

Summer 2020

Flying Arrow

- Rayna Addison Weston Pink Jayden Schramm Lindsey Pohle
- Katelin Wagar Davin Notte Kelly Oyen Sonni Hinkley
- Chelsey Letcher Erin Walker
- Dayne Kuenster Brooklyn Connelly Isaiah Place Jake Nickel
- Mason Atkinson Dawson Bowen Chelsey Beyer
- Nicholas Riedl Jacob Stelpflug Abigail Springer Alexa Weber
- Erika Birkett Connor Gates
- Corey Hahn Caden Straka
- Cade Lenz Kylie Hale
- Alayna Carl Gracie Klein
- Austin Haas Tron Covington
- James Vincent Aubrey Streif
- Mason Crooks Taylor Landon-Hartline Morgan DeBuhr
- Sebastian Benitez Logan Schneider Kendra Kindrai
- Kennedy Handel Dawson Klein Cora Reuter Hunter Moore
- Dustin Wolf Aaron Murphy Westley Hoffman
- Jeremiah Ihm Matthew Crosby Jackson Uppena Alyssa Pettera
- Brooke Schwab Haley Timmerman Kayla Cummins Jeremiah Dressler
- Kenneth McCollins Ian Martin Ryan Gallinger

WE  OUR
Seniors

Arrow Pizza

Lancaster High School students began a take-and-bake pizza business, catering to Lancaster Community Schools staff, last fall. To learn more about Arrow Pizza, check out the video on the school district's YouTube channel or Facebook page.



Robert Callahan photo

I couldn't help but smile for our 2020 grads

I write this small portion of the publication last. Each time I struggle. When the other 15 pages are done, what is there left to say?

As I write this, it is July 15. I had the privilege of attending Lancaster High School's 2020 commencement event less than a week ago.

I can't speak for anyone else, but I had a blast last Friday night. The reason why? All of the smiles. Smiles on the faces of our graduates, smiles



on the faces of the LHS staff present, and smiles on the faces of the family members in attendance.

The last few months have been less than ideal, to say the least. To see so many of our students and their families make the most of a tough situation had me smiling as well.

Robert Callahan | Editor

LANCASTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

HOME OF THE LANCASTER



FLYING ARROW

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The end.

Lancaster High School celebrated its 2020 graduating class on July 10, bringing finality to their LHS stories

BY ROBERT CALLAHAN

Lancaster High School celebrated its 2020 graduates in two events on Friday, July 10.

Casey Schwab provided a commencement address during a virtual commencement that premiered on the school district's Facebook page and YouTube channel at 6 p.m. that evening. Schwab, a 2006 Lancaster High School graduate, 2010 graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and 2013 graduate of the University of Southern California Law School, currently works for the National Football League and lives in Washington, D.C.

"Class of 2020, I want to start by saying I'm sorry," Schwab said. "I'm sorry that you missed the end of your senior year. I'm sorry that you missed all of those activities that go with it and I'm sorry that you missed your graduation in person. That sucks, it really does.

"But now, it's time to get over it. And I don't want to sound harsh, so please, please don't turn the recording off. But what I mean is this: in the face of adversity, you can either fold and you can feel bad for yourself, or, you can flip it around and turn it into an opportunity."

Schwab shared three opportunities with graduates. First, he encouraged them to find their "why."

"A lot of folks are probably asking you what's next," he said. "What are you going to do now that you're graduated?"

"That's a perfectly appropriate question, but what I think the better question is, why you are about to do what you're about to do next."

Schwab's sister, Miranda, is a special education teacher at Winskill Elementary School. She has followed in the footsteps of her mother, Becky Schwab, who taught at Winskill Elementary School for more than three decades.

"You see, my sister, Miranda, Mrs. Fuerstenberg, she found her why very, very early," Casey said. "Me, on the other hand, I'm sometimes behind my sister, and it's taken me a little bit longer to ask myself, why?"

"So when I graduated from Lancaster, I went to Madison for undergrad, then I moved to Los Angeles for law school, then I worked for the NFL, then Fox Sports, and more recently I moved to Washington, D.C., to work for the NFL Players Association, the union for the NFL."

Casey shared he recently asked himself why he has made those moves and climbed the ladder, and came to two conclusions.

"I want to build, and like my sister, I want to teach," he noted. "And you notice, neither of those things have anything to do with the NFL or going to Super Bowls or sports, even.

"So the sooner you can find your why, Class of 2020, the sooner you can get on the path that is going to be most fulfilling to you, and you can use those whys as

your guideposts in the next chapter and the chapters beyond that, in your career and your life."

Second, Casey encouraged his audience to listen.

"Along with the pandemic, this country has seen the latest in the civil rights movement in Black Lives Matter. Now I don't think any of us know quite what to say when it comes to this topic," he said. "So Class of 2020, now is a great time to pick up your phone to text someone, to Zoom someone, to House Party someone that doesn't look like you, that doesn't talk like you, and doesn't think like you, and ask them what it's like to be



Robert Callahan photo

More than 40 members of Lancaster High School's 2020 graduating class took part in the in-person event held July 10, including Davin Nolte.

them, and listen.

"We can all listen better."

Third, Casey asked LHS's latest graduates to hug their mothers.

"I can tell you from experience that you will never, ever regret hugging your mom," he said. "Now of course, you can hug your dad too, and you can hug your siblings. I mean it, hug your siblings.

"This pandemic has done something interesting, right? It's alienated us from the outside world, but

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A good foundation

Lancaster Middle School
has joined LHS in earning
a prestigious PLTW honor

BY ROBERT CALLAHAN

Lancaster Middle School (LMS) has been recognized as a Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Distinguished School for providing broad access to transformative learning opportunities for students through PLTW Gateway. LMS is one of just 176 middle schools across the U.S. to receive this honor.

“As one of our district’s PLTW coordinators, I am proud of our middle school PLTW students and of Mr. Richard and Mr. Knapp for their work in earning this distinction,” said Eric Mumm. “Mr. Richard and Mr. Knapp do a great job of introducing PLTW to our students, but more importantly, they get the students interested, engaged, and committed to the high-level curriculum of STEM and Computer Science. This groundwork has absolutely had a positive effect on our high school programs.

“This is a deserving honor for Lancaster’s PLTW students and teachers!”

The PLTW Distinguished School recognition honors schools committed to increasing student access, engagement, and achievement in their PLTW programs. To be eligible for the designation, LMS had to meet the following criteria:

- Offer at least one PLTW Gateway unit at each grade level;
- Have more than 50 percent of the student body participating during the 2018-2019 school year;
- Have 25 percent of students advancing to high school participate in two or more units,
- Have strategies and supports in place that support reasonably proportional representation with regard to race, ethnicity, poverty, gender and can support such claims with relevant data.

Andy Richard and Brian Knapp teach PLTW courses at LMS. Richard teaches App Creators, as well as Computer Science for Innovators and Makers. Knapp teaches Automation Robotics, Flight and Space, Magic of Electrons, and Green Architecture.

Computer Science for Innovators and Makers allows students to discover computer science concepts

and skills by creating personally relevant, tangible and shareable projects. Throughout the unit, students learn about programming for the physical world by blending hardware design and software development. Physical computing projects promote student awareness of interactive systems, including Internet of Things (IoT) devices, and broaden their understanding of abstract computer science concepts through meaningful authentic applications.

“I enjoy the hands-on approach and giving students real-world problems to solve,” Richard said. “I’m amazed by how much computer science knowledge the sixth graders understand at the end of the year compared to the beginning of the year.

“At the beginning of the year, students don’t think they will ever understand how to code. By the end of the year, the students are creating physical computing devices that keep them safer

at night when exercising, creating an interactive art display or an automatic food dispenser for a pet.”

App Creators exposes students to computer science by computationally analyzing and developing solutions to authentic problems through mobile app development, and convey the positive impact of the application of computer science to other disciplines and to society.

“It’s great to see the ideas students come up with for apps and then make them come to life,”

Richard said. “Oftentimes students solve a problem in their community with the use of an app. For example, we had a group create a Fire App that students could use when a fire happens to give them directions to safely leave the building depending on where they were.”

In Automation Robotics, students learn about the history and impact of automation and robotics as they explore mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Using the VEX Robotics® platform, students apply what they know to design and program traffic lights, robotic arms, and more.



Robert Callahan file photo

Computer Science for Innovators and Makers allows students to discover computer science concepts and skills by creating personally relevant, tangible and shareable projects.

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CHANGING LIVES

**Three Lancaster High School graduates
changed lives for the better
while experiencing change of their own**

Michael Brennan photo

BY ROBERT CALLAHAN

Three Lancaster High School graduates traveled to Guatemala earlier this year, sharing their time and talents with those less fortunate.

Joseph Recker, a 2016 graduate, and Allison Stader, a 2018 graduate, visited Antigua, Guatemala. There, they provided health services to those in need through VIDA Volunteer, a non-profit organization. Free medical and dental care was provided to underserved communities at three different locations.

"I was able to gain hands-on experience with local physicians, clinical experience (taking vitals, patient communication, and signs and symptoms analysis), recreational opportunities and cultural immersion," Stader said. "On a few different occasions, we were able to deliver the news that a woman was expecting a child. Some of the women that were expecting got to hear the heartbeat of their baby for the first time. Sometimes they were 25 weeks or further along.

"The lack of medical resources in the communities slightly differed based on location, but we are truly fortunate in comparison to any of the communities."

Stader, a student at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, recounted an experience that had a profound impact on a Guatemalan family, as well as herself.

"In a town near the city of Panajachel, we were presented with an 11-year-old child who was born with spina bifida. In the U.S., there is a fetal surgery to correct spina bifida if it is diagnosed," she recalled. "The child was born, and the deliverer severed the child's nerves near the lumbar region. This eliminated the chance of the child being able to use their lower appendages. The patient crawled by arms on a dirt floor in the family's home to move.

"The 11-year-old, full of smiles, and the hope that we could help, colored quietly while the mother explained the financial distress the parents feel from purchasing the briefs that the child needed. I was stunned by this case. It openly solidified my belief that we are so fortunate. Taken aback, I asked my fellow peers to donate

money, so our VIDA leader could purchase briefs for the child. The next day, we were able to present enough briefs to last about a month for the family. This minuscule act of giving had a profound effect on that family."

Recker and Stader, in separate groups, worked mind-in-mind with their fellow pre-health students.

"We were presented with a patient, and completed a series of intake questions with the help of one or two interpreters," Stader explained. "I learned medical etiquette, as well as many skills that will assist me in becoming a medical professional."

It was the second journey to Guatemala for Recker, also a student at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

"What we did as students during our clinical days was take vitals, ask the patients questions about their past and current medical history, as well as their main concern and why they visited us that day," he explained.

"Next, a doctor would come over and we would explain to them what we had recorded and the doctor then would do a further examination if needed. Finally, the doctor would diagnose and write out a prescription for medication that we carried with in our traveling pharmacy. This process allowed the physicians that were traveling with us to see as many patients as possible, thus helping more people."

Recker's group saw approximately 600 patients in just six clinic days.

Jared Straka is a senior at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he is studying mechanical engineering. He traveled to Zapote, Guatemala, with nine students and two professional engineers thanks to Engineers Without Borders. There, they implemented a water project three years in the making.

Zapote, a four-hour drive from Guatemala City, is a town of approximately 600 people.

"All 600 people in this town live without the basic human right to reliable access to safe drinking water," Straka shared. "For the last three years, the UW-Madison chapter of Engineers Without Borders has been



Photo courtesy of Joseph Recker

Joseph Recker, a 2016 Lancaster High School graduate, made his second journey to Guatemala earlier this year. There, he provided health services to those in need through VIDA Volunteer.

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Contributed photo

Lancaster High School seniors Haley Timmerman (left) and Morgan DeBuhr took part in the Visual Arts Classic at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville on Feb. 21. DeBuhr advanced to the state competition.

Winning while 'winging it'

A new experience proved rewarding for many Lancaster High School art students and their first-year teacher as well

BY ROBERT CALLAHAN

Adozen Lancaster High School students showcased their creativity at the Visual Arts Classic (VAC) regional competition at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville on Feb. 21.

"I thought it was cool experience," said Lancaster Middle/High School art teacher Jonell Klopf. "We were

hashtag 'team winging it' because it was our first year participating as a school and it was my first year teaching, so I didn't know what was going on and the students had never done it."

The VAC is a competition for art students in grades 9-12, featuring studio categories (usually 11 or 12) and an annually changing theme,

according to the Wisconsin Art Education Association. The 2020 theme was "The Women of Art."

Students are involved in in-depth research on selected artists (usually about a dozen) whose work relates to the theme. Scores are earned both individually and as a team. There are both regional and state competitions.

“There are long-term projects and on-site projects,” Klopf explained. “A long-term project can be created at school. The on-site project is 2 1/2 hours to create artwork at the competition.”

“It is kind of cool that there are two different opportunities for them. There is also a ‘Critical Thinking’ team project and an ‘Art History Quiz Bowl’ relating to the theme and artists.”

Don’t let their moniker fool you. Lancaster High School is home to many talented artists. Lancaster’s Avicet Bedward, Morgan DeBuhr, Taylor Knight, Mariah Trenkle and Erin Walker advanced to the state competition.

“Every student receives feedback from judges about what they can do to improve, what they think went well, and so on,” Klopf said. “The students can see, if they plan to compete next year, how things will go.”

Lancaster’s students utilized their talents in the painting, printmaking, ceramics, sculpture, and personal adornment competitions.

“Students had the chance to choose what they wanted to do in response to a prompt,” Klopf shared. “Some made mugs, some students made jewelry, others made paper mache. It was a lot of different things.

“Every school had to bring their own supplies, so I had make sure every bin had what it needed.”

The VAC state competition was scheduled for April 17 at the University of Wisconsin-Madison but was canceled as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Several of Lancaster High School’s 2020 graduates—Chelsey Letcher, Brooklyn Connelly, Haley Timmerman and DeBuhr—were part of the Flying Arrows’ VAC roster.

Letcher took on the challenge of printmaking.



Contributed photo

Lancaster High School’s Avicet Bedward fared well at the Visual Arts Classic, advancing to the state competition.

“Honestly, VAC was a blast. I had so much fun even though it was our first year there,” she said. “We all seemed to get along and did our best on everything.”

DeBuhr agreed.

“Overall, the day was super-enjoyable, but what I enjoyed the most was the Quiz Bowl. Our team was able to laugh it off and still have a ton of fun,” she said. “I can say that our team brought the most energy and excitement, which also made it really enjoyable. We may not have won the Quiz Bowl, but we did win ‘Most Personality’ as a team!”

Connelly enrolled in art classes for the first time last school year.

“I wasn’t sure what to expect,” she said. “But now looking back, I’m glad I did it, and did the competition. It was a great day spent with friends and of course, Ms. Klopf, but also meeting some other people there. Ms. Klopf makes art so much fun. It is definitely something I will always remember!”

Timmerman considered herself lucky to participate in the VAC.

“I was lucky enough to participate in this year’s Visual Arts Classic hosted at UW-P and I had a blast.

Not only was I able to create art and express myself through my work, but I also was fortunate that many of my best friends also got this opportunity,” she said. “I thoroughly enjoyed this competition and art at LHS as a whole. We got to make such cool projects while having fun and putting our own twist on it. I’m bummed we weren’t able to have the state competition, but I’m very thankful for the experience.”

MaKenna Breuer, a Lancaster freshman, hopes to return to the VAC.

“I really enjoyed doing the art competition for a few reasons. The first was we got to meet other students from other schools that enjoy the same thing as us,” she said. “While we were on our on-site project we got to talk to kids from other schools and learn from each other’s techniques.

“Since it was our first year doing this we did not know what to expect from it. Overall it was a really fun time and I am hoping to do it again in the future.”

Klopf succeeded Gloria Fuller, who after 28 years teaching in Lancaster, retired at the conclusion of the 2018-2019 school year.

“Art at LHS was different, but fun. I only started art classes my junior year and when I found out that we were getting a new teacher I didn’t want to do the classes anymore, but I still did and honestly I’m super-glad I stuck to it,” Letcher said. “Ms. Klopf is one of the best teachers I’ve had. She was so helpful. I’d say she was my most favorite teacher and one I could always talk to. Having her as an art teacher made me actually try more and really proved how good I actually am at drawing. I always worked hard on my projects and had several going on at the same time.

“My advice to anyone coming into high school: take art! You’ll love it!”



Robert Callahan photo

Lancaster Middle School's Arrow Band debuted "Into the Unknown," arranged by Paul Miller, during the Music In Our Schools Month concert on March 3. The performance was the world premiere of the "Frozen 2" favorite.

CREATING 'THE UNKNOWN'

With the help of a familiar face, the LMS Arrow Band premiered new music in March

BY ROBERT CALLAHAN

When one thinks of world premiere events, Los Angeles, New York City or Chicago may come to mind. Add Lancaster, Wis. to the list.

A world premiere event in Lancaster, Wis.? Yes, it happened, thanks to the time and talents of a Lancaster man and the Lancaster Middle School Arrow Band.

Paul Miller is a Digital Music Editor and Arranger for Music Notes Inc.

"I take arrangements and make them look nice for publication," he explained. "I also arrange my own works that get published on our website."

When Paul heard "Into the Un-

known" from Disney's "Frozen 2" for the very first time last fall, he considered creating an arrangement.

"I came home and told Ashley I thought it would make an awesome band piece," he said. "We got the music for 'Frozen 2' really early, so we could have things ready for when it came out. And looking at the music, I knew it could be something cool!"

Ashley Miller is band director at Lancaster Middle School. She hadn't heard "Into the Unknown" yet when Paul expressed his interest in creating an arrangement, as the song had not been released yet.

"But then he pulled up the 'Panic! At The Disco' version and I loved

it," she recalled. "I was so excited to think my band could play that. Not to mention that it would be so soon after what I knew would be a Frozen 2 frenzy!"

"Frozen 2" debuted on Nov. 22, 2019. Paul, Ashley and their daughter were among moviegoers to experience the film opening weekend at Lancaster's Grantland Theatre.

"By the time we got the music, some kids had already heard it," Ashley said. "As a band, we listened to the 'Panic! At The Disco' version and the 'Frozen 2' version. So, we had some kids pumped because the 'Panic!' Version is epic, and some others excited because they're 'Frozen' fans, and couldn't wait to play the music.

"I'd say overall, there was excitement. And then they saw the time signature—12/8 is a pretty weird time signature—but once they got over the initial shock, they did amazing."

Is creating an arrangement a daunting task?

"It's not daunting, per se," Paul shared. "I have the music, so I can see exactly what I need to do. I love putting the pieces of the puzzle together, figuring out which parts of the music sound best with what instrumentation, and featuring what sections Ashley has in her band."

Paul worked on the "Into the Unknown" arrangement as a side project, tackling it after work hours.

"It probably took a month," Paul said. "A few long weekends in there, but it takes quite a bit of time to move the arrangement from orchestra/piano/voice to middle school band."

Lancaster Middle School's Arrow Band performed the arrangement during the Music In Our Schools Month concert on March 3.

"I was so proud of my kids. Arrow Band puts out amazing quality music for being a middle school band," Ashley said. "This piece was so challenging and it was met with minimal groans. It had several solos and featured sections, and they worked so hard to get them to come together. Leah Muench on that piano part still gives me the chills!"

"There are some 'pop' songs that we play, and I'm so over them by the time we perform them, but even until our performance, I got goosebumps every time we started 'Into the Unknown.' There's a section almost toward the end where Abby Timmerman goes crazy on the drum set, and the band is giving so much emotion, and it just made my heart sing every single time."

The performance of "Into the Unknown" was not only the world pre-

miere of Paul's piece, but was the first middle school arrangement (and possibly the first band arrangement) of the song published.

"Every time Paul arranges something for us, it's amazing," Ashley proudly shared. "I'm so spoiled that I have a live-in arranger. He can say, 'How are your clarinets over the break?' And I can say 'Awesome,' and he'll feature them on some crazy high notes. It's nice to have the option to customize my music."

What was Paul's favorite part of the process?

"I was so proud of my kids. Arrow Band puts out amazing quality music for being a middle school band. This piece was so challenging and it was met with minimal groans. It had several solos and featured sections, and they worked so hard to get them to come together."

"Definitely hearing the arrangement performed," he said. "You work on this piece of music for so long, and hearing it performed is definitely my favorite. Seeing the kids enjoy the music—hearing what works—knowing all the hard work they put into it, I love it."

Paul has created arrangements for the Lancaster Middle School band each year Ashley has been a part of the staff.

"In the beginning, he arranged marching band stuff for me. Every year in March he arranges a

song for my eighth graders," Ashley shared. "He's done some great arrangements of a variety of works. My eighth graders vote on a song, and Paul just whips it up for them."

"My kids are familiar with his name on their music, and affectionately call him Paul Meyer, from 'Fallout Boy' (it's an inside joke). I'm so lucky to have such a talented husband, and my kids are so lucky he loves them enough to care that they can always have ownership in their music."

The Music In Our Schools Month concert was the last middle school concert for eighth graders Myl-eigh Bender, Scott Bendorf, Gianni Boebel, William Bussan, Emily Cummins, Evy Dhyanchand, Abigail Esser, Alexander Gruber, Ariana Hauck, Josephine Hoerth, Findley Hoffman, Clara Jo Kindrai, Kate McWilliams, Allison Moore, Leah Muench, Katelynn Muldoon, Mallory Olmstead, Emily Pierce, Connor Raisbeck, Taya Shaben, Derek Simpson, Kylee Sitts, Kaitlyn Sokolik, Brady Sperle, Caden Timmerman, Devin Tydrich, Kendra Vesperman and Brandon Winter.

"My dearest eighth graders, it has been my honor to be your teacher for three years. From the squaks and squeaks of our first months—to the amazing musicians you are today—I am endlessly grateful to have shared music with you," Ashley shared. "You made me smile, laugh, and feel joy daily. I have loved watching you grow from dorky sixth graders to these funny, kind, smart (still dorky) humans that I adore."

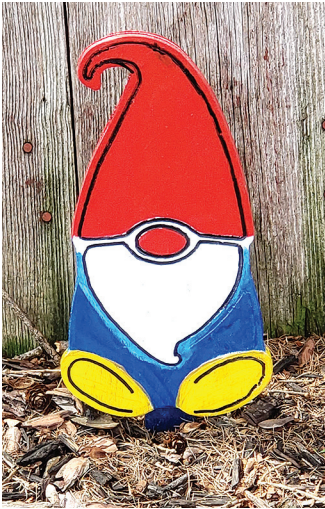
"I can't wait to see everything you accomplish. You are destined for big things. I love you. I miss you. Thank you for being such an important part of our Bard Sam."

Editor's note: "Bard Sam" is not a typo. Mrs. Miller informs me there is a good story behind it.

CREATIVITY SHINES DURING SCHOOL CLOSURE

A GNOME INVASION!

What happens when you add the enthusiasm of Winskill Elementary School physical education teacher Zach Chambers to the skills of the Lancaster High School Technical Education department? A Lancaster Gnome Invasion. Hundreds of gnomes dispersed into the “City of the Dome” and were painted by talented families in April, who later shared their photos on Facebook using the hashtag #LancasterGnomeInvasion.



The end.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

those closest to us, that we live with, it's brought us closer because we can't go anywhere, we can't do anything. I promise you, in five years from now you're going to look back and you're going to miss this time that you had with your family."

In closing, Casey surmised the COVID-19 pandemic is a part of the narrative of all 2020 graduates.

"So I ask you, what are you going to do with it," he said. "I suggest that you own it."

Student speaker Mason Crooks focused on the good done in the Lancaster community since early March.

Crooks noted Lancaster Community Schools provided 48,062 meals to students and their families through the school district's "Grab and Go" offering. He recalled the May 24 parade of LHS graduates led by the Lancaster Fire Department and Lancaster EMS.

"Instead of remembering our senior year by what we missed out on, let's remember what we gained: how to work independently and ask for help when needed, patience, extra family time, and a sense of being part of a community larger than high school," he said.

In closing, Crooks shared a lesson in the letter C, hearkening to his days in kindergarten.

"To become happier during this time, simply replace the following C words: canceled, closed, can't, conflict, with community, caring, courage, compassion, and finally, one of my favorite C words, chocolate.

"2020 graduates, have a sweet life."

Student speaker Aaron Murphy shared the wisdom of Greek philosopher Heraclitus, who said, "The only constant in life is change."

"So much has changed in these last few months and it's been a real reminder to me of how important it is to take action and take control," Murphy said. "You never know when something might suddenly cease to exist, or when you will see someone for the last time.

"So don't put things off for tomorrow. Take control of

what you can, when you can."

Murphy also shared the wisdom of his "good buddy" Benjamin Franklin, who said, "Well done is better than well said."

"Saying you're going to do it and actually doing it are two different things. Saying you want to is nothing unless you actually do it," Murphy explained. "You can't expect any results if you don't put forth any effort. And most importantly, you won't get any results unless you start.

"I encourage you to take action, propose your new idea, take risks, don't worry about making a mistake, be the first to make a change, and don't be afraid to speak up."

Lancaster Community Schools District Administrator Rob Wagner commended students while presenting the class for graduation.

"I believe you, the Flying Arrows Class of 2020, have

realized how nothing can be expected and you need to live every day to its fullest. Cherish the things you have come accustomed to, while keeping your family and friends as your highest priority," he said. "You have handled these unforeseen disappointments the past four months with grace and class. You're an outstanding example of all the graduates of 2020.

"You have not dwelled on the past, but rather focused on moving forward, controlling what you can, and appreciating

and living in the moment, because you have realized firsthand nothing is guaranteed."

Wagner shared the greatest experience for him this year was traveling throughout the school district to hand-deliver diplomas to the 2020 graduates.

"It was a reminder to those of us who had the privilege that day to be part of such a rewarding event, how amazing and special you are, and how proud we are of who you've become," he said. "Although this is not our traditional graduation ceremony, you, the Class of 2020, will be the graduating class none of us will ever forget."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

The end.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

As the virtual commencement premiered, graduates and as many as 10 family members were invited to Lancaster High School to walk across the graduation stage, where they were greeted by Middle/High School Principal Mark Uppena, Wagner, Board of Education members Dean Noethe and Jerry Vesperman, and Class President Erin Walker.

Forty-five graduates participated in the event.

“Given the situation, we wanted to do something that would recognize our seniors, and I am glad that so many did take the opportunity to walk across that stage and get a chance to maybe put some finality to their high school years that they had,” Uppena said. “Kudos to everybody—all of our families and all the community support— who helped make that possible.”



Robert Callahan photo

Nick Riedl reacts after playing a game of rock-paper-scissors with Jennifer Gallagher during the July 10 graduation event at Lancaster High School.

A good foundation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

The exciting world of aerospace comes alive through the Flight and Space unit during Flight and Space class. Students become engineers as they design, prototype, and test models to learn about the science of flight and what it takes to travel and live in space. They solve real-world aviation and space challenges and plan a mission to Mars.

Magic of Electrons allows students to examine the behavior and parts of atoms, as well as the impact of electricity on the world around them. They learn skills in basic circuitry design and use what they know to propose designs such as a burglar alarm for an art museum.

In Green Architecture, students learn how to apply green concepts to the fields of architecture and construction. They explore dimensioning, measuring, and architectural sustainability and apply what they have learned to design affordable housing units using Autodesk's® 3D architectural design software.

“What I enjoy the most is the hands-on learning that the PLTW classes encourage,” Knapp said. “I enjoy teaching that way and the students enjoy learning that way, so it seems to make for a good fit. I also enjoy how the kids get to show their own creativity.

“Most of our activities are working with a partner or

even in a small group. While doing this, I have noticed students communicating and interacting with others, while not afraid to share their ideas or opinions.

“Students seem to enjoy the freedom these classes allow. I encourage communication and interaction with my students, which sometimes seems like organized chaos, but I love it.”

Knapp explained PLTW encourages educators to follow the “Design Process” when designing and building.

“It is a good way for the students to understand design, start to finish,” he noted.

Lancaster High School was one of only 64 high schools to earn Distinguished School status in 2019, after meeting criteria during the 2017-2018 school year. LMS met its criteria during the 2018-2019 school year.

What were Richard's and Knapp's reactions to the good news?

“I was super-excited,” Richard said. “It's quite an honor to be a distinguished PLTW school. It wouldn't be possible without Brian and I working together to provide all these opportunities for our students.”

“I was excited for the Middle School,” Knapp said. “It is always nice to be recognized. As Andy mentioned, working together and communicating make these things possible.

“It is also nice to be a distinguished Middle School, since we already have a distinguished PLTW High School.

“Now we get to have a nice banner like they do!”



Photo courtesy of Allison Stader

Allison Stader (first row, third from left) is a 2018 graduate of Lancaster High School. Now a student at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, she visited Guatemala earlier this year.



Photo courtesy of Jared Straka

Jared Straka (back row, far left) is a member of the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Engineers without Borders student chapter. He helped provide clean water to 106 homes in Zapote, Guatemala.

Changing lives

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

designing a gravity-powered water system that will supply clean water to all 106 homes in Zapote.

"This system, which is the largest water project any Engineers Without Borders student chapter in the nation has ever tackled, will transport water from three separate springs to the town of Zapote through over 12 miles of piping. Being gravity-fed, our system requires no pumps to keep the water moving, instead using the built up pressure from moving down one mountain to climb the next one."

Straka's group of 11 slept in sleeping bags on tile floors each night they were in the community and by day worked side-by-side with members of the community as their designs were implemented.

"During the trip our major construction project was the primary holding tank for the community, which is now completed and will hold 9,200 gallons of clean water," Straka said. "Being on a hill, it acts in the same way the water tower in Lancaster works, using elevation to push water to homes. Being on a hill, this also meant that the materials needed to be carried up, since vehicle access wasn't possible."

"With the incredibly hard-working members of the community, we moved several tons of cement, gravel, and sand through bucket lines, one five gallon bucket at a time. I cannot say enough amazing things about the community members we met on the trip. They're proud, hard-working people who welcomed us into

their homes every single day."

Why is it important to serve?

"I cannot explain in words what I felt, and how I didn't realize that the experience was changing me. It is essential to volunteer time in your own community, college town, or even another country," Stader said. "Providing others with care that they may have never been able to acquire is a life-changing duty to them and yourself. You won't realize it, but you will begin to plant the spirit of volunteering in others after any volunteering experience. Don't let the fear of expanding boundaries stop you."

"The theme this year was volunesia, which means, in the moment you forget you're volunteering to help change lives, because it is changing yours," Recker said. "I feel this is a very accurate representation of what this trip has to offer. My desire to help those less fortunate has stemmed from going on these trips and has actually shifted my future in the healthcare field to be a more public health emphasis."

"I think we take so much for granted every day of our lives. The project I've had the pleasure to work on for the past three years will soon be providing 600 people with clean, reliable drinking water in their own homes for the first time in their lives," Straka said. "Think about how often you use water. Every morning, we turn the shower on, make coffee, and wash our hands. We don't even think about it. There are children in Zapote who have never had clean running water in their home. Serving others with needs so basic as safe drinking water puts into perspective how fortunate we are. It's a humbling experience."

SIMPLY THE BEST! LMS squad wins You Be The Chemist Challenge

The Lancaster Middle School team of seventh grader Christina Buttles and eighth graders Kate McWilliams, Leah Muench and Josie Hoerth won the Regional You Be The Chemist Challenge on Feb. 11 at CESA 3 in Fennimore.

Lancaster's team was one of two remaining in Wisconsin and was looking forward to the opportunity to create a video concerning chemistry in their community. The videos were to be judged and a statewide winner declared.

The remainder of the You Be The Chemist Challenge competition was canceled as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Re-



Contributed photo

Lancaster Middle School's You Be The Chemist team was crowned state champions in May. Team members were, from left: Christina Buttles, Kate McWilliams, Leah Muench and Josie Hoerth.

gional results were compiled and the Lancaster Middle School squad earned the highest score

in the state of Wisconsin. As a result, the Flying Arrows were named state champions.

Congratulations to our team members and coaches!

McWilliams, Muench qualify for NHD state contest

Lancaster Middle School students Kate McWilliams and Leah Muench qualified for the National History Day State Contest this spring.

Their documentary of Marie Curie qualified for the State Contest, which was held May 1-5. The 2020 National History Day theme is "Breaking Barriers in History."

Leah and Kate's documentary was applauded by judges at the La Crosse Regional, which was held virtually in April.

More than 16,000 students throughout Wisconsin present their ideas



Andrew Haas photo

Lancaster Middle School's Leah Muench (left) and Kate McWilliams advanced to the National History Day State Contest thanks to a documentary of Marie Curie.

on the national theme through a variety of mediums including documen-

taries, exhibits, papers, performances and websites.

Lolwing earns WHFSA Distinctive Performance honor

The Wisconsin High School Forensic Association (WHFSA) held an optional virtual contest this spring for forensics students competing in an individual category.

Lancaster High School students Paige Lolwing and Lydia Mack accepted the challenge. Lolwing's cumulative score of 46 earned her a Distinctive Performance honor.

THANK YOU SENIORS • THANK YOU SENIORS • THANK YOU SENIORS • THANK YOU SENIORS

CHOIR: ISAIAH PLACE • LINDSEY POHLE • CORA REUTER • HALEY TIMMERMAN • JACKSON UPPENA • JAMES VINCENT • ERIN WALKER • ALEXA WEBER

CHOIR: BROOKLYN CONNELLY • TRON COVINGTON • MORGAN DEBUHR • AUSTIN HAAS • KYLIE HALE • WESTLEY HOFFMAN • GRACIE KLEIN • AARON MURPHY



WE ♥ OUR
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