

Class of 2024 – Senior Spotlight

BHS Band Class of 2024

William Aadland	Autumn Larson
Benjamin Allord	Gracia Larson
Landon Aulie	Ben Maurer
Jonathan Blair	Lillian McDermott
George Campbell	Jax Middagh
Vladimir Capistrant	Hannah Moddes
Molly Cartwright	Oriauna Moen
Ian Moge Castle	Ella Ostrowski
Drew Cerney	Carrah Overland
Bailey Czech	Bjorn Paulson
Claire Dano	Spencer Porter
Olivia Dehning	Michael Remppe
Claire Erdal	Audree Rosekrans
Ashton Extrand	Grace Ruopp
Christopher Gadacz	Kaylin Schei
Isaac Hanson	Alyssa Schommer
Eric Hebert	Tiana Sergent
Alexis Johnson	Trond Sjoberg
James Johnson	Olivia Strong
Lauren Kline	Matthew Tenbear
Gabrielle Klukas	Daniel Tollefsrud
Elias Knapp	Danessa Williams

William Aadland - Music has brought so much joy in my life, and I would like to thank my family and friends who supported me through the way. It meant so much to me when my family gave me a big hug after each concert and my mom took about 1000 photos. Band has always been a fun part of my life where I'm able to relax and enjoy the people and the music around me. Next year I will be attending the University of Wisconsin Madison for biomedical engineering.

Benjamin Allord - I'd like to thank my Mom and Dad for supporting me all through high school and Eric for making everything more fun. Next year I am taking a gap year then going to do DNR. Band was a lot of fun, gave me great friends and helped me get through high school. Some of my favorite memories are from pep bands.

Landon Aulie - I absolutely loved every minute I've been a part of the Brainerd Band Program and have learned so much! I can't thank Fogderud and Sommerness enough for all they've done!!

George Campbell - I want to thank Mr. Sommerness for always being a great teacher and making band fun. I am attending the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, and I am going to be a student equipment manager for the

football team. Band was a great experience, the directors always picked out fun music.

Vladimir Capistrant - I truly want to thank all the people I've met due to the music department for making this year something special. And for my parents who have seen all the highs and lows and all the stuff in between. I don't know what I'm going to be doing in the next few years but I want to keep it music related in some sort of way. The band experience has been a rocky road at first but now at the end of high school it was one of the best parts of my day. I want to thank both Sommerness and Fogderud for being the main reasons why I stayed in it till the end. They are both amazing teachers and make it fun to make music everyday.

Molly Cartwright - I want to thank my family for always coming and supporting me and encouraging me throughout my whole music journey. I also want to thank Mr. Sommerness and Mr. Fogderud for making me want to continue making music throughout high school. Next year I will be attending the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities to study sports management and kinesiology. I loved band and being able to play such a variety of different music that can do so many things for people.

Ian Moge Castle - These 4 years have flown by in a flash. Most of the time it felt like a labyrinth with no exit, a maze with no prize chasing some goal just out of reach. This is why I'd like to thank those who have stayed with me on this journey. Thank you to my family, my friends, and of course the one who's been there everyday, caffeine! I've always taken time to try to help people when I can, that is why I've chosen to go into nursing! I've already got experience in the medical field and caffeine consumption is about the same, so my schedule shouldn't change too much! For me, one of the things I could always rely on with each unpredictable day was band. I managed to get into Wind Symphony and Jazz Ensemble 1 and made fantastic memories, met fantastic people, and played some pretty dang good music!

Claire Dano - I am so grateful to all of the wonderful people I have met because of band, I will miss it greatly. I want to thank my amazing music teachers for teaching me an incredible skill. Next year I plan to attend UMD as a creative writing major.

Olivia Dehning - I wanna thank Mr. Fogderud and Sommerness for always inspiring me and encouraging me to grow. I couldn't ask for a better program or better people to play music with. I can't wait to continue my musical journey throughout my life!

Claire Erdal - I would like to thank my past music instructors, my mom, and my fellow musicians for supporting my musical experience. I am planning on going to the College of St. Benedict's, majoring in nursing and minoring in global affairs. My band experience has allowed

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me to value music in multiple different aspects as well as develop lifelong friends.

Ashton Extrand - I would like to thank my family, friends, and instructors for supporting me over the years. I plan on attending the University of St. Thomas to pursue a degree in engineering. I have made many friends through my band experience and I am grateful for all of the relationships and memories that I will be able to look back at.

Christopher Gadacz - I want to thank my parents for all of their support. I am going to go to St. Thomas University next year for a double-major in Mathematics and Philosophy. Band was always a highlight of the day because it gave me an opportunity to make music and have fun with everyone else.

Isaac Hanson - Playing music in band has almost always been the best part of my school day and has offered multiple honors and once in a lifetime experiences. I'd like to thank my parents and grandparents for their financial and time investments, buying instruments and making it to nearly every performance and concert even if they have heard the songs multiple times already. I have no doubts that band will have forever impacted my life for the better.

Eric Hebert - I want to say thank you to family and friends who have supported my musical endeavors through the years. I want to send a special thanks to my father who pushed me to practice, even when I didn't want to. These next few years I'm planning on honing my skills to become the best musician I can be. Wind Symphony has been a joyful experience to each day, thanks to our wonderful band directors who tie music and philosophy together like leaves in the wind.

Alexis Johnson - I am grateful for my parents and grandparents for their unwavering support throughout my academic journey. Their guidance and encouragement have been invaluable in helping me navigate through the challenges of school life. Additionally, I would like to share my reflections on my experience in the high school band. Being a part of the band has been a truly enriching experience, allowing me to develop my musical skills and create lasting memories with my fellow bandmates.

James Johnson - I'd like to thank Mr. Fogderud and Mr. Sommerness. Next year I plan on going to college in North Carolina. Band was a fun experience with many great memories.

Lauren Kline - Thank you to my family for getting me involved and interested in music at a young age. The best part about my band experience, other than the music of course, has been the relationships I've made.

Gabrielle Klukas - I would like to thank my family, especially my parents for supporting me when I wanted to

do something or try something new. I plan to go to Concordia, Moorhead to major in Vocal Music Education to become a choir teacher. My band experience has been an amazing adventure from submitting videos during covid to performing in New York, to realizing you're leaving behind these amazing people.

Elias Knapp - I want to thank my parents for pushing me to start band in 6th grade and for making sure that music was a large part of my life as a kid and even today. Along with that I want to thank them for listening and putting up with my terrible playing and practicing. Next year I will be attending the University of St. Thomas to study Mechanical Engineering. I had a ton of fun in band and really enjoyed being a part of band at BHS. I learned a ton of super valuable life lessons from band along with a love for music.

Autumn Larson - I would like to thank all of the teachers I've had throughout all my years of schooling for making me into the person I am today and for providing me with the tools I need for my future. Next year I will be attending the college of Saint Benedict's where I will be majoring in biochemistry with a pre-med track and participating on the swim team. Through band I have been able to meet so many people I wouldn't normally see during my day and it has given me so many memories I couldn't get from anywhere else.

Gracia Larson - I want to start out by thanking the band teachers for letting me perform in band even if I may not be the best. Next year I'm taking a butchering course at Staples MN. My band experience was awesome. Last year's tour to NYC was super memorable.

Ben Maurer - I'd like to thank my parents for supporting me to stay in band. I'm going to UND with my boys. I've learned that being the best there is at something is hard but I had a good time.

Lillian McDermott - I would like to thank Mr. Fogderud and Mr. Sommerness for all the years of fun and musical enrichment at Brainerd High School. I will take what I've learned in band with me to college next year. I will miss the mischief and mayhem of the trumpet section, but I'm guessing Mr. Fogderud will not! Overall, I'm grateful that I got to share the stage with such a talented group of people.

Jax Middagh - Thank you to Mr Sommerness for teaching me the past few years and to my parents for putting up with my late night practicing. Next year I will be attending Bemidji State University with a major in environmental studies and a minor in music performance. My band experience has really matured me and showed me the harsh truth of if you don't put time and energy in something the outcome will reflect as so. Once again thank you to Mr. Sommerness and Mr. Fogderud for everything you guys have taught me.

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Hannah Moddes - Thank you to my mom and Alyssa Johnson for finding my first flute and thank you to the Brainerd Band Program for making me good at it.

Oriauna Moen - I want to thank my friends, family, and teachers for helping me get to where I am today. I am thinking of taking a gap year and getting myself on track and then considering college for cosmetology. My band experience thoughts are that I really enjoyed this class and I enjoyed meeting new people and becoming friends with those people. I also enjoyed all of the music we played for concerts and pep bands.

Ella Ostrowski - I would like to thank my parents for always supporting my love of music and band throughout my career. I also want to thank my fellow band members that have helped to push me as a musician in so many ways, and lastly I want to thank my two amazing band directors for helping me grow inside and outside of the band room, and for blessing me with many musical thoughts, thank you guys! Next year I will be attending the United States Naval Academy to continue my academic career and serve our country. I will forever be grateful for my band experience at BHS. The best feelings of making great music with amazing friends will last a lifetime.

Carrah Overland - Next year I'm off to college. I had a fun and great band experience.

Spencer Porter - I would like to thank my parents for always being there for me and pushing me to do my best. I am attending the University of Wisconsin-Madison and I am majoring in Biology. I had a great time in my many years in band and I have learned lessons that I will carry with me for my whole life.

Michael Remppe - I want to thank my grandma for telling me I would never regret staying in band. Looking back on it, she was right. Next year I'm going to CLC to complete my generals for a biology major as I'd like to pursue a career in healthcare. My band experience has been by far my favorite class during high school. There hasn't been one day I've come to band without a smile and my best effort to be awesome!

Audree Rosekrans - Thanks to my family for always showing up at concerts, and Alyssa my bass clarinet buddy since 7th grade. Next year I will be attending University of Minnesota-Crookston double majoring in Animal Science & Ag Business. Someone once told me that playing music strengthens your mind, starting each day playing music has proven this to be true.

Grace Ruopp - I wouldn't be who I am today without the BHS Wind Symphony. I am so grateful for each and every musician I have had the opportunity to work with here. Thank you all.

Kaylin Schei - I'd like to thank my parents for my band experience, I never could have done it without them, or the rides to and from pep band. They have also greatly supported me in my decision to start college at CLC. My band experience has been one of the things that I'll miss most.

Alyssa Schommer - I want to thank my family especially my parents for always supporting me in everything I do as well as Audree for making us the most fun section. I plan on attending NDSU to study architecture. Band has been a wonderful experience and I'm super grateful for the chance to learn music and make friends.

Tiana Sergent - I want to thank Mr. Fogderud and Mr. Sommerness for making band a fun place to go and escape from school for a bit. I hope to take band with me into college next year, I plan to go to NDSU to further my education in animal sciences. If you're thinking about joining band or any music group, do it!!! You will not regret it. Thank you to everyone who believed in me and helped me throughout the years. This is Tiana, Class of 2024 signing out.

Trond Sjoberg - I would like to thank my mom and grandma for all of their support over the years. Next year I'm planning on pursuing a biology major and music minor at Concordia in Moorhead. I've enjoyed playing many amazing pieces and hearing Fogderud's stories over the years.

Olivia Strong - I want to thank my family and friends as well as my peers for making this year so memorable. I'm looking forward to college next year but band has easily been one of my favorite high school experiences. It taught me so much more than I could've ever imagined.

Matthew Tenbear - I want to thank my mom, sister, and the rest of my family along with all my teachers and advisors. I will be attending ERAU, Daytona Beach FL for Homeland Security. My years in band were an amazing and fun experience. The experiences were temporary, but the memories are forever.

Daniel Tollefsrud - I want to thank Mike and Foggy for these 4 years of helping me become a better player, improviser, and musician. Next year I will be attending the University of Minnesota Duluth for a music education major. My favorite part of my band experience was jazz.

Danessa Williams - I would like to thank my dad for always playing instruments, music, and signing to me growing up; My parents and teachers for encouraging me to have the courage to go after what I want. I am going to the University of North Dakota for Psychology and Pre-med. Band brought me so many friends and unforgettable opportunities that I would not have gotten elsewhere.