Letter from the editors:

The graduating class of 2021 has overcome a lot to get to this point in their high school careers. Four years of high school courses and activities, a junior year that was cut short due to the pandemic, and a senior year that was unlike no other. Through all of the hardship, there has also been plenty of joy. Let this past year be a reminder to live life to the fullest and spread your faith wherever you may go.

Gehlen-Aire Moderator, Mrs. Alison Schilling
Tiffany Woerdehoff, Landon Nilles, Hunter Klein, Jordan Rueter, Aiden Spangler, Keaten Bonderson, Drake DeRocher

Inside this Issue...
Senior Profiles.............2-10
Notes from Home........10-12
Activity........................12

Class of 2021

Now is your time to shine! Take on the world with a good attitude and respect for others. Most importantly, don’t lose your faith!
-Mrs. Amy Jungers

Be kind. Step outside of your box and try something new. Stay true to your values. Stay close to Christ and practice your faith. Be the best version of yourself so that you may become all that Christ has planned for you! Call your mom. :)
-Mrs. Laurie Kellen

Believe ~ believe in yourself, Believe in God, and Believe you can do it!
-Mrs. Ashley Langel

As you are ready to run towards your next big adventure, remember where you came from. We are here rooting for you, praying for you, and hoping for you and your future! May God bless you and keep you!
-Mrs. Alissa Schipper

Keep being the best versions of yourselves that you can be each and every day. Some days will be better than others, some worse, but don’t dwell on the past, as the sun will rise again the next day, full of blessings and new opportunities!
-Mr. Nathan Klaumann
SENIORS

JEFF AUGUSTINE or “J-Baggy” is the son of Bob and Margie Augustine. Jeff has five siblings: Amanda, Jessica, Alex, Mitchell, and Ryan. Jeff is involved in football and track at Gehlen. He also enjoys disc golfing with friends, working at Jerry’s Pizza, and lifting/training. Jeff’s favorite high school memory was state track sophomore year. Jeff’s biggest inspiration is David Goggins, an American ultramarathon runner, because “he knows what’s real.” Jeff’s favorite quote is “When it comes your time to die, be not like those whose hearts are filled with the fear of death, so that when their time comes they weep and pray for a little more time to live their lives a different way. Sing your death song and die like a hero going home” -Tecumseh. Jeff says the best thing about going to Gehlen is the memes and the boys. After highschool he plans to go to the Navy and “just go wherever he’s told.”

DYLAN BARTHOLE, otherwise known as “Otter,” is the son of Jeff and Jenny Barthole. Dylan is the oldest in his family with Jayden, a sophomore, and Dawson, a freshman. In school, Dylan is involved in football, golf, and weightlifting. During the summer he works at the Willow Creek Golf Course. After high school Dylan plans on majoring in Business at the University of Northern Iowa. Dylan will always remember his senior football season playing with his teammates. If he could make one required class it would be Intro to Business. His favorite school lunch was the chicken alfredo. The most memorable sporting memory in high school for Dylan was the football team beating Southeast Valley in 2017. This year he was looking forward to having a senior golf season with his friends as captain of the golf team. Dylan sees himself in ten years working at an accounting firm. Dylan’s biggest inspiration is Pat Tillman because he sacrificed everything for the United States. His favorite quote is “Success isn’t owned, it’s leased, and rent is due every day” (JJ Watt). The best thing about Gehlen Catholic for Dylan is learning about Jesus Christ.

LUKE BOGEN, aka Lukas, is the son of Greg and Dawn Bogen and has two younger siblings, Emma and Jake. Luke participated in hockey for 5 years when he lived in Minnesota and played 3 years when he moved to Iowa. Luke also played 12 years of baseball. He has been fishing his whole life and enjoys the outdoors. His most memorable sporting event would be playing baseball with his friends. Luke believes that everyone should take Business Math because it prepares you for life. Luke thinks the best thing about going to Gehlen Catholic is seeing his friends everyday. He sees himself working on a farm in the next 10 years. After graduation, Luke plans to attend Iowa Lakes Community College for Agriculture.

ASHLYN BOLLIN is the daughter of Trina Bollin and Josh Forman. She has two siblings: Jaxon Forman and Max Forman, and two dogs Koda and Mazikeen. “Ash” is involved in gardening, painting, speech, musical crew, and designing (floral). She will be attending Minnesota State University in Mankato to major in dental hygiene with a minor in biology. Ashlyn says she would choose College English if one class had to be necessary. Her favorite school lunch is chicken alfredo with breadsticks. Ashlyn is looking forward to finishing EMT this year. She thinks Independent Art has prepared her most for life after high school. Her favorite memory from high school is making State Speech for 1 Act in the spring of 2021. Ashlyn sees herself in 10 years from now working as a dental hygienist somewhere in Minnesota. Her biggest inspiration is herself because she is working hard to improve herself. If she were to win the lottery she would fly far, far away from here. Ashlyn’s favorite thing about Gehlen Catholic is the teachers.

VIRGINIA BRAVO is a foreign exchange student from Italy. She lives with her host family and host sister from Belgium. In school, she enjoys being a part of the track team. Outside of school, she likes going out with her friends. She will always remember the hard track practices when she thinks back on her time at high school, but the most memorable moments were at the basketball games. At school, her favorite lunch has been pizza. When thinking about the senior class, she would describe them as “funny.” Virginia says one mandatory class for seniors should be philosophy. The class she thinks prepares you most for life after school is government. Her favorite quote is “who does nothing, needs hope for nothing.” Her mom is her biggest inspiration because she is the strongest person she’s ever met. After graduation, Virginia will travel back to Italy to graduate there, then go to college and study law. In 10 years, she sees herself traveling the world with a good job. She says the best thing about Gehlen Catholic is the relationships with the teachers.
Class of 2021

Jackson Bretey, or “J.B.,” is the son of Keith and Teri Bretey. Jackson has three siblings: Carlyn, Derek, and Michaela. In his free time Jackson runs his own wood splitting business. Jackson says that his favorite class at Gehlen is Business Class because it teaches people good financial skills. Jackson’s biggest inspiration is his dad because he taught him how to be self reliant. His plan for life after high school is to keep running his business back home in Le Mars. In ten years he sees himself still successfully running his business.

Olivia Budden, also known as “Livy,” is the daughter of Austin and Lori Budden. She has two siblings, Ashton and Delanie. While in high school, Olivia has been involved in speech and the musical. She enjoys longboarding, swimming, and hanging out with friends. When not with friends or at school, you could probably find her working as a housekeeper. Olivia says the best thing about going to school at Gehlen is that we can joke with the teachers and talk openly about our faith. It is also less people so it’s more “like a family vibe.” After high school, Olivia plans to attend Briar Cliff University and study nursing while minoring in psychology.

Sera (Yoon Seo) Chung has been a foreign exchange student at Gehlen Catholic for all four years of high school. Her host parents are Sharon and Dennis Dorr. Throughout high school, she has been involved in marching band, cross country, jazz band, CLT, Honor Society, track, and the musical. Sera has enjoyed all of her memories in high school at Gehlen. When asked about her favorite school lunch, she responded with “chicken alfredo.” If she could create one mandatory course for future seniors, she would suggest Home Economics. When going into her senior year, Sera was most looking forward to state volleyball, prom, the musical, and of course, graduation. When asked about her class, she described them as “spontaneous” and she thinks “the people” are the best here at Gehlen. After graduation, Sera plans to attend a four year college and study food science, agricultural engineering, or environmental engineering.

Filip Forys, an exchange student from Poland, lives with his hosts, Peggy and Tommy Mayrose, and has a host brother, Alex Chung. Filip’s nicknames are “Poland” and “Phil.” In school Filip enjoys cross country, track, jazz band, choir, chamber choir, and bass clef. Outside of school Filip loves to play video games. If Filip could create one mandatory course for future seniors he would make a class that teaches you how to overcome anxiety and depression. Filip thinks the class that prepares you most for life after school is Financial Literacy because it teaches you management skills. Filip uses the word “crazy” to describe his class. His most memorable experience going to Gehlen was the varsity basketball games this past winter. Although he misses his food from home, his favorite school lunch is orange chicken. Filip says he will always remember America and the food here. If he was in charge of a concert for the school the artists he would invite would be Post Malone, The Weeknd, and Tessa Violet. His favorite filter on Snapchat is the pit viper glasses. In 10 years Filip says life is too unpredictable to tell where he would be at or doing. Filip’s biggest inspiration is his parents because they went through hard times, and they work hard for what they have. If Filip wins the lottery he says he will donate 10% to charity, donate 20% to climate change foundations, invest 50%, and use the rest. Filip says the best thing about going to Gehlen Catholic is the very kind and helpful environment. After Filip graduates he plans on studying at a university in Europe. He intends to get a degree and return to the U.S.

Eleonora Guazzi is a foreign exchange student from Italy and she joined the senior class midway through the school year. She lives with Sharon and Dennis Dorr. While in high school, Eleonora has enjoyed basketball cheer, track, and taking part in the musical. She also loves to dance, sing, and act. In addition, she enjoys swimming, listening to music, going to movies, and hanging with friends. She will always remember being involved in all of the extracurricular activities at Gehlen. Her favorite school lunch this year has been chicken fajitas. The activities she was most looking forward to this year were cheerleading, the musical, prom, and of course, graduation. Her favorite part about Gehlen Catholic has been that it is a small school that promotes relationships among students and teachers that care. After a U.S. graduation, Eleonora plans to travel back to Italy to attend her senior year there and graduate. She is considering going to college in the United States as she would like to pursue her passion for performing and studying languages.
**LAUREN HARPENAU** is the daughter of Brian and Tonya Harpenau. She has two older sisters, Maddie and Brooke, and two younger brothers, Zac and Matthew. She is involved in speech, football and basketball cheer, and works at HyVee. Her favorite school lunch is bologna sandwiches and chicken noodle soup. If any class should be mandatory, Lauren thinks it should be a food making class. The most memorable sporting event for her was cheering at football games. She thinks Financial Literacy is the class that prepared her the most for college. If she were to win the lottery she would save some money and spend the rest. She hopes to be married with a job in ten years from now. The best thing about going to Gehlen Catholic is “Luke Bogen,” says Lauren. After high school, Lauren plans to attend the University of Iowa State to study civil engineering.

**LILLIAN HARPENAU** is the daughter of Jill and Chad Harpenau. She has two younger brothers, William and Lane. Lilli is extremely busy with her list of activities which includes softball, football cheer, large group speech, honor society, CLT, 4-H, babysitting, showing cattle, and working with her dad. Lilli plans on attending South Dakota State University to major in Agricultural Business after high school. Lillian will always remember the times before her performances in the musical, large group speech, and the plays. She will miss her favorite lunch which is orange chicken and miss cheering on the Jays during sporting events. If Lillian could make one class recommendation it would be Iowa Financial Literacy because it teaches you the importance of saving money. If Lillian could plan a concert for high school students, she would have George Strait, Garth Brooks, and Morgan Wallen perform for the school. Her favorite Snapchat filter is the coffee filter and if she could use one emoji for the rest of school it would be the face palm emoji. In ten years she sees herself living her dreams. Lillian’s biggest inspirations are several people she looks up to in many different areas of her life. Her favorite quote is “Be the change you wish you to be in the world.” If she won the lottery she would buy her dream house and pay off all of her student loans. Lillian said the best thing about going to Gehlen Catholic High School is getting to learn and grow in my faith with her friends.

**JAIME HUNT** is the daughter of Julie and Steve Hunt. Jaime has five siblings which are Emily, Megan, Anthony, Anna, and Ellen. She has been involved in speech, musical, football cheer, longboarding, 4-H, CLT, and Honor Society. After she graduates high school, Jaime plans on attending the University of Northern Iowa and studying criminal justice. If she could create one mandatory course it would be one that stresses the importance of mental health. Jaime was most looking forward to homecoming, state volleyball, and prom during this school year. She will always remember the competitive student section that Gehlen had. In ten years she sees herself married with four dogs, a cute decorated house, and a good job. Jaime’s favorite quote is, “If you are positive, you’ll see opportunities instead of obstacles” (Confucius). What Jaime enjoyed about Gehlen Catholic the most is the small classes and everyone knowing each other.

**EMILY KELLEN** is the daughter of Karl and Missy Kellen. She has a younger sister, Avery. Emily is involved in softball, horseback riding, 4-H, Queen of Town and Country Saddle Club, Honor Society President, and works at Poodles 2 Doodles as a kennel cleaner manager. After she graduates she will pursue equine management at Ellsworth Community College in Iowa Falls. She was looking forward the most this year to homecoming and prom. If she could create one mandatory course for future seniors it would be one that focuses on how to do taxes because she has gone to school for thirteen years and still does not know much about taxes. In ten years she sees herself living on a ranch with a successful career. Emily’s biggest inspiration is her boss because she always works hard and offers great advice. If she won the lottery she would buy lots of horses, a truck, and a trailer. What Emily liked the most about going to Gehlen Catholic is the small classes and the teachers.

**LILLIAN KESSENICH** is the daughter of Chris and Dawn Kessenich. She is the middle child with an older sister, Isabelle, and a younger brother, Jack. “Denise,” as her friends like to call her, has kept busy with all the activities she is involved in which include: football and basketball cheer, school dance team and studio dance, speech, honor society, 4H, babysitting, and working as a CNA. Lillian says if one class could be mandatory it should be nap time. When asked what she will always remember from high school, she responded “Sera trying to stay awake in class.” Her favorite school lunch is macaroni & cheese which isn’t liked by many students. Financial Literacy is the class that has prepared Lillian the most for after high school and hopefully will help her fulfill her dreams of living somewhere warm with a golden retriever. Lillian’s biggest inspiration is her Grandma Kessenich. Lillian says, “She was THE most caring person and always puts others before herself.” Lillian is going to always remember the friends she made at Gehlen Catholic and all the memories that were made. After high school, Lillian plans to attend the University of Iowa to major in nursing and minor in Spanish.
**Class of 2021**

**Emily Klein**, also known as “Em,” is the daughter of Mary and Jim Klein. She has two brothers, Matt and Nathan, and one sister, Michelle. While in high school, she has been involved in dance team, cheerleading, large group speech, the musical, marching band, chamber choir, triple trio, jazz band, CLT, and Honor Society. Emily’s biggest inspiration in her life are her parents because they always encourage her to do her best in all that she does. After high school, she plans on attending Iowa State University and studying finance.

**Hunter Klein** is the son of Doug and Krista Klein. He has two siblings, Brandt and Kegan. Hunter has played baseball all four years of high school and when he’s not at the ball diamond, he enjoys hunting, fishing, and trapping. Hunter will always remember grilling out in the parking lot with the senior guys. He believes Business Math is a good class to take before a student graduates. Hunter’s favorite quote is to “always work harder than the person next to you.” If he were to win the lottery though, he would buy lots of hunting land and a farm for his family. In 10 years, he sees himself farming. After graduation, Hunter will be working at MLS in Granville and then attending college in a couple years.

**Tyrell Klein**, also known as “Ty,” is the grandson of Randy and Mary Klein. Tyrell works at Casey’s. He plays football, baseball and track and he also enjoys fishing, camping and playing video games in his free time. Tyrell will be attending Mount Marty for Physical Education and will be a member of their football team. He said that the senior year MMCUR game will always be one to remember. Tyrell is looking forward to graduation and also believes that Business Math is something that prepares you for life. His favorite school meal has been the burger with potato wedges. When he thinks back on his time at Gehlen, he will always remember how Mrs. Schilling made Luke drink a cup of water every day during her class because he always bragged about how he only drank pop.

**Zach Kraft** aka “King Samoa”, is the son of Rita and Loi Kraft. He has one brother, Connor. Zach is involved in football, basketball, baseball, track, choir, speech, theater, Honor Society, and CLT. After high school, Zach plans on going to college. At the time of the interview, he was not sure where, but he wants to study Physical Therapy. Zach said he was looking forward to football season the most this year, but his most memorable moment of highschool was going 23-2 in the 2020-21 basketball season. Zach’s biggest inspiration is NFL pro football player J.J. Watt and his favorite quote is “He who fears he will suffer, already suffers because he fears.”

**Traegen Kramer**, aka “Big time” or “Sunshine,” is the son of Jeff and Tamara Kramer. He has two younger siblings, Jaxten and Kenzlee. Traegen works at Jerry’s Pizza, Hummers Lawn Care, vaccinates pigs, and is also part of the Le Mars Ambulance service. He has played 3 sports throughout high school: track, football and baseball. His most memorable sporting event would have to be state track. When he thinks about his school days, he will always remember Easton jumping down a flight of stairs but rethinking his decision mid air. When asked about required high school classes, Traegen thinks that there should be a general knowledge class so that everyone learns to cook and do laundry, change a tire etc. If Traegen won the lottery he would pay off student loans and buy some land to build a house and also buy a 1968 Camaro. Traegen believes the best thing about attending Gehlen Catholic would be knowing everyone in the hallways and going through school with the same classmates. Traegen plans on attending Upper Iowa University to become a Wildlife Conservation Officer.
SENIORS

Ella Kreber or “El” is the daughter of Chad and Jennifer Kreber. She has one sister, Grace. Ella’s high school activities consisted of cheerleading, dance team, speech, CLT, Honor Society, waitressing, and doing chores on the farm. She plans to attend South Dakota State University to study animal science on a pre-veterinary track. Ella will always remember dance practice in the mornings and her favorite school lunch has been chili and cinnamon rolls. The most memorable fine arts moment was when the music stopped at a halftime dance performance so they had to count out loud for the rest of the dance routine. If Ella could describe her class in one word, it would be “well-rounded.” In 10 years, she sees herself married and hopefully practicing veterinary science. Ella says the best thing about attending Gehlen has been the class size and opportunities.

Karoline Kroll is the daughter of Josh Kroll and Theresa and Corey Berg. She is the oldest and only girl in the family with Riley and Elliot Kroll as her brothers. She is involved in the dance team, basketball cheer, student council, Students for Life treasurer, Honor Society, Christian Leadership Team, 4-H, youth group, and she works at Four Brothers. Karol plans to attend the University of Iowa to study biology on the pre-med track. She says “I will always remember Easton jumping down the whole flight of stairs” when thinking about her time here. Her favorite school lunch is crispitos. The class that prepared her most for her future is Financial Literacy. Her biggest inspiration is her grandma, because “she would do anything for me and always puts her family first and I hope to be like that one day.” If Karoline were to win the lottery she would invest some of it and buy more clothes and shoes. The best thing about going to Gehlen Catholic is “growing up with my class for the last 12 years.”

Rachel Langel is the daughter of Mick and Tami Langel. She has four siblings Alec, Katelyn, Leah, and Aden and her dog’s name is Princess. Rachel enjoys volleyball, basketball, speech, Student Council, being a nanny, and has been involved in many additional activities while at Gehlen Catholic. She plans to attend Briar Cliff University and major in biology on the pre-chiropractic track. If Rachel could create one mandatory class for future seniors, it would be “naps and snack time.” She will always remember when “the seniors canoed down the Floyd River and lost phones, keys, shoes, and got stuck.” Rachel’s favorite school lunch is crispitos and her most memorable sporting event was beating MMCRU her junior year and playing state basketball that same year. Christian Leadership Team helps Rachel prepare for the future the most because it teaches her how to live out her faith. In ten years, she sees herself owning a chiropractic office and married with some kids. Her favorite quote is Jeremiah 29:11, “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Donald Loutsch aka “The Don,” “Donny,” or “DJ” is the son of Lyle and Jackie Loutsch. He has five brothers, Scott, David, Brandon, Dominic, and Simon, and two sisters, Jessica and Diana. Donald’s favorite activities are anything to do with sports or the outdoors and he also enjoys playing piano and singing. After high school Donald plans to attend college at Northwest Iowa Community College in Sheldon, Iowa, for Process Controls. When asked where he sees himself in 10 years Donald replied, “living in Le Mars with a house fully paid for, working at Wells, and hopefully married with kids.”

Easton Macklem, aka “Big Eazy,” is the son of Jennifer and Mike Macklem. He has one brother, Collin, who is in 7th grade. Easton participated in football, track, baseball, choir, and the musical during high school. He also enjoys hunting, fishing, and hanging out with friends outside of school. Easton will be attending Mount Marty for Criminal Justice and playing football. He will always remember his 6th period religion class and messing around with the people in that class. Easton was really looking forward to playing football and hanging out with friends this year. He hopes to see himself as a sheriff deputy, married, and debt free in 10 years. If Easton would win the lottery he would buy a bunch of hunting land with a pond full of fish, build some houses for the boys and have a good time.
Class of 2021

Emily Mairose, aka “Mairose,” “Mini Benny,” or “Em,” is the daughter of Donald (Hummer). She has one brother, B.J., who graduated from Gehlen in 2019. Emily is on the golf team and works in the family business at Hummer’s Lawn Care. In her free time, when she is not golfing or working, she loves to play with her dog, Diesel. After high school, Emily plans to attend Western Iowa Tech Community College and enroll in the computer programming program.

Nathan Nemmers is the son of Doug and Rita Nemmers. He has two siblings, Bethany and Benjamin. Throughout high school, Nathan has participated in track and cross country. When not running, you could probably find him at Godfather’s making up a pizza as that is what he did for money the last couple years. His most memorable sporting event the past few years was going to state cross country in 2019. Nathan thinks that Government is a class that everyone should take before they graduate. His favorite school lunch is pulled pork sandwiches and Nathan has been looking forward to graduating since his freshman year. Looking back at his time as a student at Gehlen, he considers his favorite quote, “you miss 100% of the shots you don’t take.” After graduation, Nathan plans on attending Northwest Iowa Community College and studying accounting.

Alexis Niichel, or “Lexi,” is the daughter of Jerry and Heather Niichel. She has one sister, Becca, and two brothers, Jon and Jacob. While in high school, she has been involved in speech, choir, and the musical. She also works as a housekeeper at Orange City Area Health System. When thinking about the most memorable moments during high school, Lexi remembers when Easton popped out one of her ribs during a CYO choir trip. In 10 years, Lexi sees herself happily married with a family. After graduation, she plans to attend Northwest Iowa Community College. Lexi says the best part about Gehlen Catholic is the small atmosphere and the close relationships.

Derek Nilles, otherwise known as “D-Nill,” is the son of Dan and Tammy Nilles. Derek has two older sisters, Lexe and Delanee. D-Nill is involved in football, weightlifting, stock trading, vaccinating pigs, and working on the farm. After high school he plans on attending the University of South Dakota as a finance major to become a stock broker and open his own brokerage. If Derek could create one mandatory class it would be a general knowledge class over everyday necessities. He will always remember going to football games and taking tours of the other schools with the squad. The most memorable sporting event for him is state track his sophomore year. If Derek was in charge of planning a concert for the school he would have Post Malone, 21 Savage, Boogie Wit Da Hoodie, and Eric Church perform for the students. In ten years he sees himself living in Florida or around Le Mars with his own brokerage, a big house, and an Audi R8. His biggest inspiration is his dad because he has seen him become successful and he is the smartest person he knows. Derek’s favorite thing about going to Gehlen Catholic school is because it is a small school and you get to know everyone.

Landon Nilles, or “Nilly,” is the son of Lee and Angela Nilles. He has three siblings, Aubree Nilles, who graduated from Gehlen in 2019, Nolan Nilles, who is a freshman at Gehlen, and Benten Nilles, who is in fourth grade. Landon is involved in football, track, golf, and speech at Gehlen. He also enjoys farming, vaccinating pigs, and working at Godfather’s Pizza. He will be attending college at Hawkeye Community College and will be studying agricultural management and diesel mechanics. Landon’s favorite sports memory at Gehlen was when the football team beat Southeast Valley in 2017. For his senior year he is most looking forward to state track. Landon’s inspiration is Dale Earnhardt Jr because he was a huge part of his childhood. He says the best thing about going to Gehlen was learning about Jesus.
Trevor Oloff is the son of Anne and Ryan Oloff. He has three brothers: Dylan, Landon, and Cohen. Outside of school he enjoys working at Fareway and flying planes. He will always remember his first flight. If Trevor won the lottery he would buy a plane. In 10 years Trevor sees himself as an officer at a major airline and living in a big city. Trevor likes that at Gehlen there are small class sizes. His favorite lunch at school has been crispitos. The most memorable fine arts event Trevor performed at was All State Choir. He was looking forward to the Senior trip this year. If he could choose a mandatory class for students he said it would have to be the “Common Sense Course.” Trevor says the class that prepares you most for life after high school is Financial Literacy, because it applies to real life situations. If he was in charge of planning a concert for the school the three artists he would bring would be “Tom Petty, Red Hot Chili Peppers, and Foo Fighters.” When asked to describe his class, Trevor says the senior class is “very determined.” Trevor’s biggest inspiration is Chesley Sullenberger, an American fighter pilot, because of his “ability to overcome adversity.”

Chloe Otto is the daughter of Sarah and Dean Otto. She is involved in golf, musicals, and large group speech. In the summer she is a lifeguard at the Alton swimming pool. If she could create one mandatory course for future seniors it would be an exploratory period where seniors can go and explore future possible professions. Chloe’s favorite school lunch is the chicken Alfredo and she was looking forward to the golf season the most this year. She will always remember freshman year in Mrs. Schmitt’s physical science class. If she could describe the class of 2021 it would be “competitive.” Chloe’s favorite quote is “I am going to make everything around me beautiful. That will be my life” (Elsie de Wolf). Chloe said the best thing about going to Gehlen Catholic is how close her class is. In ten years she sees herself living in a house on the edge of a forest. Her biggest inspiration is Frank Lloyd Wright because she wants to be an architect like him and she is a big fan of his work. After she graduates she plans on attending Iowa State and majoring in Design.

Cindy Pohlen is the daughter of Joe and Lori Pohlen. She has 5 siblings: Emily, Joey, Jamie, Larissa, and Lucas. Throughout her time in high school, she has been involved in softball, Students 4 Life, Honor Society, and Christian Leadership Team. While in school, she prefers chicken Alfredo for lunch and would mandate psychology and sociology as required classes for future seniors. When asked what she would do if she won the lottery, Cindy Pohlen would be interested in investing it in the stock market. Obviously handling money is important to her because she says Financial Literacy is one of the best classes to prepare teens for life after high school. Her most memorable event during her high school career was when the girls basketball team made it to state her junior year. After high school, Cindy plans to attend South Dakota State University and major in Animal Science. In 10 years, she sees herself married and working as a veterinarian.

Jordan Reuter or “JJ,” is the son of Matt and Sandy Reuter. He has one sister, Riley. Jordan enjoys hunting, fishing, playing video games, and golf. When he’s not at school, you might find him working at Jerry’s Pizza. His favorite school lunch has been during his senior year when he has “opens” and it sometimes consists of leftovers from Jerry’s. Jordan’s biggest inspirations are his dad and Joe Rogan, a comedian. His favorite quote is, “it costs nothing to be nice, but apparently common sense does.” Jordan’s favorite emoji is the laughing face and when he uses Snapchat, he likes the filter with neon lines. If he won the lottery, he would invest to make more so money wouldn’t be a problem anymore. If Jordan could make one class mandatory for future seniors, it would be Home Economics. After graduation, Jordan plans to attend a 2 year college in Fort Dodge.

Molly Roder is the daughter of Deacon Rick and Wendy Roder, she has four siblings Will, Maggie, Jocelyn, and Benny. She also has a pet fish, named Squirt. Her dad likes to call her “sis” as a nickname. In school Molly enjoys Honor Society, Students for Life, Christian Leadership Team, dance team, track, volleyball, and basketball cheer. Outside of school Molly works at the ice cream parlor and for the Orange City ambulance service (EMT). After Molly graduates she plans to attend Benedictine College in Kansas to study nursing. In 10 years Molly sees herself working as a family nurse practitioner for a small town hospital. If Molly could make one class mandatory she would choose Financial Literacy, “because it teaches us a proper way to save and budget our money.” If Molly could set up a concert for the whole school she would have Ariana Grande perform. Her most memorable sporting events in high school were state volleyball and state track. The events Molly has looked forward to this year were prom and graduation, and she will always remember “my best friend/mom in the office, Liz.” Molly describes her class as “drained.” Her biggest inspiration is Saint Mother Teresa because “she loved everyone so greatly and was completely selfless in her actions.” She says, “I want to exhibit the same compassion she had.” Her favorite quote is from Saint Mother Teresa when she says “Spread love everywhere you go, let no one ever come to you without leaving happier.” Molly’s favorite Snapchat filter is “Angelic” and her favorite emoji is the laughing/crying one. Molly says the best thing about going to Gehlen Catholic is the Catholic environment and the education.
CLASS OF 2021

ABBY RUHLAND is the daughter of Chad and Gina Ruhland. She has two other siblings, Kennedy, being the oldest, and Ella, being the youngest. Abby is involved in volleyball and is a waitress at Four Brothers. “Abs” is attending the University of Iowa to major in Human Physiology on the pre-med track. A class that should be mandatory should be a “study group for college classes,” says Abby. Her favorite school lunch is crispitos. Abby will never forget the day Patricia ran into the trophy case. If Abby had to describe her class in one word it would be “energetic.” Her biggest inspiration is her grandpa, as “he is always there for me and gives the best advice.” In ten years from now she hopes to be out of college, but most likely in debt. Abby thinks Financial Literacy prepares her the most for life after high school. If she won the lottery her plans would be to buy a lake home and save/ invest the rest of her money. She says the best thing about going to Gehlen Catholic is knowing everyone.

PATRICIA SITZMANN aka “Tricia” or “Patty-Ricia,” was adopted by her grandparents, Curtis and Marlene Sitzmann, at a young age. She has three biological sisters, and one adopted brother and sister. Patricia is involved in track, cross country, basketball/football cheer, choir, marching band, jazz band, and concert band. She has also been a pro at helping backstage for plays and musicals. When not in school, you could find her lifeguarding, playing the electric guitar, skateboarding, rollerblading, or running. After high school, Patricia plans to attend the University of Northern Iowa to major in education with a minor in earth sciences. If all goes according to plan, she hopes to become a high school teacher, move down south, get her masters degree, and become a college professor.

SARAH STEGGE aka “Sarah Beara” or “Steggo the Eggo,” is the daughter of Sandy and Joe Stegge and has two brothers, Thomas and Michael. Sarah is involved in, golf, 4-H (club and county level), band (concert and marching), tutoring, Honor Society, large group speech, quiz bowl, CLT, Plymouth County Health Planning Committee, set for the 2021 musical, and works at the Guardian Angel Daycare. After high school Sarah plans to attend the University of Northern Iowa to major in Communication Sciences and Disorders on track to be a Speech Pathologist. Lastly, Sarah says that her biggest inspiration in life is her grandma, and that she always pushes Sarah to be the best version of herself.

MAI TRAN’s host family members are Denise Denker, Luca Fraccastoro, and Viviane Zodtner. In and out of school Mai enjoys track, cross country, swimming, skiing, traveling, and piano. After Mai graduates she plans on going to the University of South Florida for international business. If she had the opportunity to create a mandatory course for seniors she would create a “social skills course.” She describes her senior class as “very fun.” Her favorite lunch at school is chicken alfredo. Mai’s most memorable sporting event was all the basketball games this past year. Prior to this year she was looking forward to track and going back home for the summer. Mai says the class that prepares you the most for life after school is Iowa Financial Literacy because it teaches basic money management skills. In 10 years she sees herself in Miami. Her favorite Snapchat filter is the “broccoli.” If she could plan a concert for school the three artists she would choose would be Kanye, J.Cole, and Travis Scott. Her biggest inspiration is Elon Musk, and her favorite quote is “want a break from the ad?” If she won the lottery she would use the money to travel. The best thing about going to Gehlen Catholic is “the people I have met.”

DEREK VONARB, also known as “Narb,” is the son of Mark and Susan Von Arb, and has a brother, Jordan. Jordan will be attending Iowa Western to play safety for the Reivers football team this fall. When asked what class should be mandatory for students he said a culinary class. The class he thinks will prepare you for life the most after high school is Financial Literacy because “it teaches you how to be successful and responsible with money.” Derek will always remember him and Luke Bogen destroying the Gehlen kids at ice skating. He enjoys the bologna sandwiches and chicken noodle soup lunch at school the most. Derek’s most memorable sporting event was winning the Alta-Aurelia playoff football game. He was most excited for graduation this school year. When asked where he sees himself in ten years he simply said, “retiring.”
SENIORS

Tiffany Woerdehoff is the daughter of Andy and Tami Woerdehoff. Tiffany is the second youngest of five siblings: Samantha, Austin, Brooke, and Cara. “Tiffy” has been involved in volleyball, track, softball, is a part of the Christian Leadership Team, is the Vice President of Students for Life, and works at the Blue Bunny Ice Cream Parlor. Tiffany plans to attend the University of Northern Iowa to study elementary education and minor in physical education. She says if any class should be necessary it should be Home Economics. Tiffany says, “I will always remember the friends and memories I’ve made throughout high school.” Her favorite school lunch is bologna sandwiches with chicken noodle soup. College English is the class that prepared Tiffany the most for life after high school, and will hopefully help her fulfill her dreams of becoming a teacher somewhere around Le Mars. If Tiffany were to win the lottery she would go to Disney as many times as she could.

Felix Wu is the son of Junwei and Lingli Wang Wu. Felix is a foreign exchange student from China. Felix is involved in band, cross country, and track at Gehlen, but he enjoys dance, robotics, and video games outside of school. Felix says that English classes prepare you the most for after high school because you have to speak it in America. When Felix was asked to describe the class of 2021 he said “enthusiastic.” He says the best part about going to Gehlen is the environment the school has. Felix’s biggest inspiration in his life is his dad because he always stands right by his side. After high school Felix will attend Purdue University and study computer engineering.

Adrienne Zenk is the daughter of Patrick and Jean Zenk. She has two older brothers, Jason and Tyler. She is involved in concert choir, triple trio, and chamber choir. Adrienne plans to attend Northwest Iowa Community College to study to become an Administrative Assistant. When asked what would be one mandatory course to create for seniors she answered Home Economics. Adrienne will always remember sophomore year study hall with Bergen Vacura when he would come in almost everyday and say, “Yo Adrienne!” (from the movie Rocky). Adrienne’s favorite school lunch is chicken alfredo and her most memorable moment while at Gehlen was CYO Choir.

Korey Zhang is the son of Bin and Min Zhang. He has one brother, Kyron, who is a freshman at Gehlen. Korey’s favorite things to do in his free time are playing games and reading books. He has also always had an interest in potatoes. It may even be one of his favorite foods! Korey says that his biggest inspiration is John Moses Browning because he engineered a firearm so reliable it was used in the military for 100+ years. After graduation, Korey plans to attend the University of Iowa and study mechanical engineering.

Congratulations Class of 2021!!

Parents, guardians, and teachers were asked to submit notes to their graduating seniors. The following messages were received...

Ella, Congratulations on your graduation. Your Dad and I are so proud of you – your work ethic, setting and reaching goals, successes you’ve accomplished and your beautiful smile and soul. We know you’ll continue to be successful in college and beyond. Work hard, play hard and enjoy life! Much Love – Mom and Dad

Eleonora, Congratulations on your graduation! I am so glad you joined the senior class this school year. It was so fun to see your face shine during the musical. I know you will do great things in your future!

Emily Kellen, We are so proud of you! We are excited to watch you reach for your dreams - we have no doubt that you will do great! Prayers and blessings on your graduation and for your future! We love you, Mom & Dad

Chloe Grace, Congratulations to a wonderful, amazing daughter! We love you and are so proud of you. We can’t wait to see what the future has in store for you! Mom & Dad

Donald, Congratulations on reaching this milestone in your life. You have been blessed with many gifts; use them to glorify God offering praise, adoration and thanksgiving every day. Be open to God’s graces. And remember, if someone is yelling at you, it might just be good coaching. Love mom and dad.

Korey, I’m sure you will do great things in your future. Keep being you... and Potatoes!
Dear Emily Klein,
We love you and are very proud of you! You have brought us a lot of joy and we thank God for it! It has been a joy to watch you grow and develop your talents. We have had a lot of fun watching you perform in so many school activities: speech, musicals, plays, softball, cheer, band, and especially dance. Your faith has become important to you and we pray you always trust God and Him First in your life. We will miss you next year, but are excited to a part of your next adventures at Iowa State! Please remember we love you and will always be here for you! Thank you for being the wonderful daughter that you are!
Love,
Mom and Dad

Dear Cindy,
We are so proud of everything you have accomplished. You always try your best in whatever you decide to do. You have a strong faith to help guide you. We wish you the very best in your future.
Love,
Mom and Dad

Alexis.
Since the day you entered this world, we knew you would grow up fast. Your fierce sense of independence, humor and wisdom always kept us on our toes. You can do anything you put your mind to. We know you are going to go far. Follow your dreams with the fierceness that is you and you will be able to accomplish anything you want to.
Love you to the moon and back!
Mom and Dad

Derek – Wow, how far you have come! From youthful football where you didn’t want to wear pads or tackle anyone to being a beast on the high school field, you haven’t given up on yourself and you have done hard work to get to where you are today. We are so proud of you.
You are a strong young man and can do anything you set your mind to. You have the gift of looking at the positive part of every situation, which will be such an asset as you go through life. We will miss you, but we know you will succeed. Love you very much.
Mom and Dad

Rachel, it has been our pleasure watching you grow up to be such a kind person with a big heart. We love your drive for academics and sports, and that your faith is at the center of it all. We have enjoyed all the trips to state track and state basketball and can’t wait to watch you play basketball at Briar Cliff. We are so proud of all your hard work and we look forward to seeing all that God has in store for you.
Love,
Mom and Dad

Lauren.
We are so excited for the next chapter of your life. You have the gift of looking at the positive part of every situation, which will be such an asset as you go through life. We will miss you, but we know you will succeed. Love you very much.
Dad and Mom

Derek – Wow, how far you have come! From youthful football where you didn’t want to wear pads or tackle anyone to being a beast on the high school field, you have not given up on yourself and you have done hard work to get to where you are today. We are so proud of you.
You are a strong young man and can do anything you set your mind to. You have the gift of looking at the positive part of every situation, which will be such an asset as you go through life. We will miss you, but we know you will succeed. Love you very much.
Mom and Dad

Dear Jaime,
We are so excited for you to be graduating! We are proud of all your accomplishments in 18 yrs. But what gives your mother the greatest comfort is the fact that YOU have imagined for yourself!
It’s hard to believe you are all grown up. You have worked very hard in school and we are very proud of you! We believe in you and we will always be here for you! You are a beautiful young lady with a kind and generous heart. If you are having a bad day, recite some Disney quotes, listen to “The Climb,” watch “The Longest Ride,” make some cookies, and spend time with Jesus; the rest will fall back into place. Also, dad says, “the ten year plan starts now!” Don’t forget, as long as you have chocolate pudding in the cupboard you will never go hungry. Be a pineapple, believe in yourself, and remember you can do hard things! Love you always! <3
Love, Mom and Dad

Traegen, Reach for the stars, every dream precedes a goal. It has been so fun watching you grow into the young man you are today. We are so proud of you and we trust that you will succeed with all of your future endeavors. You have a strong work ethic, are responsible, believe in no-nonsense, and charm everyone with your quick wit! We had no idea when you began TK with Mrs. Jeneary how fortunate we would be to have you continue your education with the staff and friends at Gehlen. Wow these years have gone fast. Love, Mom & Dad

Tiff,
We are very proud of the young woman you have become, especially of the strong Catholic faith that you have developed! You have always been a driven young lady who work through any obstacles and push hard until you achieve your goals, those are traits that will help you to be a successful adult. As you continue your journey through life, remember a few things: 1) Friends may come and go, but your family will always be here to support you whatever path you choose. 2) Do not be afraid to try something new, and fail, those experiences often teach us the best lessons. 3) Have fun!
If you are at this point in your life, you have tried to get front row seats for all the wonderful things that you have done, please know that we will continue to be there in the front row cheering and supporting you throughout your life journey.
Lastly, the bank of Mom and Dad will always be open; however as you grow the withdrawal limits are reduced.
Love always! Mom and Dad

Hey Jack,
Thinking back on your senior year, you working through the art of hunting deer and finally bringing home your first buck comes to mind - along with perfecting your archery technique (the first try being pretty awful and the last couple being awesome)! It’s been the year we built the sawmill and solar kiln as we developed Outpost Hardwoods LLC. We’re proud of the creativity, marketing and sweat equity you’ve put into creating and selling our first products and are looking forward to seeing where we take this venture.
We loved that you played a part of a tree so well in the Wizard of Oz and that your talent for art in Mrs. Schlichter’s room almost always involved doing something amazing with wood or epoxy. We’re proud of you.
Dad and Mom

Molly, we are so proud of you! What an amazing, hard-working run; model student, State Track Shuttle silver, Homecoming Queen, Pro-life Peer, National Certified EMT, Christian Leadership, NHS, loyal employee, but most of all a great daughter and friend and a faithful and inspiring Christian! The Jay becomes a Raven; we can’t wait to see your accomplishments at Benedictine and beyond! We love you! Mom and Dad.

Dear Adrienne,
It’s hard to believe you are all grown up. You have worked very hard in school and we are very proud of you! We believe in you and we will always be here for you! You are a beautiful young lady with a kind and generous heart. If you are having a bad day, recite some Disney quotes, listen to “The Climb,” watch “The Longest Ride,” make some cookies, and spend time with Jesus; the rest will fall back into place. Also, dad says, “the ten year plan starts now!” Don’t forget, as long as you have chocolate pudding in the cupboard you will never go hungry. Be a pineapple, believe in yourself, and remember you can do hard things! Love you always! <3
Love, Mom and Dad

Outpost Hardwoods, LLC.
Hey Jack,
Thinking back on your senior year, you working through the art of hunting deer and finally bringing home your first buck comes to mind - along with perfecting your archery technique (the first try being pretty awful and the last couple being awesome)! It’s been the year we built the sawmill and solar kiln as we developed Outpost Hardwoods LLC. We’re proud of the creativity, marketing and sweat equity you’ve put into creating and selling our first products and are looking forward to seeing where we take this venture.
We loved that you played a part of a tree so well in the Wizard of Oz and that your talent for art in Mrs. Schlichter’s room almost always involved doing something amazing with wood or epoxy. We’re proud of you.
Dad and Mom

Love from
Mom and Dad

Patricia,
We have been thoroughly blessed to have you as our daughter and you have given us so much joy. It has been great to watch all your hard work and performance and helping out when needed. You have kept us on our toes and we hope you will continue to be a careful person the world is going to need someone who can work hard and be compassionate towards others long into the future. That is something great and you can be proud that you are going to be making a difference in many lives with those qualities in your future; whatever path you end up in life.
Love,
Mom and Dad

Jordan.
It was great to have you in class for Journalism this year. You came through with some stellar ideas when we needed them the most. Good luck with your future!
Notes and Activities

Felix,
You joined our American family almost 2 years ago from China. Of course, there was an adjustment period, but we were all amazed, after you stopped saying “yes” to everything we asked, how quickly you filled in the gaps in our family. You are an only child and have only 1 child. This experience for both you and our son has been overwhelmingly wonderful and there will be lots of sad hearts when we say good bye for now when you leave to attend University. You have brought such joy in our household, and take on every task at hand with all your might. We have now become your honorary parents, getting your graduation set up and then we will be taking you to the college you have had set your sights on, Purdue, this coming summer. Your wish came true to attend Purdue and you have your sights on Purdue, this coming summer. Your graduation set up and then we will immediately go back to the very beginning. We will never forget the feeling of fear and concern when you and Zach had to walk to the bus stop at LeMars Community Junior/High school from daycare all by yourselves to get on the Gehlen bus. You two were only in kindergarten and so little. We look at you now at 18 years old and closing in on your final month of high school and we are filled with pride. You are about to close the door on this chapter of your life and walk through a much bigger door and on to the next chapter.

We know you're going to do great things with your education at Gehlen Catholic and the idea it's all coming to a close, our thoughts immediately go back to the very beginning. We will never forget the feeling of fear and concern when you and Zach had to walk to the bus stop at LeMars Community Junior/High school from daycare all by yourselves to get on the Gehlen bus. You two were only in kindergarten and so little. We look at you now at 18 years old and closing in on your final month of high school and we are filled with pride. You are about to close the door on this chapter of your life and walk through a much bigger door and on to the next chapter.

To our Easton,
As we sit here thinking of your time at Gehlen Catholic and the idea it’s all coming to a close, our thoughts immediately go back to the very beginning. We will never forget the feeling of fear and concern when you and Zach had to walk to the bus stop at LeMars Community Junior/High school from daycare all by yourselves to get on the Gehlen bus. You two were only in kindergarten and so little. We look at you now at 18 years old and closing in on your final month of high school and we are filled with pride. You are about to close the door on this chapter of your life and walk through a much bigger door and on to the next chapter.

We know you’re excited and ready for this next journey in your life. Your easy-going, helpful, and entertaining personality will be dearly missed. Thank you for selflessly spending time with your grandparents/parents and you have also taught us so much. Grandpa and Grandma Klein

To our Abby,
It doesn’t seem possible that you will be graduating from high school in just a few short weeks. We are so proud of you and all that you have accomplished in your years at Gehlen. You have many achievements through academics and sports, and have learned so many life lessons along the way. You are a beautiful young lady who has a bright future ahead. Go make your dreams come true and strive for success. We love you!
Dad and Mom

To our Tyrell,
We are so proud of you!
You are a talented kid, a hard worker. And most importantly a thoughtful and kind grandson.
Never let anyone tell you different. Follow your dreams, ask The Good Lord for the wisdom to always see the good in everyone.
We are your grandparents/parents and you have also taught us so much.
Grandpa and Grandma Klein

To our Abigail,
We have made new memories.
Discussions, and storytelling at the dinner table. We look forward to visiting you at Cedar Falls and continuing to make new memories. We love you! Mom and Dad

To our Derek N,
We can’t believe how fast time has gone. Dad and I are so proud of who you have become. Looking back at all the memories, you standing in the boy window singing Ring of Fire, killing all my plants because you dug the dirt out with all your little trucks, and all your Derek jokes that made us laugh through the years, makes us realize how truly blessed we are. We are excited to see what the future holds for you! We love you, and are very proud of you!
Love, Mom and Dad

To our Hunter,
As our oldest child - we learned about the world right along with you. Your love for the outdoors and wildlife is a wonderful treasure you can enjoy forever. The friendships that you have made over the years, and the laughter and bonfires because of them have been magical to watch and listen to.
Remember - one day at a time, and believe in yourself - like we believe in you.
Love, Mom and Dad

To our Landon,
We know you’re excited and ready for this next journey in your life. Your easy-going, helpful, and entertaining personality will be dearly missed. Thank you for selflessly spending time with your grandparents, playing with your siblings, and helping us at home. We will cherish the many memories of laughter, deep discussions, and storytelling at the dinner table. We look forward to visiting you at Cedar Falls and continuing to make new memories. We love you! Mom and Dad

To our Filip,
Congratulations and good luck with your future plans. We were so glad you joined us at Gehlen this year!

To our Olivia,
Congratulations on your graduation. You have achieved so much. Good luck with everything in your future as you leave Gehlen Catholic.

To our Sera,
You have been such a great addition to the Gehlen Catholic student body over the years. Congratulations on your graduation! We will miss you!!

Derek N.
Mom and Dad

Tyrell
Mom and Dad

Kevin "Omi"
Klein

Love,
Derek N.

Luke, We can’t believe how fast time flies. We remember when you were a young boy and you always had to pull something behind your toys. It did not matter if it was your toy tractors or car, big wheel, gator or bike. You always had to have a trailer attached to it. We can’t remember the countless times we tied rope or string to the back of these toys so you could pull a trailer. You constantly pulled these trailers around, learning how to turn or back up with them attached.

It seems so fitting that you now are going to go into an agricultural program where the toys become larger to maneuver around. It seems that this was your calling from the time you were a small boy in a large suburb of Minneapolis to now small town Aitkin, Iowa.

We think that you always knew what path you wanted to go. It is trying to get there that will be unique for you. You will blaze a new path to get to your dream. Do not let anyone or anything keep you from accomplishing your dreams.

Mom and Dad

Love,
Derek N.

Sera – You have been such a great addition to the Gehlen Catholic student body over the years. Congratulations on your graduation! We will miss you!!

Love,
Derek N.

Love,
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Love,
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