

DeSales Catholic School

June 2025



Tales of DeSales

Congratulations Class of 2025!

As spring goes into summer, and as we stand on the brink of graduation, it's hard to believe that our journey together after countless years of comradery is coming to an end. Sooner than we think, all 21 of us will be walking across the stage for graduation, saying our final goodbye to our time at the Walla Walla Catholic Schools. However, this isn't just a goodbye; it marks the beginning of a new chapter in our lives.

With our college commits ranging all the way from Scotland to here at Whitman, or Community College for trade school, our new lives begin anew. As we set off on these new adventures, we can't help but look back on the cherished memories we've created together. From the gingerbread men in Kindergarten to the legendary Sloof Lirpa, and the excitement of state games, each moment reminds us of the warmth and joy we experienced here.

In this special edition of our school newspaper, we celebrate each individual in the Class of 2025. These snapshots reflect our unique journeys, aspirations, and the bonds that have made our time together so special. Join us as we honor our past and look forward to the bright futures that await us!



Jacob Burrato

Jake Burrato has attended the Walla Walla Catholic Schools since he was five years old in kindergarten. He has loved all of his classes but he particularly enjoyed Mr. Rohde's drama class and Mr. Fazzari's chemistry class.

Jake says there have been many memorable moments but particularly when Danny Freeman pulled the safety shower in Mr. Pettibone's class and when Diego flipped his bike in PE.

Outside of the classroom Jake loves riding his bike, golfing for the Irish in the spring, and swimming for Walla Walla High School in the winter.

When asked if he has any advice for younger students, he advises students to enjoy their time in high school and not get too stressed about their grades.

Jake has become a positive role model in the classroom, athletics, and faith. He has matured from a goofy freshmen to a mature gentleman who is dedicated to his family.

After graduation Jake plans to attend University of Idaho to study business.
By Hudson Hall



Diego Caso

Diego Caso has been a part of the Walla Walla Catholic Schools system since 6th grade, and he has been attached to sports all of these years. He was a captain in Desales football for 1 year and was a WaHi wrestling captain for 2 years. He played baseball for 3 years of his high school career and has competed in track and field the past 2 years. He is a state champion in the 4x400 meter relay, took 3rd in the 200 meter, and 3rd in the 4x100 last year at state track.

Some of Diego's favorite memories here at DeSales are the senior retreat when he was able to go up to Gonzaga and stay in the mansion while sharing a dorm with Coach Richard. He also enjoyed football team dinners and football camps. Diego is into weight lifting. He enjoyed spending time in the gym lifting with friends and blasting music with Big Billy. Diego also said one of his hobbies is cooking and eating.

Diego's advice to kids playing sports is to put in the offseason work, take care of your nutrition, and enjoy playing sports while you still can. After high school, Diego is going to Boise State to study pre med.

I asked Diego's Football coach, Coach Richard, about what leadership roles he showed. Coach Richard said, "Diego led by example. He always pushed his teammates to work hard while being a hard worker. He desired to get better mentally and physically. Having one of the best players on the team be your hardest worker helps show teammates how to get better. He also had the passion and fire you look for in a football player."~ Coach Richard



Thank you Diego Caso for your years here at DeSales.
By Mateo Jimenez

Jaun Paublo Diaz

Juan Pablo Diaz, JP for short, has been present at DeSales since his sophomore year making this his third year at WWCS. Although he hasn't been at DeSales long, he is still a great friend to all his classmates and everyone is always glad to have him in their presence.

JP's favorite moments at DeSales are the lip syncs and skits during homecoming week because of the time he gets to spend with classmates planning skits and lip syncs and watching it pay off when they finally perform their act.

JP also enjoys the dances because he gets to hang out with his friends outside of school. Outside of school JP loves to write stories and listen to music, his go to musical artist being Taylor Swift.

After graduating JP plans to go to college to become a great therapist. It would make sense that JP would plan to become a therapist because of how he is always willing to help others and he likes to put others before himself. JP's advice to his fellow students at

DeSales is to not take the school for granted, take school seriously and work hard because in JP's words "It's not forever. When it's over, it's over"
By Baker Basel



Diego Diaz-Diaz

Diego Diaz-Diaz has attended The Walla Walla Catholic Schools for the past two years at DeSales. His favorite memory from his time at DeSales is making friends along his journey the past two years.

When he graduates he plans to study to become a mechanic. He would like to thank his parents for motivating him to go through with the new school. He says it was rough in his first year, but in the end he is glad he came to DeSales and met the people that he has met.

Some classes Diego has enjoyed are history and lifetime sports. He says history because he just likes history and that sort of thing in general. He enjoys lifetime sports because there are a lot of different types of games, and activities, as well as free days where he and his classmates get to do whatever activities they want.

Some advice he has for younger students is to be involved in events around the school. Diego says he did not really do much because he came here his junior year and did not know anybody so he was not comfortable doing activities outside of school. But the few he did do with his class, he enjoyed. He says that it is nice being by yourself with no one to bother you, but sometimes it is nice to change the pace of things. Once you start doing activities you will notice everything is more fun.

By Hudson Hall



Janie Doohan

Janie Doohan has been an integral member of the WWCS since Pre-K. When reflecting back on her experience in the WWCS, Janie says her favorite memories were: Going to Helen's house in Kindergarten, playing JA Biz Town, and putting coloring pages in Billy's locker.

Janie's incredible leadership can be seen both around school and on the field as she served as the one of three team captains for Lady Irish softball this year. As a testament to Janie's leadership Mrs Richard stated, "Janie has been an excellent example of support and friendship particularly as evidenced by her support of JP throughout her senior year in addition Janie is very supportive of her little brother Hugh and she shows appreciation to her family and friends with love."

Janie plans on furthering her education at Willamette University to pursue a major in psychology with a focus on social work. Some of Janie's friends and teammates described Janie to be: passionate, supportive, honest, and loving. As Janie's time at the WWCS is wrapping up, some

advice she would like to leave the lower classman is "Don't get senioritis as a sophomore!"

All of us here at the WWCS will miss you and we can't wait to watch you on your journey.

By Madison Ortuno



Heidi Scott

Heidi Scott has attended the Walla Walla Catholic Schools for twelve years and has participated in Basketball, Volleyball, Track and Field, Softball, Math Team, and Girls League throughout her time in Walla Walla Catholic Schools. Some of her favorite memories were decorating hallways and playing games during homecoming week.

After graduation, Heidi plans on attending South Dakota State University to pursue an animal science pre-vet degree. She would like to thank her parents for always supporting her, and her friends for making her smile even when she was having a rough day.

Mrs. Ruthven said, "Heidi is a standout scholar-athlete whose talents on the volleyball and basketball courts and track, softball and WAHSET Equestrian are matched by her drive to succeed in challenging coursework. She is a

fierce yet quiet leader and a great ambassador for the Irish, and the Amish! We love you, Heidi Scott!"
By Jason Guest



Abigail Guest

Even though she is a more recent member of the WWCS, Abi Guest has made her presence known both athletically and academically. Abi has been involved in a range of athletics ranging from both swimming for Wa-Hi to pitching and serving as team captain for the Lady Irish Softball team. When asked for a testament to her character, Mrs. Ortuno said, "Abi's integrity and determination is inspiring. I will miss seeing her bright smile in the hallway." Abi's friends and classmates were asked to give one word they believe describes Abi; they responded, "Competitive, resilient, strong, motivated, entertaining."

While attending WWCS, Abi (with the help of Mr. Hazeltine) said her favorite memory was being one of two people to hit a homerun through the baskets in the gym during whiffle ball in eighth grade.

Outside of sports Abi was also involved in the Drama program at DeSales and she said her favorite production to be involved in was, *The Importance of Being Earnest* where she

played Lady Braknell. Following graduation, Abi plans to attend University of Mary to pursue a degree in kinesiology and exercise science. Abi has learned a lot from her experience at the WWCS and her advice to underclassmen is "Do your work, have fun and participate!"

Thank you Abi for your dedication to our school!

By Madison Ortuno



Javi Guizar

Javier Guizar, a future Gonzaga Bulldog, remembers his very first time at DeSales, recalling it being his 6th grade year on (roughly) August 20, 2018 at Assumption School, in Mrs. Brinson's room at 8:00 AM. Since then, Javier has enjoyed physics class with his "favorite, beloved, wise, caring, clever, patient, reliable, and most of all inspirational teacher Mr. Faz-zari." He has also enjoyed the mental challenges in math classes and other AP classes.

One of Javier's fondest memories is the ride back from State basketball with his close friends Billy, Carter, and Spencer, and also making new friends in Spokane like Ethan Wagner.

Outside of school, he likes to spend his time wisely by lifting "roughly 200 pounds," playing games like Minecraft with Spencer, and ignoring his homework to, as he states, "not do homework to focus on my gaming career."

As stated, Javi plans on attending Gonzaga, pursuing a degree in engineering, also working a job for his dad to help get money for college.

Javi is an inspiration to many, staying committed athletically and academically, being self-driven to be his best self. After three years of being a backup line man, Javi embraced the role of starting snapper and defensive lineman, getting All-Conference Honors and being a great model for future Irish athletes to stay driven and committed to their sport. Javi's self-determination will lead him to success in the future. Thank you for your impact on DeSales and good luck with college Javier!

By Spencer Green



Sal Sisk

Sal Sisk has been with WWCS for a long time stretching all the way back to the beginning of his 5th grade year. Sal Sisk has been an all-time favorite at DeSales always making a dark room bright again with his cheerful smile and silly humor.

Sal's favorite class at Desales was theatre arts because he enjoys building stages and hanging out with Mr Rohde.

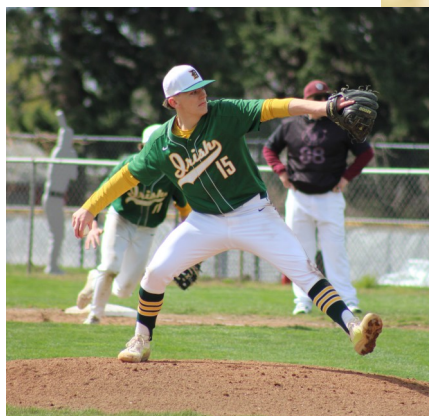
Sal's most memorable moment was when he won State baseball and threw a complete game with a strikeout record. This is Sal's most memorable moment because it showed how much he developed as a player and it wouldn't have been possible without the help of his teammates or the support that he has gained through DeSales.

Sal finds pleasure outside of school by going golfing, cooking, and eating. Sal's plan after high school is to go to WSU and major in sports broadcasting.

When asked why chose WSU and his major, he says, "He feels like he is at home when he sets foot on the WSU cam-

pus." He chose his major because he enjoys sports and wants to work a job that relates to something he loves." Sal's advice to DeSales students is to not pull the emergency rinse off station chain.

By Baker Basel



Allan Martinez

Allen Martinez has greatly appreciated the education he has received in the Walla Walla Catholic School system. He began at Assumption in first grade and has been here ever since. His experience in WWCS has only gotten better and better with his favorite class being Mrs. Brinson's Senior Anatomy.

Although Allen has a multitude of great memories to choose from, one of his most recent memories that he loved is when Mr. Cueto took their class outside for a snowball fight. Students at DeSales have loved his calm nature and kind personality.

Outside of WWCS Allen enjoys playing soccer in the fall

for WaHi. He has dedicated many hours to soccer and has become very passionate about it. Allen is very dedicated to his family and works a lot with his dad.

After graduation he plans to move to Spokane, Washington to pursue a career in welding.

Allen's piece of advice for students at DeSales is to be proactive in your studies and not procrastinate. Life will be much less stressful that way.

By Hudson Hall



Martin Cervantes Urincho

Our next senior shout out goes out to Martin Cervantes. Martin has been with Walla Walla Catholic Schools since his freshman year, and despite being here for only four years, he has made many memories. Martin's favorite class is Theater. He took it for two years and participated in three plays for the DeSales theater program. ("Almost, Maine", "Little Women", and "The Importance of Being Earnest") He also enjoyed Independent Living, for all of the activities he got to do during it.

His favorite memory is Homecoming Week and particularly enjoyed the skits.

Outside of school, Martin enjoys coloring, drawing, painting, technology, listening to music, and playing video games.

Despite not knowing what he wants to do for a career, Martin plans on going to Walla Walla Community College for a couple of years until he finds a 4-year college he wants to attend. He also wants to be able to live life after graduating high school. When asked to give advice to students, he said, "That if you don't understand something, you should ask a teacher for help and overall just communicate if you have trouble understanding something."

Best of luck Martin, we will miss you and hope for the best wherever you go.

By Anakin Houchin



Hailey Egbert

Hailey Egbert first started at the Walla Walla Catholic Schools in the fifth grade. She is very active with her extracurriculars such as theater crew in the plays A Christmas Story, Clue, Little Woman, and Murder on the Nile. Hailey also enjoys basketball, cheer, and her favorites being WAHSET and volleyball. Her favorite memory at Desales was when Danny Freeman pulled the emergency shower head and the senior retreat.

Outside of school Hailey likes to ride her horses, hunt, and go fishing. After high school she plans to attend Green River College and she is studying to become either a medical office ad

min or an assistant.

Hailey would like to advise others to participate in sports any time you can and be active in the community.

When described by her teachers they said she was an "omniscient narrator" because of her awareness about what's going on in the school. Hailey is a very passionate person and she is always willing to volunteer. For example she would lead morning prayer during all school assemblies on days when it was needed. She is known for her high energy and passion for the Walla Walla Catholic Schools. Good luck Hailey! We can't wait to see what you do next!

By Tessa Mendoza



Helen Hellberg-Wilson

Planning to attend Washington State University, Helen Hellberg-Wilson will go into either nursing or animal sciences.

Helen started here at the WWCS as a kindergartener and has been here for 13 years. Helen has one older brother, Jake, who also graduated from DeSales and three younger siblings; Grace, Gwen, and Joseph who also attend WWC.

Due to her love of sports, Helen enjoyed both her Physical Education and Lifetime Sports classes the most. This year Helen played volleyball and basketball for the Irish and is doing WAHSET with Touchet High School.

Helen recommends to get involved in as many activities as you can and enjoy the little time in high school that you have.

Homecoming activities and playing sardines on the senior retreat are a few of Helen's favorite school memories.

Outside of school, Helen enjoys riding horses, reading, and hanging out with friends. *How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days* is one of Helen's favorite movies to watch in her free time, and she loves to eat pickles and ice cream. Helen would like to thank her parents for always encouraging her to be the best version of herself. Good luck Helen! WWCS will miss you!

By Linley Donnelly



Madeline Scott

Madeline (Maddie) Scott will be graduating this spring with the rest of her classmates. Despite being uncommitted for college, she is interested in Wyoming Catholic College with a degree in Liberal Arts.

She has been with Walla Walla Catholic Schools since 8th grade, and she's managed to do a lot in those five years — playing on the softball team and participating in Knowledge Bowl, Choir, Students for Life, Math Is Cool, and 3 plays. When asked what her favorite memory is from her time at WWCS, Maddie responded that it was, "Decorating the hallways during homecoming, and everyone working together with the creative energy. Although it was a messy flurry of streamers, activity, noises, and colors, it all came together into a cohesive end product that transformed the hallways into other worlds."

Outside of school Maddie enjoys crocheting, baking and cooking (especially cookies), poetry, playing the violin, art, and journaling. When asked to give advice before she walked out the doors for the last time, Maddie said to find out your limits so you don't overwork yourself and burn yourself out, and to try things outside your comfort zone, because you might find something you like that you never thought you would.

Congratulations Maddie we will miss the positive energy you gave while you were here and take it with you wherever you may go.

By Anakin Houchin



Billy Holtzinger

Billy Holtzinger has been a student for the Walla Walla Catholic Schools since kindergarten. (At the same time he began to grow his beard.) In his time in high school, he cherishes all his times hanging out with teammates on trips to Spokane for State basketball. More specifically, one of his favorite memories was, “walking around the circle near the Green’s grandparents house with Spencer and Javi waiting for Cap Green to notice the void of our presence.”

Outside of school, Billy enjoys lifting weights, usually more than Javier Guizar, playing instruments—especially his two favorites and specialties: the guitar and trumpet, and watch sports such as Lady Irish volleyball which he would enjoy for usually the first set before heading home because of his strict self-curfew of roughly 8pm.

At DeSales, Billy has loved classes such as Physics and Calculus due to how challenging they are. He has also enjoyed AP History classes because they’re engaging and interesting, especially with “one of the greats”, Dr Valente.

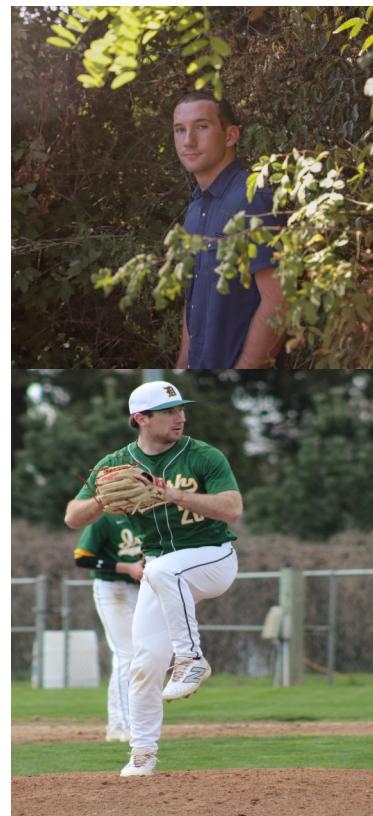
Next year, Billy will be studying Mathe-

matics with a concentration in Finance at the University of Virginia and watching Virginia’s top ranked lacrosse team with Baker in mind.

Any environment Billy goes into he will thrive. He has been the backbone of all the sports teams he has been a part of, leading by example and encouraging others.

His impact on DeSales will not be forgotten; we wish you the best and have fun in Virginia Billy!

By Spencer Green



Tori Kimble

Victoria Kimble has made her bubbly presence unmistakably known at DeSales. Although she has only attended the Walla Walla Catholic schools system since 6th grade, you wouldn’t be able to tell. From being a part of ASB every year, to playing 3 sports a year, Tori has made the most of her high school education here and become a vibrant aspect to our community. As she reflects back on all of the things she has been a part of, or even created herself, she finds that her favorite memory was playing along with her team at the volleyball Sundome tournament.

When asked of her fellow classmates “What is your favorite thing about Tori?” The responses varied, but a common consensus seemed to say that her most notable quality was her ability to brighten everyone’s day with one of her gorgeous smiles. She is known by all as a helpful, kind presence, and we can’t wait to see what she does with it as she heads off to the University of Oregon. Some words of advice to her from Mr. Fazzari, are “Tori is a great student, she really is. She’s naturally very happy and fun to be around. Great math mind. Stay close to God, and you’ll go far, Tori.” We are all so proud of you Victoria, never stop shining so brightly. GO DUCKS!!!

By Janie Doohan



Anna Konen

Until her art is hanging up high in a gallery, Anna Konen will be remembered for her quiet ability to bring joy, invoke laughter, and provide warmth to everyone around her. Her creative and kind personality spreads throughout everything she incorporates herself in; volleyball, golf, rigorous classes, and her many friendships.

Since preschool, Anna has created a multitude of funny or sweet memories with her classmates, and while she wouldn't give them up for anything, she recalls her favorite memory being from elementary school when all the classes brought flowers for the outdoor May Crowning ceremony. She can still picture perfectly the rows of colorful flowers that surrounded our Blessed Mary, painting that image in her mind. A more recent endeavor that Anna recalls would be sitting around making friendship bracelets while watching the Barbie movie during the lock-in her junior/senior year.

As Anna feels the nostalgia that accompanies a senior year with a class containing her best friends, she gives the advice

to younger students that she wishes she would've had, to "Hold yourself to the highest standard you have, knowing that sometimes you will fall below it, but to keep the expectation for greatness there. To expect greatness is to achieve it."

We know that she will continue to keep coloring the world with her gifts as she makes her way to Oregon State. Go Beavs, and good luck Anna!!!!

By Jennifer Doohan



Caroline Kutsch

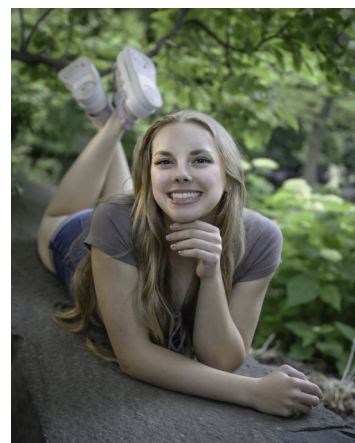
Caroline Kutsch has been a part of the WWCS schools since she was in second grade. During her journey here she has enjoyed Mr. Fazzari's scripture reflections and his very well structured classes. She also enjoyed Mrs. Richard's class because she learned a lot and loved that she taught with so much passion. Caroline's favorite memory was when she was at the senior retreat. At the Bozarth Mansion the seniors played so many fun games such as spoons and sardines extreme. She said it was so much fun because she got to bond with her classmates outside of school.

Another one of her favorite memories was staying at the Best Western in Yakima for State softball. She said during the night they would hangout and have skincare parties.

Outside of school she enjoys working in the dental office, doing crafts, and shopping. Caroline will miss the DeSales family and the comfort they brought her. If she could take anything to college with her, it would be her house.

Her advice to underclassmen is to, "Make sure you take pride in and have integrity in your work." After graduation Caroline will attend Ave Maria University and major in health sciences and pre-dental studies. She plans to become a pediatric dentist

By Hadley Block



Ashley Perez

Ashley Perez is a member of the 2025 Senior Class. Some people may know her as “Boss,” but she is also known as our 2024-2025 cheer captain, a member of the DeSales Lady Irish Softball team, DeSales Theater actor, and Knowledge Bowl member.

Ashley joined WWCS in her freshman year, 2021, and has made a significant impact on the school ever since. She has contributed a strong Irish spirit during softball and cheer season. During State basketball, you could hear her cheering on the Irish as well as seeing her dancing during halftime. Her favorite memories are the 9-hour school days with late nights spent staying after school for rehearsal.

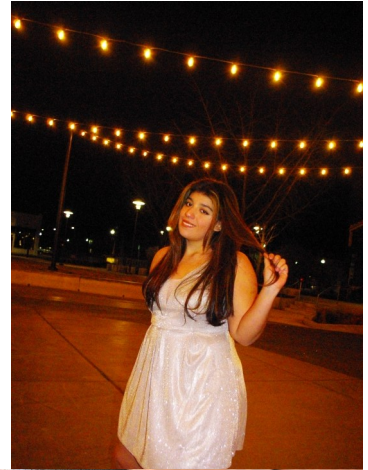
Ashley's favorite class is Irish Time, where she can catch up and get a breather. Outside of school, Ashley participates in ballet. During the summer, she loves to sleep, hang out at the lake, and have fun.

Her advice to new high schoolers is to take advantage of anything offered, such as sports, theater, and Knowledge Bowl. Ashley plans to attend Whitman College, major in neu-

roscience, and then attend medical school.

Thank you, Ashley, for being a great role model to all the students at DeSales and spreading your Irish spirit. Best of luck!

By Vinny Karmy



Lauren Rohde

Lauren first came to WWCS as a bright and happy preschooler. Lauren's favorite memory is cheering with her friends during He-Man volleyball and doing Powder Puff field hockey.

Outside of school, Lauren enjoys playing video games and writing stories.

Lauren's advice to other students is, “Take the classes that are harder for you; if you don't, you won't become the person you are meant to be.”

Teachers have commented on how Lauren is an amazing scholar and an contributor to the football and cheer teams and the theater program. Mrs. Richard said, “Lauren is an astute student and is always willing to stay after class to ask questions.” Lauren said that Dr. Valente is a person who has greatly influenced her.

Lauren's favorite theatre performances are Clue and Marmee. Lauren is going to go to college at the University of Aberdeen in Scotland. When asked why Lauren wanted to go to college in Scotland, she said it was because Scotland was a place she had always wanted to learn about, so she thought a good way to do so would be to go to college there! Another incentive for Lauren to go to college in another country was to prove everyone wrong who said she couldn't get there!

We are so proud of you Lauren, and we know you will go far! Go Irish!

By Lena Pitts



Jeyten Strnadel

Jeyten Strnadel, affectionately known as TEN among her teammates and friends, is going to be walking across the stage along with the 2025 graduating class of DeSales Catholic High School. She joined the WWCS community in 2019 as a 7th grader and has made many memories here in the WWCS community. Whether it was late night theater rehearsals to over-night softball trips she loved it all.

She loved all of her classes and managed to pick something useful up every Mod. But the class she loved the most, was history—no matter the teacher, Dr. Valente, Mr. Rhode, and Mrs. Sutlick; she loved them all. Jeyten has many hobbies. She is working to get her pilot's license and has 50 hours of flight time under her belt. She also plays softball, does cheerleading, participates in Girls League, and was ASB secretary. After high school she plans on attending Hillsboro Aero Academy and wants to work on cargo planes.

Some advice she would like to pass down to lower class men is to know that something is coming out of your studies. Even though it may not seem useful, it helps you grow.

What has Jeyten contributed to WWCS? According to Jeyten, she's always volunteering in the school community. As well as, always being helpful and friendly towards other students. We are all going miss you and good luck! Go Irish!

By Vinny Karmy

