY, REFLECTING THE CLASS'S STRUGGLES. THIS ANIMAL SYMBOLIZES THEIR POTENTIAL TO OVERCOME DIFFICULTIES AND EMERGE STRONGER, FOSTERING A POSITIVE OUTLOOK ON THEIR JOURNEY AHEAD.





**Back when we were your age...**



**Mrs. Conley**



**Mrs. Fitzgerald**



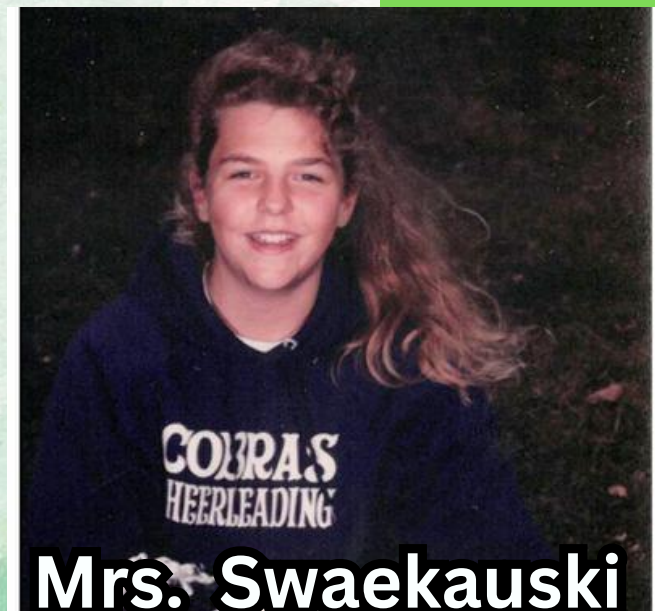
**Mrs. Kerfin**



**Mrs. McHugh**

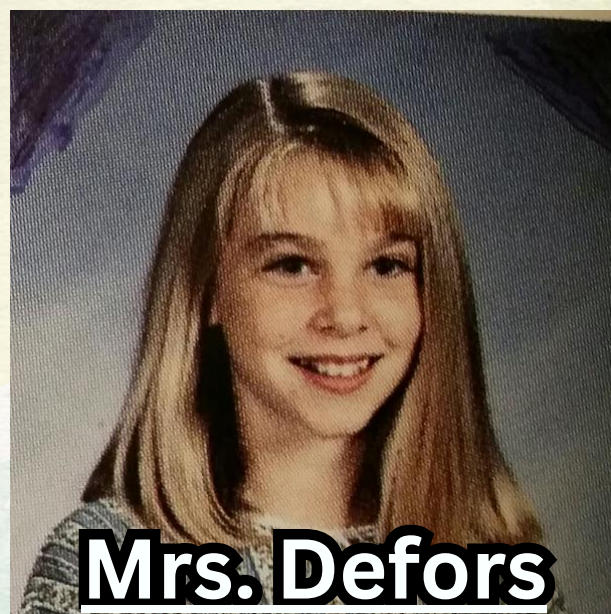
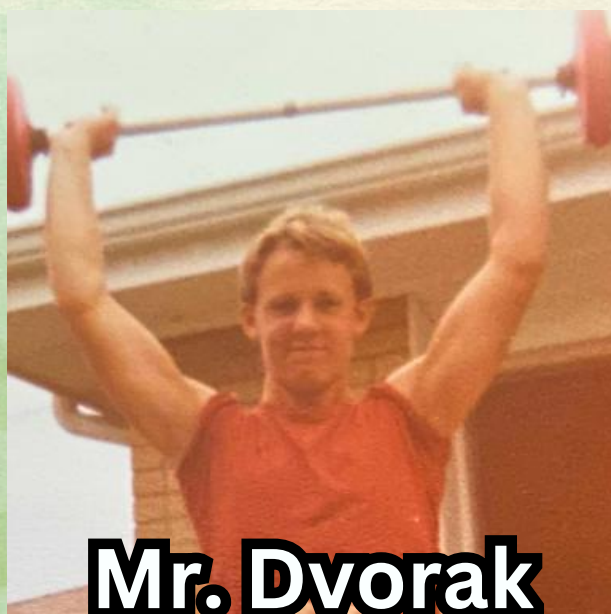
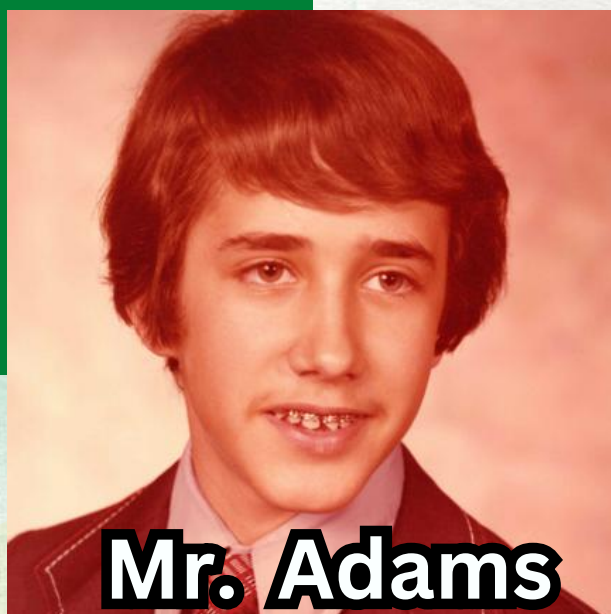


**Mrs. Mesker**

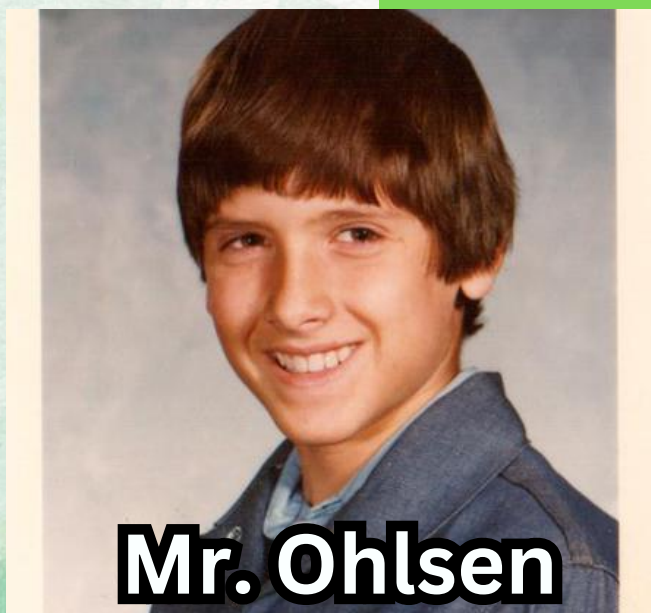
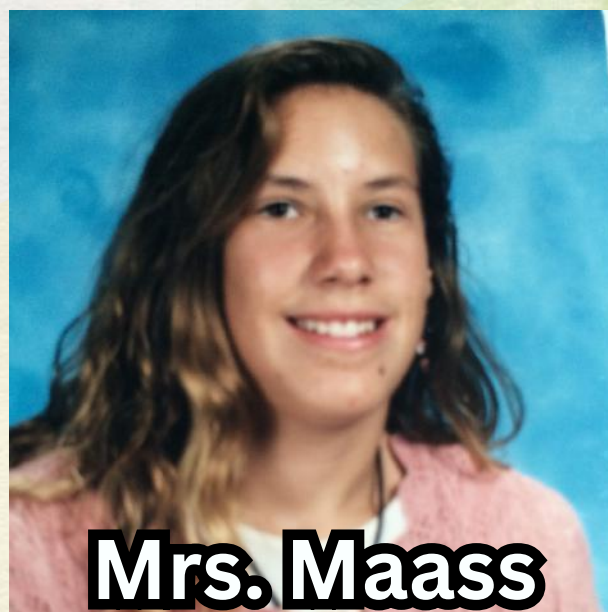


**Mrs. Swaekausti**

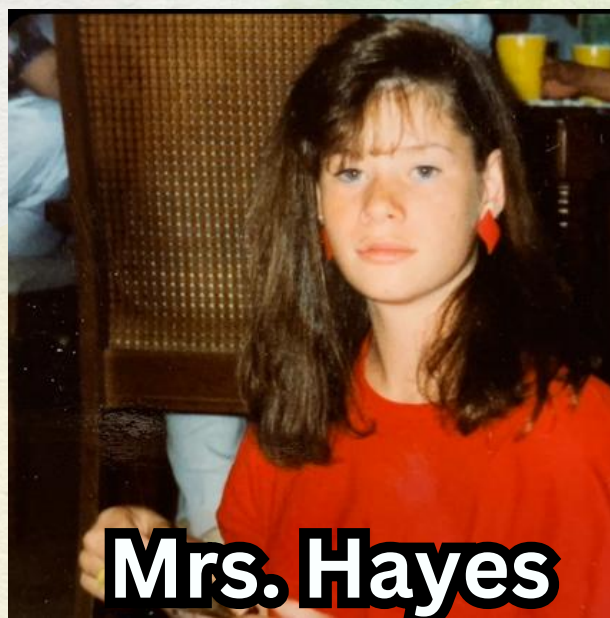
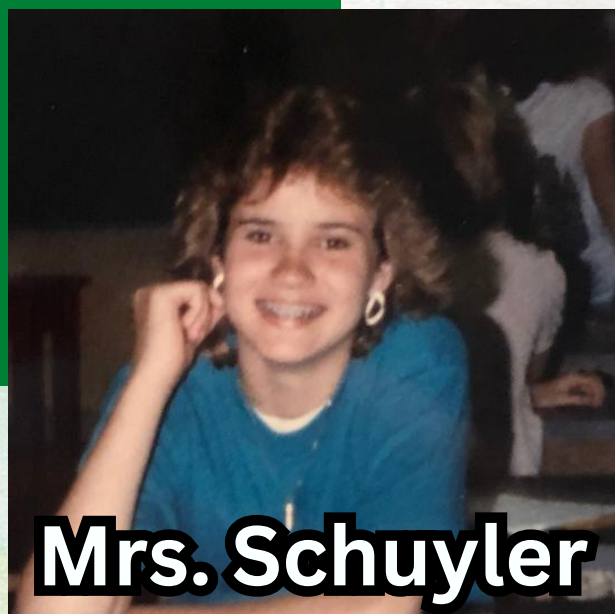




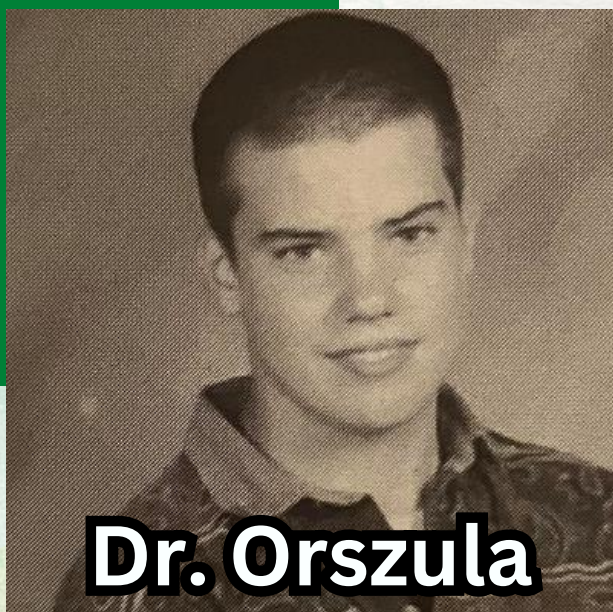








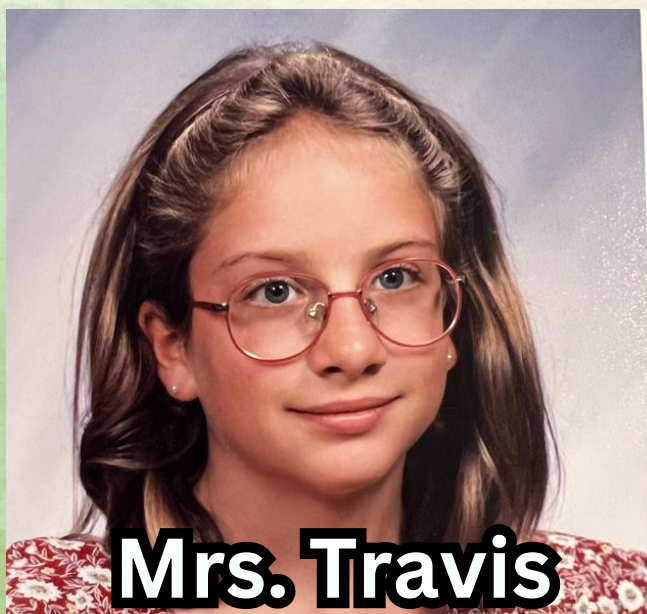




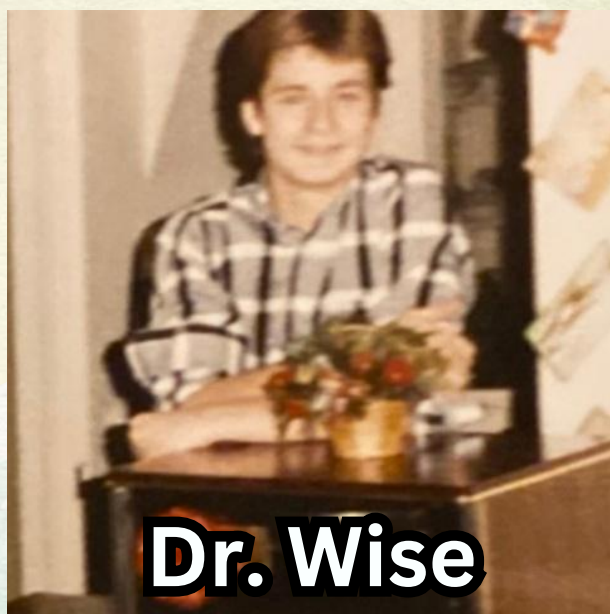
**Dr. Orszula**



**Mrs. Peterson**



**Mrs. Travis**



**Dr. Wise**

*happy*  
**GRADUATION**





**Abby Scheiwe**

What's something your teachers said  
way too often? Who said it?  
Close your chromebooks! Every  
teacher.

**Adam Nawrot**

If Your friend group had a theme song,  
what would it be?  
The Crashout

**Alex Kerfin**

If your time in junior high was a  
movie, what would the title be?  
Fighting the World



**Alexa Montana****Allyson Ording**

**If your time in junior high was a movie, what would the title be?**

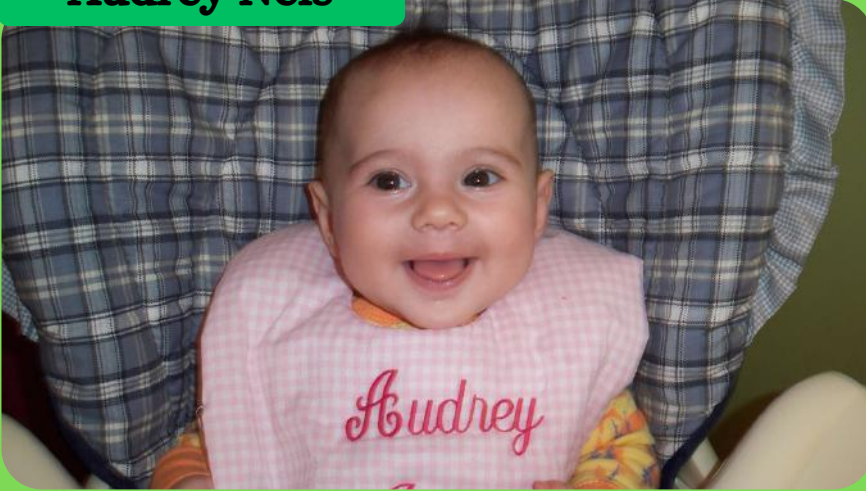
The Flash since it went by so fast, I remember when I was just coming into this school as a 6th grader

**Althea Woods**

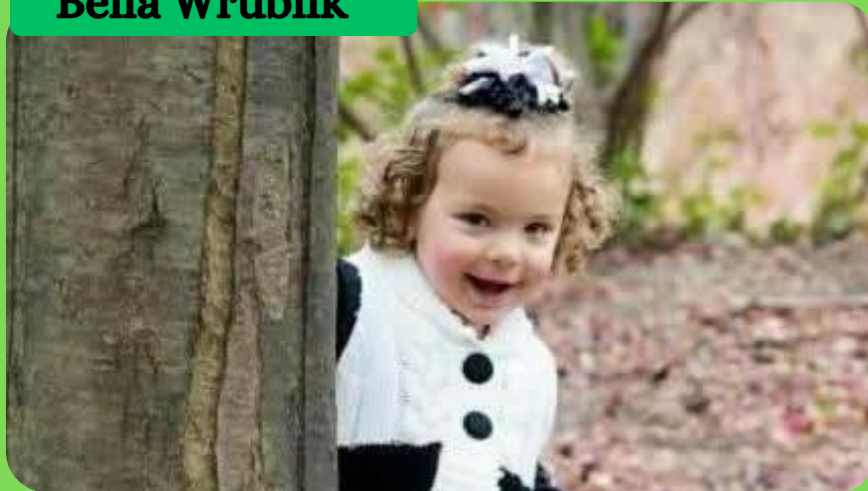
**If your friend group had a theme song, what would it be?**

Better in Stereo

**Audrey Neis**



**Bella Wrublik**



**Brady Dillon**



**Cameron Klara**

If your time in junior high was a movie, what would the title be?  
MID

**Cannon Forsman**

If your time in junior high was a movie, what would the title be?  
Cannon's JJ Journey

**Charlie Chlopek**

If your time in junior high was a movie, what would the title be?  
Never Ending



**Colin Klara**



**Disha Patel**



If your time in junior high was a movie, what would the title be?  
Perfect Chaos

**Drew Pestka**

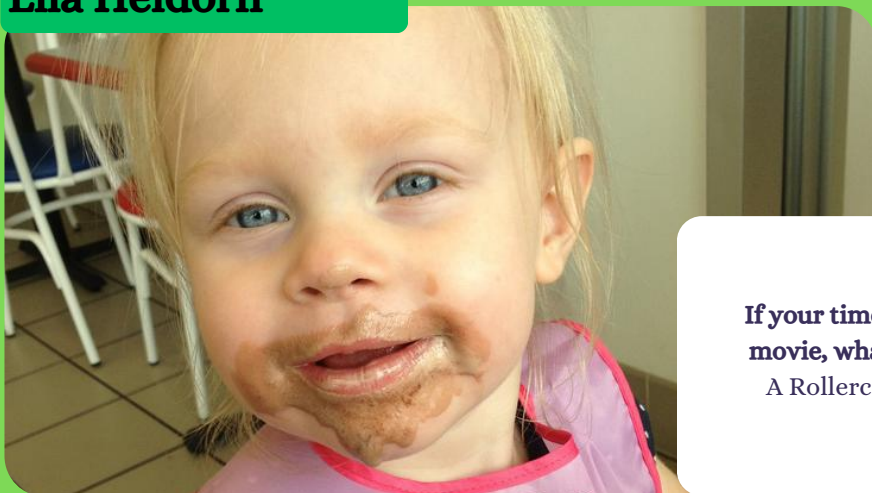


**Eli Shearer**

**What's something your teachers said  
way too often? Who said it?**  
Close your chromebooks, everyone.

**Eli Naff**

**What's something your teachers said  
way too often? Who said it?**  
FriYAY - Mr. Noonan

**Ella Heidorn**

**If your time in junior high was a  
movie, what would the title be?**  
A Rollercoaster of Emotions

**Ellie Stange-Wallace**

If your time in junior high was a movie, what would the title be?  
The Rock Johnson Showdown.

**Emily Feylo****Emma Schechtman**

If your time in junior high was a movie, what would the title be?  
Escape



**Emmy Pepin**

If your friend group had a theme song,  
what would it be?  
Party in the USA

**Ethan Howard**

What's something your teachers said  
way too often? Who said it?  
This won't slide in high school.

**Finn McCraney**

If your time in junior high was a  
movie, what would the title be?  
Sigmas United

**Gia Antonopoulos****Grace Freund**

If your time in junior high was a movie, what would the title be?  
Never forget me

**Grace Hanneman**

What's something your teachers said way too often? Who said it?  
Mrs. Lavorato says okay a lot.

**Hailey Kelliher**



**Hannah Larkin**



If your time in junior high was a movie, what would the title be?  
Good Days

**Jack Skweres**



If your friend group had a theme song, what would it be?  
"Perfect Timing" Shedeut Sanders



**Jacob Kerr**

**What do you want to be when you  
grow up?**

Professional Basketball player our  
coach

**Your favorite memory while at  
Lakeview?**

The bus ride home

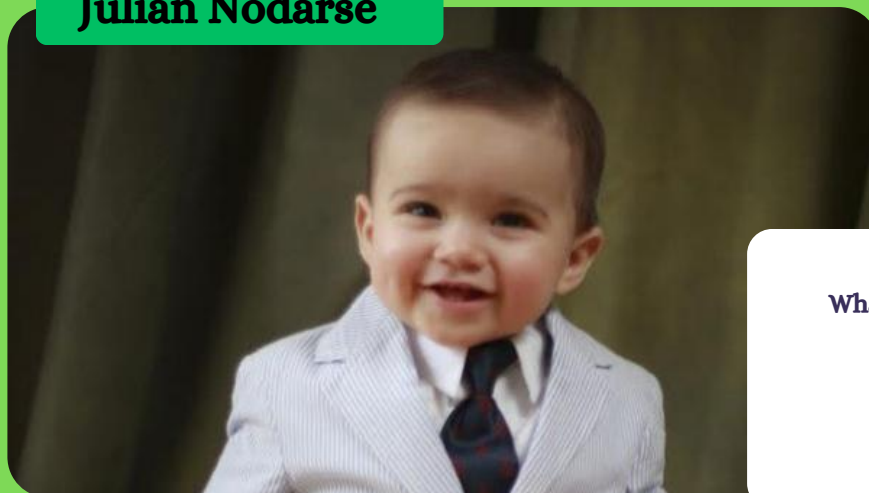
**Jeaselle Trigueros****Jenelle Smith**

**Josephine Witte**



If your friend group had a theme song,  
what would it be?  
Party rock anthem

**Julian Nodarse**



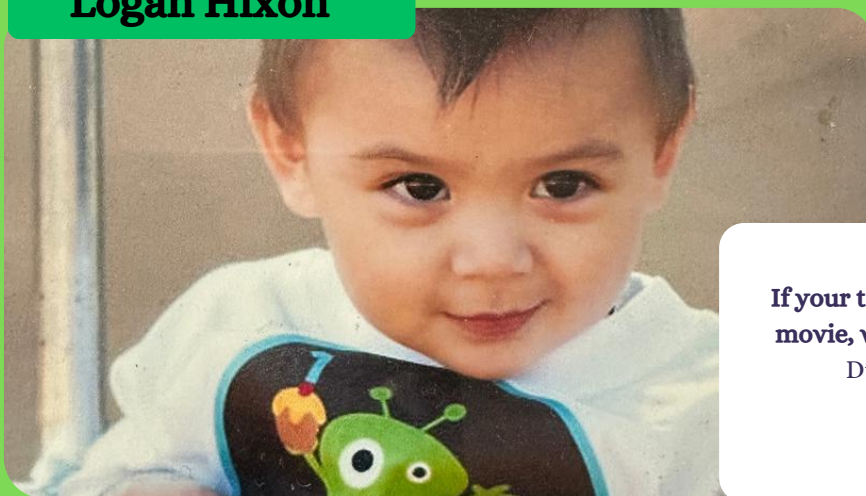
What was your go-to lunch  
item this year?  
mozzarella sticks

**Julian Zapata**



**Lily Molina**

What's something your teachers said  
way too often? Who said it?  
"Close your game tab, I have  
GoGuardian on"-Mrs.Hayes

**Logan Hixon**

If your time in junior high was a  
movie, what would the title be?  
Dumb and Dumber

**Logan McHugh**



**Luka Tomko**



**Matthew Wiley**



**Melene Will**



What's something your teachers said  
way too often? Who said it?  
Stop talking, all of the teachers  
said this.

**Mikey Stortz**



If your friend group had a  
theme song, what would it be?  
the silly geeses

**Molly Free**



**Nicholas Murphy**



**Noah Howard**

If your time in junior high was a movie, what would the title be?  
Grades and Sports

**Peyton Guardi****Philip Puleo**

If your friend group had a theme song, what would it be?

Lava Chicken Song



**Reese Kostera**

**If your time in junior high was a movie, what would the title be?**  
The Babysitters Club

**Samuel Dewart**

**If your friend group had a theme song, what would it be?**  
Any song that has to do with doing dumb things

**Sophia Karchmar**



**Tanner Zielke**

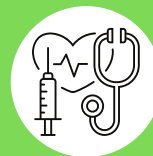


**Thomas Knagge**



**Wesley Mills**



**Will Roegner****Zach Donaldson****Zuzanna Tylka**

**What do you want to be when you grow up?**

a psychologist

**Your favorite memory while at Lakeview?**

the last week of 7th grade

# Which teacher or staff member has made the biggest impact on you, and why?

Mr. Nonan because he started to talk about video games with me and I love video games.  
- Jacob Abshire

Mrs. Burrows has made a huge impact on me because she helped me through a really hard time in my life and continues to talk to me and make sure I am doing well, even though I am not in her class.  
- Ella Heidorn

I would have to say Krasnodebski because she has taught me how to be a great person in life  
- Ellie Stange-Wallace


Mrs. Gemmell, because she was always so nice to me and so patient, I miss her so much!!!  
- Michaela Lagman

I have a few.... Mrs. Hayes- she is one of the nicest people I've ever met. Her curriculum is amazing, and I've learned so much from her.  
Ms. Nyhlen- she has helped me become more comfortable and confident in my body, while I was being bullied for it. She's always there when I need someone to talk to. Mrs. Rickert- she has helped me with singing, theater, and dancing, and will always be my rock. I can tell her anything, and I'm so excited I'll get to see her at DGS. Mrs. Diver- she was one of the only people who believed in me when I didn't believe in myself. She never let me get down on myself, and I'll never be more grateful for her. - Reese Kostera

Mrs Gemmell because she helped me get through the year  
- Kaylee Vano

Mrs. Mixon was always so kind to students and was always easy to relate to.  
- Sofia Marino

# Which teacher or staff member has made the biggest impact on you, and why?



Mrs. Mixon, because she taught me that not everyone has to like you or be friends with you, but you can't change yourself just so that others have positive opinions on you  
- Sarah Sunil

Mrs. Gemmell because she always made 7th Grade science a blast.  
-Arianna Ramirez

He is no longer here but (old) Mr.Tedeschi had the biggest impact on me. He showed me how to be confident in myself and he pushed me to be the best that I could be. he is also my uncle so I see him often.  
- Lily Molina

Mrs. Burrows has made the biggest impact on me because she has helped me improve as a person all three years of Lakeview, and as a student when I had her in class during seventh grade.  
- Nicole Polasek

Mrs. Diver  
- Chris Hines

Mrs. Rickert or Mrs. Newman because they were both really nice and fun to take classes with  
- Charlie Sylvester



Mrs.Burrows because she was always kind  
- Eli Naff



# Which teacher or staff member has made the biggest impact on you, and why?

Mrs. Pankow because she was super nice  
- Abdul Darkhabani

I would say all of them had an impact on me because they were all important during my 3 years because they all taught me many things that are valuable lessons  
-Grace Freund

Mrs. Burrows because she helped me with things outside of ELA.  
- Noah Howard


Mrs. Myers because she inspired me in doing a lot of things.  
- Nauris

MR. Dvorak  
- Jack Skweres

Mrs. Newman and Mrs. Benson had the biggest impact on me. Mrs. Newman has taught me so much about life and learning to keep my head up during hard times. I trust her so much with anything, and I know she can help me out with ANY issue. She's definitely helped me know what I know now about anything. Mrs. Benson pushed me to be the writer I am now. She has taught me countless lessons about ELA, and it's no doubt her class that has taught me so much and pushed me to be the best version of myself when writing. She's also such a kind and funny teacher. I consider myself lucky to have had Mrs. Newman and Mrs. Benson.  
- Disha Patel

Mrs Burrows  
-Ben Julkowski

# Which teacher or staff member has made the biggest impact on you, and why?



Mrs. Myers, because she was probably my favorite teacher  
- Sam Dewart


Mrs. Burrows  
- Nathan Nguyen

Mr. Ohlsen because he taught me to be patient with myself  
- Gabi Galvez

Mrs Hayes and Mr. Noona,n because they are both super positive most day,s and they are funny  
- Julian Nodarse

Mrs. Newman because she's nice.  
- Autumn Dupree

Mrs. Burrows was always there for me, and taught me many new things, and allowed me to have fun  
- Tessa Modine



Probably Mrs. Henry, when she was here. A lot of interesting lessons, changed me as a person  
- Miles Zebraitis

# Which teacher or staff member has made the biggest impact on you, and why?

Mr. Ruby he is very kind and funny and a great guy.  
- Luke Merritt

Mrs. Myers because I can talk to her -  
Melene Will

Mrs. Henry when she helped me and encouraged me on my NHD project last year  
- Quinn Dablin

Mrs. Diver  
- Matthew Konczak

Mrs. Newman and Mrs. Zagal are so funny and really good teachers.  
- Gretchen Bukey

Mrs. Gemmell, because she made science fun.  
- Jaden Vachachira

Mr. Noonan is a really cool and great teacher, and he makes science fun  
- Cannon Forsman

Mrs Burrows has made the biggest impact on me because she helped me become the best I could be through her powerful mindset and the way she cares for each and every one of us. She helped me look at alternatives whenever I had a problem and not let everything get the best of me.

- Stacy Lopez

# Which teacher or staff member has made the biggest impact on you, and why?

Mrs. Burrows because she always pushes me to do more.  
- Josie Witte

It is the social studies teacher because he showed me that a class does not need tests  
- Philip Puleo

Mrs. Rickert, she's very nice and I've had choir with her for all 3 years.  
- Emmy Pepin

Mrs. Mixon, because I looked forward to her class every day.  
- Dominick Villalobos

Mrs. Mixon  
- Cameron Klara

Mrs. Schuyler, because she was always there for me since 6th grade  
- Azita Barshan

Mrs. Newman, because she's funny and nice.  
- Addy Murray

Mrs. Gemmell, cause she is my favorite teacher I've had  
- Jacob Kerr



# Which teacher or staff member has made the biggest impact on you, and why?

Mrs. Mixon because her class was so fun and I looked forward to it everyday.  
- Hannah Larkin

Krasnodebski because she has taught me some good skills in life.  
- Ellie

Mrs. Newman because she is nice and makes every class fun.  
- Eva Dorofejeva

All the ELA teachers, they made me want to read and write and recognize I want to be an ELA teacher - Heather Prim

Mrs. Burrows has made the biggest impact on me because she has encouraged me to go above and beyond when it comes to my writing. She also helped me enter a writing contest.  
- Emma Schechtman

Mrs. Burrows had the biggest impact on me because she was always so kind and understanding, and she always made sure everyone felt heard and was a really great teacher. - Abby Scheiwe

Mr. Noonan  
- Alex Kerfin

Mrs. Rickert  
- Eli Shearer

# Which teacher or staff member has made the biggest impact on you, and why?

Mrs. Rickert has made a biggest impact for because the drama games I play is wax museum and late to work.  
- Ekansh Thakur

Mr. Noonan. He's really nice and funny and a great teacher..  
- Charlie Chlopek

Mrs. Grove because she made me laugh when I needed to laugh.  
- Emilia Bykowski

Mrs. Grove, she made me feel very welcome when i first came here- Fynnlea Bruce

Mrs. Burrows had the biggest impact on me because she was always so kind and understanding, and she always made sure everyone felt heard and was a really great teacher. - Abby Scheiwe

Mrs. Myers is nice and has cool classes.  
- Mikey Stortz

Mrs. Hayes because she a nice teacher and funny.  
- Bobby Lagunas

Mrs. Lavarato, because she explains a lot on our assignments.  
- Grace Bromberek

# Which teacher or staff member has made the biggest impact on you, and why?

Mrs. Burrows and some other ones because they are really nice  
- Hunter Earley

The teacher/staff who has made the biggest impact on me is definitely Mrs. Gemmell, as she really made me like biology as a subject, and she showed me a very cool version of science that is definitely one of my favorite subjects of all time. - Pranav Jaitly

Mr.Noonan and Mrs. Lavorato  
- Grace Hanneman

Mrs. Burrows helped with ELA  
- Mason Frangella

Mrs. Myers, Mrs. Newman because they are so supportive and funny. They always find a way to make me laugh.  
- Ally Ording

Mrs. Burrows had the biggest impact on me because she was always so kind and understanding, and she always made sure everyone felt heard and was a really great teacher. - Abby Scheiwe

Mr Ohlsen  
- Althea Woods

Mrs. Myers, since she shows care towards her students  
- Mark Basilious



# Which teacher or staff member has made the biggest impact on you, and why?

Mr Ohlsen because he taught me how to make music and I love music  
- Sina Galvez

Mrs.Gemmell was the funniest, kindest, and most memorable teacher I've ever had. Mrs.Gemmell somehow got me to enjoy science class with her way of teaching and overall her personality. I just loved her class.  
- Zuzanna Tylka

Mrs. Gemmell, because she always made 7th Grade science a blast.  
- Arianna Ramirez

# THANK YOU!

# What we will miss the most... *from the class of 2025*



## FRIENDS & FAMILIAR FACES

"Seeing friends in the halls and at lunch"

"Being in class with my friends"

"Knowing everyone"

"All the friendships I've made"

"Small grade—everyone knew everyone"

## TEACHERS & STAFF

"The teachers always made me feel seen and supported."

"I'll miss how the staff always had our backs, no matter what."

"So many teachers made learning fun—I'll never forget that."

"They believed in me, even when I didn't believe in myself."

"The staff really knew how to turn a bad day around."

"Thank you to every teacher who made school feel like a second home."

"From funny jokes to real advice—Lakeview teachers were the best."

"I'll miss all the high-fives and check-ins from the hallway staff."

"The kindness of the staff made school something to look forward to."


"They didn't just teach—they cared."





## ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

"Band, choir, and musicals"  
"Lakeview Soccer and the team"  
"After school activities"  
"End of Quarter assemblies"  
"Art Club and all the others I have joined over the years"



## THE LAKEVIEW ATMOSPHERE

"The warm, fun vibe"  
"The sense of community"  
"The familiarity of a small school"  
"Like Home"

## SPARTAN HOUR & FREE TIME

"Going outside during Spartan Hour"  
"Playing card games during free time"  
"Having a daily free period"

## THE EASYGOING SCHOOL LIFE

"Less homework"  
"Fun exploratory classes"  
"How easy it is to get to class"  
"Being the oldest in the school"





# 8TH GRADE SPOTLIGHT



## DISHA PATEL

Q

How do you explain Bollywood dance to someone who has never seen it before?

A

When explaining Bollywood dance to people it can get confusing since there are different forms of it. But a generalization is quite literally dancing but with Indian music and some steps and dance styles originating in India. But when explaining my type of Bollywood dance I explain it the same, we just add a more modern twist to it!

Q

Are there specific techniques or styles within Bollywood dance that you focus on? Do you combine Bollywood with other dance styles? If so, which ones?

A

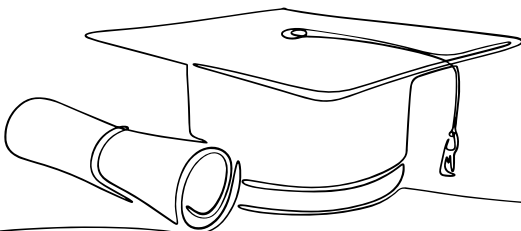
Like I explained earlier there are different techniques and styles to Bollywood. The ones I specifically focus on are modernized Bollywood and Bollywood in general. We use a technique of just doing 8 counts to learn steps. We do combine a little bhangra (energetic dance in Northern India) into our steps but its usually just regular Bollywood dance with a twist to it.

Q

What does Bollywood dance mean to you personally or culturally?

A

Bollywood dance has been such a big part of life and always will be. I started to dance around the age of 4 and I've been doing it on and off since then. I've always been interested in it and I've formed some of the best memories and friendships through it. It truly shaped me to be the way I am. Culturally it means a lot too. Dancing is such a big thing from the area in India I come from. To be able to participate in something that has evolved for as long as it's existed where I'm from in India makes me feel really connected to my culture and people of my culture. It feels good knowing I'm keeping something so deep rooted in my culture alive and doing it well enough to leave some sort of mark almost.



# 8TH GRADE SPOTLIGHT



## DISHA PATEL

Q

Do you have a favorite Bollywood dancer or movie that inspires your style?

I don't specifically have a favorite dancer or movie that has "inspired" me quite yet. But my style has come from a combination of movies. Lots of Bollywood movies have multiple songs in it with meanings behind them all, it's clear to see. If the movie doesn't have a dance or song IN the movie you'll likely see one at the end when credits scroll. When I was younger and I'd hear a song I liked I would start copying the steps and memorizing them. These movies from when I was younger have 100% affected my personal style. No one has the same style it depends on what you've grown accustomed to as a child or whenever you started to dance. But I loved watching movies with my all time favorite actor, Hrithik Roshan, who I got to dance for and meet this month! His movies brought up the most energetic songs and dances which led me to my style.

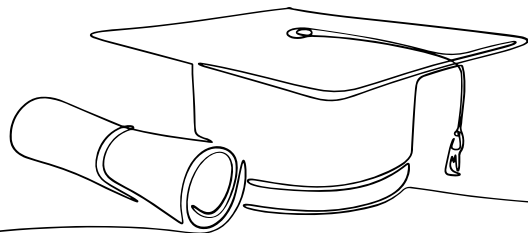
Q

Are there any traditions or stories behind the dances you perform?

A

The dances I perform seem more borderline. But there are lots of roots to it. The dances we do are often inspired and derived from traditional styles like bhangra and garba. These dances typically were performed on occasion like for holidays like Navaratri, Holi, and Diwali. But now it's something we can do to bring energy and liveliness to others and ourselves performing. It's always tradition to dance during holiday get togethers within communities people of our culture built. We like to keep some sense of tradition but we add a modern twist to keep it relatable to all.

A



# 8TH GRADE SPOTLIGHT



## WESLEY MILLS

**Q**

Can you describe your weekly training schedule?

My weekly training schedule is Sunday: 4:00 – 7:30 pm and Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday all 5:30 to 9:00pm. So about 18 hours of training a week.

**A****Q**

What's the hardest skill you've ever learned, and how did you push through it?

The hardest skill I've ever learned was a tsuk on vault. I was able to push through it because I worked hard and had support from my family.

**A****Q**

How long have you been doing gymnastics, and what first got you interested in it?

I have been doing gymnastics for almost 9 years. My sister and youtube videos got me into gymnastics.

**A****Q**

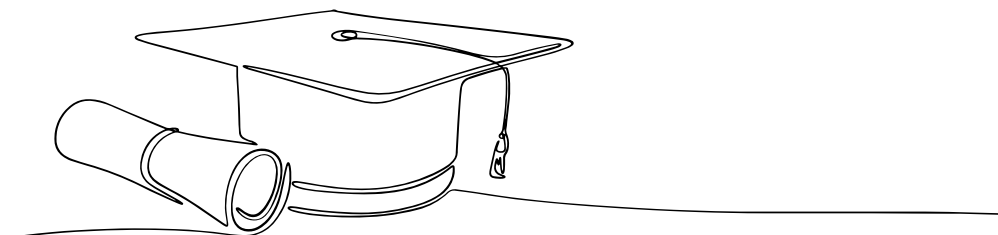
What's your favorite gymnastics event and why?

My favorite gymnastics event is floor because I love to tumble.

**A****Q**

What's the most exciting or memorable moment you've had in gymnastics so far?

Getting first on floor at Eastern Nationals in 2024 with my personal best score.

**A**



Q

How do you prepare yourself mentally before a competition?

I do breathing exercises and give myself positive self talk before each routine.

A

Q

What are your goals for the future in gymnastics?

One of my big time goals is to compete for the Philippines in elite gymnastics.

A

Q

If you could give advice to a younger gymnast just starting out, what would you tell them?

Just have fun.

A

Q

How do you handle nerves or pressure during big meets?

I just tell myself that you've done these routines many times and you can do it again just as perfect as you have done.

A

Q

What has been the most memorable competition you've participated in? Where was it held, and how did you do in terms of scores, placements, or personal achievements?

My most memorable competition was any of my Eastern Nationals competitions in 2023, 2024, or 2025. My favorite was probably Easterns 2025 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. I got first on p-bars, fourth on floor, sixth on high-bar, eighth on vault, and 4th all around.

A



# 8TH GRADE SPOTLIGHT



## SARAH SUNIL

**Q**

How do you explain Bollywood dance to someone who has never seen it before?

**A**

It is a kind of dance that shows stories, legends, and many other things in indian culture.

**Q**

Are there specific techniques or styles within Bollywood dance that you focus on? Do you combine Bollywood with other dance styles? If so, which ones?

**A**

I focus on cinematic dancing and I also do semi-classical. Some people combine it with western dancing and different kinds of dance.

**Q**

What does Bollywood dance mean to you personally or culturally?

**A**

I dance to express my culture and to show other people about my culture.

**Q**

If you could perform anywhere in the world, where would it be and why?

**A**

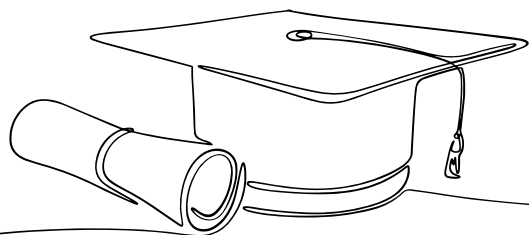
I would do it at my church because we have many programs where you can express it and also compete in competitions.

**Q**

Are there any traditions or stories behind the dances you perform?

**A**

Some dances express the hindu culture by telling legends about their Gods.



# 8TH GRADE SPOTLIGHT



Q

Can you describe the style of dance that you do and how long you have been training?

The style of dance I do is Irish dance and I started dancing at age 5. I train 5 days a week, 9 hours a week.

A



Q

Describe World's: How do you qualify, where did it take place, and what other details you think we need to know?

The world championship is often known as the "Olympics of Irish Dance". You can qualify for this competition at various competitions throughout the year, by placing in the top 10% of all competitors. I qualified for the worlds by placing 9th at regionals out of every Mid- American girl in my age group. 15 other dancers and I, from my studio, attended the championships in Dublin, Ireland. The event took place at the Dublin Convention Centre and attracted around 5,000 competitors and 25,000 spectators from over 30 countries. This event is similar to another Irish dance competition I attended in February, in Killarney, Ireland. The main difference, of course, was the number of competitors.

A

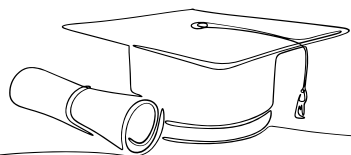
## HAILEY KELLIHER

Q

How did it feel to represent your school/country at such a prestigious international competition like the World Championships in Dublin?

Only 10% of Irish dancers will ever qualify for this event and it was such an honor to be able to represent America. This is what almost all dancers work their whole life for, and I was so proud to have qualified. This level of Irish dance is very competitive.

A





Q

What was the most memorable part of your experience at the Dublin Convention Centre during the competition week?

Throughout my time in Dublin, I enjoyed watching many days of amazing dancers, running around the Convention Centre with all my friends, and of course sightseeing! I also loved the day I danced, getting to have my makeup and hair professionally done.

A



Q

🎵 Pump-Up Playlist: Do you have a go-to song or playlist that gets you in the zone before a performance? Name one song from the list.

My all time go to song is Let's Get Loud by Jennifer Lopez. I always listen to this song to pump me up and get me in the zone.

A

Q

What was your favorite part about traveling to Dublin—besides dancing? (Food? Exploring the city? Souvenirs? Let us know!)

I loved exploring Dublin with my mom, sister, and friends. I saw lots of sight, went to many authentic restaurants, and even went on a boat tour along the River Liffey.

A

Q

What does being part of the World Irish Dancing Championships mean to you—personally, as a dancer, and as part of the global Irish dance community?

Being part of the World Irish Dancing Championships means a lot to me as a dancer and as a person. Lots of people think that Irish dance is uncommon and odd (especially with the dresses, wigs, and makeup), but to travel to Europe twice in two months, in the middle of the school week, as a 13 year old, and to compete against, and meet people, from 27 other countries, are experiences that not many other sports can match. It's a good reminder for everyone to be proud of what you are passionate about and not let anyone bring you down, especially for things they don't fully understand.

A



Reflecting on your time in middle school, what are the three most memorable experiences you've had?

- 7th grade band trip, the end of 7th grade, and the band bowling night. -**Lily Molina**
- Band/Jazz Band, Choir, and the Musicals -**Emmet O'Conner**
- The last day of 7th grade, the frog dissection, and My 7th grade science project -**Zuzanna Tylka**

- The workload varies from week to week and I will always be busy no matter what -**Lily Molina**
- Teachers make sure we stay on top of our work and try to have us be more creative. -**Emmet O'Conner**
- Doing projects and big assignments last minute, because I learned that it's best to get things done sooner, so it's easier on you later. -**Zuzanna Tylka**

What aspects of your middle school experience do you feel have prepared you best for high school?

# Advice from 8<sup>th</sup> Graders

If you could swap lives with any fictional character for a day, who would it be and why?

- I would want to be the Lorax, because he always knows what he wants and he is super cool. -**Lily Molina**
- Grug from Croods, because he's Grug. He's the best. -**Zuzanna Tylka**

-I wish I had been more confident in myself when I knew I could do something. -**Lily Molina**

-I wish I spent more time with ALL of my friends equally, because now that middle school is ending I'm realizing I won't really have another chance to talk to them a lot. -**Zuzanna Tylka**

Looking back, is there anything you wish you had done differently during your time here?

-people will expect you to be mature, but they will also tell you that you're still a kid and need to act like it. but in my opinion, just be yourself even if nobody likes you.-**Lily Molina**

-Do your best in work and you'll pass. (Also try out the extracurriculars, they're fun!)-**Emmet O'Conner**

-Don't let people control you or your actions, it's better to be yourself and go with what YOU think is right. Also just know that procrastinating is okay, but doing it too much/too often can stress you out.-**Zuzanna Tylka**

What advice would you give to incoming 8th graders or younger students to help them succeed in middle school?

# Advice from 8<sup>th</sup> Graders

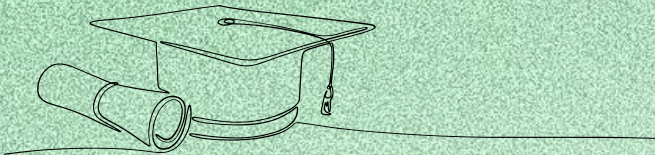
What extracurricular activities or programs did you find most enriching, and why?

-Over these three years at LV I have been in many clubs and activities but the most I found enriching were, Jazz band because It taught me how to be confident in myself. Stage crew because it taught me how to work with others (I'm very independent). And yearbook because it felt good to be a part of something everyone looks forward to.-**Lily Molina**

-Jazz Band and the Spring Musical because they allow me to express myself and be creative.-**Emmet O'Conner**

-I really liked art club because It was mostly laughing with my friends and it was also very relaxing to do different art projects while talking. I also enjoyed Yearbook club a lot because it was a mix of photography and then design toward the end of the year, both things I really enjoy.-**Zuzanna Tylka**





Dear Eighth Grade Class of 2025 -

Congratulations on the first of many accomplishments in your personal and professional life.

I am sure you are getting a ton of solid advice from family and other adults in your life; wisdom such as “keep up with your studies”, “dream big”, and “always do your best”, so I won’t pile on. Instead, I will offer up three “you won’t regret items”.

**A)** Try something new that you know nothing about. For example, take a class, attend a new club, try a new sport, take up a new cause, just try something new and enjoy learning. Remember, while your final GPA in high school is important, it is equally as important to become a well rounded human being!

**B)** Get out of the rut. What rut? The rut you will eventually fall into. There will be times when you don’t want to go to school, you want to skip practice/workout, avoid studying, or just sulk. Those are the moments that will define you, as your success depends on how you respond in those very moments. The quicker you decide to persevere, power through, and step up, the easier it is to accomplish what you were avoiding. The longer you avoid getting to work, the greater the build up and harder the task becomes. There is a direct correlation between your ability to overcome and your success. Thus, when you find yourself in a rut, stop thinking and start doing. Take the first step and repeat, one foot after the other. Your success awaits.



**C)** Appreciate what you see, hear, and are experiencing right now. Take time to hear the music, see the sports you play, and feel the love from your friends. While you may think these are just recurring fleeting moments that occur day after day, which are replaced with new moments soon to be forgotten, years from now, when you are your parents' age (or older), you will hear that song from 2025, and remember where you were, who you were with, how you felt, and then, you will smile and be glad you took the time years ago to appreciate 2025.

And with your bonus “you won’t regret”, start a box of “keepsakes” (an actual box, not a digital box) that includes things that you want to save. My favorite T-Shirts, photos, cards, projects, etc. You will be glad you did. Disclaimer: Tell your parents too, so they don’t sell your stuff at the garage sale when you go off to college!

Good luck in high school and reach out if you need anything.

Dr. Wise

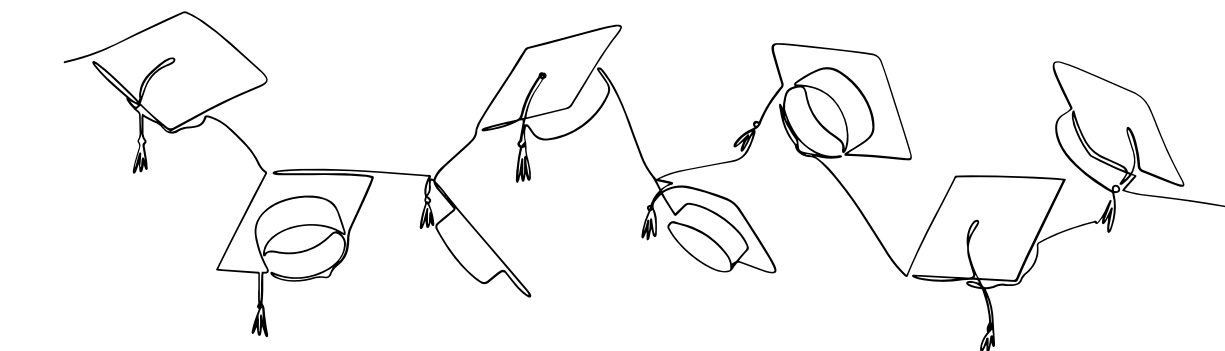






**MAIYARI MANDERICO**





Catherine  
Sabau



CONGRATS

Let your dreams be bigger than  
your fears, your actions louder  
than your words, and your faith  
stronger than your feelings.

**Once a Spartan, Always a Spartan**

