Class of 2024

(Biographies provided by the candidates.)

FLORIDA

Miami-Dade - Nicholas Elias Oyarzun, son of Fernando and Natasha Oyarzun, Miami, Florida. Nicholas will graduate from Belen Jesuit Preparatory School and is a varsity football captain, Brass Section Leader of the Belen Jesuit Jazz Band, and president of Tri-M Music Honor Society. Nicholas also received the FIU Book Award, co-founded the Belen Jesuit Peer Tutoring Program, and is a panel ambassador for Belen’s Diversity Advisory Program. Nicholas plans to major in psychology and life sciences.

Santa Rosa - Joseph David Staudt, son of John and Estella Staudt, Navarre, Florida. Joseph will graduate from Navarre High School, where he is the president of Mu Alpha Theta, a math honor society, and the captain of the varsity golf team. Joseph is an Eagle Scout, will graduate in the top one percent of his class, and is an elementary school Catechist for his church. He volunteers with his school district’s summer programs for children with learning disabilities. Joseph plans to major in environmental engineering.

GEORGIA

Fulton - Madalyn Claire Hannan (Maddy), daughter of Jim and Susan Hannan, Sandy Springs, Georgia. Maddy will graduate from Holy Innocents’ Episcopal School, where she is president of the Student Wellness board, which promotes mental health, vice president of National Honor Society, and a senior leader of Mu Alpha Theta. Maddy has volunteered over 600 hours through the National Charity League and competes in CrossFit at national and international competitions. She was selected to participate in Youth Leadership Sandy Springs. Maddy plans to major in civil engineering.

Dekalb - William Christopher Lamm (Bill), son of Maureen and Chris Lamm, Brookhaven, Georgia. Bill will graduate from Marist School where he leads the Marist Broadcasting Club, serves as a student ambassador, and stage-manages theatre productions. Bill volunteers with Habitat for Humanity, serves as a Eucharistic Minister, and is a board member of the Marist chapter of National Honor Society. Bill plans to major in industrial engineering.
INDIANA

Bartholomew - Emmalee Elise Kiser, daughter of Raymond and Cara Kiser, Columbus, Indiana. Emmalee will graduate from Columbus East High School, where she is the president of the Student Assembly, a tennis team captain, and treasurer of National Honor Society. She is also a chairwoman of the local Dance Marathon, an active big sister for Big Brothers Big Sisters, and a National Merit Semifinalist. Emmalee plans to major in biomedical engineering.

KENTUCKY

Fayette - Katherine Sarah Cherry, daughter of Sarah Jo Cherry, Lexington, Kentucky. Katherine will graduate from Lafayette Senior High School. She is a research intern at Dr. Jason Unrine’s plant and soil sciences lab at the University of Kentucky, high school swim team captain, and a Fayette County representative in the Lexington Leadership program, which prepares diverse students for leadership. Katherine is a member and advocate for Al-Anon/Alateen, is one of the select few students enrolled in dual magnet programs, School for the Creative and Performing Arts and Pre-Engineering, and has recently been published in Teen Ink for her essay entitled “Will I Become an Alcoholic?” Katherine plans to major in marine and environmental science.

MARYLAND

Washington - Paige Seibert, daughter of Clare and Mark Seibert, Clear Spring, Maryland. Paige will graduate from Clear Spring High School where she is secretary of National Honor Society and was previously the FBLA president and class president for three years. Paige serves on her county student government board, local alcohol and drug advisory committee, and local opioid prevention board. Paige is the reigning Maryland state tennis champion and a National Merit commended scholar. Paige has received an AP Capstone Diploma for her research on water quality and plans to major in environmental science and biology.

MINNESOTA

Ramsey - Joshua Lance Mason, son of Lance and Elle Mason, St. Paul, Minnesota. Joshua will graduate from Highland Park Senior High School as a full-time PSEO student at the University of Minnesota–Twin Cities, where he is the Outreach and Advocacy Director of the PSEO Student Association. He is also the Chair of People for PSEO’s Student Committee, working in local educational advocacy. Joshua is a former competitor in the international Chinese Bridge Speech Contest and a participant in the National Security Language Initiative for Youth program in Nanjing, China. Joshua plans to major in computer science and economics.

MISSISSIPPI

George - Ryley Reagan Fallon, daughter of Mark and Veronica Fallon, Lucedale, Mississippi. Ryley will graduate from the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science, where she is lead editor for the in-house literary and art magazine Southern Voices, co-leader of a book club for middle school girls, and coordinator for a local elementary tutoring service. She has conducted research at Mississippi State University and is a recipient of the Eudora Welty Ephemera Prize for High School Creative Writing. She plans to major in chemistry.
NORTH CAROLINA

Cabarrus - Bryan Christopher Wilson, son of Dale and Yolanda Wilson, Concord, North Carolina. Bryan will graduate from Jay M. Robinson High School, where he is the drum major for the Pride of Robinson Marching Band, the senior class representative for the Academy of Engineering and Automation Student Council, and voted "Most Talented" by his peers. Bryan was recognized as the top high school jazz pianist at the All-State Jazz Clinic in North Carolina. He has volunteered as a music coach for middle school students and mentored at-risk youth at a local elementary school. Bryan plans to major in mechanical engineering.

Chatham - Meera Ann La Palme Butalia, daughter of Sharon La Palme and Raj Butalia, Pittsboro, North Carolina. Meera graduated from Northwood High School where she was co-president of Girls Learn International, president of Green Club, a Link Crew leader, and the 2018 NCASA Quill Literary Analysis state champion. She attended the North Carolina Governor's School for social science, volunteers at the Carrboro Arts Center, and will attend NC State after completing one term of service with AmeriCorps. Meera plans to major in political science.

Durham - Anagha Jandhyala, daughter of Ravi and Vyjayanti Jandhyala, Durham, North Carolina. Anagha will graduate from Durham School of the Arts, where she is president of National Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta, a math honor society, and has interned at the Shodor Education Foundation for four years. She is also a member of the Durham Youth Commission, a tutor at El Centro Hispano, and has conducted cancer research at the UNC Lineberger Cancer Center over the summer. Anagha plans to major in chemical engineering.

Forsyth - Sami Atassi, son of Amer Atassi and Reem Farra, Clemmons, North Carolina. Sami will graduate from the Early College of Forsyth and is the vice president of his senior class. He has been a volunteer at The SECU Family House for three years, where he also leads his school on service trips. He volunteers at the hospital and is a Crosby Scholar. Sami is a scholar in National Honor Society and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Upon graduating from high school, he will also earn an associate's degree in science. Sami plans to major in biology with a pre-medicine track.

Forsyth - Jeanine Anjola Ikekhua, daughter of Ibitayo Ikekhua, Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Jeanine will graduate from Salem Academy, where she is the president of Model United Nations, president of Black Student Union, and secretary of Debate Club. Over the summer, Jeanine volunteers at her local library and attends the LDS Girls Youth Camp. Jeanine plans to major in international studies.
Graham - Karlyn Breez Matheson, daughter of David and Kim Matheson, Robbinsville, North Carolina. Karlyn will graduate from Robbinsville High School, where she is vice president of HOSA, a member of the Student Council, and the captain of the volleyball team. Karlyn serves on her county's drug coalition, working to end the opioid epidemic and Hepatitis C/HIV outbreaks taking place across western North Carolina. Additionally, she serves as a region eight representative on the North Carolina High School Athletic Association's Student-Athlete Advisory Council. Karlyn plans to major in biomedical engineering.

Guilford - Robert Lee Kobrin, son of Thomas and Lisa Kobrin, Greensboro, North Carolina. Robert will graduate from The Early College at Guilford, where he is captain of FTC Robotics Team 731, president of National History Day Club, and a member of National Honor Society. He is also an Eagle Scout in BSA Troop 104, an active member in his church youth group, and a soccer player for Western Guilford High School. Robert plans to major in biomedical engineering.

Guilford - Kiran Soma, son of Somasundaram Palani and Vijayalakshmi Govindan, Oak Ridge, North Carolina. Kiran will graduate from The Early College at Guilford and is a co-founder and co-president of the Greensboro Society of Student Activists, a nonprofit organization; president of his school's Quiz Bowl and Academic Team; and the World and Nation editor for The Guilfordian, the student newspaper at Guilford College. He volunteers to help immigrant students improve their reading and writing skills through a family literacy program and is also an avid screenplay and short-script writer. Kiran plans to major in chemistry.

Johnston - Anna Elizabeth Hill, daughter of Elizabeth Kauff and Stuart Hill, Benson, North Carolina. Anna will graduate from Smithfield Selma Senior High School, where she is the president of Mu Alpha Theta, a math honor society; Senior Class Projects Director in Student Government; and a three-season athlete where she is a two-year captain of the varsity basketball team. She has volunteered at West Smithfield Elementary School with the Backpack Buddies program for two years and has initiated a school supply drive with a peer for the elementary school. Anna plans to major in civil engineering.

McDowell - Samantha Reneé Dotson, daughter of Sam and Angie Dotson, and Kandle Flannigan, Marion, North Carolina. Samantha will graduate from McDowell High School, where she is woodwind captain of the Titan Marching Band, founder of the service project Friends of Friendship, and vice president of her school’s DECA chapter. Samantha has served as stage manager of the community charity pageant Mr. MHS and led her own pre-calculus tutoring club for her class. Her involvement in DECA includes winning several awards through DECA district and state competitions. Samantha plans to major in business administration.
Mecklenburg - Emma Grace Barnes, daughter of Mike and Emme Barnes, Charlotte, North Carolina. Emma Grace will graduate from South Mecklenburg High School, where she is treasurer of her school's HOSA club, a member of National Spanish Honor Society, and a Sabre Ambassador for South Mecklenburg High School. She tutors ELL students in various content areas, is a member of the Teen Advisory Council, and was the 2018 Speedway Miracle Child for Levine Children's Hospital. Emma Grace plans to major in biological sciences.

Mecklenburg - Aisha Mahmood, daughter of Ambreen Shakeer and Shakeer Mahmood, Charlotte, North Carolina. Aisha will graduate from Mallard Creek High School, where she serves as the president of the Interact Club and Spanish National Honor Society and is a mental health advocate. Aisha volunteers as a beginner-level Arabic teacher and is an alumnus, ambassador, and mentor of the global youth peace education program, NewGen Peacebuilders. She placed as a national semifinalist in the Euro Challenge competition after presenting solutions for Germany's aging population to a panel of experts in European economic affairs in New York City. Aisha plans to major in international studies and economics.

Mecklenburg - Timothy Lamont Reid, II, son of Tim and Cori Reid, Cornelius, North Carolina. Timothy will graduate from Pine Lake Preparatory, where he is senior class president, co-founder of Teaching Tolerance at Pine Lake, and vicechair of the Young Democrats Club. Timothy is also a Peer Leader with Sources of Strength, active within National Honor Society, and is a member of the varsity track team. Timothy plans to major in business finance.

Moore - Niasha Elise Kodzai, daughter of William and Za'Vette Kodzai, Southern Pines, North Carolina. Niasha will graduate from The O'Neal School, where she is a founding member and current president of the Women's Empowerment Club and president of the Diversity Club. She is in her fourteenth year of ballet and is currently a senior member of the Carolina Performing Arts Center's Youth Ballet Senior Company. Niasha has volunteered as a music camp counselor for the past six years, is a member of O'Neal's Cum Laude Society, and was awarded the Central Carolinas Phi Beta Kappa Associations' Voit Gilmore Outstanding Senior Student Book Award. Niasha plans to double major in industrial design and psychology.

Onslow - Samantha Grace Anthony, daughter of Ian and Nicole Anthony, Richlands, North Carolina. Samantha will graduate from Richlands High School and is president of the senior class, vice president of her SkillsUSA chapter, and an active member of the Beta Club. She attended NC Governor's School East last summer and is a volunteer with Sturgeon City and Science Olympiad. Samantha plans to major in chemical engineering.
Orange - Samuel Thomas Wallace, son of Scott and Sharon Wallace, Hillsborough, North Carolina. Samuel will graduate from the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program at Cedar Ridge High School and is the vice president of the Science Club, co-captain of the cross country team, and co-president of the Cedar Ridge Food For All Club. He is an active volunteer with Habitat for Humanity and a National Honor Society officer. Samuel has also won three first place awards in regional science olympiad tournaments. Samuel plans to major in materials science and engineering.

Pasquotank - Sahib Singh Chandi, son of Tejwant and Komal Chandi, Elizabeth City, North Carolina. Sahib will graduate from Norfolk Academy, where he is the president of the Cum Laude Society and a Global Health Fellow. He volunteers with Horizons Hampton Roads and the Hopes Community Clinic in Norfolk, Virginia. He received the 2019 William and Mary Leadership Award from Norfolk Academy. Sahib plans to major in public health.

Pitt - Rebecca Susan Chemmanam, daughter of Isaac Chemmanam and Marina Alexander, Greenville, North Carolina. Rebecca will graduate from Junius H. Rose High School, where she is senior class president, co-captain of her mock trial team, and has been voted “Most Achieved” in her senior class. She actively works with the Jamie Kimble Foundation for Courage to promote domestic violence awareness. Rebecca also helped receive federal funding for the special needs program in her school. She was awarded the City of Greenville Youth Volunteer Award for her service. Rebecca plans to major in political science and computer science.

Pitt - Kennedy Lynn Fipps, daughter of Edward Fipps and Sue Anne Pilgreen, Greenville, North Carolina. Kennedy will graduate from South Central High School, where she is the senior class president. She is the president of the Pitt County Students Against Destructive Decisions Program and a four-year starter on the South Central varsity softball team. She received the 2019 Winterville Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Youth Award, was selected as a Health Sciences Academy Ambassador, and serves as a children's ministry leader at Opendoor Church in Winterville, North Carolina. Kennedy plans to major in social work.

Rowan - Meredith Grace Gaskill, daughter of Scott and Karen Gaskill, Salisbury, North Carolina. Meredith will graduate from Jesse C. Carson High School, where she is the founder and president of HERoes, president of Interact Club, and a captain of the varsity cheerleaders. Meredith also serves as the high school senior advisor to the North Carolina State Board of Education, is a Junior Marshal, and served with Dream On 3. Meredith plans to major in fashion and textile management with a concentration in brand management and marketing.
**Sampson - Reagan Elisa Bustabad**, daughter of Christy and Pete Bustabad, Clinton, North Carolina. Reagan will graduate from Clinton High School and is Junior Advisor of her FFA Chapter, co-president of the Clinton High School Fellowship of Christian Students, and a senior competitive dancer with the Arts Company of Faison. Reagan is actively involved in service projects through her participation in the Grove Park Baptist Youth Group. She has also helped found a Christian literature drive at her church entitled “Recycle the Word” and initiated a bathroom beautification project at her school to help boost students’ self-confidence. Reagan plans to major in animal science.

**Union - Beijul Saurabh Shah**, daughter of Saurabh and Sneha Shah, Waxhaw, North Carolina. Beijul will graduate from Marvin Ridge High School, where she serves as president of Speech and Debate, president of National English Honor Society, and senior class secretary. Beijul is also an active member and social media coordinator of the Marvin branch of “She's the First” and is the founder of a “Reading Buddies” program with a local elementary school. Beijul plans to major in statistics.

**Wake - Ramkishore Annachi**, son of Harikrishna Annachi and Indrakumari Parameswaran, Cary, North Carolina. Ramkishore will graduate from the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics, where he is a two-term state officer and current state president for North Carolina DECA, senior lead for the Smart Bar Technical Support team, and is on the internal operations committee for Student Government. He was selected to represent North Carolina at the Beijing Youth Science Creation Competition where he will present research on photodegrading toxic dyes from textile effluent using visible light and metal oxide nanoparticles. Ramkishore plans to major in computer engineering and economics.

**Wake - Kavin Muthukumaran Govindarajan**, son of Muthukumaran and Sharmila Govindarajan, Morrisville, North Carolina. Kavin will graduate from Enloe High School. Kavin is the director of the InspireNC nonprofit, where he works to promote STEAM education to students in the community. Kavin is also a dedicated member of FRC Team 6908: Infuzed, where he was a Dean's List Semifinalist. Kavin is an avid musician, playing both piano and guitar. Kavin plans to major in aerospace engineering.

**Wake - Elliott Jackson Gyll**, son of Douglas Gyll and Natalie Taylor, Raleigh, North Carolina. Elliott will graduate from Leesville Road High School, where he is the principal bassoon in the LRHS Symphonic Band and the Front Ensemble Manager for the Marching Band. Elliott is also the co-principal chair bassoon in the top Triangle Youth Philharmonic, having achieved second chair bassoon and first chair jazz piano on the district level. He frequently volunteers at Abbotswood Retirement Home, where he gives piano performances and organizes musical ensembles. Elliott plans to major in linguistics and statistics.
Wake - Addison Hughes, daughter of Bill and Fran Hughes, Apex, North Carolina. Addison will graduate from Apex Friendship High School, where she is a three-season varsity captain, part of three national honor societies, and an Apex Youth Chamber of Commerce representative. She tutors students learning English as a second language, mentors students through SAS Communities in Schools, and has received the "Good Citizen" award from her school. Addison plans to major in education.

Wake - Alexa Nicole Jimenez Escribano, daughter of Alexander Jimenez and Diana Escribano, Wake Forest, North Carolina. Alexa will graduate from Heritage High School, where she is president of the Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica, president of Health Occupations Students of America, and was selected to be the school ambassador for the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Seminar. Alexa was also chosen as a 2018 LatinxEd 20 Under 20 Listmaker; participated as a panelist for the 2019 NC Public School Forum Eggs and Issues Breakfast on the top concerns facing public school education; and serves as a tutor for English as a Second Language peers at her school. Alexa plans to major in biomedical engineering.

Wake - Jenni Azua Mangala, daughter of Lucie Mangala, Raleigh, North Carolina. Jenni will graduate from Needham B. Broughton High School, where she is the sprint captain of varsity indoor and outdoor track and field, president of International Club, and secretary of the Raleigh Youth Council. Jenni is also a Broughton Travel Fellow and volunteered in Ho, Ghana, where she taught math and chemistry at a primary school. She is a recipient of the Notable Film Submission Award in the International Bow Seat Ocean Awareness Contest. Jenni plans to major in electrical engineering with a concentration in renewable electric energy systems.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Charleston - Katie Needle Krawcheck, daughter of Eric and Peggy Krawcheck, Mount Pleasant, South Carolina. Katie will graduate from Porter-Gaud School, where she is the chair of the Honor Council, an ambassador for the Girls In program, and the leader of the Global Union organization. She has also organized and led annual school-wide social justice events and rallies. She is a founding member of a local nonprofit organization, SheStrong, and its Leadership Committee; a member of the Cum Laude Society at her school; and a recipient of the Dartmouth Book Award. Katie plans to major in political science.

TEXAS

Denton - Akshaya Ganesan, daughter of Ganesan Ramaswamy and Amardeepa Moola, Frisco, Texas. Akshaya will graduate from Frisco High School and is the executive stage manager for Eyakkam Dance Company, youth group leader of Sankara Eye Foundation, and founder and choreographer of Bollywood Club. Akshaya also volunteers as a part of the Tamil Nadu Foundation and Metroplex Tamil Sangam and is a member of National Honor Society. Akshaya plans to major in aerospace engineering.
VIRGINIA

Chesterfield - Marina Cecilia Kapitanov, daughter of Martha and Ilia Kapitanov, Richmond, Virginia. Marina will graduate from Maggie Walker Governor’s School, where she is co-president of German Honor Society, events team leader in the National Art Honors Society, and two-time varsity captain of the girls’ volleyball team. She has received the VMFA Junior Book Award, volunteers as a tutor for local elementary and middle school students in her school’s Newtowne Tutoring Club, and volunteers at the Science Museum. Marina plans to major in biomedical engineering.

Fairfax - Emma Catherine Holincheck, daughter of Anthony and Nancy Holincheck, Centreville, Virginia. Emma will graduate from Centreville High School, where she is the CEO of Centreville Robotics, the secretary of National Honor Society, and a Leadership Board Member of Mu Alpha Theta, a math honor society. She volunteers during the school year with FIRST Robotics, running robotics competitions and mentoring robotics teams, and over the summer with Appalachia Service Project, repairing houses for families in communities around Appalachia. Emma plans to major in aerospace engineering.