

ASSUMPTION HIGH SCHOOL

Salute to Academics 2026

Assumption High School, Davenport, has selected these outstanding seniors from its class of 106 students.



Benjamin Armstrong



Emily Carroll



Anne Burchett



Lauren Schuster



Olivia Fernando



Atalyssa Sodawasser



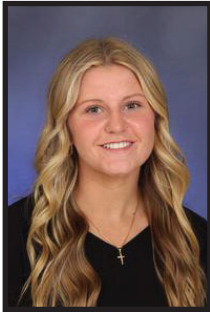
Ellyanna Johnson



Jack Lawrence



Molly Dolan



Charlotte Nigey



Carter Nelson



Graham Woods



Olivia Kahler



Laisha Lopez



Ella Curoe



Mary Huber

Class of 2026 Bailey Alvarez, Luke Argo, Benjamin Armstrong, Emmanuel Assefa, Maxwell Azzaline, Justin Barrett, Nolan Bartels, Gauge Bowman, Hudson Bradford, Damien Bright, Greta Brus, Lena Buford, Brody Buhman, Anne Burchett, Emily Carroll, Isabella Chamberlin, Austin Clark, Koltin Clark, Camden Cornish, Kaydence Crowe, Ella Curoe, Gi-anna D’Aprile, Ellah Derrer, Dru Diaz, Jack DiIulio, Nolan Dittmer, Molly Dolan, Claire Eby, Bryce Edwards, Peyton Elliott, Lauren Ewen, Olivia Fernando, August Ferrell, Anthony Gambucci, Cole Goff, Brandon Gooder, Calen Graw, Renin Gray, Trevor Gray, Mariella Guerra, Gaven Gutierrez, Alexander Hady, Brianna Haney-Scott, Ella Heinrichs, Presley Heiser, Sophia Hillebrand, Jake Hintze, Mary Huber, Lucas Jennings, Annie Johnson, Ellyanna Johnson, Olivia Kahler, Carsyn Kelley, Sean Kersten, Grace Kindberg, MaryAnn Lai, Lilian Lanning, Brock Lansing, Jack Lawrence, Benjamin Leinart, Laisha Lopez, Yahir Marceleno, Maddalyn Martinez, Brooklyn Mau, Chloe McDonough, Camryn Menke, Amelia Moore, Kolt Morgan, John Murphy, Clara Nagle, Carter Nelson, Anna Ngo, Nguyen (Sue) Nguyen, Charlotte Nigey, Ariel Nikulski, Avery O’Neill, Alexis Pilgrim, Julia Reagan, Andrew Riesberg, Erin Robbins, Brody Robertson, Collin Rowe, Aubrey Rushenberg, Delilah Ryan, Sophia Schilling, Vaughn Schneider, Lauren Schuster, Synceare Simons, Kathryn Snyder, Atalyssa Sodawasser, Izabella Soliz, Beau Stevens, Henry StremLOW, Ellison Stubbs, Mari Tapia, Nathan Thobe, Maguinlee Tierney, Jake Volquardsen, Jordan Werning, Elisabeth Weyeneth, Noah Williams, Andrew Wilson, Brooklyn Wilson, Graham Woods, Ainsley Wright, Kathleen Yeates

ACADEMICS

BENJAMIN ARMSTRONG, son of K.C. and Ralph Armstrong of Davenport, plans to major in Biochemistry at the University of Notre Dame.

Top Three Academic or Extracurricular Achievements: Founding of the Assumption Service Club President of National Honor Society, Captain of the football team.

In AP Government class junior year, Mr. Johnson organized a class-wide model United Nations event. He assigned each of us a country and instructed us to develop a resolution. After a few weeks of research, writing, and instruction, we began the deliberation process. For a couple of days, I practiced fundamental persuasive skills to attempt to secure votes on my resolution. On voting day, all my classmates dressed up in our nation’s clothes and brought different kinds of foods from the country we were representing. On top of a month jam packed with fun, I learned how to argue my point to people who don’t necessarily have my best interest as heart. I learned how to debate and compromise like a future leader.

EMILY CARROLL, daughter of Greg and Katie Carroll of Bettendorf, plans to attend Creighton University.

Top Three Academic or Extracurricular Achievements: Being a member of the National Honor Society, maintaining a 4.0 GPA, being selected as Assumption’s nominee for the 2026 Des Moines Register Academic All-State Team.

A classroom learning experience that I think I will remember forever was at the end of my Junior year in my AP Literature & Composition class with Mrs. Hooker. I got to partner up with a friend and pick a book to read and then write a speech about. My partner and I chose Wuthering Heights by Emily Brontë because it was a classic and sounded interesting. I really enjoyed this unit because I got to read a book of my own choosing, and because it was left mostly up to me and my partner to understand and analyze it. I even enjoyed writing and giving a speech on the book because it had been so interesting to read. Overall, the unit was a relaxed and enjoyable way to finish off my busy Junior year.

THE ARTS

ANNE BURCHETT, daughter of Monica and Ryan Burchett of Davenport, plans to major in Secondary English and Special Education at Drake University.

Top Three Academic or Extracurricular Achievements: National Honor Society Vice President, Drum Major, Drama President.

A classroom learning experience I will remember forever was in composition I taught by Mr. Campbell. As a hands-on learner who desires to further my knowledge, I had a lot of fun and benefited from the many hands-on and group writing assignments he gave us. I will always remember when we had to rephrase song lyrics to practice putting what we would learn from sources in our own words. We worked with our peers; chose a song we all enjoyed and put our skills to the test in a humorous way. It was an enjoyable activity that had real pay offs in my writing that I was able to observe.

LAUREN SCHUSTER, daughter of Peter and Andrea Schuster of Davenport, plans to major in Sports Media Management at Iowa State University.

Top Three Academic or Extracurricular Achievements: Stage Manager, International Thespian, National Honor Society member.

A learning experience that I will forever remember is all my time in the Assumptions Drama Department. Throughout my four years and my many roles in tech, I have had many learning experiences each day. As a stage manager, I didn’t just learn how to run rehearsals and organize performances; I learned how to lead, communicate, and adapt when things didn’t go as planned. Each production brought new challenges, from last-minute changes, to designing a difficult set. I learned how to stay calm under pressure, solve problems quickly, and support others so the entire company could succeed. Drama also taught me confidence and responsibility, because every decision I made affected the final performance. Watching months of hard work come together on stage was always rewarding and reminded me how much growth can happen through creativity. These experiences showed me that learning can be hands-on, collaborative, and unforgettable, and they shaped the leader and person I am today.

ENGLISH

OLIVIA FERNANDO, daughter of Kelvis and Labora Fernando of Davenport, plans to major in Biomedical Engineering at the University of Iowa.

Top Three Academic or Extracurricular Achievements: Assumption Knight Players Publicist, Marching Band Drum Major, National Honor Society Recording Secretary.

Despite being experienced in civic oration at JFK, public speaking was a fear I had. The days leading up to my last first day of high school were an exciting but terrifying experience, all due to this one class. Our first speech in public speaking was to tell a story about ourselves. I was as nervous as I was at JFK when I gave my speech. I spoke about the time when I was picked for an honor band: I was front and center, and I never prepared for it because I underestimated my chair placement. The look on my peer’s faces was priceless, leading me to relax. That moment led me to realize that this class would not be as awful as I had thought. It became more than a college class when I realized every speech gave us an opportunity to share a piece of our stories.

ATALYSSA SODAWASSER, daughter of Brent and Jeanne Sodawasser of Princeton, plans to major in History at the University of Iowa.

Top Three Academic or Extracurricular Achievements: 4.0 throughout all four years of high school, 300+ service hours, Playing a lead in the musical.

A classroom learning experience I will never forget was in my Composition II class. We were having a group discussion over the importance of context and how to make a compelling argument, and we watched Bobby Kennedy’s famous speech he gave after the assassination of MLK Jr. This moment in class really touched me, not just because it was a topic that fascinated me, but because the discussion was inspiring. We discussed how powerful our words are and how much words can do. I remember sitting in class hanging onto Mr. Campbell’s every word and that discussion touched me so much that it inspired my twelve-page paper for that class.

MATHEMATICS

ELLYANNA JOHNSON, daughter of Kristine and Douglas Johnson of Bettendorf, plans to double major in Chemistry and Biology on the Premedical Track at Saint Louis University.

Top Three Academic or Extracurricular Achievements: Running in the 4x100 at Drake Relays, being nominated to participate at a National Student Leadership Conference, being part of National Honor Society and National Society of High School Scholars.

A learning experience that I will remember forever was the Rube Goldberg Machine a few friends and I completed for a physics project. I enjoyed applying mathematical equations to a real-life example, instead of just in class word problems. We had to calculate things like velocity and momentum based on our own Rube Goldberg Machine. It was so much fun applying what we learned and getting to have freedom with which equations to use and what machines we would make, as we needed eight machines in our project. Projects like these I will truly miss as I leave Assumption.

JACK LAWRENCE, is the son of Drew and Miranda Lawrence of Bettendorf, plans to major in Engineering at Iowa State University.

Top Three Academic or Extracurricular Achievements: Becoming an Eagle Scout, being assistant stage manager for drama tech, being in National Honor Society.

One valuable academic experience that I had at Assumption High School was being able to take accelerated math classes, especially during eighth grade. In eighth grade, each morning, I had the opportunity to go to Assumption because I got to take Algebra II for Calculus with Mr. Buchanan. Afterward, I would just take the bus back to Lourdes for the rest of the school day. This was such a valuable experience for me because it was my first experience of high school, and it showed me what it might be like to be a high school student the following year. Before this, I really did not know how high school worked, and this showed me firsthand. It also allowed me to meet so many new people and to learn in a setting unlike any I had before. It also set me up for success in my high school career because it gave me the opportunity to take more math classes throughout high school, like Calculus, AP Calculus, and Statistics.

SCIENCE

MOLLY DOLAN, daughter of Erin and Ryan Dolan of Davenport, plans to major in Human Physiology (Pre-Medicine) at the University of Iowa.

Top Three Academic or Extracurricular Achievements: Maintaining a 4.0 GPA, getting my certification to be a Certified Nursing Assistant, running varsity cross country.

One classroom experience that will stick with me from my time at Assumption was in my General Biology class. This class offered me the opportunity to learn about a topic that I am very interested in, as I would like to go into medicine in the future. I appreciated being able to take a class such as this because it gave me an idea of what similar classes would be like in college. In this environment I was also surrounded by other people who were interested in the topic and took their studies seriously, which helped to make the class even more meaningful. In this class I learned a great amount about the subject of biology, but I think that the experience of being exposed to a higher learning environment was even more beneficial.

CHARLOTTE NIGEY, daughter of William and Kathryn Nigey of Bettendorf, plans to major in Business Administration at Kirkwood Community College.

Top Three Academic or Extracurricular Achievements: Converting to Catholicism while at Assumption, rostered on four state qualifying teams, my grade point average.

A classroom experience I will never forget was AP Chemistry. The class exposed me to challenging subjects and taught me the importance of perseverance and teamwork within academics. Mrs. Wallace helped me when I struggled by providing encouragement and more resources.

SOCIAL STUDIES

CARTER NELSON, is the son of Sarah and Josh Nelson of De Witt, plans to major in Industrial Design at Iowa State University.

Top Three Academic or Extracurricular Achievements: Band – Nothing has been more influential on my high school experience,

Game Club – I met some of my best friends just playing board games, Robotics – I am honored to have led this team through its revival.

A classroom learning experience that I will always remember is the model United Nations in Mr. Johnson’s AP Government class. We all took on the roles of delegates from different countries for several weeks and collaborated and debated to pass resolutions to solve problems relevant to our nation. I enjoyed the creativity that we were able to exercise with this project, which led to some interesting policy proposals to say the least. We formed coalitions around certain issues and negotiated with other nations. What made the experience more interesting was that we were graded on our accuracy in representing the real-life positions of our assigned country. I especially enjoyed the party afterwards where we all brought food or drinks representative of our nation.

GRAHAM WOODS, son of Matthew and Whitney Woods of Moline, plans to major in Criminology, Law, and Justice at the University of Iowa.

Top Three Academic or Extracurricular Achievements: Pitching for varsity baseball freshmen year, being a member of the National Honor Society, receiving the Alex Velotas Award.

The classroom learning experience that has and will stay with me forever is when I was able to perform a mock trial in my A.P. U.S. Government class with Mr. Johnson. I want to become a defense attorney, and I feel this was a fun experience that gave me a sense of what it would be like to represent people. I also feel it gave me helpful qualities

WORLD LANGUAGE

OLIVIA KAHLER, is the daughter of Sarah and Andrew Kahler of Davenport, plans to major in Spanish at Loras College.

Top Three Academic or Extracurricular Achievements: Vice President of Drama Club, President of Spanish Club, being on the tennis team for four years.

My Spanish improved greatly while I was in Intermediate College Spanish last year. I remember being assigned presentations on different aspects of Spanish speaking countries. The topics varied from cultural art and food to modern politics and historical figures. It was a challenge to memorize the information, but the hardest part was the questions at the end. After our presentation, our teacher and classmates would ask us questions, and we would have to answer them in Spanish on the spot. This gave me a lot more confidence in my Spanish-speaking abilities, because often I would be able to respond to the questions better than I thought I would be able to. It also made me appreciate the way that communication works. The fact that we were speaking in two completely different languages but were still able to say the same thing was very interesting.

LAISHA LOPEZ, daughter of Martha and Christian Lopez of Davenport, plans to major in Biology (for pre-med) at Scott Community College.

Top Three Academic or Extracurricular Achievements: Entering National Honor Society, keeping a 4.0 GPA , acting in Drama for the first time.

One classroom learning experience I’ll remember forever is when my college Spanish class went to Chicago, and we went to a restaurant, museum, and walked around the area. I enjoyed seeing the culture in all the different kinds of art, whether it was on the walls or stories in wooden figures. I saw a decoration hanging that reminded me of when I was in Mexico with my family. Being at the restaurant and seeing my friends order their food in Spanish was funny, but I felt proud to see my culture represented.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

ELLA CUROE, daughter of Joe and Rebecca Curoe of Bettendorf, plans to major in Nursing at Benedictine College.

Top Three Academic or Extracurricular Achievements: State soccer champions 2025, 2nd Team All-Conference basketball 2025-2026 season, selected for the senior All-Star Game Iowa vs Illinois and State of Iowa All-Star Game.

I have had many great classroom experiences throughout my four years at Assumption High School. An experience I will remember forever was the assigned homework, “Challenges,” in Mr. Carlson’s senior theology class. The “Challenges” I accomplished helped me grow in my faith as an individual and member of the Catholic church. Another experience that I will cherish forever is the opportunity to attend the SEEK conference in my Junior and Senior years at Assumption. This opportunity helped me build a strong relationship with God and our mother Mary. I am extremely grateful for the opportunities and guidance I was given by God, my parents, family members, teaches, staff, and coaches at Assumption.

MARY HUBER, daughter of Rachel and Dan Huber of Davenport, plans to major in Elementary Education and Ministry Studies.

Top Three Academic or Extracurricular Achievements: National Honor Society Corresponding Secretary, actor and choreographer for the musicals, tennis team captain.

I will never forget the challenges that we do in Mr. Carlson’s senior Theology class. They have helped form me to be more fully who I am called to be and they have also shown me that the sufferings of this life are fruitful when we offer it up for others in our lives.