

**The following students have been named finalists for the Park Scholarships Class of 2027:**

**Military Overseas- Ian Patrick O'Connor**, son of Cormac and Jennifer O'Connor, stationed in Naples, Italy with the U.S. Navy (FPO, AE.) Ian will graduate from Naples American High School where he is the Executive Secretary of the Student Council Association, the Junior Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 007 and a lector in the local Good Samaritan Catholic Community. He is an Eagle Scout, volunteers through the Order of the Arrow (Scouting's national honor society) and also volunteers as a tutor through the National Honor Society's focus seminars. Ian plans to major in engineering.

#### **CONNECTICUT**

**Hartford- Rodrigo Roberto Caballero**, son of Rodrigo and Jennifer Caballero, Glastonbury, Connecticut. Rodrigo will graduate from Glastonbury High School where he is the president of the Rocketry Club and is involved in the Science Bowl team. He is also a volunteer firefighter/EMT with the Manchester Fire Department 8th Utilities District and a Senior Fire Cadet with the Glastonbury Fire Department. Rodrigo plans to major in mechanical engineering.

#### **DELAWARE**

**Kent- Brenna Diane Geidel**, daughter of Jon and Tammy Geidel, Camden, Delaware. Brenna will graduate from Caesar Rodney High School where she is president of the Arabic Club, president of Tri-M Music Honor Society and a varsity athlete. She is also a state officer for 4-H, is an accomplished Irish dancer and is active in her local agricultural community. Brenna plans to major in mechanical engineering.

#### **FLORIDA**

**Miami-Dade- Florian Chevalier**, son of Anita and Vincent Chevalier, Miami, Florida. Florian will graduate from Coral Gables Senior High School where he is president of the French Honor Society, vice-president of the engineer club and vice president of the Math Club. He also volunteers as a math tutor, is captain of his soccer team and excels academically, receiving his school's prestigious Gold Scholar Award. Florian plans to major in mechanical engineering.

**Palm Beach- Hang Stacy Pham**, daughter of Cathi Phan and Johnny Pham, Boynton Beach, Florida. Hang will graduate from Atlantic Community High School where she is the co-founding president of Chess Club, president of Mu Alpha Theta, a Math National Honor Society, and the vice president of Science National Honor Society. She also has been a volunteer at Baptist Health Bethesda Hospital and the community outreach coordinator at Environmental Consulting Group. Hang plans to major in chemical engineering.

**Palm Beach- Lexa McDermott**, daughter of Gina and Sean McDermott, Boca Raton, Florida. Lexa will graduate from American Heritage School where she is a HOSA vice president of Health Profession and Leadership events, Book Club president, and Science National Honor Society Secretary and ICC Representative. She won second place in the HOSA-Future Health Professionals 2022 International Leadership Conference in the veterinary science category, is a National Merit Semifinalist and a ballet dancer at Boca Ballet Theatre. Lexa intends to major in animal science.

## **GEORGIA**

**Bryan- Julia Elizabeth Murphy**, daughter of Tony and Amy Murphy, Richmond Hill, Georgia. Julia will graduate from Richmond Hill High School where she is vice president of BETA Club, vice president of National Honors Society and a member of the Interact Club. She was awarded Richmond Hill High School's Work-Based Learning Student of the Year for 2021-2022, Richmond Hill Exchange Club's Student of the Month for October 2022 and attended the Governor's Honors Program for Communicative Arts. She plans to major in elementary education.

**Columbia- Simon Luke Toney**, son of Dr. Brian and Amy Toney, Evans, Georgia. Simon will graduate from Greenbrier High School where he serves as president of the Model United Nations Club, founding captain of the Science Olympiad Team, Marching Band Captain and has been voted "Most Likely to Save the World." As a top Georgia musician, he has participated in Georgia All-State band, orchestra, and chorus and the Governor's Honor Program, all while staying involved in the Children's Ministry at his church by leading worship and recreation for preschoolers. Simon plans to major in mechanical engineering.

**Forsyth- Grace Leitner**, daughter of Christina and Jon Leitner, Cumming, Georgia. Grace will graduate from Forsyth Central High School where she is co-founder of the Debate team, co-president of Central's HOSA chapter, and a varsity athlete. She also organizes Forsyth Central's blood drives, is an AP Scholar with Distinction and received the Optimist Club Youth of the Month, December 2022 award for her leadership, innovation and mentorship within the non-profit Mentor Me North Georgia. Grace plans to major in biomedical engineering.

## **KENTUCKY**

**Fayette- Kara Grace Bracken**, daughter of Paul and Jeannette Bracken, Lexington, Kentucky. Kara will graduate from Paul Laurence Dunbar High School where she is president of French Honor Society, a speech team mentor and president of Medical Society. She has organized donation drives for Arbor Youth Services, conducted research at the University of Kentucky's Department of Horticulture and attended the Kentucky Governor's Scholars Program. Kara plans to major in biological engineering.

## **MASSACHUSETTS**

**Norfolk- Abigail Alice Martin**, daughter of Joshua and Lorna Martin, Canton, Massachusetts. Abigail will graduate from Canton High School where she is a chief editor of the school's yearbook, editor-in-chief of Spectrum, the school newspaper, and officer of Mu Alpha Theta, a Math Honor Society. She also owns and operates This Teen Travels Clothing Resale, volunteers for The MANNNA Project and The Letter Project, and was an intern for the Greening Youth Foundation in collaboration with the National Park Service. Abigail plans to major in business administration and entrepreneurship.

## **MARYLAND**

**Anne Arundel- Jasmin Azan**, daughter of Barbara Azan, Laurel, Maryland. Jasmin will graduate from Chesapeake Science Point Charter School where she is the president of the Science National Honor Society, a National Honor Society member, Volleyball MVP and Heisman High School Winner. She is a Girl Scout Ambassador and is completing her Girl Scout Gold Award, which focuses on exposing minorities to STEM. She volunteers for the Maryland Science Center and San Antonio Math Include (SaMi). Jasmin completed a Transfer Studies Associate's Degree during her junior year and plans to complete a second Associate's Degree in Information Assurance and Cybersecurity before graduating high school. She was selected to work for the federal government as a computer aide in a high school work study apprenticeship program. Jasmin plans to study computer science.

**Frederick- Diya Jha**, daughter of Kusum Jha and Ashish Pandit, Frederick, Maryland. Diya will graduate from Governor Thomas Johnson High School where she is the president of Math Honor Society, and also president of National Honor Society and vice president of Student Government Association. She is one of 12 high school students selected across the United States as a Bezos scholar to implement a community change project in her community. She won the highest honor in community service through the Girl Scouts, the Gold Award, and is a three season varsity athlete who plays golf, tennis and swim, and is a winner of Triple Impact Scholarship for her leadership and excellence in academics while playing sports. Diya plans to major in Computer Science.

**St. Mary's- Manasa Iswara**, daughter of Usha and Narasimham Iswara, California, Maryland. Manasa serves as the St. Mary's County Public Schools Student Member of the Board of Education, and she will graduate from Leonardtown High School where she is the Student Government Association president and the Spanish Honor Society president. She has also been volunteering with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society since 2019, winning the 2021 title of Maryland Students of the Year by raising the most funds in the state for blood cancer research as one of two leaders of Team Fly4ACure, and she serves her school and community as Senior Class president and as National Honor Society vice president of Leonardtown High School. Manasa plans to major in chemical engineering with a biomolecular focus.

## **MICHIGAN**

**Oakland- Hannah Lynn Olzak**, daughter of David and Joelle Olzak, Commerce, Michigan. Hannah will graduate from International Academy where she is an elected class officer in student government, leader of National Math Honors Society and captain of the Milford (MI) High School varsity dance team. She also founded and led an after school tutoring program for community elementary students, assisted in lab research at the University of Michigan, is an IB diploma candidate and is a recipient of the Tulane Book Award. Hannah plans to major in microbiology with a pre-medicine track.

## **MISSOURI**

**St. Louis- Sophia Saleeby**, daughter of John and Patricia Saleeby, St. Louis, Missouri. Sophia will graduate from Ladue Horton Watkins High School where she is president of Spanish Honor Society, founder and president of Culture Corner Club, and president of Club Neuro. She is a proud Girl Scout where she has earned her Girl Scout Gold Award for developing and implementing a spelling curriculum for underserved students. She is an AP Scholar with Distinction and will be honored with the MO Seal of Biliteracy in English and Spanish on her diploma. Sophia plans to major in Biology on the pre-medicine track.

## **MONTANA**

**Park- Athalia Rosalind Windham**, daughter of Wyeth Windham, Livingston, Montana. Athalia will graduate from Park High School where she participates in the Student Council, Green Initiative and National Honors Society. She holds the positions of president, communications director and member. She has received the PEO local scholarship and the local Masonic lodge scholarship, and won the rebranding design competition for the Park High Booster Club. Athalia plans to major in material sciences and textile engineering.

## **NORTH CAROLINA**

**Bladen- Cathleen Ann DeVane**, daughter of Clay and Toni DeVane, Elizabethtown, North Carolina. Cathleen will graduate from the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics where she is president of the American Sign Language Club, president of the NCSSM Senior Beta Club and the co-captain of the Martial Arts Club. She is a tutor in mathematics and language arts for middle and elementary school students, enjoys crocheting gifts for local cancer patients, and volunteers with her school's Student Environmental Education Coalition (SEEC) chapter. Cathleen plans to major in biomedical engineering.

**Buncombe- Mikyla Bethany Ruhland**, daughter of Craig and Jessica Ruhland, Asheville, North Carolina. Mikyla will graduate from Asheville High School where she is the founder and president of the Girls Who Code Club, Service Chair of the National Honor Society and a Student Leader for SASH (Student Advocates for Sexual Health Services). She is also captain of the Asheville High School Track and Field Team, a member of the Speech and Debate Team, and a member of the National Art Honor Society. Mikyla plans to major in computer science.

**Buncombe- Sydney Selmensberger**, daughter of Jim and Susie Selmensberger, Asheville, North Carolina. Sydney will graduate from Martin L. Nesbitt, Jr. Discovery Academy where she is president of the National Honor Society, build leader for Science Olympiad and a captain of the T.C. Roberson varsity tennis team. She also founded the Volunteer Organization for Youth, a group that encourages student volunteering and has been named a National Merit Semi-Finalist. Sydney plans to major in electrical engineering.

**Burke- Zachary William Heile**, son of Beth and Eric Heile of Valdese, North Carolina. Zachary will graduate from Jimmy C. Draughn High School, the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics, Western Piedmont Community College, and Central Piedmont Community College. Zachary serves as a Board Member and Media Specialist for Friends of the Valdese Rec, Publicity Officer for the Burke Youth Organized Philanthropists and is a member of the AutoCAD Council. He also has served as a House Page, Senate Page and Governor's Page, has been Percussion Captain for Draughn High School, and developed the Valdese Lakeside Park Interactive App. Zachary plans to double major in mathematics and computer science.

**Cabarrus- Kyla Jasmine Griffin**, daughter of Kevin and Angelle Griffin, Concord, North Carolina. Kyla will graduate from Cox Mill High School where she is a member of the National Honor Society, the National Technical Honor Society and was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa at her local community college. She volunteers at her church, recently formed a veterans' book club for her project as a member of the Department of Veterans Affairs National Student Leadership Council, and she played a lead role in the creation of Concord, NC's first Girls in STEM Conference. Kyla plans to major in computer science.

**Cabarrus- Simran Nijhawan Arora**, daughter of Vikas and Geetu Arora, Harrisburg, North Carolina. Simran will graduate Hickory Ridge High School where she is the secretary of HOSA (Future Health Professionals), vice president of Beta Club and a class representative for Student Council. She is a volunteer at the Discovery Place Science Museum, co-chair of Harrisburg's Youth Council and attended NC Governor's School for natural science. Simran plans to major in human biology or biomedical engineering.

**Cabarrus- Jackson Gray Smith**, son of Christopher and Kirsty Smith, Concord, North Carolina. Jackson will graduate from Mount Pleasant High School where he is the student body president, varsity soccer captain and Dream on 3 Lead student ambassador. He has volunteered with Meals on Wheels, the Coltrane Life Center and worked as assistant middle school soccer coach. Jackson plans to major in biochemistry.

**Catawba- Jon James Carter**, son of Coleen Carter, Maiden, North Carolina. Jon will graduate from Maiden High School where he is captain of the Quiz Bowl Team, a Lenoir-Rhyne University high school scholar and Senior Class Representative. He is also a National Merit Commended Scholar, a Shift Leader at Chick-fil-A Lincolnton and an attorney with Catawba County Teen Court. Jon plans to double major in accounting and economics.

**Cherokee- Harper Jeffrey Martin**, son of Jeff and Lori Martin, Murphy, North Carolina. Harper will graduate from Murphy High School where he is Senior Class president, National Beta Club president and has received the DAR Good Citizen Award. He also has been part of the North Carolina Governor's Page Program, a representative in the Cherokee Culture Exchange Program, and a mentor through Big Brothers Big Sisters. Harper plans to major in computer engineering.

**Durham- Ella Ann Simmons**, Durham, North Carolina. Ella will graduate from Durham Academy Upper School where she is a captain on the FIRST Robotics Competition team and a student leader on the Science Olympiad team. Ella plans to major in Mechanical Engineering.

**Durham- Rafia Ansari**, daughter of Arif and Faiza Ansari, Durham, North Carolina. Rafia will graduate from Charles E. Jordan High School where she is president of the Dear Asian Youth chapter, a co-chair for her School Improvement Committee for the National Honor Society, and a Hank and Billye Suber Aaron Young Research Scholar. She has been a volunteer teacher at Pearsontown Elementary School, a volunteer at Durham County South Regional Library, and is an AP Seminar Research certificate recipient. Rafia plans to major in education.

**Forsyth- Anna Reece McPherson**, daughter of Ed and Holly McPherson, Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Anna will graduate from Calvary Day School where she is president of the Youth and Government delegation, president of the Ethics team, and team captain of the varsity cross country team. She is the first author of a research manuscript that will be published in February 2023, has served as a National Youth Advocate for Y-USA, and founded one of the first female Scouts BSA troops in the US, becoming the first female Eagle Scout in North Carolina. Anna plans to major in Biological Sciences with a concentration in Human Biology.

**Forsyth- Ella-Brooke Morgan**, daughter of Mike and Kerry Morgan, Clemmons, North Carolina. Ella-Brooke will graduate from West Forsyth High School where she is the president of Speech and Debate and Key Club, a junior marshal, an honorary member of the districtwide Superintendent's Student Advisory Council, and the co-editor-in-chief of her school's newspaper. She is the founder and executive director of virtual and in-person Tutoring and Peer Guides Program (founded in 2020). Her work earned her a Gold President's Volunteer Service Award and Governor's Medallion Award. She is a freelance reporter and a proud North Carolina Governor's School alumna, having served as Lead Editor of the Publications Team. Ella-Brooke plans to major in English with a concentration in rhetoric and professional writing.

**Forsyth- Isabella Pan**, daughter of Karen and Peter Pan, Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Isabella will graduate from Reynolds High School as a senior. She attended Early College of Forsyth High School from her freshman to junior year where she served as founder and president of the Film Club, founded the Homeless Water Bottle Initiative and served as an Ambassador for Mental Health Awareness for teens. She is a USEF National Final equestrian who has been a passionate volunteer equestrian camp counselor, a dedicated hospital volunteer working with patients undergoing chemotherapy, and an avid advocate for diversity, equity and inclusion in the equestrian industry and sport. Isabella plans to major in biomedical engineering.

**Franklin- Lance Edward Williams**, son of Robin and Debbie Williams, Zebulon, North Carolina. Lance will graduate from Bunn High School where he is Senior Class president, BETA Club president and Drum Major for the Marching Wildcats. He also serves as an NC 4-H State Officer, Franklin County 4-H Summer Intern and sits on the Franklin County Extension Leadership Advisory Council. Lance plans to major in agricultural business management.

**Greene- Maxwell Brent Andrews**, son of Susan Andrews, Snow Hill, North Carolina. Maxwell will graduate from Arendell Parrott Academy where he is a four-time class president and presidential service scholar and a member of the Cum Laude Society. He is also an Eagle Scout and a teen ambassador for the Ronald McDonald House of Eastern North Carolina. Maxwell plans to major in computer science.

**Guilford- Caroline Vance Boger**, daughter of Brian and Alisha Boger, High Point, North Carolina. Caroline will graduate from High Point Central High School where she is president of her senior class, president of the Interact Club, and the captain of the girls varsity tennis team. She is a member of National Honors Society, a Breakfast Buddy at Northwood Elementary School and a recipient of the Global Seal of Biliteracy after a month-long study abroad experience in Spain. Caroline plans to major in psychology and double minor in education and spanish.

**Guilford- Hannah Sawulski**, daughter of Carrie and Mark Sawulski, Greensboro, North Carolina. Hannah will graduate from Weaver Academy for Performing and Visual Arts where she is co-president of the National Honor Society for Dance Arts and vice president of the National Honor Society. She also peer tutors, volunteers with Family Support Network of Central Carolina and has volunteered with dance classes for individuals with disabilities. Hannah plans to major in education.

**Guilford- Roma Desai**, daughter of Yogeeta and Salil Desai, Greensboro, North Carolina. Roma will graduate from the Early College at Guilford where she is founder and president of the Data Analytics and Cybersecurity Club, and vice president of National History Day Club. She also leads programs with AAUW Greensboro to empower women in STEM/IT, is a National Winner of the NCWIT Aspirations in Computing Award, and has placed 1st at the HOSA International Leadership Conference for Medical Innovation. Roma plans to major in engineering.



**Guilford- Anika Suman**, daughter of Ravindra Kumar and Rashmi Kumari, Greensboro, North Carolina. Anika will graduate from The Early College at Guilford where she is the founder and president of the Code Club, president of the Math Club and a varsity member of the ECG Science Olympiad team. She is the founder and CEO of her own international student-led organization called Project STEMina to empower women in computing, is the Treasurer of the UNCG Jalwa Bollywood-Fusion Dance Team and is a National Congressional App Challenge winner. Anika plans to major in computer science.

**Harnett- Aubrey Morgan O'Quinn**, daughter of Wayne and Lisa O'Quinn, Lillington, North Carolina. Aubrey will graduate from Western Harnett High School where she serves as senior class president and president of the Western Harnett FFA chapter. Aubrey also serves as the president of the South Central Region FFA. She won first place in the state FFA Prepared Public Speaking competition, allowing her to compete nationally. She volunteers at Central Carolina Hospital in Sanford and the Western Harnett Overhills Area PTO Thrift Store. Aubrey plans to major in biology.

**Harnett- Eric Flores-Juan**, son of Eleuterio Flores-Santos and Martina Juan Morales, Angier, North Carolina. Eric will graduate from Harnett Central High School where he is the Senior Class president, captain of the men's varsity soccer team and a TRiO Upward Bound Student Ambassador. He has received CollegeBoard National Hispanic Recognition, and interned at Harnett County School's Department of Digital Teaching and Learning over the summer. Eric plans to major in mechanical engineering.

**Iredell- Elleigh Ann Williams**, daughter of Todd and Natalie Williams, Olin, North Carolina. Elleigh will graduate from North Iredell High School where she is co-captain and state tournament qualifier of the NIHS girls' tennis team, center fielder for the NIHS softball team and a three-year student council officer. She also created, coached and served as a Unified Partner for the inaugural Iredell County Special Olympics tennis team, serves as a practice assistant and Unified Partner for the Iredell County Special Olympics swim team, and volunteers as a tutor at Friendship United Methodist Church's Central Connect after-school elementary mentoring program. Elleigh plans to major in biology.

**Iredell- Sindhu Gadiraju**, daughter of Venkata and Sridevi Gadiraju, Mooresville, North Carolina. Sindhu will graduate from South Iredell High School where she is the president of the Robotics Club, co-president of the Stock Market Club and the co-founder of STEMed, a free online education platform to promote STEM. She also serves on the Executive Board of her town's Youth Council, has attended Governor's School of North Carolina this past summer for mathematics, and leads monthly STEM workshops at the local library as part of FIRST Robotics Team FUSE. Sindhu plans to major in computer science.

**Iredell- Gabriel Decampo Bonomo**, son of Walter and Lili Bonomo, Mooresville, North Carolina. Gabriel will graduate from South Iredell High School where he is the president of Beta Club, National Honor Society and captain of the soccer team. He has been a volunteer at the Charles Mack Citizen Center and has received the Congressional Award for completing 400 hours of service activities. Gabriel plans to major in Aerospace Engineering.

**Johnston- Amelia Lynn Linton**, daughter of Anita and Ron Linton, Clayton, North Carolina. Amelia will graduate from the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics where she is a chemistry teaching assistant, Academic Support Liaison for Student Government, and co-director of Sisters for STEM, a club that pairs NCSSM students with Brogden Middle girls to teach experimental-based STEM lessons. She has also completed environmental chemistry research on lead and copper removal from wastewater and is a captain of the Ocean Science Bowl and co-teacher of the Ocean Science forum. Amelia plans to major in chemical engineering.

**Lincoln- Carly Anna Correll**, daughter of Michelle Love, Denver, North Carolina. Carly will graduate from North Lincoln High School. She is a two-time All-State NCHSAA discus thrower, a member of the City of Lincolnton Student Advisory Council, and the vice president and co-founder of the Stand Firm Warrior Foundation. Carly plans to major in business administration on a pre-law track.

**Lincoln- Virginia Lynn Overbay**, daughter of Adam and Amy Overbay, Stanley, North Carolina. Virginia will graduate from East Lincoln High School where she is president of the Student Government Association, vice president of Mu Alpha Theta, Math Honor Society and Student Chair of the PTSO. She is a volunteer building site leader for the United Methodist Friends organization, serves as a captain of her varsity basketball and soccer teams, and was selected for the 2022 FBI Teen Academy. Virginia plans to major in applied mathematics with a minor in forensic science.

**Mecklenburg- Aaron Steele Logan**, son of Thomas and Lourdes Logan, Charlotte, North Carolina. Aaron will graduate from Charlotte Latin School where he is a board member of the Student Admissions Council, a past co-chair of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS) Junior Leadership Team, and co-captain of the varsity football team. He also assembled and led a team to raise over \$110,000 for blood cancer research during the 2021 LLS Student of the Year Campaign, is the recipient of the University of Rochester George Eastman Young Leaders Award, and is a 2022-2023 College Board National African American and Hispanic Recognition Program Scholar.

**Mecklenburg- Arya Gupta**, daughter of Preeti and Rajiv Gupta, Charlotte, North Carolina. Arya will graduate from Ardrey Kell High School where she is president of the Math Club, president of the Females for Finance Club and is a discus thrower on the varsity track and field team. She also works with her organization BMC Prep to deliver fun and equitable math education to hundreds of students, co-wrote the AKML National Math Competition and is passionate about health equity and PolyCystic Ovarian Syndrome research. Arya plans to major in mathematics and education.

**Mecklenburg- Calvin Rattanak Duong**, son of Sam Duong and Rath Prim, Charlotte, North Carolina. Calvin will graduate from Charlotte Engineering Early College where he is president of the Charlotte Early Colleges Ambassador Program and team lead of the winning Icebreaker Senior Expo Project. He also serves as an interpreter for his local Cambodian refugee community and represents the local student voice as president of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Youth Council. Calvin plans to major in computer engineering.

**Mecklenburg- John (Jack) William Bolton III**, son of John and Holly Bolton, Davidson, North Carolina. Jack will graduate from William Amos Hough High School where he is Fundraising Chairman of the Make-A-Wish Club, Peer Tutor with Honors Teachers Cadet and Tournament Coordinator for the Disc Golf Club. He also serves on the Sponsorship Committee of the Make-A-Wish Youth Leadership Council, led 120 scouts in Boy Scout Troop 58 after being elected Senior Patrol Leader and is an Eagle Scout. Jack plans to major in industrial engineering.

**Mecklenburg- Marian Jay Dakiwas**, daughter of Letty and Mariano Dakiwas, Charlotte, NC. Marian Jay will graduate from Garinger High school where she is Battalion Commander of JROTC, a National Honor Society member, and a Junior Marshall. She also has been an active volunteer for veterans at her local Veterans of Foreign Wars post, excelled in cross country and track, and won the District Academic Award in Junior Reserves Officer Training Corps. Marian Jay plans to major in biomedical engineering.

**Mecklenburg- Michael Richard Hill**, son of Jason and Janine Hill, Pineville, North Carolina. Michael will graduate from South Mecklenburg High School where he served as the president of Beta Club, the vice-president of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee and a captain of the men's outdoor track and field team. He also spends his time out of school volunteering with Scouts BSA Troop 7, where he earned his Eagle Scout. Michael plans to double major in statistics and economics.

**Mecklenburg- Jalen Franklin**, son of Brian Franklin and Rogina Scott-Franklin, Charlotte, North Carolina. Jalen will graduate from Myers Park High School where he co-leads the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Youth Health Advisory Board, serves as a conference planning committee member for the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs, and is the teen president of the South Charlotte Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc. He also volunteers at Atrium Health Carolinas Medical Center, is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and is a College Board National Recognition Program Scholar. Jalen plans to major in biology.

**Mecklenburg- Jacqueline Uyen Dinh**, daughter of Cuong Dinh and Dan Phan, Charlotte, North Carolina. Jacqueline will graduate from Olympic High School as salutatorian where she is the secretary of Mu Alpha Theta, a math honor society and a member of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Youth Council. She is also a social justice community organizer and advocate for the Charlotte immigrant community, providing free services to help immigrants navigate the school system and obtain citizenship. Jacqueline plans to major in human biology.

**Nash- Morgan Grace Dawkins**, daughter of John and Tokie Dawkins, Rocky Mount, North Carolina. Morgan will graduate from Nash Rocky Mount Early College High School where she is the secretary of the Rocky Mount Area Youth Council and council member of the State Youth Council. She also participated in Nash Community College STEM Outreach program to create STEM kits for the local youth. Morgan plans to major in civil engineering.

**New Hanover- Ava Sauer**, daughter of Mary and Markus Sauer, Wilmington, North Carolina. Ava will graduate from Hoggard High School where she is the founder and president of Youth Climate Action Coalition, co-president of Girls Learn International and co-president of HOSA. She is also a research intern with the Plastic Ocean Project, a delegate to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women and a volunteer ambassador of New Hanover Regional Medical Center. Ava plans to major in environmental science.

**Onslow- Cole Douglas Armstrong**, son of Rob and Amy Armstrong, Swansboro, North Carolina. Cole will graduate from Swansboro High School where he is student body president of the Student Council Association, vice president of HOSA and a leader of Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He has been an active member of the National Honor Society, Rho Kappa Honor Society and Unified Sports. Cole plans to major in nuclear engineering.

**Onslow- Khang Manh Pham**, son of Hoanh Pham and Chi Nguyen, Jacksonville, North Carolina. Khang will graduate from Northside High School where he is president and captain of Science Olympiad, vice president of Mu Alpha Theta and vice president of Science National Honor Society. He has been a Science Olympiad State finalist twice, national competitor for Junior Science and Humanities Symposium, and AP Scholar with Honors and Distinction. Khang plans on majoring in engineering

**Orange- Margaret Hales**, daughter of Shannon and Derek Hales, Hillsborough, North Carolina. Maggie will graduate from Orange High School where she is the president of Interact Club, and a captain of the varsity track and cross country teams. She tutors elementary school students in math and organizes Adopt-A-Highway events at school. Maggie plans to major in chemical engineering.

**Orange- Sophia Elisabeth Fratta**, daughter of Ana Carina Cruz and Timothy Fratta, Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Sophia will graduate from her homeschool and from the North Carolina School of Science and Math (online). She enjoys writing, painting and research within the realm of biology, for which she has been awarded a national gold medal in flash fiction from the Scholastic Arts and Writing Awards, first place in the 41st Annual Congressional Art Competition and the title of Borlaug Delegate at the World Food Prize's 2022 Global Youth Institute. She is vice president of the student club at her art studio, Champion Education, and has helped raise over \$9,000 for the WCPE Education Fund and the United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County. Sophia currently volunteers as a grant writer at El Centro Hispano. She plans to major in plant biology.

**Pender- Madison Paige Brewington**, daughter of Christopher and Joni Howell, Burgaw, North Carolina. Madison will graduate from Pender Early College High School where she is vice president of scholarship in Phi Theta Kappa, a Honors Society at Cape Fear Community College, was selected as a Junior Marshall and has been on the Prom Committee Club for two years as an event planner/organizer. She has received A-Honor-Roll throughout all four years of high school, has been on the President's List at both Robeson and Cape Fear Community College for the past three years, and was also a student tutor for all subjects at both the middle school and high school. Madison plans to major in atmospheric science and/or environmental science.

**Pitt- David Taeha Yoon**, son of Intae Yoon and Soonhwa Oh, Greenville, North Carolina. David will graduate from D.H. Conley High School where he is the vice president of his local Future Business Leaders of America Chapter (FBLA), varsity team captain of Science Olympiad, and the NC FBLA State president. He also is the founder and executive director of his own umbrella organization, Plastic Free NC, an EarthEcho International Youth Leadership Council Member, and has been awarded the 2022 George H.W. Bush Daily Point of Light Award. David plans to major in environmental science, economics or political science.

**Pitt- Jaehee Yoon**, son of Miryung Choi and Neil Yoon, Greenville, North Carolina. Jae will graduate from D.H. Conley High School where he is the team captain of the men's varsity golf team, vice president of Charitable Events for Health Occupational Students of America, and the Student Body Representative for the Student Services Advisory Council. He also has been a leader for the nonprofit organization called Love A Sea Turtle for the past eight years, served as the North Carolina Representative for Project Green Schools and founded his own outdoor golf camp for the underrepresented. Jaehee plans to major in business administration with a concentration in finance.

**Pitt- Kinsley Tate White**, daughter of Eddie and Melanie White, Greenville, North Carolina. Kinsley Tate will graduate from Junius H. Rose High School where she founded the Virtual Peer Tutoring Center, is dual enrolled at the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics and serves as president and founder of GIV (Getting Involved by Volunteering) along with multiple honor societies and organizations. She also has her private pilot license, leads a music program at Third Street Education Center, and serves at Unity Church as a Youth Team Intern along with leading the Youth Praise and Worship Team. Kinsley Tate plans to double major in business administration and psychology with a minor in biology.

**Pitt- Landon Elks**, son of Ashley and Kami Elks, Greenville, North Carolina. Landon will graduate from D.H. Conley High School where he is Student Body president, founder and president of the Outdoor Stewards Club, and president of the DECA Marketing Club. He was also awarded Viking Student of the Year and is a volunteer at the Third Street Education Center where he has given many students the opportunity to go fishing. Landon plans to major in business management.

**Pitt- Kyle Morrison Thomson**, son of Keith and Deborah Thomson, Winterville, North Carolina. Kyle will graduate from South Central High School where he is captain of the Pitt Pirates Robotics Team. He also attended Summer Ventures in Science and Mathematics at UNC-Wilmington. Kyle plans to major in Computer Science.

**Randolph- Kearns Allen Trotter**, son of Marty and Tina Trotter, Asheboro, North Carolina. Kearns will graduate from Southwestern Randolph High School where he is Student Body president, Beta Club class representative and captain of the varsity basketball team. He has been actively involved in service to his community and participates in yearly mission trips through his church, has maintained number one ranking in his class since entering high school and has received county recognition as the male recipient of his school's Sportsmanship Award. Kearns plans to major in business administration.

**Robeson- Kamryn Elizabeth McInnis**, daughter of Elizabeth McInnis, granddaughter of Billy and Barbara McInnis, Red Springs, North Carolina. Kamryn will graduate from Lumberton Senior High School where she is president of the Lumberton FFA Chapter, president of National Honors Society and parliamentarian of Student Government Association. She was elected vice president of the Lumberton Junioresettes, a women's service club, and is heavily involved with her community through service projects coordinated with the Lumberton FFA and the Department of Social Services. While serving as president of FFA, her chapter was awarded the 2022 Premier Chapter - Building Communities National FFA Award. Kamryn plans to major in agricultural science.

**Rockingham- Rida Tariq**, daughter of Muhammad Mahmood and Sajida Tariq, Eden, North Carolina. Rida will graduate from Morehead High School where she is president of the National Honor Society, the secretary of the National Technical Honor Society, a captain of the Robotics team and has been voted "Most Likely to Become President". She has volunteered her summers at the local hospital and has placed first in the district science fair. Rida plans to major in biology.

**Rutherford- Kinsley Paxton King**, daughter of Don and Angie King, Forest City, North Carolina. Kinsley will graduate from CHASE High School where she is Student Body president, yearbook editor, and senior captain of her volleyball and basketball teams. She has led the "Trojan Tradition" initiative in her community by establishing and organizing her high school's first ever homecoming parade and headed the Trojan Helmet Project. Kinsley aids her community through her volunteer work as a youth volleyball and basketball coach, while also contributing to the Backpack Program by preparing food bags for students within her county who face food insecurity. Kinsley plans to major in biological sciences with a concentration in integrative physiology and neurobiology.

**Sampson- Josephine (Josie) Helen Blackman**, daughter of Lynn and Tonya Blackman, Clinton, North Carolina. Josie will graduate from Hobbton High School where she is president of the Beta Club, a section leader of the marching band, and a member of the varsity women's soccer team. She also is the founder of a virtual online tutoring service, "School Buddy," an active participant in Backpack Buddies, and an acolyte and occasional musician for her church, Keener Methodist. Josie plans to major in political science.

**Stokes- Raygan Lee Hawkins**, daughter of Doug and Gwen Hawkins, Sandy Ridge, North Carolina. Raygan will graduate from North Stokes High School where she is president of the Beta and Students Against Destructive Decisions Club. She is also vice president of the Student Government Association. She created the first mental health organization in her county, "Be Kind 2 Your Mind." She also played a major part in creating "My Friend's Closet" at her high school. Raygan is a dancer at Dance Unveiled and has been on the competition team for nine years. Raygan plans to major in human biology.

**Union- Siya Jeetendra Desale**, daughter of Jyoti and Jeetendra Desale, Matthews, North Carolina. Siya will graduate from Weddington High School where she is the president of Science Olympiad, co-president of Weddington Girls in Charlotte, and secretary of the Engineering and Robotics Club. She also spearheads tree maintenance and deforestation initiatives, placed third on an all-girls robotics team at the UCPS Spring Robotics Competition in 2022, and will graduate from high school with an Associates in Science from South Piedmont Community College. Siya plans to major in computer engineering.

**Union- Seher Bhaskar**, daughter of Saurabh and Shruti Bhaskar, Waxhaw, North Carolina. Seher will graduate from Marvin Ridge High School, where she is finance manager of FIRST Robotics Team 3506 YETI, and a member of National Honor Society and varsity Science Olympiad. She also mentors an all-girls FIRST Lego League Team, the BeeBots, and won the Catalyst Award at Summer Ventures 2022 at East Carolina University. Seher plans to major in computer science.

**Vance- Tochukwu Michael Aniekwensi**, son of Francis and Uzoamaka Aniekwensi, Henderson, North Carolina. Tochukwu will graduate from the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics where he is a junior national ambassador for the National Society of Black Engineers, serves as an AP Chemistry teaching assistant, and is the founder of a fitness club. He also conducts research in Applied Mathematics and tutors students in Physics and Mathematics. Tochukwu plans to major in chemical engineering.



**Wake- Alexis Waynlove Chan**, daughter of Stephen and Catherine Chan, Holly Springs, North Carolina. Alexis will graduate from Holly Springs High School where she is president of the Science Honor Society, HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) and two-year captain of the varsity tennis team. She also co-founded the Knitwits Club which donates its knitted and crocheted hats, scarves, sleeping mats and baby blankets to local homeless shelters and hospitals, initiated a mentoring program to help rising freshmen and underclassmen adjust to high school, and received the Governor's School of North Carolina with Distinction Award for Mathematics. Alexis plans to major in computer science.

**Wake- Arjun Karthik Pandiarajan**, son of Vijay and Vaidehi Pandiarajan, Cary, North Carolina. Arjun will graduate from Green Level High School where he is a member of the National Honor Society, Senior Patrol Leader of BSA Troop 200 and the founder and captain of RoboGearheads, a two-time State Champion VEX Robotics team. He also founded Hike4Justice, a non-profit that helps BIPOC communities belong in outdoor high adventure. Arjun organizes and teaches robotics summer camps at the Durham Teen Center and he is an Eagle Scout. Arjun plans to major in environmental engineering.

**Wake- Aurea Shanthini Michael**, daughter of Andrew and Sangeetha Michael, Apex, North Carolina. Aurea will graduate from Apex Friendship High School where she is the founding president of the Neuroscience Club, former president of the Speech and Debate Team and co-captain of the Science Olympiad Team. She also founded the charity organization SOUL (Serving Others, Uplifting Lives), raises funds for the Alzheimer's Association and local impoverished communities, is the valedictorian of her high school, and was recently invited to perform piano at Carnegie Hall in New York City after winning third place in the American Protégé International Competition. Aurea plans to major in biomedical engineering.

**Wake- Cordelia Nhi Marie McKelvy**, daughter of Dr. and Mr. Josephine McKelvy, Raleigh, North Carolina. Cordelia will graduate from Wake STEM Early College High School where she has served as the Student Council Executive president, a tutor for the After School Assistance Program, and has received the "Recognition of Service Award" from her school's chapter of the National Honor Society. She is currently chair of the Raleigh Youth Council and volunteers with Poder NC Action and You Can Vote. Cordelia plans to major in biomedical engineering.

**Wake- Erin Patricia Monteith**, daughter of Mike and Tricia Monteith, Raleigh, North Carolina. Erin will graduate from Millbrook Magnet High School where she is co-president of the Science National Honors Society, a four-year varsity soccer player and a three-year volunteer chemistry tutor. She also has been an active member of student government since freshman year and was awarded the AP Scholar award by the College Board. Erin plans to major in chemistry.

**Wake- Harvik Kolla**, Son of Satya and Srilatha Kolla, Apex, North Carolina. Harvik will graduate from Triangle Math and Science Academy where he is the president of his school's HOSA chapter, vice president of the school's American Computer Science League club and the former vice captain of his school's varsity tennis team. He founded a community Chess Club to coach over 100 kids, researched the correlation between sleep and obesity at Appalachian State, and coded multiple apps aimed at alleviating symptoms of Autism and Aphasia. Harvik plans to major in computer science.

**Wake- Kareena Sheshadri**, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Vijay and Bethany Sheshadri, Cary, North Carolina. Kareena will graduate from Cary Academy where she is involved in National Honors Society, peer mentoring opportunities for science and math, and has led various environmental efforts such as calculating the carbon footprint of her high school. She also is dedicated to serving those with disabilities through a Down Syndrome achievement center, GiGi's Playhouse, where she is the youth board president, a member of the national committee and has been honored with the GiGi's playhouse Leadership Award. Kareena plans to major in biochemistry.

**Wake- Kavya Sriram**, daughter of Lavanya Ganesh and Sriram Easwaran, Cary, North Carolina. Kavya will graduate from Athens Drive High School where she is co-president of Key Club, a Key Club International Trustee and led schoolwide ESL peer tutoring. She has been a volunteer for El Centro Hispano teaching English classes and promoting educational equity for nearly four years. Kavya plans to major in international business or spanish.

**Wake- Misha Takeo Blais Sanda**, child of Rebecca and Chris Sanda, Cary, North Carolina. Misha will graduate from Green Hope High School where they are president of the True Equality Alliance, head captain of the Science Olympiad team and volunteer mentor at Davis Drive Middle School. They also are a certified yoga instructor from the Republic of Yoga, waitress at their neighborhood pho restaurant and PADI-certified scuba diver. Misha plans to major in economics.

**Wake- Monica Jin**, daughter of Chengying Xu and Li Jin, Cary, North Carolina. Monica will graduate from Apex High School where she is president of Science Olympiad and Math Club. She is an award-winning artist, and a teacher of English and Programming for elementary and middle school students. Monica plans to major in computer science.

**Wake- Razi Wadah Sayyed**, son of Wadah Sayyed and Shereen Rahhal, Raleigh, North Carolina. Razi will graduate from Wake Early College of Health and Sciences where he is Key Club president and MSA Volunteer Coordinator. He has won state and international medals through Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) competitions with his team. He also garnered over 250 hours of service with Al-Aqsa Free Community Clinic in Burlington, NC. Razi plans to major in genetics.

**Wake- Riana Shruti Victoria**, daughter of Flos and Parthiban Mathavan, Cary, North Carolina. Riana will graduate from the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics where she is president of Key Club, an officer of Girls Who Code and a teaching assistant for the mathematics department. She has coached her middle school's Science Olympiad team for the past four years, mentors local underprivileged youth while tutoring them in math and science, and researches new approaches to chronic wound diagnostic biosensors at NC State University. Riana plans to major in computer science.

**Wake- Sohini Das**, daughter of Pranab and Nabanita Das, Morrisville, North Carolina. Sohini will graduate from Raleigh Charter High School, where she is the founder and president of the Biotechnology Club, president of Girls Who Code and president of the American Chemical Society's School Chapter. She has received two Gold Level presidential Volunteer Service Awards from President Biden, established her town's first composting facility and is the STEM director of an international non-profit tutoring organization. Sohini plans to major in computer science and biology.

**Wake- Yasmine Abdel-Rahman**, daughter of Nabil Abdel-Rahman and Elham Idris, Wake Forest, North Carolina. Yasmine will graduate from Heritage High School where she is president of the National English Honor Society and the Muslim Students Association, as well as the co-chair of the advertising committee for Student Government. She has earned her Girl Scouts Gold Award where she adapted books for students with special needs and also volunteers at the Northeast Regional Public Library. Yasmine plans to major in statistics.

**Wake- Melody Lee**, daughter of Yuan-Shin Lee and Ju-Jean Shaw, Cary, North Carolina. Melody Lee will graduate from the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics where she is co-captain of the Computer Science and Machine Learning teams, junior for FIRST Robotics Competition team 8429 Valence Robotics and Editor-in-Chief of the Broad Street Scientific Journal. She also directs OpenBox Programs, a mentorship program in mathematics and computer science for middle school students, is a recipient of the National Center for Women in Informational Technology AspireIT Impact Award, and was awarded the Hum Sub Youth Achievement Award. Melody plans to major in computer science.

**Warren- Maria Isabel Reyes**, daughter of Porfirio and Maria Reyes, Warrenton, North Carolina. Maria will graduate from Warren Early College High School where she is the service coordinator of the Beta Club, co-leader of the Student Cultural Committee and a Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. She also is an active volunteer at her church's fundraiser events, a SAVE club member and has received the "Earning the Green" academic award. Maria plans to major in biomedical engineering.

**Watauga- Kyle Hollars**, son of Caroline and Joshua Hollars, Zionville, North Carolina. Kyle will graduate from Watauga High School where he is the president and captain of FTC Robotics team 5881 Tungsteel and a student leader in Mountain Alliance. He also attended Governor's School West for Spanish, frequently participates in service projects with Mountain Alliance, and is a recipient of the Laurie Oates Service Award. Kyle plans to major in computer science.

**Waxhaw- Aditi Deshpande**, daughter of Aniruddha and Aarti Deshpande, Charlotte, North Carolina. Aditi will graduate from Cuthbertson High School where she is president of the Interact Club, vice president of HOSA and secretary of the Speech and Debate Club. She also is a board member of the Union County Library Foundation and has created a mental health podcast geared toward teenagers. Aditi plans to major in chemistry.

**Wayne- Guillermo Estrada**, son of Michelle and Davy Estrada, Pikeville, North Carolina. Guillermo will graduate from Wayne School of Engineering and has earned his Associate's degree through Wayne Community College. Guillermo is the immediate past president of the North Carolina 4-H program and is an intern for the North Carolina House of Representatives. He also serves on the Wayne Regional Agricultural Fair Junior Board as chairman. Guillermo plans to major in communications.

**Wilson- Ashton Elizabeth Frazier**, daughter of Kerri and Paul Frazier, Bailey, North Carolina. Ashton will graduate from Hunt High School where she is president of Fellowship of Christian Athletes, parliamentarian of National Honor Society and the social media coordinator for the Student Government Association. She also has received the Advanced Placement Scholar Award, has been named to College Board's Rural and Small Town Recognition Program and is number one in her class. Ashton plans to major in either neuroscience or psychology.

**Yadkin- Caden Samuel Funk**, son of Chris and Lynn Funk, Boonville, North Carolina. Caden will graduate from Forbush High School where he is president of his school's DECA chapter, and plays varsity basketball and tennis. He also volunteers at Quaker Lake Camp and attended North Carolina Governor's School over the summer. Caden plans to major in business.

## **NEW JERSEY**

**Camden- Kiran Paige Muttathil**, daughter of Jessy and George Muttathil, Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Kiran will graduate from Cherry Hill High School East where she is vice president of the Cum Laude Society, president and founder of the Women in Sports club and president and founder of Peer Leaders. She has also served two years as class vice president, won several Model UN delegate awards and was named an AP Scholar with Distinction. Kiran plans to major in Economics and International Politics.

**Ocean- Phaedra Lille Salerno**, daughter of Lisa Salerno, Brick, New Jersey. Phaedra will graduate from Brick Township High School where she is the editor-in-chief of both the literary magazine and the yearbook, vice president of tutoring services of the National Honor Society and the communication liaison of the Mayor's Student Advisory Council. She also attended the 2022 New Jersey Governor's School in the Sciences, is the co-founder and vice president of Brick Youth Leadership and is a National Merit Semifinalist. Phaedra plans to major in chemistry.

**Sussex- Leah Elizabeth Reinstein**, daughter of Jodi and Ari Reinstein, Augusta, New Jersey. Leah will graduate from High Point Regional High School where she is a volunteer for her school-run food pantry, recipient of the Princeton Book Award and a senior member of the debate team. She organizes a variety of projects as president of the Environmental Club, has participated in ecological conservation efforts in both Costa Rica and her hometown and is an assistant for classes at her dance studio. Leah plans to major in environmental science and conservation.

## **NEW YORK**

**Erie- Maeve Kathleen Lembke**, daughter of Shannon and Brian Lembke, Amherst, New York. Maeve will graduate from Amherst Central High School where she is captain and treasurer of the varsity cross country team, secretary of Symphony Orchestra and a member of Women for Change. She volunteers at Stitch Buffalo, an organization that empowers refugee women, is an AP Scholar with Distinction and volunteered to sew face masks for Goodwill Industries during the pandemic. Maeve plans to major in textile technology.

**Manhattan- Lia Grace Robertson**, daughter of Gina and Christopher Robertson, New York, New York. Lia will graduate from Eleanor Roosevelt High School where she is co-leader of the Roosevelt Racers, founder of Science Olympiads and is a senior advisor for ninth graders. She has been a volunteer teaching assistant in the social studies department, co-founder of Project You & Me for intergenerational community building and is a lead chef at Meals on Heels in midtown Manhattan. Lia plans to major in civil engineering.

**Nassau- Victoria Antoinette Allen**, daughter of Ronald and Vernesa Allen, Baldwin, New York. Victoria will graduate from Baldwin Senior High School. She is vice president of the Make-A-Wish Club, a member of the Leadership Council and her school chapter of the National Honor Society. She volunteers with her Church youth group, participated in three political and legal internships, and has been awarded the Fredrick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony Award from the University of Rochester due to her commitment to social justice. Victoria plans to major in political science.

## **OHIO**

**Cuyahoga- Varuni Chopra**, daughter of Gaurav and Nidhi Chopra, North Royalton, Ohio. Varuni will graduate from North Royalton High School where she is the president of Red Cross Club, a member of National Honor Society and a member of the District Strategic Planning Team. She is also the founder of Bridge the Gap Initiative, a care rounder at University Hospitals and a Bank of America Student Leader. Varuni plans to major in international business.

## **SOUTH CAROLINA**

**Charleston- Richard Robert Stewart**, son of Janice and Tom Stewart, Mount Pleasant, South Carolina. Richard will graduate from Wando High School where he is a saxophone section leader for three of the school's nationally recognized band ensembles, a member of three school service clubs and an AP scholar with distinction. He is also a Boy Scout with Troop 59 where he earned his Eagle Scout award with two palms after planning, coordinating and completing a total backyard restoration for his town's local VFW. Richard plans to major in computer science.

**Richland- Luther NyJuan Deasha Bells**, son of Luther Bells III and Phillicia June, Blythewood, South Carolina. Luther will graduate from Westwood High School where he is the student body president, varsity wrestling captain and a leader in the National Spanish Honor Society. He has been awarded with the SC Spanish Bronze Seal of Biliteracy, the Global Spanish Seal of Biliteracy of Functional Fluency and is a founding member of Digital Promise's League of Innovative Schools. Luther plans to major in zoology.

## **TENNESSEE**

**Shelby- Kairavi Vaibhav Gardé**, daughter of Kalyani and Vaibhav Gardé, Germantown, Tennessee. Kairavi will graduate from Houston High School where she is president of Knitting and Crochet Club, an officer of Students Against Climate Change and an officer of Spanish Club. She also leads Stop Poverty with Policy in working to improve the local public transit system and serves on the Bridges Youth Advisory Board. Kairavi plans to major in environmental sciences.

**Williamson- Keya Thakkar**, daughter of Biren and Pinky Thakkar, Franklin, Tennessee. Keya will graduate from Franklin High School where she is in the IB Diploma Program, a member of the cross country team and a part of HOSA. Keya also volunteers at the hospital and is a swimming instructor. Keya plans to major in biochemistry, pursuing a pre-med pathway.

## **TEXAS**

**Jefferson- Mariah Annette Liedy**, daughter of Marlon and Jocelyn Liedy, Beaumont, Texas. Mariah will graduate from the Texas Academy of Leadership in the Humanities where she is the president of the Social Club. She is also the National president of Top Teens of America, the Beaumont Branch NAACP Youth Council president and volunteers with the Math and Science Team at her former Middle School. Mariah plans to major in nuclear engineering.

**Williamson- Amber Sorenson**, daughter of Shannon and Marcus Sorenson, Round Rock, Texas. Amber will graduate from Stony Point High School where she is the featured Baton Twirler, varsity basketball team captain and an international Baccalaureate student and mentor. She is the founder of her nonprofit Amber's Spirit Batons, which aims to raise money for cancer research. She is also a volunteer junior coach at her baton twirling studio, Twirl ATX, and an International Baccalaureate mentor for fifth grade students. Amber plans to major in biology on a pre-med track.

## **VIRGINIA**

**Henrico- Ishita Bakshi**, daughter of Arindam and Megha Bakshi, Richmond, Virginia. Ishita will graduate from Douglas S. Freeman High School where she is the featured Baton Twirler, student body treasurer and part of the Center for Leadership, Government and Global Economics. Ishita is also president of the Debate Team and the History and Human Rights Club, and volunteers as an EMT at a local rescue squad. Ishita plans to major in biology.

**Prince William- Eleanore Kay Rhodes**, daughter of Elise and Jeremy Rhodes, Woodbridge, Virginia. Eleanore will graduate from C.D. Hylton High School and the Governor's School at Innovation Park. She is the captain of both her varsity field hockey and softball teams for which she received All-District distinction in both sports. She serves as the captain of the Governor's School robotics team and is the Historian of the National Honor Society. Eleanore is also a tour docent for a local historical site and a junior member of a local volunteer fire department. She plans to major in biochemistry.

**Prince William- Niveda Mahesh**, daughter of Mahesh Balagangadhar and Nisha Mahesh, Woodbridge, Virginia. Niveda will graduate from Woodbridge Senior High School where she is president of the National Honor Society, first team All-District and second team All-Region selection in varsity field hockey, and is the community outreach captain for the Student Council Association (SCA). She is also the founder and president of her 4Girls 4Change nonprofit organization, Girl Scout Gold Award recipient for her "Reduce Food Wastage in Local McDonald's Restaurants" and the Gold president's Volunteer Service Award (PVSA) recipient for volunteering 268 hours in a 12-month period with a local homeless shelter. Niveda plans to major in environmental science with a focus on sustainability, policy and governance.

**Stafford- Ayyan Kamran Qureshi**, daughter of Kamran and Faeza Qureshi, Stafford, Virginia. Ayyan will graduate from North Stafford High School where she is president of the National Honor Society, co-president and co-founder of her school's tutoring program and vice president of the Future Business Leaders of America Club. She has been an active volunteer at Stafford Hospital, a peer tutor and is working on an independent research project on prosthetic design to create a website and share this information with the public. Ayyan plans to major in biomedical engineering.