



The Eagle's Wing

KEOTA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT NEWSPAPER



A Final Farewell to our Seniors.....

Jared Shea Adams



Attending:
Purdue University Global

Major:
Nursing



someday." That day is today. How it is here already, I do not know, but I am filled with emotions as I am writing it. As I sit here and reminisce over the past 18 years, so many memories come to my mind that bring smiles, laughter, and tears.

I remember when we found out we were expecting and going to be parents for the first time. Your dad and I were so excited. We did not want to find out if you were a boy or girl, so we waited until the day you were born. I remember going to the hospital and how nervous we were and having no idea what to expect. After they put you in my arms, your dad and I felt a love that we have never felt before. One that was so strong and so real. Here was this little blue-eyed boy with red hair looking at us and staring into our eyes. Wow, it was a powerful and unforgettable moment. What made it even more special was to have your grandmother there for your birth. She passed away three weeks later, but the love and joy you brought to her last three weeks was one that I will never forget. I have always said this, you were my gift from God at such a hard time in my life with losing my mom. It's like one person became an angel and God sent me another one (well maybe not quite an angel-ha).

Grant, to say I am incredibly proud to be your mom is an understatement. Since you were a little boy, you have always been full of adventure, loved farming, and always curious about everything. I remember your dad and I would take you on golf cart rides around town and you would point out everything that you saw. You always wanted to drive the golf cart, and you always wanted to try everything. You loved the animals when we went to Grandpa's farm and soon, we became owners of a dog and many cats. To this day you still love your cats, and boy did you and Taylor have some interesting names for those cats. Later that would lead to show cattle and watching you show at the County Fair and State Fairs. You were always so interested in how things worked and observing everything. You were like our Curious George when you were younger-always wanting to try new things and find out more about how they worked.

As the years went on, you stay determined and wanted to try new things. Maybe after trying them, you might not have liked them, but at least you would try. You never let things hold you back. I'm so proud of how you handle your stuttering and never let it hold you back from speaking to others, being in plays, and now in your job. You have taken what could be a big challenge for others, and made it a positive thing that others can look up to in you. You do not let your speech impediment determine who you are, but rather you have it be a part of who you are. I'm so proud of you and how you handle yourself with this.

You have probably experienced some things that a lot of people your age have not had to face yet. When your dad was diagnosed with cancer, I was so concerned how it would affect both you and your sister. Your dad and I were so amazed how you handled it. You and your sister were always the ones who could bring the smile to your dad's face when he felt at his worst. You stepped up to be the "man" in the house and had to handle a lot of things that kids your age do not have to worry about. You did it all without complaining and you did it gracefully. It was during that time that I watched you go from a teenager to an adult. You handled the stress and emotion with dignity and in your own way. I also saw how you and Taylor became not only siblings but each other's support and developed a deeper connection as siblings. You guys can always count on each other and have each other's back. I cannot begin to tell you just how much of an impact you had on my life during that time. I could always count on a hug from you when I really needed one, or a "Mom, are you ok?" You are such a kind and caring person. I know others may see you as funny too (and you are) but you are really a kind man. You care so much about your family, your cousins, your grandparents, aunts, uncles,

etc. That is something that your dad and I have always wanted for you and your sister is to know is the importance of God, your faith, and your family. You have made us proud with this.

Grant, as you enter the next chapter of your life, please know that you will ALWAYS have the love and support of both your dad and I, as well as your sister and all your family members. We may not always agree with everything, but you will always have us by your side. I'm so excited to see you focus on something you really love - agriculture. You have always loved this field and now you can really go out and own it. Your dad and I are so proud of the hard work and drive that you have shown working at JJ. Nichting and we know you will do great things. We also know that college is fun, and you will be able to experience that as well. It's an exciting time for you and all your other classmates. I'm looking forward to keeping in touch with all of them too and I only wish the BEST for your small class and yourself. You know how much I love you, but I really do! May 22nd will be an emotional day for me, but I am so happy you have gotten to this point in your life. It's really a chance to start from scratch and make your own mark in life. Follow your dreams and never hold back. Be that Curious George now that you were at age 4. We love you Grant Jeffery Garman, and I can't wait to see where you are 10 years from now. You have and always will make us proud!

Love you to the moon and back,
Mom

Dear Grant,

Congratulations to my favorite son, Grant!! Seriously, your Mom and I are very proud of you!! You have grown into a special young man. I love how driven you are once you get your mind set on something. It's really hard to believe you are 18 years old and will be heading off to college this fall. We are really excited to watch the next chapter of your life unfold. Always remember, the only thing that can hold you back from being successful is you. I am very proud of you and love you very much.

Love,
Dad

Makenzie Jackson



Attending:
Indian Hills Community College

Major:
Early Childhood Education



Dear Makenzie,

Now that graduation is quickly approaching, we can't believe how fast time has gone. You have always been so independent, even when you were in elementary. We remember when you would get up early so you could watch cartoons and eat your cereal before you had to go to school! We are amazed at how you juggle all the activities you do throughout the years, working hard and maintaining your homework and grades as well. We hope you keep striving for your goals and never forget to ask for help when you need it. Remember there will be hard days, but just breathe and know that the next day will be better. We are here for you, cheering you on! Go on and do what you love!

Love,
Mom and Dad

Taylor Kindred



Attending:
University of Iowa

Major:
Pharmacy



Taylor,
I can't believe you're graduating and leaving us. Who is going to help me walk the dogs and clean the house? JK

Taylor we can't even describe how proud of the young lady you have become. You can do anything you set your mind to. We know you will be success successful in all you do. You have shown us you can do it all, academics, sports, work, and most importantly get along and communicate with everyone. I know you will make a lot of friends at college and engage in activities and clubs. You could leave today and be fine on your own. You are financially responsible and know how to run a household all by yourself. We couldn't ask for anything more except for more time. Keep on being you because you are amazing! We can't wait to watch your future expand. We love you so much!!! Don't forget to come home a lot.

Love,
Mom and Dad

Kai Leigh Purcell



Attending:
Capri College

Major:
Cosmetology



Dear Kai Leigh Marie,

As we sit here, writing this letter to you, it's hard not to reflect on the past.

I remember you sitting outside on the porch where we had your Little Mermaid salon all set up. You would pretend to do your hair and make up, always asking mommy am I pretty momma! You have always been such a beautiful smart talented and unique girl. We are so proud of you. You have always told us you were going to graduate and go into school and you did exactly that. You set your goals to be. We can't wait to watch you grow up and see all the beautiful things you do! Even though it makes us sad that your growing up so fast, you will forever be our first love, our baby girl. Mom and dad love you sooo much! We will always be here cheering you on! Love always- Mom and Dad

AJ Sheetz



Attending:
Indian Hills Community College

Major:
General Education



AJ,

You made it to high school graduation. There have been up and downs on this journey. You have become a great man, son, and brother.

We all have been through a lot together; with Covid, being the smallest class; you and your classmates have come out the other end wiser. I see the passion you have watching Chicago Cubs, talking about baseball, and building things on your own. You are a quiet, passionate, funny, kind, free-spirited young man, determined, and have a no quiet attitude in everything you do that will do great things in life. We wish you the best of luck at IHCC.

What ever you do in life, dad, Emily and myself will be proud of you and love you.

Love
Dad, Mom, Emily, the cats and the Chicago Cubs

Drew Sieren



Attending:
Kirkwood Community College

Major:
Precision Farming



Dear Drew,

Oh my!! Where did the time go? Seems like yesterday I was dropping you off in Mrs. Hart's kindergarten room on the first day of school! All of a sudden you're all grown up and heading off to college in the fall. It all seems so surreal. We are so very proud of the hard working, dedicated young man you have become over the last 17 years. You make us both very proud to call you our son. We are excited to see where your future path will take you! You have the tools to be so successful and can't wait to see what paths you choose.

As you graduate, remember you're beginning a new chapter in your life. Ending your childhood chapter and beginning your college chapter can be a little sad, and maybe a little scary, but you will continuously be opening and closing new chapters as you go through life. Open those chapters with courage and strength through hard

work and persistence. Make memories, have fun, and learn from all you experience - both good and bad.

Elon Musk once said, "I could either watch it happen, or be part of it." If life gives you an opportunity, take the risk. Be bold, be brave, be smart. Be confident in your decisions.

Most importantly, remember we love you and are so excited for you. We know you're going to do great things.

Love,
Mom, Dad, Cooper, Gavin, and Zoey

Anthony Westendorf



Attending:
Indian Hills Community College

Major:
Welding



Dear Anthony,

Here it is...time for your High School Graduation from KHS! Dad and I can't believe how fast time has went by. It seems just like yesterday, Dad was trying to figure out how to put the car seat in the Monte Carlo so we could bring you home from Mercy Hospital!! You were just the perfect little baby, now you seem so grown up and ready to take on the world!

Dad and I are so very proud of the young man that you are, we love to hear comments from others about how polite and thoughtful you are! I think you are the perfect combination of both Dad and I... you get the fun-loving attitude and a little sarcasm from your Dad and you wear your heart on your sleeve and have concern for others like your mom. Please keep that same attitude as you go out into the world!

We have loved watching you play sports through the years and make many friendships through all your activities! Being a member of the Sigourney-Keota Football team was a wonderful experience for you and for Dad and me. The SK Football team was like being part of a family (who all loved football)! I loved being a "SK Cobra Mom", #71 is my favorite!! Also, we loved watching you in EagleRock!, the High School plays and Speech.... making people laugh is definitely a strong trait for you!!

We are so excited for you to continue your pursuit of a welding degree at Indian Hills Community College in the fall. You have known since you were 5 years old you were going to go to IHCC, because it is the best and because your Grandma Abel worked there and told you it was the best! Welding is an awesome profession and we know you will do great things with it!

Anthony Ryan...we love you so much and thank God each day that he chose us to be your parents!! Congratulations on your graduation from KHS, we are very proud of you, and keep giving me your big bear hugs!! Love you buddy!!

Love,
Mom and Dad

Dakota Ray Detweiler



Attending:
Kirkwood Community College
Major:
Undecided



Dear Dakota,

My baby boy, Dakota, it's hard to believe you are turning 18 and graduating! When people say it goes fast I didn't believe it, but the time has flown by! I am so proud of the amazing, funny, honest, caring, considerate, polite young man you have grown into. You are always willing to help people without wanting anything in return. I can not wait for you to experience all the fun college is going to bring. Just remember to always be kind, funny and stay true to yourself. You are going to do amazing things!

Love, Mom

Grant Jeffery Garman



Attending:
Kirkwood Community College



Major:
Geospatial Technology

Grant,
Where do I start? It is my turn now to write a senior letter to a senior student. I have read the letters EVERY year that parents write their senior child and I remember thinking "I will be doing that

