

the IOWA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF bobcat



Join us for graduation Friday, May 24 at 10.30 a.m. in the Lied Multipurpose Complex. Reception to follow.

Graduation is May 24

Seniors talk about plans; ISD's influence

Get ready, ISD Alumni Association. You'll soon have eight new possibilities for membership, as the Class of 2019 crosses the graduation stage this month.

is so organized, their class gift is already in place— A bobcat mural on the concession stand (facing Harry Langdon Blvd) now welcomes visitors to campus.

Meet the seniors

CJ Autery has more than a spark of interest in becoming an electrician. He was a student intern at ISD with the staff electrician during third trimester. CJ was up in ceilings, cutting wire and getting real-life hands-on lessons every day. After graduation, he plans to move to Montana, obtain a full-time

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8 retire from ISD



Congratulations to our retirees! The year behind their name is when they were hired. Front row: **Jim Keller**, housekeeping (2015); **Marsha Gunderson**, statewide consultant (1990); back row, left to right: **Kristen Newton**, science faculty (1979); **Cheryl Banks**, speech language pathologist (1983); **Karen Lechner**, physical education faculty, (1998) **Jan Loverin**, faculty (various departments, 1985); **Dee Willer**, nurse (1990-will retire this fall) and **Monica Dixon** is in the circle, interpreter

Classmates are celebrating their achievement by making memories right up until commencement. They are taking a fast overnight trip to Mall of America and expect to be bright-eyed and attentive for graduation practice hours after return.

This group of future scientists, mechanics and dental hygienists

Their futures:

electricians, biologists, dental hygienists, teachers, mechanics, and scientists.



Circle of seniors – Clockwise, starting at 12:00: Shayla Dobias, Josh Catron, CJ Autery, Kodee Krauel, Hannah Kohl, Ben Brakke, Sadie Kindt and Cory Jacobson.

Seniors

Continued from front



labor job and has a goal of becoming an electrician. He enrolled

at ISD his senior year. At ISD, he played basketball, and earned a spot on the GPSD All-Tournament team. CJ enjoys chatting with friends, being outside and riding his four-wheeler. He said the best aspect to attending a school for the deaf is no one feels isolated.

Hats off to **Ben Brakke**. Or should that be, hats **on**? Ben has a hat collection which he said he wears on special occasions

Ben began at ISD in 6th grade. While at ISD,



he was involved with football, basketball, track, Jr. NAD, student council and the boys dorm fraternity. Next year, Ben plans to enroll into the 4PLUS transition program at ISD where he wants to attend IWCC. He is interested in becoming a mechanic, and also hopes to participate in the college shotgun sports club. Ben credits ISD with his being able to better understand and learn his subjects because of the communication with his teachers and peers.

Josh Catron enrolled into ISD as a sophomore from Winterset, Iowa. He said he likes the pace of learning at ISD,



and the teachers take time to really explain

the material. "Everyone talks fast in public school," he said. He describes himself as a visual learner, and said the ISD environment worked well for him. Josh said living in the dorms meant he made friends quickly, "because we're all together so we all get to know each other." While at ISD, Josh participated in basketball and football. While attending his school in Winterset, he played baseball and basketball. Josh is enrolling into the ISD 4PLUS transition program to study diesel mechanics.

Shayla

Dobias is the Class of 2019 salutatorian. She enrolled into



Iowa School for the Deaf when she was 4 years old and currently lives in Creighton, Nebraska. After graduation, Shayla will attend Gallaudet University, studying animal biology. Shayla was active in volleyball, basketball, track manager, cheerleader, Jr. NAD, student council, ASTRA service club, dorm sorority and Optimist Oratorical Contest. Shayla said some of the advantages she experienced while at ISD were the "accessibility to everything," and having a connection with the staff- she learned from them and also found them to be excellent role models.

Cory Jacobson is the Class of 2019 valedictorian. He is known by his teachers to be gifted in math and science. So it was no surprise that he has been accepted at Rochester Institute of Technology this fall, where he will study environmental science. Cory has earned college credits through his engineering and architect classes he took at Lewis



Central High School (located across the street from ISD). There,

he won a state award for his house designs. Cory was a member of the academic competition team and is from Fort Dodge, Iowa.

Sadie Kindt

will take a flood of memories away from her senior year.



Literally. Sadie's house was one of dozens in the little southwestern Iowa town of Pacific Junction flooded by the Missouri River this spring. "We had to do what we had to do," she said. Sadie was a cheerleader, and on the basketball and volleyball teams. She went to Close-Up in Washington, DC last year. She will begin working as a certified nurse assistant this summer. This fall, she will attend Peru State College, studying special education with plans to earn an endorsement in deaf education. Sadie said what she has appreciated most about attending a school for the deaf was, "I met many new friends who used my same language."



Hannah Kohl

found a lot to smile about while she was at ISD. Now, she has goals to help others with healthy smiles. Hannah plans to attend Austin Community College in Texas and study dental hygiene. Some activities she was involved with during high school include volleyball and ASTRA service

Local club honors Banks

club. She organized blood donors for the Red Cross drive, volunteers at the humane society and made blankets for hospitalized children. Since Hannah has been at ISD since she was in 4th grade, she said graduating will be difficult. "ISD has been like my home- my family." She noted it will be difficult to leave both this fall, but "I want to do something different (moving to Texas)."

Eagle Scout **Takoda (Kodee) Krauel** of Carter Lake, Iowa has been taking some classes through the Council Bluffs Public Schools Tucker Center the last four years.



He has especially enjoyed the auto mechanic classes, and after

high school plans to earn a degree from IWCC in diesel mechanics. He said he preferred ISD to a public school, because he didn't have to lip read the teachers or worry about not understanding them. He has preferred the small class sizes offered here, and also commented that being at ISD meant he was not teased. ■



ISD student Nathan Weigel in speech class with Banks.

Cheryl Banks, Iowa School for the Deaf speech and language pathologist, was awarded the Council Bluffs Rotary Teacher Excellence Award earlier this month. Banks has worked with ISD students since 1983, and will retire at the end of this school year.

Principal Rebecca Gaw said, "Cheryl teaches an area of need where all of our students struggle. Cheryl goes out of her way to pick topics of interest for the students and can support learning in the classroom."

Banks also organized the Optimist Oratorical Contest, and over the years, more than \$100,000 in scholarships have been awarded to ISD students. ■

Creativity published: x4!



Left to right: Schroeder, Vera and Kohl at the Write Touch breakfast event.

Annually, secondary students from Council Bluffs submit their best written and art work for possible inclusion into the Council Bluffs Optimist Club and the Council Bluffs Community Schools literary magazine, *The Write Touch*.

Four students from ISD were featured in this year's issue, and were honored with a breakfast and award. Congratulations to artists Holly Schroeder and Ashley Vera, and to writer Nichole Jergens and poet Hannah Kohl for their selected entries. See and read the works [here](#).



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3501 Harry Langdon Boulevard
Council Bluffs, IA 51503

bobcat

May
2019

We propose a ROAST'

Students in Iowa School for the Deaf's 4PLUS transition program hosted a roast for the four Iowa Educational Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired students who are exiting the program this spring. On the menu? Pot roast, of course. Speeches were made about each student, recapping their experiences on campus. The evening ended with a movie and popcorn in the auditorium. Plans of these four include: James Cheek, enter Orientation Center at Iowa Department for the Blind; Rachel Hurt may do the same; Dani Wilson will pursue employment and plans to study a science field. Nisha Barnhill will work at Hy-Vee in Des Moines this summer, then attend Hawkeye Community College for veterinarian assistant studies.

Students in both the IESBVI and ISD 4PLUS transition programs made holiday treats for campus departments.

