

ELLICOTTVILLE

D I S T R I C T • N E W S L E T T E R

Volume 50, Issue 7

Congratulations to the *Class of 2020!* Megan Hartsell and Adrian de Orbe Earn Top Honors



Megan Hartsell is the daughter of Mary and Michael Hartsell, and is the **Valedictorian of the Class of 2020**.

Megan has remained on high honor roll during all four years of high school, and will be graduating with a final weighted GPA of 115.17 and an Advanced Regents Diploma with honors.

Megan is the President of the Student Council, the Class of 2020 Secretary, and is a captain of the Girls Varsity Soccer Team. She is also a member of NHS, ESPRA, and band, in which she plays the trumpet. She has participated in Jazz Band, All-County, and Buffalo Honor Band during her time at ECS.

For her senior year, Megan was selected for the New Visions: Health Professions program, where she has accumulated many college credits and much experience in the health care field. An avid writer, Megan is a student

correspondent for the Ellicottville Times, and also works at Watson's Chocolates. She strives to be an active member of her community through volunteering.

Megan was recognized as a Cattaraugus County Youth of the Week, as well as an All Western New York Scholar Athlete. She is also the recipient of the University of Rochester George Eastman Young Leaders Award, the RIT Creativity and Innovation Award, the Sage Award, as well as the St. Bonaventure Presidential Award. She has also been recognized as an exceptional student in many of her high school classes.

Megan will attend St. Bonaventure University this fall to pursue a degree in Biology on a pre-med track and a minor in English. She is a member of the Franciscan Health Care Professions Program as an accepted student to Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Adrian de Orbe is the son of Inigo de Orbe and Elisa Hughey. This year, Adrian will be graduating as the **Salutatorian** of his class with a final weighted GPA of 113 and an Advanced Regents Diploma with honors. He has been on high honor roll throughout the four years he has been in high school and is the recipient of "The Climb" Character Award, the Clarkson University Achievement Award, and the Rochester Institution of Technology Computing Medal Scholarship.

As a devotee to athletics, Adrian has been the captain of the soccer, alpine ski, and track and field teams. He has also

gone on to compete in the alpine skiing state championships for four consecutive years and has participated in the Super 8s track and field meet. Due to his performance his senior year, he became the winner for the WNY Scholar Athlete team for the winter.

Adrian is the vice-president of the National Honor Society and has participated in some volunteer work including helping with the Tuscan Moon event and he has also participated in Rotary Cub events. For the past two winter seasons, Adrian has worked as a devoted ski instructor at Holiday Valley and has also worked at Mud Sweat n' Gears for two years.

Adrian will be attending Rochester Institute of Technology in the fall of 2020 where he will major in computer engineering.



...Continued on next page

Congratulations to the *Class of 2020!* *Kilby, Donoghue and Van Wicklin Round Out Top Five*



Madisyn Kilby is the daughter of Aimee and Jack Kilby. Madisyn has been on high honor roll throughout her years at Ellicottville and is graduating third in her class with an Advanced Regents Diploma with honors. She has a weighted average of 111.12.

Madisyn has been in multiple leadership roles throughout her years at ECS. She is the co-founder of the first Girls' Varsity Golf team and participates in soccer and bowling. Along with this, Madisyn has helped found the Climate Corps and is the President of the club at school. She is the Vice-President of Student Council, the Class of 2020 Treasurer, World Language Club Vice-President, and secretary of National Honor Society. Madisyn is also involved in jazz band, ESPRA, peer tutoring, drama club, and yearbook.

She has worked at Holiday Valley as a ski instructor and as a cashier at Pumpkinville for the last four years.

Madisyn has helped in numerous community service activities. She has been a middle school robotics coach for the past three years and was a member of the Cattaraugus County Youth Court for six years. In addition to these activities she volunteered with Student Council, PTO, and varsity club.

Madisyn is a recipient of the Falcon Foundation Scholarship and will be

attending New Mexico Military Institute for one year with plans of attending the United States Air Force Academy the following year.



Abby Donoghue is the daughter of April and James Donoghue. She is graduating fourth in her class with a final weighted average of 110.51. Abby has been on the High Honor Roll throughout high school and will be graduating with an Advanced Regents Diploma.

Abby has divided her time amongst numerous clubs, sports, and extracurricular activities. She has been the Class President for three years, National Honors Society treasurer, and Student Council secretary. She is also involved in ESPRA, Yearbook Club, Jazz Band, World Language Club, Varsity Club, and Climate Corps. Outside of school soccer, golf, and cheerleading, Abby loves to Irish Dance competitively. She also helped found the ECS Girls' Golf team, and was a co-student coach for the ECS FLL Robotics team for the past three years.

Abby is an internationally ranked Irish Dancer, and has competed for fourteen years. She has traveled across the country and across the world to compete as a soloist and team dancer.

Abby was nominated as a Big 30 cheerleader this year, and looks forward to the big game! She was also selected as

a Sage Colleges Scholar, the University of Rochester Leadership Scholar, and most recently was named as a 2020 Burger King Scholar. Abby has also been a featured artist in the St. Bonaventure art show exhibition for three years.

This fall Abby will be attending Villanova University to study Computer Engineering.



Sammi Van Wicklin is the daughter of Bob and Melanie Van Wicklin. Sammi is fifth in her class with a weighted average of 109.44 and will graduate with an Advanced Regents Diploma with honors. Sammi has been a member of NHS, ESPRA Vice President, student council, French club, peer tutoring, yearbook, and drama club. She has also played volleyball, bowling, and softball.

Throughout high school she has been raising funds for Roswell Park Cancer Institute through the Ride for Roswell. She has raised a lifetime total of over \$175,000 for Roswell and participated in a summer internship at the hospital. She has also held many seasonal jobs throughout high school including: a cashier at Pumpkinville, waitress and hostess at Slopeside Bar and BQQ, and lifeguard at Holiday Valley. Sammi will be attending the George Washington University in DC majoring in International Business with a minor in Political Science.

Superintendent's Message to the Class of 2020:

Friday the 13th, 560 weeks and June 26th

Friday the 13th. For whatever reason, it always seems to be associated with superstition. There's even an official word for fear of Friday the 13th... paraskevidekatriaphobia. It goes without saying, as we all know according to folklore, odd things happen on Friday the 13th. There is no shortage of tales about Friday the 13th on the web. Oddly enough, I was born on Friday the 13th. And... ironically the last day of classes inside the physical walls of ECS this year was Friday, March 13th.

For seniors, Friday, March 13th was the last day you walked through the building as students. After June 26th and when things return to "normal," most of you will return to the school at some time and you will no longer be students, you will be alumni. You will join a very prestigious group of people that have gone out and showed the rest of the world why **ECS Graduates are the BEST!** To be sure, those that have walked the graduation stage at ECS before you have spread out and found success all over the United States. I have no doubt that you will do the same.

Most of you started your days at ECS in Pre-K, and at 40 weeks of school per year, June 26th will represent 560 weeks for you as a student. I know that the 15 weeks between March 13th and June 26th have not been easy for you. You have had so many things taken from you. Your trip to Disney World, your senior spring sports season, your role in "Mamma Mia," the Cattaraugus County National Honor Society Awards Dinner, and the last Band Competition at Darien Lake. My heart truly broke for each of you as the dates for these events came and passed.

While I could continue on and on with this list of missed opportunities, I would ask that you reflect back on your ENTIRE 560 weeks as an Eagle (all the way back to Pre-K). Never forget the great experiences you had at ECS. These experiences may include (and this is a limited list):

- Your 1st day of school ever and riding the school bus
- The first time you made the honor roll

- Showing off your new sneakers that made run you fast
- Being voted as a class attendant to homecoming, winter weekend or the prom
- Being named to an all-star team
- Your first real dance
- Scoring the winning goal in an overtime game in soccer
- Participating in Solo-Fest
- Your favorite school lunch
- Meeting your best friend in elementary school and staying close to this day
- Playing football on New Era Field
- Winning Quiz Bowl titles
- Capturing trophies in robotics competitions
- Ski Club
- Having perfect attendance for the year
- The Dime Carnival
- Scoring your first run in baseball or softball
- Odyssey of the Mind trips to States in Binghamton
- Making Area All-State for Band or Chorus
- Halloween Parades in the Village
- Helping with the Senior Citizen Holiday Dinners
- Advocating for and starting the first "Girls' Golf" Team
- Singing and dancing in school musicals
- Your first 3-point shot in basketball
- Learning how to play an instrument
- Feeling the rewards of assisting other students as a peer tutor
- Earning your first 100% on a major test
- Meeting new friends if you attended CTE
- Elementary Eagle Time
- Spiking the winning point in a volleyball match
- Being named to the National Honor Society
- Being named to the National Technical Honor Society
- Dancing, making s'mores and playing games at the first prom held at the Woods at Bear Creek



- Earning an Advanced Regents Diploma with Honors
- Earning a seal of Technical Endorsement on your diploma
- Being named to the Top 10 of the Class of 2020
- Your first end of the year bus ride around the bus loop
- Field trips to Niagara Falls, Midway Park, and the Buffalo Zoo
- Touring Washington D.C.
- Elementary Field Days
- Singing and/or playing an instrument in All-County
- Earning a seal of mastery for mathematics and/or science on your diploma
- Realizing the satisfaction of helping others through Project Christmas Deliveries
- Being recognized as a Scholar-Athlete

I'm certain that each graduate can add even more memorable experiences... and I hope you do. You have spent the past 14 years of your life as an ECS Eagle, and you will all take away many great memories.

The 2019-2020 School Year will certainly be one for the history books. 100 years from now, people will refer to the COVID-19 Pandemic of 2020 and how it literally "shut down" the Country. Students often hope for a snow day. Nobody expected an "Emergency Day" to turn Friday the 13th of March into the last student day for the year at the school. But, please, as hard as it may be, don't focus on what you missed. Be sure to also remember ALL the great times and your accomplishments over the ENTIRE 560 weeks of your education at ECS. And, on June 26th, when you graduate and move on the next chapter of your life... **always soar like an Eagle!!!!**

Mr. Miller
Superintendent of Schools

MS/HS Principal's Message to the Class of 2020:

Dear Seniors:

Ever heard of the flowering plant *Silene Stenophylla*? Neither had I, but you might want to look it up as I think you have some things in common with this beautiful carnation.

Recently, I was walking around our quiet, lonely school noticing student belongings and projects that were abandoned due to the sudden and unforeseen nature of campus closure in March. The most interesting items were in the art rooms – half-completed paintings, drawings and sculptures that starkly represent the exodus that so quickly distorted what was supposed to be a joyful Spring. Like a landscape with a sky but no foreground, it is as if your Senior year was frozen in time.

What the pandemic took from you goes far beyond art and academic projects. Everything was frozen in time, including the heartbreaking loss of engagements such as the high school musical, spring athletics, and the rites of passage associated with saying goodbye to your school. You were supposed to be able to enjoy the "lasts" of everything – last time buying a school lunch, last time listening to the pledge of allegiance, last time using your locker and walking out of the building on the last day of school.

The deep freeze of the pandemic will leave an indelible mark on your memories of high school and your Senior year. But I want to dwell on what is to come, not what has been lost.

Not too long ago, scientists on the other side of the world discovered frozen seeds from an ancient plant that were thought to be buried by a squirrel more than 30,000 years ago. The seeds were in good enough shape for scientists to carefully germinate and grow them into beautiful flowering plants. This was a triumph for modern science, as no complex plant such as *Silene Stenophylla* had ever been recovered from such old tissue, shattering the previous record for cultivating an ancient flowering plant.

It seems unlikely, even impossible that seeds that were viable when the woolly mammoth roamed the Earth could one day bloom. The last three months probably felt like 30,000 years. You, too, might be looking at the world right now thinking things look impossible. But like the ancient carnation, you will have your day in the sun, and you will emerge triumphant over all that has been frozen in time this spring. The world will look at you with respect and admiration for having weathered the icy pandemic. And when you take your place in this world, show us how precious life that has been put on hold, thrives again.

You are a tremendous group of young men and women, and we wish you good fortune as the world thaws from the pandemic. May the sun shine brightly on you as you leave ECS, and remember your roots when you flourish after high school. We are proud of you, Class of 2020!

Farewell,
Mr. Ploetz

Congratulations to the *Class of 2020!*
We Are Proud of All of Our ECS Eagles!



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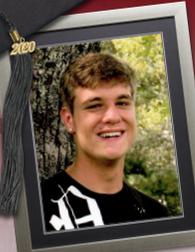


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Congratulations
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Congratulations
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Congratulations
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Congratulations
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Congratulations
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Congratulations
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Congratulations
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Congratulations
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CLASS OF
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Congratulations
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Congratulations
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E Embracing
Change

C Celebrating
Success

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Expectations



Class of 2020 Future Plans...

Caleb Adamic, Employment

James Bogue Jr., Jamestown Community College, Business

Allison Calarco, Bellarmine University,
Accounting/Business Administration

Adrian de Orbe, Rochester Institute of
Technology, Computer Engineering

Abbey DeChane, Alfred State College, Agricultural Business

Abageal Donoghue, Villanova University,
Computer Engineering

Camryn Earley, Jamestown Community College, Business

Brooke Eddy, West Virginia University, Accounting & Spanish

Devon Fish, Jamestown Community College,
History Education

Sylvia Ford-Grover, University at Buffalo, Business

Logan Fuller, Jamestown Community College,
Criminal Justice

Jordan Grinols, Jamestown Community College,
Criminal Justice

Megan Hartsell, St. Bonaventure University, Biology Pre-Med

Gabriel Hauri, Air Force

Christian Hutchinson, University at Buffalo, Political Science

McKenna Kaleta, SUNY Plattsburgh, Childhood Education

Madisyn Kilby, New Mexico Military Institute,
Air Force Academy

Heli Kongats, Houghton College,
Sport, Recreation, & Wellness

Simon Lin, Purdue University, Mechanical Engineering

Niklas Logel, Baldwin Wallace College, Sports Management

Kaitlyn McGuire, East Carolina University,
Psychology & Criminal Justice

Cyrene Moore, SUNY Purchase, Graphic Design & Visual Arts

Tyler Noga, Florida Gulf Coast University, Marine Science

Evelyn Nuzzo, Jamestown Community College,
Medical Studies

Jordan Peplinski, Employment

Audra Perkins, Employment

Nathaniel Ploetz, Alfred State College, Heavy Equipment

Jacob Rust, Employment

Makenna Smith, Hilbert College, Criminal Justice

John Snyder, Rochester Institute of Technology, Engineering

Megan Stuve, Jamestown Community College,
Environmental Science & Criminal Justice

Reena Stuve, Alfred State College, Business

Makayla Tarr, Employment

Elizabeth Teeft, Employment

Samantha VanWicklin, George Washington University,
International Business/Political Science