



---

## 2026 VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN ANNOUNCED

Everyone is invited to attend the fifty-second (52nd) commencement exercises at Westwood High School in the gymnasium on Thursday, May 21, 2026 at 7pm. Mrs. Kathleen Carlson, Class of 1984 Westwood High School Alumna, will deliver the commencement address to the 91 seniors. Elizabeth Bureau, Gavin Comero, Kaylin Doney, Makayla Fisher, Maggie Johnson, Olivia Letson, William Niemi, Lucy Ostola, Samantha Ruby, Morgan Schneider, Evynn Seablom and Connor Thomas have earned the distinction of being named the **Valedictorians** of the Class of 2026. They have earned a GPA of 4.0. The **Salutatorian** for the Class of 2026 is Jared Waterman. He has earned a GPA of 3.985.

**Elizabeth Bureau** is the daughter of Sean and Jennie Bureau. She has participated on the swim team (captain). She has been a member of Concert Band, Key Club (secretary and committee manager), National Honor Society, and STEM Club. Elizabeth has received the Michigan State University Chrysalis scholarship. She has volunteer hours serving through Key Club and National Honor Society. She has participated in an internship at a Veterinarian Clinic. Her hobbies include taking care of her horse, barrel racing, rodeo, watching movies with her cat, and swimming. After high school, Elizabeth plans to attend Michigan State University Lyman Briggs College and obtain a bachelor's degree in Animal Science. She would then like to apply to veterinary school. Her long-term goal is to become a large-animal veterinarian.

**Gavin Comero** is the son of Ben and Brande Comero. He has participated in football, track, and wrestling (captain and 2x All Academic Team). He has been a member of Concert Band, Band Council (vice president), Business Professionals of America (president), National Honor Society, and Student Council (representative and vice president through his high school career). Gavin has earned places in BPA Regional, State and National competitions in Fundamental Accounting, Advanced Accounting and Prepared Speech. He is a U.P. Champion in wrestling, has earned the MHSAA Scholar Athlete award, Excellence in Education scholarship, and the University of Michigan U.P. Scholars Ross scholarship. Gavin has volunteered with Big Brothers Big Sisters, as a wrestling coach and as a wrestling referee. He likes to attend concerts, travel, and wrestle. After high school, Gavin plans to attend the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business to earn a degree in Business Administration. His long-term goal is to be a Certified Public Accountant.

**Kaylin Doney** is the daughter of Jason and Jaime Doney. She has participated in basketball, softball, and tennis (2x All UP First Team Doubles, All UP Honorable Mention Doubles and UP Champion in Doubles). She is a member of Business Professionals of America (Outreach Liaison), Key Club, National Honor Society (president), Robotics, and the STEM Club (founder and president). She has been the class secretary all 4 years of high school. She has earned the Excellence in Education scholarship. She has volunteered with Project Keep Kids Warm, Youth Sports camps, and church vacation bible school camps. She enjoys riding her bike and going to camp. Kaylin plans to attend Michigan Technological University to earn a degree in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering. Her long-term goal is to work at a NASA facility.

**Makayla Fisher** is the daughter of Jodi Fisher. She has participated in basketball (MPC Honorable Mention in 2025), volleyball, and softball. She has been a member of Business Professionals of America, Health Occupations Students of America, Key Club, and National Honor Society. She has been on the all "A" Honor Roll all four years of high school earning the Excellence in Education Outstanding Academic Achievement award, has earned places in BPA Regional, State and National competitions in Fundamental & Intermediate Word Processing, Basic & Advanced Office Systems and Procedures, and Health Administration Procedures, and 1st place in HOSA Regionals competition in Dental Terminology. She has volunteer hours through Key Club and Big Brothers Big Sisters. Her hobbies include hanging out with friends, shopping, and going on walks. Makayla plans to attend the University of Michigan College of Literature, Science and the Arts. Her long-term goal is to become a lawyer.

**Maggie Johnson** is the daughter of Andrew and Tamara Johnson. She has participated in cross country, volleyball, track and field. She has been a member of Chorus, Drama, Forensics, The Pit Stops band backup keyboardist, Key Club, National Honor Society, Quiz Bowl, and Voices in Motion. She was the music student of the month and has qualified as a \*1 for State Solo and Ensemble all four years of her high school career. She volunteered with Key Club, at her church, and helped with volleyball camps. Her hobbies include; running, singing, playing piano, weightlifting, hiking, reading, swimming, painting, drawing, shopping/thrifting, and ice skating. Maggie plans to attend the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. Her long-term goals are to find something she loves that makes her happy and also makes her money.

**Olivia Letson** is the daughter of Jeremy and Holly Letson. She has participated in basketball, bowling (captain), fastpitch softball, track and field, and volleyball (rotating captain). She has been a member of Key Club, National Honor Society, Voices in Motion, has served as a Student Council representative and has been the stage manager for Drama productions through theatre tech. She has been on the all "A" Honor Roll all four years of her high school career, has received the Excellence in Education scholarship, and has received Scholastic Art and Writing Gold Key and Honorable Mention awards in Critical Essay. She has received the following Key Club InnerView awards; Michigan Community Impact (50 hours), the National Community Service Merit (40 hours), Honor (60 hours) and Ambassador (100 hours), and the Youth Spirit of Hope (200 hours over 4 years). In her bowling career, she has been the UP Singles Runner-Up and Champion, UP Dream Team #3 and #4 average, and is a 2x medalist for most points scored in a regular season. Bowling as a team, she has been a part of the UP Team Runner-Ups and Champions, Regional Team Runner-Ups, Regional Team 5th place and Champions, and State Team Runner-Up and 5th place. She has participated in an internship at the Ishpeming Carnegie Public Library. Olivia has volunteered at Ishpeming Middle/High School as a theater stage manager, for youth sports camps (basketball, softball and volleyball), the Aspen Ridge Elementary Christmas Program and Spring Carnival, Adopt-A-Highway, Big Brothers Big Sisters, BBBS Bowl for Kids' Sake, and the Gus Macker. Her hobbies are graphic design and shopping. Olivia plans to attend Michigan Tech University to study Psychology. Her long-term career goal is to be a Criminal Psychologist.

**William Niemi** is the son of Phil and Lisa Niemi. He has participated in basketball, cross country, golf, and track and field. He is a member of National Honor Society and Patriot Christian Fellowship. He has been the class vice-president his junior year and president during his senior year. He has been on the all "A" honor roll for the last 4 years, received the MITCA Academic All State award, and the Excellence in Education scholarship. He is an altar server at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, and volunteers for Big Brothers Big Sisters. His hobbies include dirt biking, mountain biking, snowmobiling, camping, hunting, fishing, working on motorized vehicles, and building four-wheeler trails. William plans to attend Michigan Technological University to obtain an accelerated masters in Mechanical Engineering. His long-term goal is to go into the off-road industry designing off-road accessories like bumpers, lift kits, bed racks. and other overlanding gear.

**Lucy Ostola** is the daughter of Adam and Terri Ostola. She has participated in cheerleading, tennis, and volleyball. She has been a member of Business Professionals of America (vice president and secretary), Chief Science Officers, Chorus, Concert Band (secretary), Key Club (secretary), National Honor Society (secretary), Negaunee City Band, Quiz Bowl, and STEM Club. In Regional, State and on the National level for BPA, she has placed in her competitions which include Legal Office Procedures, Advanced Interview Skills, and Administrative Support Concepts OPEN. She has received the Regional Scholastic Art and Writing Gold Key award in Flash Fiction, was the English and Music student of the month, received a \*1 ratings for Clarinet Ensembles at Regional Solo and Ensemble Festival and high rankings at State Solo and Ensemble, was nominated for Menominee River Conference Honors Band (2 years), received the Cleveland Cliffs Excellence in Education award for 5 consecutive years, and received the Excellence in Education scholarship. Lucy has volunteered in and for organizations such as: St. Joseph's Church, Key Club, Kiwanis, Ishpeming Little League concession stand, and tutoring in Algebra I, II, Chemistry and Biology. She has logged over 300 plus volunteer hours throughout her high school career earning the Youth Spirit of Hope award through Key Club. She enjoys reading, making knotted creations for her small business ColorStringsNThings, walking her basset hounds Maybelle and Mona, spending time with her cats, friends and family, and finding her ducks and trying to put them in a row. Lucy plans to attend Northern Michigan University for pre-pharmacy. After finishing this, she would like to transfer to Ferris State University to obtain her Doctor of Pharmacy degree. After obtaining her PharmD, she is hopeful to work in a hospital or research setting in the U.P. She is not sure what she would like to specialize in yet, but she is thinking of ambulatory care or pediatric pharmacy.



**Samantha Ruby** is the daughter of Lisa Ruby and Robert Ruby. She has participated in basketball, softball, tennis (team captain, MHSAA U.P. Tennis Champion, All U.P. First Team, and Honorable Mention), track and volleyball. She is a member of Business Professionals of America, National Honor Society, Health Occupations Students of America, and Student Council (serving as president, vice president and representative through her high school career). Samantha has been on the all "A" honor roll all 4 years of high school. She has volunteered with Project Keeps Kids Warm, Aspen Ridge family nights and carnivals, tennis and basketball camps, W.I.S.H. and 3 on 3 basketball tournaments, track meets, and she has tutored. Her hobbies are sports, going to the beach, shopping, hanging out with friends and family, traveling, coloring, and camping. Samantha plans to attend the University of Michigan to study either pre-med or pre-law to obtain a doctorate or become a Criminal Justice lawyer.

**Morgan Schneider** is the daughter of Josh and Emily Nault and Matthew Schneider. She has participated in basketball (BCAM Team First award and Outstanding Senior Student-Athlete award), softball (captain and West PAC Honorable Mention), and tennis (all U.P. Singles Honorable Mention and First Team). She has been a member of Business Professionals of America, Health Occupations Students of America, and National Honor Society. She has been on the all "A" honor roll all 4 years of her high school earning the Excellence in Education Outstanding Academic Achievement award. Morgan has volunteered with Project Keep Kids Warm and with various youth sports camps for tennis, basketball, and softball. Her hobbies include; spending time with friends and family, going to the beach, shopping, playing tennis, and traveling. Morgan plans to attend Northern Michigan University in pursuit of a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. She then hopes to become a registered nurse working in the ICU and eventually further her education to become a nurse anesthetist.

**Evynn Seablom** is the daughter of Thomas and Sonya Seablom. She has been a member of Concert Band, Key Club, National Honor Society, Patriot Band Council, The Pit Stops band, and Quiz Bowl. She has received the Society of Women Engineers award, Foreign Language and Social Studies student of the month, all "A" honor roll all 4 years of her high school career, Regional Scholastic Art and Writing Silver Key award in Personal Essay and Memoir and the Excellence in Education scholarship. As a Key Club member, she has helped with collecting donated food items, put together care packages for homebound seniors, and has helped at Aspen Ridge Elementary School. Her hobbies include; reading, playing the piano (has given lessons for 5 years), baking, hiking, and running. Evynn plans to attend Michigan Technological University to study Psychology.

**Connor Thomas** is the son of Brian and Laura Thomas. He has participated in baseball, bowling, cross country, and track and field. He has been a member of Key Club and National Honor Society. Connor has received the Excellence in Education scholarship. He has helped out with Trunk-or-Treat and with Project Keep Kids Warm. His hobbies include; playing video games, watching sports, and working out. Connor plans to attend Northern Michigan University to obtain a pre-medical degree. His long-term goals are to have a successful career being a Sports Medicine Physician and he would like to travel.

**Jared Waterman** is the son of Gary and Kris Waterman. He has participated in bowling, cross country (All U.P.), and track and field. He has been a member of Chorus, Concert Band, Key Club, and National Honor Society. He volunteered through Key Club and National Honor Society. His hobbies are running, computer building, and hanging out with friends. Jared plans to attend Northern Michigan University to obtain an Associated Degree in Electrical Technology. His long-term goal is to work in an electrical substation as a Substation Technician.

## GRADUATION DATES

Thursday, May 21, 2026, 7:00 p.m., Westwood High School Graduation, WHS Gymnasium  
Tuesday, June 9, 2026, 7:00 p.m. Aspen Ridge Middle School 8th Grade Graduation, ARS Gymnasium

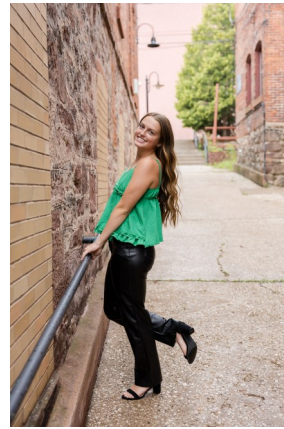




**ELIZABETH BUREAU**



**GAVIN COMERO**



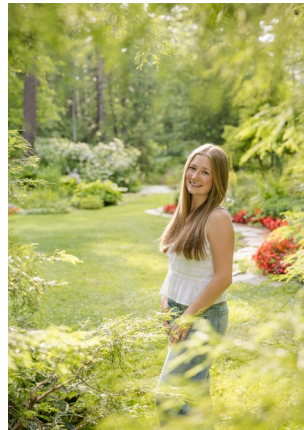
**KAYLIN DONEY**



**MAKAYLA FISHER**



**MAGGIE JOHNSON**



**OLIVIA LETSON**



**WILLIAM NIEMI**



**LUCY OSTOLA**



**SAMANTHA RUBY**



**EVYNN SEABLOM**



**CONNOR THOMAS**



**JARED WATERMAN**



**MORGAN SCHNEIDER**

