

56 Students Earn Diplomas in LaSalle High School Class of 2009

39 Bound for College

By Mark Tower

Fifty-six LaSalle High School seniors marched through flowered arches to be honored for four years of achievement and to receive their diplomas during a commencement ceremony Friday, May 22, in the school gymnasium.

"Tonight is the beginning of the rest of our lives," said class president Emily Sposito after the processional set to "Pomp and Circumstance."

St. Ignace Superintendent Mike Springsteen said he is extremely proud of this year's graduates, lauding the nine seniors who were graduated with both a grade point average of at least 3.5 and 120 hours of community service completed. Mr. Springsteen went on to advise the students that attitude is the single most important factor in dealing with life's situations.

"Take ownership of the world," he said. "After tonight, your life will never be the same. It's called responsibility."

Salutatorian Michael Wilk and valedictorian Ivy Thurston, both of whom earned a grade point average higher than 4.0, spoke to the graduating class with words of thanks and advice.

Mr. Wilk is the son of Jean and Pat Chargo and Mark and Shonda Wilk, all of St. Ignace. He is active in the school bands, captain of the Quiz Bowl team, treasurer of the National Honor Society, and a member of the track and cross country teams, among other school and community activities. Mr. Wilk thanked his classmates, teachers, and, above all, his family.

Miss Thurston is the daughter of David and Marilyn Thurston of St. Ignace. She is a member of the cross country, softball, track, and volleyball teams, plays in the school bands, participates in the drama club, and is a member of the youth group at Glen Memorial Baptist Church. Miss Thurston advised the graduates not to make excuses for their decisions, and to do what they say they will do.

At the end of her speech, Miss Thurston and Brandon Postma played a piano duet of "You've Got a Friend in Me," dedicated, she said, to anyone who has a special friend.

Those who maintained a 3.5 grade point average all four years at LaSalle were named winners of the LaSalle High School Award. The students honored were Eric Brown, who plans to attend Lake Superior State University to pursue mechanical engineering; Angela Cena, who

plans to attend Northern Michigan University to student pre-dentistry; Arielle Kammers, who plans to attend Saginaw Valley State University to study nursing; Shelby Peters, who plans to attend Piedmont College to pursue a nursing degree; Alyssa Rickley, who plans to attend Lake Superior State to study nursing; Kyle Smock, who plans to attend Grand Rapids Community College and is undecided on a course of study; Lewis Steiner, who plans to attend Northern Michigan to study electrical engineering; Ivy Thurston, who plans to attend Central Michigan University to study pre-medicine, and Michael Wilk, who plans to attend Marquette University to study pre-medicine.

A photo slideshow of the students during their school years brought laughs and smiles from the audience. Principal Don Gustafson commented this year was the first time every senior submitted both a senior and a baby picture for the display.



Mr. Gustafson, in his speech to the class, said he observed teamwork overshadowing individual achievement in this year's graduating class.

"Team 2009 consists of 56 individuals who have shown repeatedly the dividends of teamwork," he said.

He reminded graduates of instances of such teamwork, ranging from a district title in wrestling, to the fact that 25 out of the 56 graduates wore a gold cord to signify a grade point average above a 3.0. Finally, he advised that the graduates not take their family for granted and to work hard for their success.

"Make the world a better place," he said.

Mr. Gustafson illustrated the nature of success by telling the story of Michael Jordan's repeated failures and quoting the basketball great: "I've failed over and over and over again, and that's why I succeed."

Mr. Gustafson, with the help of School Board President Jane Weiss, presented the 56 seniors with their diplomas. Members of the Class of 2009 are Brooke Allan, Frank Beaudoin, Martin Beaudoin, Eric Brown, Miska Cardin, Angela Cena, Chelsey Chambers, Dane Christiansen, Meghann Colegrove, Amanda Coveyou, Elissa Crystal, Bryant Danielson, Lance DeKeyser, Jeff Gamble, Nickolas Gould, Billy Grogan, Kayla Gustin, James Halberg, Alan Honeycutt, Arielle Kammers, Samantha Kitchen, Anna Krause, Bobby LaDuke, Nickole Lanczak, Anthony Lester, Tyler Mapes, Hollee Massey, Dustin McKenzie, Michael McNeely, Andy Mullins, Tyler Oja, Luke Paquin, Page Paul, Dana Perry, Shelby Peters, Todd Preseau, Alyssa Rickley, Marcie Rickley, Rob Robinson, Stefan Saffian, Bruce Schlehuder, Jamie Schlehuder, Joe Schlehuder, Patric Schlehuder, Kaiden Shiemke, Kyle Smock, Emily Sposito, Lewis Steiner, Sara Tafelski, Andy Tamlyn, Emilee Therrian, Molly Therrian, Ivy Thurston, Megan Ward, Jaelyn Wheeldon, and Michael Wilk.

After receiving their diplomas and marching across the school stage one final time, LaSalle's class

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Cedarville High Graduates 36 in 2009 Class

By Jonathan Eppley

Thirty-six Cedarville High School seniors completed one last assignment before leaving high school behind them: attend the graduation ceremony in their honor to accept their hard-earned diplomas.

Hundreds of the graduates' family members and friends filled the Cedarville Schools gymnasium Sunday, May 24, to watch as they walked across the stage to receive their diplomas and complete their high school experience.

In his address to the graduating class, Superintendent Rod Goehmann told the students that life is full of choices. He said some choices are harder than others, and he referred to the difficult budgetary choices the Les

Cheneaux Community Schools Board of Education has been forced to make in recent months.

"We have a board of education that faces some gut-wrenching choices as our Michigan economy causes our state legislature to reduce educational funding," he said.

But in spite of the district's financial woes, Cedarville Schools continue to produce award winning academic, sports, and arts programs, he said.

"We have an academic program that is second to none. We have a fine arts program that continues to produce top-rated music, art, and drama. We have an athletic program that produces championship teams. And we have a community that supports us with thousands of dollars to

weather financial setbacks," he said.

This year the boys basketball team made it to the state championship finals for the second time in the last three years, and the girls basketball team won the regional title for the second year in a row. Also, the Cedarville middle and high school bands both received top ratings at the state band competition at Cedarville schools a month ago.

Mr. Goehmann concluded his speech about choices with a quote from author William Arthur Ward.

"We can choose to throw stones, complain about them, stumble on them, climb over them, or build with them," he said, quoting Mr. Ward. "Here at Cedarville"



Valedictorian Joel Feldhake addresses his classmates Sunday, May 24, during commencement exercises in the Cedarville school gymnasium.



The 2009 graduating class of Cedarville High School throw their caps in the air in celebration after receiving their diplomas. The school graduated 36 seniors this year.



Marcie Rickley (left) and Jaelyn Wheeldon exit the 2009 commencement ceremony under flowered arches provided by the National Honor Society at LaSalle High School. (Photograph by Betsy Wheeler, LaSalle Yearbook)

Pickford High Grads Advised by Superintendent: Don't Fear Failure – or Success

By Jonathan Eppley

Keith Krahnke wants the 2009 graduating class of Pickford High School to go into the world without the fear of failure or the fear of success. Mr. Krahnke, superintendent of Pickford Area Schools,

addressed 28 graduating seniors as they were supported and cheered for by family and friends in the gymnasium during commencement exercises at Pickford Schools Saturday, May 23.

His message to students was

that fear is natural and sometimes good, but that overall, students shouldn't be afraid of what's to come after leaving Pickford High School as students for the last time.

"What are you afraid of?" he

asked several times throughout his speech. "Fear is a natural human emotion. It's probably good that we have some fear, because it's a survival instinct."

He relayed to students that it's acceptable to be afraid of certain

things, like bears, flying, or dying. He even admitted to his own fear

of snakes. He also encouraged stu-

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The 2009 graduating class of Pickford High School throw their caps in the air in celebration after receiving their diplomas Saturday, May 23. The school graduated 28 seniors this year.



Megan Arbic presents the 2009 Pickford High School graduating class and thanks the audience for attending the graduation ceremony as graduates (from left) Heather Kamper, Kurt Barras, Savannah Sterling, and Cheyenne Cline look on.