Congratulations, Graduates!
Members provided a commissioned portrait of the HPS Directors, Principals and Board of Education for the years he was in my life. Recently, Dr. Robbie Adell became a member of my family for 13 years. I have known Dr. Adell for a long time, and I have always admired his dedication to education and his ability to inspire others with his words and actions. He has been a valuable resource to me during this time, and I am grateful for his guidance and support.

As you graduate and push forward, think about how you want to control some of the change in our lives. It’s a bit unsettling at times as this is a new adventure, but it’s also an exciting journey. As you graduate and go forward, I hope you find a way to reach your goals, even if they’re not easy. You have endured. You have accomplished a significant achievement in your journey. As you look back on your life, you will remember this for the rest of your life.

Beyond our pandemic experiences with families and lifelong changes, we will always face change in our lives in which we have no control. For example, I recently lost my beloved lioness, Deanna Sipe. Once she was a member of my family for 13 years. I have chosen to accept this change—deaths are final. In the years to come, the HPS Directors, Principals, and teachers provide a commitment to painting of Deanna Sipe—so that I can treasure his memory while reflecting on the heart-full change.

At times, change can be tough. You might have an immediate member of your family in this past year. You may have encountered a new living situation. Or there could be employment issues that have brought hardships to you and your family. Here at HPS, we recognize that our students, their employees, and our community neighbors—have not had an easy time. Our thoughts and prayers are extended to each one of you.

However, moving forward, there are changes in life journeys that we can control. Like you, I will soon enter life as a 37-year-old parent in public education. I am retiring. This is an enormous change for me— but I made the decision for change through personal control. It’s a bit unsettling at times as this is a new adventure, but it’s also an exciting time as I discover my next steps in life. As you graduate and push forward, think about how to control some of the change in our lives. It’s a bit unsettling at times as this is a new adventure, but it’s also an exciting journey. As you graduate and go forward, I hope you find a way to reach your goals, even if they’re not easy. You have endured. You have accomplished a significant achievement in your journey. As you look back on your life, you will remember this for the rest of your life.

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Congratulations
GRADUATES of
HICKORY HIGH SCHOOL
CLASS OF 2021
GRADUATES OF 2021

HICKORY HIGH SCHOOL
CLASS OF 2021

Claire Darden
Luke Davis
Dayton Deal
Delaney Deffke
Lane Dettelbach
Christopher Diamonti
Guadalupe Díaz
Charlotte Dick
Johnson Dula
Jade Duncan
Gwenyth Durak
Sara Domitrowicz
Reid Edwards
Dacyn England
Monica Enríquez-Martínez
Kimberly Escobedo-Hernández
Irani Estrada-Catalan
Rico Fair
Jeremiah Finch
Aaliya Freeman
Shekara Fuller
Kamron Gay-Black
Simon George
Barrett Geyer
Samuel Goins
Sbeidy Gonzalez-Villegas
Deon Gray
Keon Gray
Isaiah Greenard
Jayda Greene
Waker Griffin
Edgar Guerrero-Ramírez
Nathaniel Haines

CONGRATS GRAD!
CLASS OF 2021

N4 • Sunday, May 30, 2021
Hickory Daily Record • hickoryrecord.com
HICKORY HIGH SCHOOL
CLASS OF 2021

Jocelyn Martinez-Leon
Samuel McDaniel
Jack McIntosh
Ashley McKim
Davis McNeely
Blaine Melton
Elias Montgomery
Kellen Morin
Michaela Morse
Mary Kate Moyao
Khalifa Muhammad
Sa’Ron Mull
Emma Neal
Celine Nguyen
Maggie Nichols
Aidan Nigrelli
Kariyni Noi
Abagail Ostwalt
Martin Pacheco-Trejo
Kennigan Packer
David Parker
Yash Patel
Jayden Patterson
Lily Pierce
Teja Pope-Cook
Paityn Pope
Stacey Pope
Ernesto Poppante
Paityn Pope
Stacey Pope
Ernesto Poppante
GRADUATES OF 2021

HICKORY HIGH SCHOOL
CLASS OF 2021

Laura Ugarte-Orellana
Samantha Valdez-Alamillo
Jose Vallecillos Castellanos
Elexiz Yang
Alex Velasquez-Betancourt

NaDeaia Virel-Lewis
Estefany Virgilio-Valdez
Arabelle von Almen
Ethan Wall
Eam Watson

Kenzie Desiree Wescott
Damian White
Stephanie Biren White
James Wilkins
Cecilia Williams

Layla Williams
D’Kira Wilson
Jaheim Wilson
Maxwell Wilson
Owen Wilson

Ian Winters
William Wortman
Janayia Wright
Zearmani Wright
Kenji Xiong

Melanie Xiong
Danny Yang
Justin Yang
Lupheng Yang

NOT PICTURED: Reid Noah Bass, Jaeden Byrd, Alexander Callajes-Chavez, Wilver Chan-Chanchavac, Gerardo De la Riva, Diana Figueroa-Vargas, James Fuller, Camden Greene, Vontavis Harris, Ashley Lee, Angel Lopez-Arredondo, Adalianne Mojica Thilmann, Dante Rolon, Jennifer Romero-Ochoa, Michael Romero-Ochoas & Kiara Pena Lamourt

Congratulations Graduates!
Present your 2021 Diploma and receive a 4 piece chicken finger plate with purchase of a regular drink
Expires 6-30-2021

"You’ve grown into an incredible young woman. You have a strength and a fierce, unwavering determination to BE the difference in the lives of others. Watch out world - she’s on her way!"

We love you!

LEVI BROCK CANADAY

ZAXBY’S

Buy a Big Zax Snak and get a Big Zax Snak FREE!
Expires 6-30-2021

Congratulations Graduates! Present your 2021 Diploma and receive a 4 piece chicken finger plate with purchase of a regular drink

At this location only
1330 Lenovo Parkway Blvd SE, Hickory, NC 28602
828-324-2210
Congratulations
GRADUATES of
HICKORY CAREER & ARTS MAGNET HIGH
CLASS OF 2021

Gary Baker
Mariska Bollinger
Lily Cline
Samuel Collins
Lex Colon Figueroa

Topanga Coulbourn
Alexis Crafton
Monica Cuevas
Mary Devenney
Rosemary Eilerman

Jacob Elliott
Aaliyah Haggins
Zoey Hannah
Ryan Hewitt
Rileigh Hicks

Satchel James
Wyatt Jean
Jamie Lewis
Orion Lutz
Christopher Mccharis

Lara Zowie Michael
Jacob Odom
James Odom
Alexis Valeno Osorio
Naashon Eugene Parker

Zachary Regn
Shane Rodriguez
Maria Rojo-Segura
Alexander Schlosser
Amelia Schlosser

Sarah Scott
Mary Sherrill
Deanna Sipe
David Thorne
LeShai Williams

NOT PICTURED: Alicia Lynn-Rosa Borgia, Samuel Norman Cuevas, Haley Nichole Gaither, Kaitlyn Marie Gross, Jay Hudson, Angeleah N Propst
• My best memories come from junior year study hall with my friends, Maryn and Annie.
• After researching the mass increase of human trafficking in Venezuela (thanks to AP Human Geography), I realized that I want to be a part of the effort to stop human trafficking.
• One of the greatest challenges during COVID-19 has been missing out on lectures and classroom discussions that you can’t really get over Zoom. The positive, however, was getting to spend more time with my family and the opportunity to become more independent while valuing the importance of community.
• I would like to thank Ms. Jeanne Turner for being a great mentor, teacher, and supporter. She is simply the best!
• One of the greatest inspirations in life is one of my good friends, Maryn. She has always pushed me to be my best and do my best. Maryn inspires me to find the good in everyone!

Barrett will attend the Honors College at George Mason University, majoring in Criminology - Law and Society.

BARRETT GEYER
Hickory Public Schools
HICKORY HIGH SCHOOL
Class of 2021

Reflections:
• My best memories come from junior year study hall with my friends, Maryn and Annie.
• After researching the mass increase of human trafficking in Venezuela (thanks to AP Human Geography), I realized that I want to be a part of the effort to stop human trafficking.
• One of the greatest challenges during COVID-19 has been missing out on lectures and classroom discussions that you can’t really get over Zoom. The positive, however, was getting to spend more time with my family and the opportunity to become more independent while valuing the importance of community.
• I would like to thank Ms. Jeanne Turner for being a great mentor, teacher, and supporter. She is simply the best!
• One of the greatest inspirations in life is one of my good friends, Maryn. She has always pushed me to be my best and do my best. Maryn inspires me to find the good in everyone!

Congratulations, Barrett!

ALEXIS VALERIO OSORIO
Hickory Public Schools
HICKORY CAREER & ARTS MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL
Class of 2021

Reflections:
• My best memory from Hickory Career and Arts Magnet High School would have to be when we attended my 10th grade year’s BETA convention. That trip was the best I’ve ever had with HCAM and my friends.
• I remember back with Ms. Regn, an English teacher who used to work here at HCAM, talked to me about some of the struggles of having ADHD during school life. I still appreciate her words and the confidence she gave me to keep on keeping on.
• The greatest challenge for me during the COVID-19 pandemic was adjusting to the new studying environment while also keeping up with the same accountability in a new setting. Even with the pandemic still going on, I’ve got my family and frankly, I’m happy for that. That’s all I need to have a smile on my face.
• I’d love to give a “shout-out” to Mr. Lunsford, Ms. Reece, Ms. Toskey, Ms. Regn, and Ms. Dula for being the most memorable educators of my high school career. They all gave me a push that I took to heart and will continue to do so after my time in high school.
• My family is my inspiration, my push, my all, my everything without them, I would not be who I am today. Gracias.

Congratulations, Alexis!

Alexis will attend Cabelus Valley Community College with a strong interest in Computer Programming, possibly video game programming.
XAVIER POWERS
Hickory Public Schools
HICKORY HIGH SCHOOL
Class of 2021

Reflections:

- My best memory at HHS is when we fought a tough battle against Saint and came out with the victory!
- A positive learning moment that I discovered throughout my high school years is that no matter how hard something gets, never give up!
- Honestly, the greatest challenge I had to go through this year is the loss of my stepdad who was basically my actual dad; he was always there for me! He never missed a game and never left my side. But the good things about this year is that for one, I’m about to graduate and I finished my football career in high school.
- I want to thank God for giving me the ability to wake up every morning. I am thankful for every teacher I’ve ever met and of course, the football coaches. They never gave up on me and they pushed me to be the best I could possibly be.
- My inspiration in life is my mom! She’s never given up, no matter the challenges she had to face. She would always face the challenges head on and come out on top!

Congratulations, Xavier!
Xavier will continue his football career and education at Methodist University!

JAIDEN SIPE
Hickory Public Schools
HICKORY HIGH SCHOOL
Class of 2021

Reflections:

- The best memory from high school was being a part of the athletics program (softball) and gaining lifelong friendships with my teammates while observing the team’s journey–improving year after year.
- A positive learning experience was the opportunity to intern through the HHS CTE dept. This allowed me to volunteer at Catawba Valley Medical Center and capture a glimpse of my future career!
- The greatest challenge during COVID-19 was staying motivated with the online classes and little to no social interaction with friends. However, I did gain experience in childcare and had the opportunity to meet new people who share my passion.
- My “shout-outs” go to God, my family, and my softball family & coaches!
- I give credit to my parents and God-mother for my inspiration in life! They have all had a great impact on me and the perspectives in which I view situations. I have been provided a strong foundation and will use that foundation for continued growth.

Congratulations, Jaiden!
Jaiden will attend Mercer University in Macon, Georgia, where she will study Nursing and specialize in Pediatrics.
GRADUATES OF 2021

My best memories at HHS reflect my friends and teachers. I loved competing in Quiz Bowl, going to track and lacrosse practice, and messing around during study hall with friends, Maryn and Barrett.

One major learning experience was serving as a Key Club Lieutenant Governor for Division 6. I organized a virtual trivia night fundraiser for lung cancer called Devlin’s Trivia Night in memory of our club’s Kiwanis advisor (Helen Devlin) who passed away from lung cancer. We raised $3,636 for lung cancer!

The greatest challenge during COVID-19 has been dealing with change and unfortunate situations. Covid has personally affected my family’s health in ways I never imagined.

On the positive, through Covid, I’ve become a more empathetic person. These hardships have shown how much I can accomplish if I put my mind to it.

I’d like to thank the teachers Robin Chicelli, Alexander Wienbrock, Madison Yount, Andy Blevins, and Drew Daniels—for always supporting me with advice and wisdom.

My inspiration in life is my parents as they have persevered for a better life and worked hard to support my dreams. I am especially grateful for my mother, her tenacity, and the strength she has given me during this period of change.

Congratulations, Annie!

Reflections:

Annie will attend UNC-Chapel Hill to major in Clinical Laboratory Science (through the support of the Carolina Covenant Program).

ANNIE LUONG
Hickory Public Schools
HICKORY HIGH SCHOOL
Class of 2021

DEANNA SIPE
Hickory Public Schools
HICKORY CAREER & ARTS MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL
Class of 2021

My best memory from high school would probably be when we attended the BETA Club trip because it gave me the chance to compete in something that I really loved and it also was a break from school. Ultimately, the trip helped me to feel less stressed when I returned to school.

A positive learning experience was the realization that if anyone wants to get good grades, they must work hard to achieve those grades.

In all honesty, the greatest challenge for me this school year has been doing all of my school work online. However, I’ve been able to catch up in the middle of the week so I’ve not been as stressed out as I would be in a normal school year.

One teacher who I would really like to thank is Mrs. Starring. No matter what has happened, she is always there for me. If I had a problem, I would always go to her because she would give me the best advice. Another teacher I would really like to thank is Ms. Parkhurst. She is a very caring person and I felt as if I could just talk to her about anything. Those two are my favorite teachers and I’m going to miss them so much when I graduate!

My inspiration for life is my family and friends. Since last year, I have had the chance to grow closer and really get to know all of them. I’ve also gained so much knowledge from both my family and friends.

Congratulations, Deanna!

Reflections:

Deanna will attend Western Carolina University where she will pursue a degree in either Communications or Secondary Education.
As I think about all of the experiences I’ve had during high school, I can recall one memory that has always managed to make me smile. One day in November, it began to snow. My friend and I were walking outside to the school courtyard and I remember seeing kids playing in the snow, throwing snowballs at one another. It looked like something straight out of a movie!

Something that really helped me to learn was when, in math, the teacher would sit with me, making sure that I understood every step. Teachers can really make a difference when they have the genuine desire to further their students’ education. The biggest challenge that COVID presented to students was the struggle to maintain their mental health. Millions of students’ plans for the future were interrupted, and it took everyone off guard. The mass depression in students caused by the quarantine was crazy, and for most, the biggest challenge was just finding the will to get out of bed in the morning and attend class. Luckily, we were strong and unified, and we offered support to each other.

I want to thank a very specific math teacher, Tracy Reese. Mrs. Reese no longer teaches at HCAM, but her approach to helping me understand math was everything I needed. Having ADHD can really get in the way when you’re trying to solve boring, complex math problems. Mrs. Reese was willing to wait for me and was grateful. Another special teacher to mention is Natasha Stiles. Mrs. Stiles is one of those teachers who will joke with you between work, but is never afraid to assert that work needs to be done. She’s kind, funny, strong, cheerful, and an amazing person. Hands-down my favorite teacher.

My inspiration in life can best be encapsulated in one phrase: Amor fati, a Latin phrase that means “love of one’s fate.” When I feel like my life is going nowhere, I remember everything will eventually be okay, and that my struggle is necessary. Our lives are short and tomorrow is never a promise, so we should be working hard to make the most out of every day. Love your friends and family to the fullest, and don’t let anyone tell you that you can’t achieve something.
Reflections:

- Reflecting on my years at HCAH, I have many positive memories. I’ve made many new friends, but most importantly, I’ve gained a better understanding about myself. As an individual on the Autism Spectrum, I have not only learned about myself but I have accomplished a great deal while in high school.
- My best memories would be my academic & personal achievements. Through the years, I was inducted into BETA Club, participated in service projects, and earned “Excellence” in Math, English and Spanish. I was also chosen for Key Club, the National Technical Honor Society, and earned a 3.6 GPA on my report cards.
- My Psychology & Sociology classes taught me about the mind and our society, especially topics such as racism, culture, and mental health. Through Teen Leadership, I learned to speak effectively in front of an audience. The biggest challenge during the COVID-19 pandemic was having to learn virtually. Junior year was challenging with my first AP class, but building a routine and schedule helped me to get through it. When our senior year started, I felt prepared for virtual learning and knew what to expect. When our senior year started, I felt prepared for virtual learning and knew what to expect.
- My family, especially my Mom and my sisters, have inspired me to believe in myself. They have always encouraged me and told me there is nothing I can’t accomplish if I work hard and try my best. I look forward to seeing what this new chapter in my life holds and where life will lead me.

Congratulations, Alexander!

Alexander will attend Lenoir-Rhyne University and plans to study computer science, computer engineering or information technology.

JAYDA GREENE

Reflections:

- My best memory of HHS was the “smart lunch.” Everyone was able to visit with friends while enjoying a lunch break, or even go the gym to play games.
- A positive learning experience was when I took eight (8) classes during my junior year. I was taking school class and the Promise Scholar classes. I remember talking to my teacher (Mrs. Osborne) about how hard it was but she told me, “If you want to succeed you must put in the hard work and let your obstacles be your ladder to success!” Since then, I have looked at every obstacle in a completely different perspective, whether it be school or anything outside of school.
- The greatest challenge of COVID-19 was not being in school. In-person learning allowed me to better understand how hard working people are. Being in a positive environment helped me through school as the good surfaced through it all and I continued to grow as an individual.
- My “shout-outs” go to Mrs. Yount, Mrs. England, and Mrs. Nichols. They all provided a wonderful guide in my pathway to success.
- My inspiration is actually to become an inspiration. I would love to inspire those around me and help to impact others, just as many have provided inspiration in my life!

Congratulations, Jayda!

All this time, Jayda is undecided for her future plans, however, she is interested in pursuing a career in the medical field.
HHS senior, Samuel McDaniel, a leader with the HHS JROTC, took his enlistment oath to the United States Army! Congratulations!

Larry Conger, served as the Maintenance Supervisor at Hickory High for 17 years before his death on February 4, 2021 from COVID-19. Larry was loved by everyone! Students remember his smiles and singing—as he worked through the hallways and every space of Hickory High. He was an unofficial “teacher,” encouraging everyone to stay in school and to do their best. We will always remember the joy that Larry brought into our lives.

To Our Beautiful Daughter Zoey

Words cannot describe how proud we are to be your parents and how much we love you!! You have faced so many obstacles in 12 years and you did it Baby Girl! You accomplished one of your goals and now it’s time to conquer the rest!!! Always remember to put God first and we will always be your biggest supporters. We love you always and forever

Mommy and Daddy

To Our Sister

Wow.. crazy to think that you are graduating from high school now. Time really does fly. We are so proud of you and can’t wait to see what your future holds for you. You are destined for greatness and don’t ever let anyone tell you different. Do great things in life sis!

We love you,

Yazmen and Daniel

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We love you,

Yazmen and Daniel
Congratulations to all of our senior student athletes who represented Hickory High Tornado Athletics this year.

Football
Benjamin Boston
Demonta Bryant
Mason Chambers
Keagan Covington
Harper Hancock
Malcom Hill
Orion Lutz
Nytai Mansfield
Xavier Powers
Jalen Rose
Mason Spradling
Cheer
Jade Duncan
Aaliyah Freeman
Shekara Fuller
Maryn Larsen
Kimberly Maddox
Taylor Hand
Kerigan Packer
Celine Nguyen
Kathryn Kanipe
Men's Soccer
Isaac Benitez
Benjamin Boston
Davis Bryant
Patrick Cecotto
Brandon Hernandez
Carter Holt
Ernesto Poppante
Mackenzie Tonks
Jose Vallencillos
Volleyball
Delaney Deflke
Chloe James
Ann Carson Joyner
Finley Lefevers
Kellen Morin
Brooke Rowland
Madison Sellers
Bren White
Women's Tennis
Kellen Morin
Cross Country Women
Laney Dettelbach
Emma Neal
Ellie Rumbaugh
Cross Country Men
Jack McIntosh
Clayton Boggs
Eric Schoelner
Nate Haines
Brandon Hernandez-Guerrero
Women's Basketball
Finley Lefevers
Ellie Rumbaugh
Aysha Short
Kellen Morin
Chloe James
Women's Golf
No seniors
Men's Basketball
Jordan Harshaw
Wyatt Jean
Women's Swimming Seniors
Gwenth Durak
Sara Dzmitrowicz
Emanuela Kira
Men's Swimming Seniors
Angel Lopez-Arredondo
Kyle Stillwell
Women's Track
Jaiden Sipe
Barrett Geyer
Sophia Long
Men's Track
Davis Bryant
Keagan Covington
Jalen Rose
Eric Schoelner
Malcolm Hill
Women's Soccer
Laney Dettelbach
 Taylen Light
Emma Neal
Brooke Rowland
Zoey Tucker
Baseball
Anderson Bolick
Isaac Benitez
Luke Davis
Davis Hall
Brandon Turner
Softball
Jaiden Sipe
Men's Golf
Lawson Cross
Reid Edens
Davis McNeely
Cody Ray
Men's Lacrosse
Miguel Martinez
Miles Schramm
Ethan Wall
Women's Lacrosse
Delaney Deflke
Emma Neal
Maggie Nichols
Ellie Rumbaugh
Men's Tennis
Julian Camacho
Christopher Diamonti
Jack McIntosh
Will Rudisill
Women's Tennis
Kellen Morin

On behalf of the Booster Club and the Hickory High community, we want to congratulate our seniors on great careers. We thank you for your dedication to Hickory High and for the perseverance that you have shown through an incredibly uncertain time. To our coaches, administrators, athletic directors, and community, we thank you for your support and unwavering commitment to our student athletes.

Seniors, best of luck in the future and we wish you nothing but success as you continue to embark on the game of life.

Roger Young
HHS Athletic Boosters Club President

Hickory High School is committed to excellence in the academics, the arts, and the athletics. Unfortunately because of the pandemic, this year has proven to be difficult in all areas, especially for our athletic programs. Nonetheless, our athletes remained steadfast and hopeful, and thus, were able to complete their various schedules because they were determined, the coaches were committed, and the athletic boosters were unwavering in their support. In fact, student athletes were able to compete in their respective sports despite facing cancellations and other issues caused by the pandemic. Though some games were hampered by unfavorable weather or team absences, students and athletes were able to compete in their respective sports, despite facing cancellations and other issues caused by the pandemic.

I am truly grateful for the leadership initiatives undertaken by Mr. Roger Young and the boosters and treasure the assistance they have provided to our athletes. Without their relentless support, our athletes would have missed out on ideal opportunities to showcase their talents. I am excited about working with Mr. Young and the boosters and look forward to strengthening this partnership in the future.

Rebecca Tuttle
Principal, Hickory High School

HHS Athletic Booster Club salutes all senior student-athletes! Best of luck!