

# *The Emerald* **SENIOR EDITION**



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# Teachers Give Advice to Seniors for the Future

Halie Marris '18

With the school year quickly coming to an end, everyone's patience for summer lessens more and more with each day. This could be said for everyone, yes, but nobody's more anxious for their last day of school than the seniors. The Emerald went around to some of the teachers and asked them a variety of questions about what advice they'd give to the graduating Class of 2018 before they take their last steps off of these school grounds.

For some students, the topic of college and their futures are unknown. For others, it's a different story. Some already know exactly what they want, while others plan on just "winging it." Some move out, and some people want the dorm life experience, while others stay at home. Luckily, we have advice for each of those situations and more. Hopefully, some of the seniors and future graduates will take it to heart and use it for their own journeys.

Some students will choose a community college over a university. To that, Mr. Forton has this to say: "Make sure all of the classes you are taking will transfer to whatever school you choose to attend after community college. Also, don't just take the community college's word on that, talk to the other college you will be attending as well to be 100% sure." For those who plan to transfer from a community college to a university, Mr. Lessnau would like students to know this: "This isn't the 13th grade- it's college. You're taking the first steps toward something that most Americans don't have: a college degree. Don't let the "4 year plan" of transferring get in the way of the work that lies in front of you now."

When a student graduates, they will still need a roof over their head. For those who plan to move out of the nest and create their own, Mrs. Avery would like them to know, "It's best if you start to learn and practice good habits now so you'll already be prepared for a routine of your own. Some of the basics can take you far, such as doing your own laundry, sticking to a budget, preparing your own meals, and making sure that your finances are in order as well as having a job." She would also like to tell those who will be experiencing the 'dorm life', "You're definitely in for an adventure. What would benefit you is to get to know your Residential Adviser. Don't forget a pair of flip-flops for when you have to share showers, and keep some earbuds so you can block out any background or unwanted noise. Always be prepared for any and all kinds of possibilities."

Some students would rather take a "gap year" than to go back to school when summer is over. Some people just take that time to recuperate and take a break so they can breathe freely and let loose for a short amount of time. With that said, there are those who realize they don't want to return, but there's also the ones who do return. Mrs. Avery stated, "Taking a gap in between graduating and starting college isn't always necessarily a bad thing, especially for those who might be unsure of what they want." She believes that if that's the case, they should take that time to "do some real life research and try to realize some of their passions, interests and they might be interested in doing." Mrs. Avery feels that it "Makes sense to figure out what you're doing before spending the money." She says, "Time off can be productive if you use it to figure out what you want to do."

Mrs. Podolan would like to tell the soon-to-be graduates that are choosing to go straight to a university "Enjoy the experience! Attend the "Welcome-Back-to-School" activities to get to know people. Even if you are going to college with friends, go make new friends! Even if it feels uncomfortable to "put yourself out there," go get uncomfortable! When I initially attended MSU, I felt like there were so many students. When I started to do activities with other people who lived in my dorm and got to know people, the campus felt a lot smaller. I joined clubs and got a job -- this also helped me to make new friends. After you make these new friends, find a healthy balance between your social life and school life. You can't have one without the other." She would also like to give some general advice for the future: "Don't hang out with knuckleheads, because they'll peer pressure you to do things you don't want to do. The decisions you make can, and will, affect you for the rest of your life."

The Emerald asked Mr. Lessnau's advice for when it comes to choosing a degree, and here's what he responded with: "People are as insecure in this as you are. It's okay to not know *exactly* what you want to major in. It's estimated that 1 in 3 college students change their major at least once, my guess is that change comes with experience. Worry about gaining experience, not making decisions. The more experiences you have, the easier the decisions will be. You'll figure it out." As we grow up, we all learn a life lesson now and then. A life lesson that Mr. Forton learned that he'd like to pass on to the seniors is, "Don't take out a loan unless you *absolutely have to*. Learn what you need and separate them from your wants. Pay cash and live within your means." Even in high school, we learn a life lesson, no matter how big or little, complicated or simple it is. Something Mr. Lessnau hopes the seniors learned throughout their last four years is, "You need to find the good in every day. Sometimes that just means silently celebrating that you didn't get toothpaste on your shirt this morning." No matter their choices, everyone has something to look forward to as they begin their adult lives. Nothing but good luck is wished towards them all.

# Alternative Futures

Kiana Amaro '18



Laci Rennaker

Many of the seniors are planning on going to college, the military, or technical school after they graduate from Pennfield. The Emerald was curious on what other options students were considering for their future; so the Emerald talked to Laci Rennaker who is planning something sort of unconventional for her future. She has made the decision to become a missionary after graduation. She reached this decision after numerous mission trips she has gone on with her church and the encouragement she has received from the older members from her church (Friends Church). To achieve her dream, she will have to travel to Perth, Australia to attend Disciple Training School at YWAM (Youth with a Mission Worldwide) for six to eight months. Following her training she will be assigned a mission and will travel to the site she has been given for an undetermined amount of time. To all of the graduating seniors with unconventional paths and to those still unsure, we wish you all the best of luck.



Mr. Forton



Mrs. Avery



Mr. Lessnau



Mrs. Podolan

# Favorite Memories

Maddie Staib '19

With the seniors' last year of high school coming to an end, we thought we would take a second and reflect on their best memories of high school and middle school. The Emerald interviewed both Milissa Lint and Grant Petersen to see what left the biggest impacts. Milissa told me that her favorite part of middle school "was becoming closer with people who are now my closest friends." As for her favorite high school memory, she said she "couldn't pick just one memory, and that overall my favorite thing would be my entire senior year." Grant told us that his favorite middle school memory was his "7th grade year, when his basketball team went 12-0." His favorite high school memory was his "junior year, when his football team went into the playoffs." So many memories have been made in all the seniors' years of growing up, and we would like to wish everyone the best of luck in their futures. Congratulations to the Class of 2018!



Grant Petersen



Milissa Lint

# Most Memorable Seniors

Alison Griffith '20

*What senior made you laugh the hardest?*

Teacher: Mr. Boyd

Student: Joe Griffith

Why?: "You never know what he'll do next!"

Teacher: Mrs. Podolan

Student: Troy Hinds

Why?: "His carefree nature and funny jokes."

Teacher: Mr. Lamb

Student: Jacob Herpin

Why?: "His U.S. History videos were very entertaining."

Teacher: Mrs. Zima

Student: Nakayla Long

Why?: "Nakayla is always so goofy. She says some of the silliest things, and it's often times completely accidental. She's always smiling and it's infectious."

Teacher: Mr. Lessnau

Student: Dane Clem

Why?: "Dane said that he doesn't necessarily consider himself as funny, but he has a natural comedic timing and delivery that cracks me up. He's sarcastic, but uses his sense of humor to share some of his views of the world with others. He's really a lot of fun in class discussions."

Teacher: Mrs. Belt

Student: Mitchell Woody

Why?: "Mitchell is very witty and has a story for almost everything. He definitely keeps the class interesting, and fun. Mitchell is also very thoughtful, and kind."

*What senior always did their best academically in your class?*

Teacher: Mr. Lessnau

Student: Chelsea Reichel

Why?: "She works so hard, I don't think that she would say the work in my class came naturally to her, but I have always been impressed by her refusal to take any assignment or activity lightly. She outworks most, and that is why she has found so much academic success."

Teacher: Mrs. Zima

Student: Kelsee Younglove

Why?: "Kelsee always put forth a great deal of effort in order to do her best. Not only is her grade always high, it's almost always the highest in the class on every assignment. She's not happy with good enough and always strives for the best she can do."

Teacher: Mr. Berg

Student: Shalynn Foreman

Why?: "She was always trying to move ahead in Accounting. She finished her work weeks ahead of peers in class."

# High School Do-Over

Hunter Finley '18

Most of the seniors at Pennfield have been attending this high school for the past four years and have almost completed their high school career. Now that they're on their "victory lap" so to speak, with only a couple months left of high school, The Emerald thought it would be fun and interesting to ask some of the students what they would "do over" if they could go back in time.

The first senior to answer was "Nasty" Nolen Bornaman, who simply said "I would have ran cross country my freshman year." Riley Bowen says "I would have hung out with more people and also played a winter sport." The always-hilarious Kiana Amaro said "I would relive my choir classes." While Grant Petersen reported that he would relive his football games.



Mr. Boyd



Mrs. Podolan



Mrs. Zima



Mr. Lamb



Mr. Lessnau



Mrs. Belt



Mr. Berg



# The Most Changed Senior from Freshman Year

Kiana Amaro '18

For her Senior Superlative, Lexi Lower was voted the most changed from freshman year. This is a very broad superlative to be voted into, it can mean many different things such as a change physically, emotionally, or mentally. The Emerald wanted to get her perspective on why she thinks she was voted most changed and how she thinks she has changed during high school.

*Why do you think you were voted most changed from freshman year?*

"I really don't know why, I think I'm pretty much the same person I was four years ago. I look generally the same if I have changed at all it's more emotionally and mentally than anything else."

*Do you think you are a better person now than you were four years ago?*

"That's hard to say, but I would say I am a better person now than I was freshman year, I just feel more mature and I know more what I am doing with my life more now than I did back then."

*If you could change anything from freshman year to now what would it have been?*

"I don't think I would want to have changed anything, everything happens for a reason and I don't think I would be where I am today without the choices I've made."



Lexi Lower



# SENIOR TILES

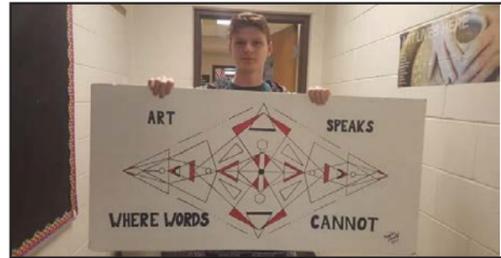
"I love the creativity and effort the seniors are putting in to make these tiles great!" *Mrs. Haroff*



Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Funk, and Ariel Duncan



Ayrn Holcomb and Mrs. Belt



Brendan Alberty



Kaylee Smith



Ashley Miller



Aria Baxter, Mr. Lessnau, and Connor Stevens



Tristin Fulton, Ms. Royer, and Carsten Fulton



Alexis Coger and Mrs. Haroff

## Embarrassing High School Moments

### Alberto Vazquez '19

We've all had problems in high school (whether we want to admit it or not) and we're pretty sure most of them were at least a little embarrassing. This article contains a couple of the retellings of the brave seniors that were willing to confess some of their most embarrassing high school moments. Brace yourselves! Paige Law recalls the day she was walking up the main stairs when suddenly she tripped and fell. The worst part of this wasn't that she fell, but that she spilled her drink all over herself. "I was really embarrassed because my drink spilled over me!" she exclaimed. Milissa Lint experienced a similar situation. During the middle of a pep-rally, she was running to the bleachers from the opposite side of the gym and she tripped over the cheer mat that was still there. She says her face became very red as she was very embarrassed as she fell in front of the whole school. Girls are not the only ones that get embarrassed. Matt Romig had a very bad experience during high school. One day, something very cliché happened to him, he got pantsed. He was shook. Jaycob Herpin was playing a very important football game. He gave everything he had to score and make this game his best one. He was a freshman and he wanted to beat a very special adversary, a senior. When the game ended, he scored one point under the senior that he wanted to beat. This, for him, was very embarrassing. From these stories alone, I'm sure we can all recall some of our own moments of high school. While some are worse than others, they all have one thing in common: they're embarrassing!



Matt Romig



Paige Law



Milissa Lint



Jaycob Herpin

## Seniors Play Assassins

### Rachel Swartz '18

Do you have what it takes to be the ultimate assassin? In a game of hiding from your opponents while also being a spy on your own target, "Assassins" is a game that high school students play all across the country. Students that decide to play are given a target they have to either squirt with a water gun or hit with a water balloon, by the end of each week. From hiding outside of their target's work to following them to their house, you can imagine how intense the game gets. It may be fun for seniors to run around trying to find their targets, but gets very serious when over \$400 is on the line! As someone who is running the game rather than playing, it's interesting to match up targets, watch people search their yard before running out the door, and listen to people strategizing with others.



Kollin Kemerling and Jaycob Herpin



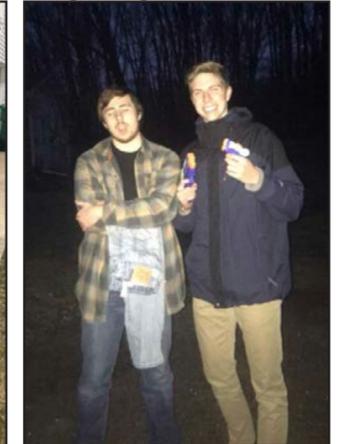
Melanie McIntyre and Jaylyn Shepard



Riley McClain and Leo Garza



Emmie Tolf



Hunter Finley and Keith Leroux

## Senior Project

### Jordan Henry '19

This year's Senior Edition wouldn't be complete without the inclusion of a final project to send the seniors off! Both Mrs. Zima and Mrs. Podolan's standard English classes have been tasked with a massive project that began the third week of March, and the final product is expected to be finished on May 23rd, giving the seniors just over two months to put something together. Upon interviewing Mrs. Zima, she explained that the groups consist of five to seven people that decide on a non-profit organization to research and work with alongside the Battle Creek Community Foundation. What's the purpose? The purpose is to promote the "Believe In Battle Creek Campaign" started by the BCC Foundation to promote the good and positivity that the Battle Creek Community has to offer. The roles within each group include the writers, who are responsible for writing poems, news articles, or essays about their organization. The creative designers must create a visual art display for their organization, such as a brochures, flyers, T-shirts, paintings, or even new logo designs. There is also a documentary crew for each group responsible for filming and conducting interviews with people a part of, or involved, in their chosen organization. One student is even going around the city filming aerial views for their final product via drone. Speaking of the final product, all of this effort is compiled into an edited film for the community to view when it's all over. The seniors' hard work can be viewed at the final "red carpet" event at Pennfield High School, on May 23rd at 6:15 PM. Here, their projects will be presented at 7:00 PM. A final word from Mrs. Zima on the project: "If [the seniors] are complaining about the project, it's because there's a lot of expectations being put on them, it's different than what they're used to, but it's not anything that they can't accomplish. They'll survive it and be better people for it in the end."



Mrs. Zima



Mrs. Podolan

# PROMPOSALS!



Isabel Price & Colyn Neff



Chelsea Reichel & Brandt Lenz



Morgan Mowry & Archie Smith



Naomi Davis & Tom Hermanns



Riley McClain & Tyler Bowling



Mariah VanVleet & Grant Petersen



Mitchell Woody & Dejana Tellis



Kelsie Kemerling & Devin Higgins



Macy Borden & Tyler Fuller



Kaylee Clothier & Keith Leroux



Alexis Peterson & Riley Bowen



Megan Smith & Sam Krauss



Mekenzie Lamb & Kelsie Lamb



Karra Beech & Alberto Vazquez



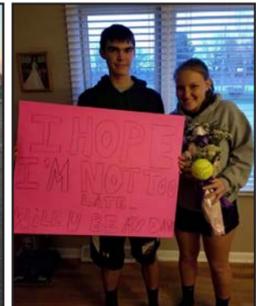
Alison Griffith & Ariel Duncan



Emily Biergeder & Jaycob Herpin



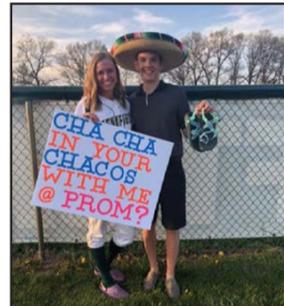
Melanie McIntyre & Alex Stolberg



Kailee Overby & Blake Born



Chloe Leugers & Matt Romig



Lucile Webb & Landon Saxton

## College Majors

Kaitlin Cook '20



Kiana Amaro



Brittany Muller



Riley McClain



Zoe Wander

The year is wrapping up, especially for our seniors. These students have come a long way, and have been thinking about the future for a while now. Schools really start to talk to you about it your sophomore year with early college and career days. Now it's time for them to soar into the wild and go on their future paths. The real question is: "what will they do after high school?" Many students are planning to go on the quest of higher education: College. Since the year is coming toward an end soon, the Emerald thought it would be nice to hear about what people would be majoring in when they go to college. So for this, we asked some seniors about their plans for college, more specifically their major.

For Kiana Amaro, she is planning on majoring in Biomedical Sciences. When asked why Biomedical Sciences, she states, "I grew up in hospitals; all of my family has worked in them. I just felt inspired by them and knew I wanted to be a doctor. Also this might sound weird but I love the smell of hospitals." So far, Kiana has received two scholarships for women going into science from Western Michigan University, where she decided to go. "Why go with Western?" Kiana says, "I know a lot of people who go to there and it is close to home." But that's not the only person going to save lives. There is also Brittany Muller who is going to become veterinarian. Brittany says, "I love animals," which is why she wants to be a vet. She plans on going to Baker college to pursue her dream.

Those aren't the only cool majors, though. There's also culinary, which is being pursued by Zoe Wander. Zoe says "I enjoy making food and I want to share my passion with others." (I have personally seen some of the food she has made and I've got to tell you that it looked pretty good.) She knew that she wanted to be a chef her sophomore year when she visited CACC. She stated that she visited the culinary program and really liked it so she signed up for it and fell in love with cooking. Zoe is still deciding on where she's going to further her culinary skills at. At the current moment, it is between Lake Michigan College and the Culinary Institution of Michigan.

Alongside culinary, there's also dance. Riley McClain is a dancer at Pennfield High School who's going to school to be a dancer. She is currently a member of Center Stage Dance Studio. When asked, "Why do you want to major in dance?" she replied, "I have been dancing since I was three and I really want to make a career out of it." She is planning on going into the program at Oakland; she says they gave her a really good scholarship and that Oakland has a great campus.

Teachers and adults always tell you that you don't have to know what you're going to do in the future right away, some even say they didn't know until they were in college. That being said, it is still great to know before as well and to have a clear plan. From what it sounds like, these students do and the Emerald gives their best wishes to them.

## Valedictorian and Salutatorian 2018

Justin Snyder '21 and Gavin Amsler '20

The Emerald talked to this graduating class' salutatorian and valedictorian (Colin Romine and Diana Dalski) about advice for the future. They both said GPA was an important factor in college applications and their future. GPA is what universities and colleges look for. GPA is one of the most important things in our school life that we need to control. Our top two student GPAs need not worry as they plan for what colleges and jobs they will take. One of them, Colin Romine, has it planned out somewhat. He will be going to U of M, and as for work, no idea considering he doesn't have a resume. The only 2 jobs he has ever had were with his stepmom and UPS, who offered him a job. He will miss everything: the class, friends, teachers, etc. Choir is a family he has made during his 4 years with his favorite teacher, Mr. Bowen. Diana Dalski has applied to and has been accepted by multiple colleges; U of M, Michigan State, WMU, Lawrence Technical University, Michigan Technical University, University of Portland, Valparaiso University, and Trine University. She has chosen Michigan State. With the year ending, she will be missing most of the small moments, her friends, her favorite class and teacher can be put into one: Chorale & Bowen. Chorale has been like a family, and with the year slowly ending, all those small moments that you don't think much about, she will miss.



Diana Dalski Valedictorian  
Colin Romine Salutatorian

# City PROM 2018 Lights

Photos by Cam Southwood



## Mack's Prom Night

**Kiana Amaro '18**

This year a group of seniors had the great pleasure of taking one of our newest special needs students to prom, Mackinze Jilek. His official date was senior Laci Renacker but he enjoyed his time with his other escorts (Kiana Amaro, Shalynn Foreman, Emma Stover, DeJana Tellis, and Mitchell Woody). His favorite part of prom was getting a boutonniere to wear on his jacket, going to dinner with his new friends, and dancing the night away. It was a wonderful night filled with laughter, fun times, and memories.

Layout by Kayla Grennes