



2025 VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN ANNOUNCED

Everyone is invited to attend the fifty-first (51st) commencement exercises at Westwood High School in the gymnasium on Thursday, May 22, 2025 at 7pm. Mr. Fran Sevegney, Class of 1995 Westwood High School Alumnus, will deliver the commencement address to the 103 seniors. Isabelle Grochowski, Gabriel Grondz, Abby Hinze, Ian Kauppila, Clara Kruger, and Libby Ollanketo have earned the distinction of being named the **Valedictorians** of the Class of 2025. They have earned a GPA of 4.0. The **Salutatorian** for the Class of 2025 is Kaya Etelamaki. She has earned a GPA of 3.986.

Isabelle Grochowski is the daughter of Daniel and Melissa Grochowski. She has participated on the golf and swimming and diving teams. Isabelle has been a member of Big Brothers Big Sisters, Business Professionals of America; earning Regional, State and National places in her competitions 3 years in a row and vice president, Concert Band; invited to Honors Band 3 years in a row, High School Bowl, Key Club, National Honor Society, Spanish Club, and STEM Club. Some of the scholarships Isabelle has received are the Elks National Foundation Most Valuable Student, Michigan Achievement, University of Michigan U.P. Scholars Ross, University of Michigan Regents Merit, Hope For The Future, Outstanding Business Student scholarship and award, and the Excellence In Education scholarship. She is a volunteer firefighter for the Michigamme-Spurr Fire Department and volunteers on the Youth Advisory Committee for the Greater Ishpeming Area. Her hobbies include baking, golfing, hunting, reading, shopping, traveling, and writing letters back and forth to her sponsor child in Africa. After school, Isabelle plans to attend the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business to earn a bachelor's degree. She then plans to continue her education at their law school. Her long-term goal is to become a lawyer, where she can advocate for justice and make a meaningful impact within the legal system.

Gabriel Grondz is the son of Michael and Kristen Grondz. He is a member of Business Professionals of America; earning Regional and State places in his competitions, the historian and community liaison, Concert Band, and Robotics; youth mentor. Gabriel has received the First Tech Challenge Youth Mentor award and placed 2nd in the State of Michigan Cybersecurity competition. Some of the scholarships he has received are the Michigan Tech University Presidential Platinum, MTU Distinguished Leading scholar, MTU 906, Michigan Achievement, Bibianne Bessette, In Honor of Charles and Lois Anderson, Voice of Democracy, Elks National Foundation Most Valuable Student, Father Vincent L. Ouellette and the Excellence In Education scholarship. Gabriel has helped with a UPAWS donation drive. He enjoys playing card games and traveling. After school, Gabriel plans to attend Michigan Tech University for Civil Engineering. His long-term goal is to be a Civil Engineer at a firm.

Abby Hinze is the daughter of Eric and Sara Hinze. She has participated on the fast pitch softball team, swim and dive team; received All-State Academic, and the volleyball team; served as the team captain. Abby has been a member of Concert Band, Key Club; serving as president and treasurer, National Honor Society; serving as secretary and Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA); received 1st place in her Regional competition. She has received first and third place in the Voice of Democracy local level program, first place district and was a state finalist earning the Post Commanders scholarship. Abby has earned the following scholarships; Northern Michigan University Leadership, NMU Waldo, NMU Wildcat Merit, Excellence In Education, Elks National Foundation Most Valuable Student, Bell Auxiliary, and Pioneer Kiwanis scholarship. She is also the outstanding Social Studies and World Language student of the year and is a National Rural and Small Town recognition program awardee. Abby has over 300 service hours attained by volunteering with various service projects and fundraisers through Key Club. She has also volunteered at youth sports camps and coached a major's little league softball team. Her hobbies include baking, biking, hiking, reading, swimming, and spending time with friends and family. Abby plans to attend Northern Michigan University to pursue a bachelor's degree in education and a master's degree in Education Administration. She hopes to spend time teaching in the classroom before working her way up to an administrative role such as a principal.

Ian Kauppila is the son of Joel and Tracee Kauppila. He is a member of Business Professionals of America; earning Regional and State places in his competition, and Robotics; serving as team captain and earning places and awards in District events. Ian received the Excellence In Education scholarship, and he qualifies for the Northern Michigan University Tuition Scholarship Program. He is the outstanding Math student of the year. Ian volunteers with adopt-a-highway. His hobbies include 3D printing, miniature painting and programming. Ian plans to attend Northern Michigan University to pursue a master's or bachelor's degree in Computer Science, a bachelor's degree in Math and if possible a bachelor's in Data Science. He would like to become an Artificial Intelligence Engineer.

Clara Kruger is the daughter of Geoffrey and Angela Kruger. She has participated on the golf and tennis teams. She is a member of Key Club, National Honor Society, Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA); 1st place in Regional competition, Spanish Club and Business Professionals of America; earning Regional, State and National places 2 years in a row in her competitions. Clara was the Science Department student of the month her junior year and is a Cyberstart America Scholar. Clara received the Excellence In Education scholarship, the NICE Teachers' Association scholarship and the University of Michigan Regents Merit Scholarship. She has volunteered with various Key Club volunteer opportunities, collecting recycling for the school, Project Keep Kids Warm, and at the Forest Roberts Theatre working in the concession stand. She enjoys golfing, traveling, drawing, tennis, going on walks, hiking, swimming, reading, shopping, and watching movies. After high school, Clara plans to attend the University of Michigan to study Biomolecular Science on the pre-med route to become an anesthesiologist. Her long-term goal is to attend medical school and become an anesthesiologist.

Libby Ollanketo is the daughter of Jeremy and Brooke Ollanketo. She has participated on the swimming and diving team; serving as the team captain for 2 years earning All-State Academic, and the volleyball team. She has been a member of National Honor Society, Big Brothers Big Sisters and Concert Band; invited to Honors Band 3 years in a row. She is also the outstanding band student of the year. Some of the scholarships Libby has received are the Michigan Tech University Merit, MTU 906, MTU Distinguished Leading Scholar, MTU Excellence, MTU Presidential Platinum, Excellence In Education, Bob Tuohimma/Bob Hart, Westwood Alumni, Westwood Class of 1985 and the Michigan Achievement scholarship. Libby enjoys hanging out with friends, hiking, traveling, going to the beach, and swimming. After high school Libby plans to attend Michigan Tech University to pursue a Biomedical Engineering degree. Her long-term goal is to become a dermatologist.

Kaya Etelamaki is the daughter of Daniel and Sarah Etelamaki. She has participated on the golf and tennis teams. She has been a member of Business Professionals of America; serving as secretary and president and has earned Regional, State and National places in her competitions 3 years in a row, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA); 1st place in Regional competition, and National Honor Society. Through her high school years, she has been the class treasurer, representative, and currently serves as the class president. Kaya has received a University of Michigan grant along with the following scholarships; University of Michigan, Michigan Achievement, Wolfson Family Resiliency, Westwood High School, Ronalyn Arseneau Business Professionals of America Excellence, and the Excellence In Education. Kaya has volunteered with Adopt-a-highways, blood drives, can drives, youth tennis camps, concession stand and timing at the track meets. She enjoys gardening, reading, playing golf and tennis, and spending time with friends. Kaya plans to attend the University of Michigan to pursue a Doctorate in Pharmacy. She would like to become a pharmacist and move somewhere warm.

GRADUATION DATES

Thursday, May 22, 2025, 7:00 p.m., Westwood High School Graduation, WHS Gymnasium
Tuesday, June 3, 2025, 7:00 p.m. Aspen Ridge Middle School 8th Grade Graduation, ARS Gymnasium





ISABELLE GROCHOWSKI



GABRIEL GRONDZ



IAN KAUPPILA



CLARA KRUGER



ABBY HINZE



LIBBY OLLANKETO



KAYA ETELAMAKI