

# Excellence in Education



*School Year 2019-2020*

Naperville Community School District 203



## **DISTRICT 203 BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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## **OUR MISSION**

Our mission is to educate students to be...  
Self-directed learners  
Collaborative workers  
Complex thinkers  
Quality producers, and  
Community contributors

## **OUR BELIEFS**

Naperville Community Unit School District 203 believes an exemplary school district...

- Values the dignity and uniqueness of each individual
- Promotes responsible citizenship
- Is the result of a collective partnership of students, staff, parents and community

*Special Thanks to Tracy Rootham and Jill Myatt*

# Honored Students

*The Excellence in Education Banquet celebrates seniors who have distinguished themselves academically and their most influential educators. Each Influential Educator is chosen by the student because they inspired them academically and have been an inspiration in the student's life. Naperville Community Unit School District 203 and The Board of Education congratulates our student honorees, their families and the Influential Educators.*



## Naperville Central High School



Vincent Adamo  
Abaida Aisikaer  
William Ao \*  
Abhinav Bawankule  
Navya Bellamkonda \*  
Rohan Bhargava  
Daniel Blidy \*  
Matias Bonta \*  
Patrick Carmichael  
Raleigh Clemens  
Andrew Dai  
Kristian Davidov  
Elizabeth Ducharme  
Andre Emery  
Hannah Fewkes  
Althea Foster  
Rishabh Jain  
Michelle Kee  
Saachi Kumar  
Mark Laboe  
Caroline Li \*  
Joseph Li  
Sean Li  
Jason Lin  
Kent Lullo  
Kaitlin Peng  
Jacquelyne Qi \*  
Neha Ramachandran

Nathaniel Reimer  
Ella Ruiz  
James Schatz  
Brandon Sommerfield  
Kathryn Southon  
Sydney Stephens  
Tessa Sussman  
Raymond Tong  
Aaina Vannan  
Alan Wandke  
Emily Wang \*  
Claire Yu  
Hannah Zhang \*  
Mellissa Zhang  
Kyle Zhao  
Vivian Zhao  
Mitchell Zhen  
Kathy Zheng

*\* Student information not provided*

# Honored Students



## Naperville North High School



Mehak Ahuja  
Alexa Betjemann  
Luke Boelke  
Ana Cardenas Manrique  
Heather Chang  
Kelly Chee \*  
Eric Chen  
Haley Cush  
Katrien de Waard  
Sophia Feldman \*  
Anne Foley  
Shawn Gregory  
Allen Gu  
Helenna Gu  
Jason Gu \*  
Kasey Han \*  
Cristian Hernandez  
Rebecca Jennings  
Hannah Kaba \*  
Allison Kautz  
Caitlyn Komar  
Jessica Komar  
Aarish Lakhani  
Marissa Li  
Emma Lin  
Jeremy Liu  
Kyra McKeska  
Abigail Meikle  
Megan Melnikoff

Christopher Neumann \*  
Alyssa Noren  
Steve Qiu  
Austin Rey \*  
Sanjana Roy  
Kevin Shi  
Kelly Shih \*  
Erin Spinner  
June Sun  
Lauren Sun  
Ved Sunil \*  
Zehua Tan  
Joshua Tennyson  
Weirui Tong  
Eric Wang \*  
Kaitlyn Woods  
Becky Wu  
Edward Wu  
Wesley Wu  
Zachary Xi  
Neil Xu  
Ann Zhao  
Daniel Zhao \*  
Brian Zheng  
Kelly Zhou \*  
Taylor Zhou

\* *Student information not provided*

# Honored Influential Educators

David Ashton

*Social Studies, Naperville Central HS*

Matthew Bagley

*Middle and High School, TASIS England*

Lily Barcelona

*Foreign Languages, Naperville North HS*

Katherine Barr

*Foreign Languages, Kennedy Junior High School*

Christine Bell

*Business Education, Naperville Central HS*

Michael Bochenski

*Social Studies, Naperville Central HS*

Seth Brady

*Social Studies, Naperville Central HS*

Timothy Brown

*Mathematics, Naperville North HS*

Elizabeth Brucker

*Chemistry, Naperville North HS*

Thomas Champion

*Science, Naperville North HS*

Stacy Cunningham

*Foreign Languages, Naperville Central HS*

Ryan Dengel

*Social Studies, Naperville North HS*

Rebecca Diorio

*General Technical Arts, Naperville North HS*

Kevin Dobbeck

*Band, Naperville North HS*

Zoe Evans

*Science, Naperville North HS*

Kathleen Gasser

*Foreign Languages, Naperville Central HS*

Matthew Gresk

*Science, Naperville Central HS*

Amy Hastings

*Biology, Naperville Central HS*

Kevin Hayes

*Computer Programming, Naperville Central HS*

Brian Horner

*Gifted - PI+, Highlands Elementary*

Olivia Jaime

*Foreign Languages, Naperville North HS*

Joe Jaruseski

*Director of IT Infrastructure, District Administration*

Kristen Kainrath

*Mathematics, Meadow Glens Elementary*

Jong Ho Kim

*Mathematics, Naperville North HS*

John Klein-Collins

*Language Arts, Kennedy Junior High School*

Ami Kulik

*Language Arts-retired, Kennedy Junior High School*

Erin LeRoy

*School Counselor, Naperville North HS*

Jeremy Lin

*Communication Arts, Naperville Central HS*

Kathy Linder

*IC, Social Science, Naperville Central HS*

Deborah Lints

*Communication Arts, Madison Junior High School*

Mitch Martin

*Communication Arts, Naperville North HS*

Kelly Mielcarz

*Choir, Naperville Central HS*

Elizabeth Moore

*Mathematics, Naperville North HS*

Stephanie Moore

*Communication Arts, Naperville North HS*

John Myers

*Foreign Languages, Jefferson Junior High School*

Brian Nierman

*Communication Arts, Naperville North HS*

John Noffke

*Social Studies, Naperville North HS*

Colleen O'Meara

*Teacher, George Washington Middle School*

Sandy Parato

*Communication Arts, Naperville North HS*

Robert Platt

*Social Studies, Naperville North HS*

# Honored Influential Educators

Missy Ross

*Third Grade, Hilltop Elementary School*

Mark Rowzee

*Science, Naperville North HS*

Heather Schild

*IC, Communication Arts, Naperville North HS*

Geoffrey Schmit

*Business Education, Naperville North HS*

Paula Smith

*Academic Support for Math, Madison Junior High School*

Randy Smith

*Social Studies, Naperville Central HS*

Steven Stack

*Coach, Naperville Central HS*

Nick Straka

*Mathematics, Naperville Central HS*

Jane Thompson

*Social Studies, Naperville Central HS*

Tracy Thomson

*Mathematics, Naperville North HS*

Katie Trowbridge

*Communication Arts, Naperville North HS*

Brooke Ulrich

*Foreign Languages, Naperville North HS*

Brenna Verdier

*Foreign Languages, Naperville North HS*

Matthew Wainwright

*Language Arts, Kennedy Junior High School*

Abby Walter

*Foreign Languages, Naperville North HS*

Steven Wiesbrook

*Chemistry-Retired, Naperville Central HS*

**Seth Brady**

*Although many teachers have greatly enriched my experience at NCHS, my experience in my Humanities Capstone class with Mr. Brady has left an immeasurable impact on my career plans. Through his guidance and inspiration, I have discovered a passion for problem solving and activism that I will bring with me wherever I go in the future.*



**Vincent Adamo**

Naperville Central High School

**Michael Bochenski**

*Mr. Bochenski has not only taught me the ins and outs of US government, but also the desire to pay attention to the world around me and actively get involved in political issues. As we learned on the first day, an idiot is someone who does not fulfill their civic duty.*



**Abaida Aisikaer**

Naperville Central High School

**Katherine Barr**

*Mrs. Barr's thoughtfulness and kind heart was reflected in the way she treated other people and was always willing to help any student. More than just how to write better, she taught me how to be a better person and always believed in me, also one time she had a really cool and funny substitute teacher, I wonder what he's doing right now?*



**Abhinav Bawankule**

Naperville Central High School

**Kathleen Gasser**

*Besides teaching me the wonders of the Spanish language and culture, Señora Gasser has shown me the joy and fun of learning, the power of caring for and connecting with others, and the importance of simply being a good person. Every day in her classroom is a new adventure; The world needs more Señora Gassers.*



**Rohan Bhargava**

Naperville Central High School

**Colleen O'Meara**

*Colleen has always been positive and encouraging while challenging me to think outside the box. The firsthand learning experiences she provided me have been a blessing.*



**Patrick Carmichael**

Naperville Central High School

**Amy Hastings**

*Leading up to my senior year, I didn't have a very good idea of what I wanted to major in, but biology was definitely not on my list. However, when I decided to take AP Bio my senior year with Mrs. Hastings, my mind was truly opened to the world of biology and how it utilizes chemistry, math, and physics to describe our entire planet through the perspective of life and diversity.*



**Raleigh Clemens**

Naperville Central High School

**Jane Thompson**

*Ms. Thompson made class each day both entertaining and education, teaching not only academic content but life skills. She helped me stay motivated during a tough year and taught me to appreciate myself for what I had done.*



**Andrew Dai**

Naperville Central High School

**Kristen Kainrath**

*Mrs. Kainrath was the reason I wanted to go to school every day. Her kindness and her passion never failed to bring a smile to my face.*



**Kristian Davidov**

Naperville Central High School

**Jane Thompson**

*During a year filled with stress and pressure, Ms. Thompson encouraged me to remain calm and continue working my hardest, even when I felt discouraged. She constantly reminded me to take a step back and live in the moment, and always made class interesting and engaging.*



**Elizabeth  
Ducharme**

Naperville Central High School

**Nick Straka**

*Mr. Straka, through the wonders of the treasured 1990s software, Mathematica, has shown the deep connections that can be made between math and our world around us. It is through these connections that individuals are able to find some sense and purpose in their lives, and in my case helped choose my major in college.*



**Andre Emery**

Naperville Central High School

**Randy Smith**

*Mr. Smith has always been an incredibly supportive teacher and debate coach. I want to thank him for always encouraging me to carry myself with class and grace.*



**Hannah Fewkes**

Naperville Central High School

**Steven Wiesbrook**

*After taking and loving Mr. Wiesbrook's chemistry classes, I decided to major in chemistry in college. I'm really thankful for all of his help in the college application process and for all the times he's come to cross country meets to cheer us on.*



**Althea Foster**

Naperville Central High School

**Joe Jaruseski**

*I have school to thank for my academic knowledge, but Mr. Jaruseski showed me important life skills including communication and leadership. His professionalism and unwavering belief in me makes me thankful to have him in my life.*



**Rishabh Jain**

Naperville Central High School

**Jeremy Lin**

*In my past four years on speech team, Coach Lin's encouragement and guidance has helped me use my voice powerfully and come out of my shell. In all my ups and downs, I know that I can always count on him for advice and support.*



**Michelle Kee**

Naperville Central High School

**Ami Kulik**

*Mrs. Kulik taught me to hold myself to a higher standard, both in my academics and behavior. She made me realize that I couldn't expect to do well in classes by simply relying on natural intelligence, a lesson I sorely needed going into high school.*



**Saachi Kumar**

Naperville Central High School

**Jane Thompson**

*While some might just say history is already said and done, the level of complexity and depth that Mrs. Thompson made us discuss at was truly influential to me. To demonstrate such rigor but also enjoyment in a course and to do it so well is what has made her the best of educators.*



**Mark Laboe**

Naperville Central High School

**Amy Hastings**

*The happiest, coolest, and most approachable teacher at Central. Mrs. Hastings' positive energy is more infectious than COVID-19.*



**Joseph Li**

Naperville Central High School

**Steven Stack**

*Coach Stack has helped me to see the light in the darkness by telling me what I needed to hear, not necessarily what I wanted to hear. Thank you, Stack, for teaching me life skills beyond the sport of running.*



**Sean Li**

Naperville Central High School

**Kevin Hayes**

*Mr. Hayes introduced and got me interested in computer science. He is a passionate teacher who cares about each student's learning over grades.*



**Jason Lin**

Naperville Central High School

**Amy Hastings**

*Plant anatomy is not the most thrilling subject, yet Mrs. Hastings's unprecedented ability to bring joy and passion into whatever she teaches makes it engaging nonetheless. I had the privilege of being in Mrs. Hastings's class twice, and I can't thank her enough for teaching me not only biology, but how to also bring joy and passion into everything I do.*



**Kent Lullo**

Naperville Central High School

**Kevin Hayes**

*Since freshman year, Mr. Hayes has encouraged me to develop my fascination with computer science. From giving us engaging projects to being someone I could have fun talking to about different programs and ideas, he helped point me towards my passion and future aspirations.*



**Kaitlin Peng**

Naperville Central High School

**Deborah Lints**

*Mrs. Lints had helped me through one of the toughest times of my life, and even today her inherently caring nature and her willingness to sacrifice her happiness and time for others remain an inspiration for me. There is no doubt in my mind that Mrs. Lints made me the student and person I am today, which I will always be grateful for.*



**Neha**

**Ramachandran**

Naperville Central High School

**Stacy Cunningham**

*Magistra creates an atmosphere of excitement for learning in her class every day. She has not only taught me Latin, but taught me what it means to care deeply about something, whether in the classroom or outside of it.*



**Nathaniel Reimer**

Naperville Central High School

**Christine Bell**

*Mrs. Bell is the person who introduced me to business through DECA and has always encouraged me to do my best. She has always helped me in whatever way she could and is a great role model.*



**Ella Ruiz**

Naperville Central High School

**John Klein-Collins**

*Mr. Klein-Collins was the first teacher that truly pushed me to learn as much as possible, not only about the concepts in class, but about the world around me. He has been the single largest influence on my passion for learning.*



**James Schatz**

Naperville Central High School

**Nicholas Straka**

*Mr. Straka has been teaching me math for nearly 2 and a half years, so in terms of just time he is the most influential teacher I have had. I also love how he teaches, encouraging me to make discoveries and understand concepts for myself, not just memorizing formulas.*



**Brandon Sommerfeld**

Naperville Central High School

**Jane Thompson**

*Ms. Thompson is a dedicated teacher not only of curriculum, but of students. I knew each day when I entered her classroom that I would be loved, valued, and supported as she challenged us to make connections with history and use those connections to become better, more compassionate people.*



**Kathryn Southon**

Naperville Central High School

**Kelly Mielcarz**

*I've known Mrs. Mielcarz since I was a freshman and there is no doubt that she has helped shape me into the person I am today. I'm lucky to have gotten to know her and to have had her positivity and encouragement in my life.*



**Sydney Stephens**

Naperville Central High School

**Paula (Smith) Gerwig**

*When others tried to hold me back, Mrs. Gerwig strengthened my love of math, offering me advanced problems to work on during lunch and encouraging me to sign up for Honors Geometry over the summer. Thanks to the confidence she gave me, I've pushed beyond the limits set for me, taking Differential Equations my senior year and majoring in Engineering Physics.*

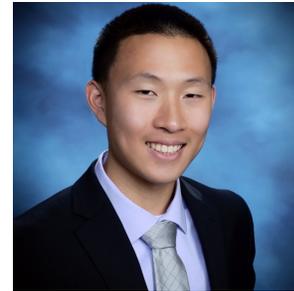


**Tessa Sussman**

Naperville Central High School

**Kathy Linder**

*Mrs. Linder not only taught me how to learn; she taught me to love learning. The experiences I've had in her class and the stories she would tell will remain with me long after I graduate.*



**Raymond Tong**

Naperville Central High School

**Jane Thompson**

*During the second semester of my junior year, I went to India for about two to three weeks because of a family emergency. And when I came back, I was struggling academically, especially in APUSH and Ms. Thompson helped me get back on my feet in more ways than I think she knows and for that, I am eternally grateful.*



**Aaina Vannan**

Naperville Central High School

**Kathy Linder**

*Despite our relentless laughter, google hangout chatter, online shopping habits, and tendency to skip reading, Mrs. Linder brought my freshmen AP world class together and left me with numerous memories. Even as I moved on from that class, she continued to care about me by being available if I ever needed help, support, or just to talk.*



**Alan Wandke**

Naperville Central High School

**Kathleen Gasser**

*Señora Gasser is dynamic, spirited, caring, warm, and kind. She never fails to light up the classroom with her outgoing and vibrant presence!*



**Claire Yu**

Naperville Central High School

**David Ashton**

*Mr. Ashton has always supported me, my goals, and has guided me when things don't always go my way. He has been a teacher that has not only pushed me to be a better student, but also a better athlete, peer, and human.*

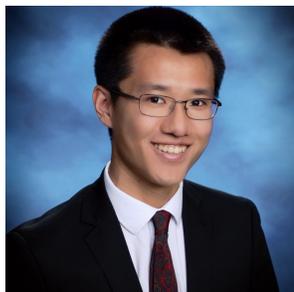


**Mellissa Zhang**

Naperville Central High School

**Kevin Hayes**

*Mr. Hayes has provided an environment for me to freely explore my passions in programming. In addition, he is also a great person to talk to about life or discuss memes with.*



**Kyle Zhao**

Naperville Central High School

**Kathy Linder**

*Through Mrs. Linder's passion for teaching, I learned about and appreciated diverse backgrounds, cultures and histories. In addition to her continuous support, Mrs. Linder pushed me to challenge myself and step outside my comfort zone.*



**Vivian Zhao**

Naperville Central High School

**Matthew Wainwright**

*Mr. Wainwright has a way with words that is simply "punparalleled." On top of making class "pun," he encouraged me to learn important life skills and inspired interests that I pursue outside of the classroom.*



**Mitchell Zhen**

Naperville Central High School

**Matthew Gresk**

*Mr. Gresk's infectious humor and positivity have pushed me to become a more vocal individual and recognize the value of hands-on learning. He has, and always will be, one of my biggest supporters in my efforts to enrich my knowledge beyond school.*



**Kathy Zheng**

Naperville Central High School

**John Myers**

*The two years I spent learning Spanish from Profe instilled a love for the language in me that has motivated me to develop my proficiency for the past 4 years of high school. I'll always cherish the many memories from his class, from listening to his creative songs to playing Profe Dice, which made for a learning experience that I will never forget.*



**Mehak Ahuja**

Naperville North High School

**Tracy Thomson**

*Mrs. Thomson has shown me how to love learning and explore my interests by clearly showing her passion for teaching. She really demonstrates how much she cares for her students and always tries to make learning fun and engaging.*



**Alexa Betjemann**

Naperville North High School

**Elizabeth Moore**

*Mrs. Moore has been my teacher for two years and in that time she has gotten me excited to learn math. This excitement played a role in my future plans as I knew I wanted to go into a math-related field.*



**Luke Boelke**

Naperville North High School

**Ryan Dengel**

*On the first day of school I could tell that 4th period Sociology with Mr. Dengel was going to be special. His genuine openness, infectious charisma, and dedication to teaching both his academic lessons and life skills has inspired me to follow a career path for which I am passionate and create a greater good, following the example he set in the classroom.*



**Ana Cardenas Manrique**

Naperville North High School

**Elizabeth Brucker**

*Mrs. Brucker taught me that life is like a titration; sometimes we need to go drop by drop, step by step, and see what happens from there. When you overshoot, you can always try again (and again).*

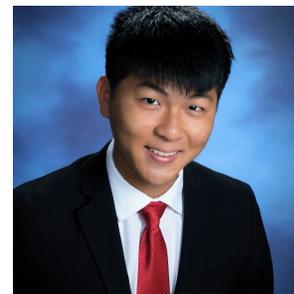


**Heather Chang**

Naperville North High School

**Elizabeth Brucker**

*As a freshman, Mrs. Brucker was the scariest teacher I had, but after 4 years, I've realized that no one is more fun, compassionate, and sarcastic. She has sparked a joy for learning and laughter that I will keep with me for the rest of my life.*



**Eric Chen**

Naperville North High School

**Katie Trowbridge**

*Mrs. Trowbridge for the past year has pushed me to remember why I fell in love with learning in the first place and has made me want to take control of my own learning with full force.*



**Haley Cush**

Naperville North High School

**Matthew Bagley**

*In middle school, it's easy to complete the bare minimum, but Mr. Bagley always encouraged me to learn new things, think differently, and test my cognitive limits even when there wasn't a separate honors track to challenge myself. He helped cultivate the passion for learning that I have today.*



**Katrien de Waard**

Naperville North High School

**Geoffrey Schmit**

*Mr. Schmit really got me excited for computer science through his classes and robotics. He also helped me navigate many professional and leadership opportunities. Most importantly though, he taught me how to be a critical thinker and an effective leader.*



**Anne Foley**

Naperville North High School

**Brian Nierman**

*Mr. Nierman made a great difference in my life because he helped me tremendously in the subject of English. Thanks to Mr. Nierman, I'm better at writing essays, and I have a much better understanding of literature.*

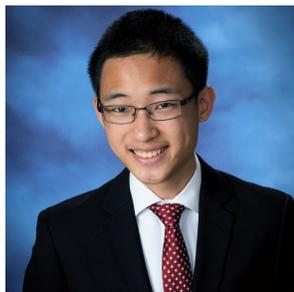


**Shawn Gregory**

Naperville North High School

**Elizabeth Brucker**

*As my Science Olympiad coach and chemistry teacher both freshman and senior year, Mrs. Brucker has always made each day better with her helpfulness, sarcasm, and unbounded enthusiasm.*

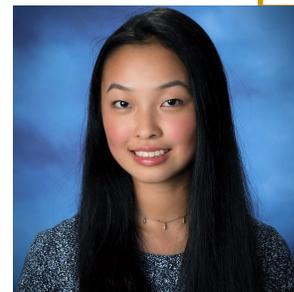


**Allen Gu**

Naperville North High School

**Brian Horner**

*I look back at my time at Highlands and remember how happy and excited I was to learn and express myself - experiences which I can largely attribute to Mr. Horner. His sense of humor, storytelling ability, and creativity in bringing his classroom to life are what have stuck with me all this time, and what inspired and still inspires me to become an educator.*



**Helenna Gu**

Naperville North High School

**Olivia Jaime**

*The impact that Mrs. Jaime has made on my life cannot be understated; she has inspired me to succeed in my academic pursuits and imbued me with the courage to lead others and meet the challenges that confront me. For that, I am grateful.*



**Cristian Hernandez**

Naperville North High School

**Mark Rowzee**

*Mr. Rowzee is one of the major reasons that I am excited to learn every day because he makes physics so fun! It is because of him that I am studying my chosen major, and he has continued to encourage and challenge me in the classroom.*



**Rebecca Jennings**

Naperville North High School

**Rebecca Diorio**

*Mrs. Diorio has always been there for me and supported me throughout the two years that I've had her as a teacher at North. I really appreciate how she sticks up for me and is always looking out for my best interests; I will miss her greatly after I graduate.*



**Allison Kautz**

Naperville North High School

**Stephanie Moore**

*Mrs. Moore always supports me as I talk about any subject, encouraging my love for learning and especially reading. She has helped me to grow into a better leader, a better student, but most importantly, a better person.*



**Caitlyn Komar**

Naperville North High School

**Stephanie Moore**

*Mrs. Moore is someone who is always there to listen when I have a hard day and need someone to talk to, or just anytime I want to talk. She's always encouraging and helps to make every day better than I get to see her.*



**Jessica Komar**

Naperville North High School

**Abby Walter**

*Miss Walter's ability to work with her students on an individual level is what makes her class both impactful and engaging. It allowed me to become more deeply invested in applying Spanish within my life and career.*



**Aarish Lakhani**

Naperville North High School

**Missy Ross**

*Even though I only had Mrs. Ross for one year in elementary school, that didn't stop her from instilling a lifelong drive in me to be the best version of myself not just academically, but as a person too. From her, I was lucky enough to embrace the growth mindset at such a young age and I'm so grateful to have had her during my formative years.*



**Marissa Li**

Naperville North High School

**Brooke Ulrich**

*Señorita Ulrich has undeniably helped me understand that finding the positive aspects of all outcomes is what matters the most. Regardless of what has happened each day, she has always found a way to put a smile on my face.*



**Emma Lin**

Naperville North High School

**Timothy Brown**

*Ever since I was a freshmen shuffling through the halls of Naperville North, Mr. Brown has always been a guiding light within my life. Whether that be from Mr. Brown's morning runs which rival the time I sleep or the sheer enthusiasm for math in which he shares, his actions and words have remained both an inspiration for me athletically and academically as well as a motivation for my future that is yet to come.*



**Jeremy Liu**

Naperville North High School

**Katie Trowbridge**

*Mrs. Trowbridge has provided a comfortable and open learning environment in which I know that she not only supports me as a student, but as a person. She truly wants the best for her students and helps us to succeed through her guidance.*



**Kyra McKeska**

Naperville North High School

**Mitch Martin**

*Mr. Martin always made his students feel welcome in class while simultaneously pushing and developing our skills. His humor and perspective on whatever was going on at the moment always made for interesting class time.*



**Abigail Meikle**

Naperville North High School

**Lily Barcelona**

*Although I've only had Sra. Barcelona for one year, her class has been a highlight of my high school career. I will always appreciate her dedication to helping her students succeed as well as our after school conversations.*



**Megan Melnikoff**

Naperville North High School

**Robert Platt**

*In his class, Mr. Platt always made sure to teach us in a way that was both informative and engaging. He helped me gain a deep appreciation for the subject of US History that I had never felt before my time in his class.*



**Alyssa Noren**

Naperville North High School

**Elizabeth Brucker**

*Mrs. Brucker is probably both the person that made me a more serious student, as well as an instructor who sparked my love for science. Before my freshman year of high school, science class was just something I did well in, not something I enjoyed studying. But, with her help, I decided to explore more of the sciences every year, going far beyond the minimal requirements to graduate, and I think she's the one who acted as a catalyst in my decision to pursue biochemistry as my college major.*

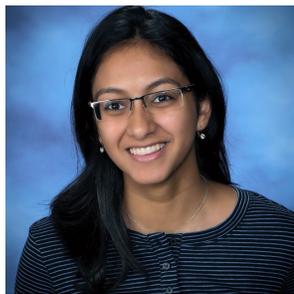


**Steve Qiu**

Naperville North High School

**Elizabeth Moore**

*Through her in-class instruction and her coaching of the math team, Mrs. Moore has continually helped me to further my enjoyment of math. Her excellent teaching and constant enthusiasm have helped make some very difficult classes quite a bit more manageable and enjoyable.*



**Sanjana Roy**

**Naperville North High School**

**Elizabeth Moore**

*Mrs. Moore has been a Math Team coach since I was a freshman, and I've looked up to her all four years I've been at North. This year is the first time I've had her as a teacher, and she has exceeded every expectation built up over the years.*



**Kevin Shi**

**Naperville North High School**

**Thomas Champion**

*Mr. Champion has been the teacher for the past few years that I look up to, as he is able to make just about any topic fun. In his class, biology never felt like work, but rather, a time to explore new ideas and learn more about myself and how I fit in the world around me. I owe my choice of Biology as my college major to him - so thank you, Mr. Champion, for helping me figure out my path in this world.*



**Erin Spinner**

**Naperville North High School**

**Mitch Martin**

*Mr. Martin has challenged me to view the world critically and care genuinely about the truth. Without him, my passions for learning and sharing stories would be nothing like what they are today.*



**June Sun**

**Naperville North High School**

**Zoe Evans**

*Despite my inability to do physics, I thoroughly enjoyed taking AP Physics 1 because of Mrs. Evans. She was always thoughtful and relatable (both of us were sleep deprived), and I really appreciated the fact that I could sit down and talk to her about anything.*

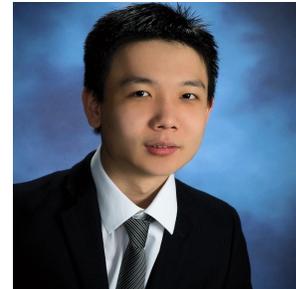


**Lauren Sun**

**Naperville North High School**

**Jong Ho Kim**

*Throughout my time in math team and the two classes I've had with him, Mr. Kim has been supportive. Mr. Kim's encouragement is one of the things that led me to enjoy math team throughout my time in high school.*



**Zehua Tan**

**Naperville North High School**

**Elizabeth Moore**

*Math had always been my favorite subject, but Mrs. Moore's classes were always something that I especially looked forward to in my sophomore and junior years and missed greatly in my senior year. Her dedication and liveliness brought fun and excitement to every challenging problem we faced during early morning math team practices and first period calculus and linear algebra classes.*



**Joshua Tennyson**

**Naperville North High School**

**Erin LeRoy**

*Every time I enter Mrs. LeRoy's office, support surrounds me--stress relief balls, sweet comfort food, random board games, and the person who truly means it when she says, "How can I help you?". Her aura of empathy, optimism, and the ability to believe in others even when they lack confidence in themselves never ceases to amaze me.*



**Nicole Tong**

**Naperville North High School**

**Brenna Verdier**

*I was fortunate to have Madam Verdier as a French teacher for two years, and the thing that stands out the most is her genuine care and concern for her students. It was the highlight of my day walking into French class and seeing her bright smile and positive attitude and it always cheered me up.*

**Kaitlyn Woods**

Naperville North High School

**Elizabeth Brucker**

*Mrs. Brucker is an excellent chemistry teacher and has helped me prepare for a future in biochemistry. I also appreciate her efforts to give emotional support to her students.*

**Becky Wu**

Naperville North High School

**John Noffke**

*Mr. Noffke was a great economics teacher to me as he expanded the subject to a larger, more applicable scale by encouraging open discussion about modern economics. Because so, economics has become one of my favorite subjects and I'm excited to dive much deeper into the topic during college, all thanks to Mr. Noffke's unique classroom setting.*

**Edward Wu**

Naperville North High School

**Elizabeth Moore**

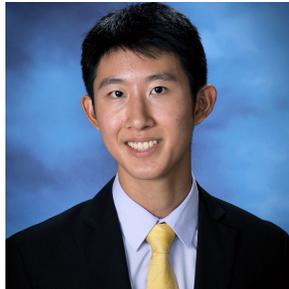
*Over the two school years I've had Mrs. Moore, she's taught me to expect challenges, even in the face of familiarity - I wasn't expecting math to be hard until I began learning calculus under her guidance. And from that, I've learned a wide range of useful skills, but I'm especially thankful for her emphasis on the importance of curiosity - asking questions has taken me a long way, and it was also the key to learning that it seems I've been missing all along.*

**Wesley Wu**

Naperville North High School

**Abby Walter**

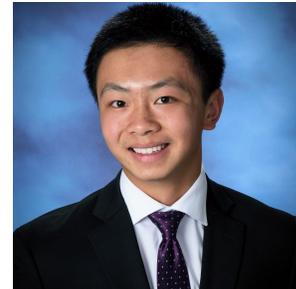
*Señorita Walter was a bright and enthusiastic spirit throughout my high school experience--teaching me that excitement didn't just come from learning a language, but also from exploring my creative interests within it. Ella siempre será una mentora cariñosa y un oído atento, y yo nunca olvidaré todo lo que ha hecho por mí.*

**Zachary Xi**

Naperville North High School

**Kevin Dobbeck**

*Over the last two years, Mr. Dobbeck has given his wholehearted support to me in each of my endeavors inside and outside of music. He has encouraged me to pursue everything I am passionate about, step outside my comfort zone, and strive to reach new heights.*

**Neil Xu**

Naperville North High School

**Ami Kulik**

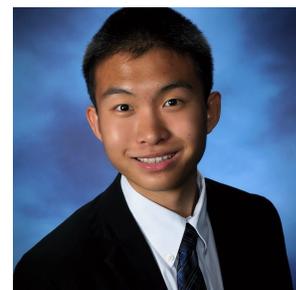
*Mrs. Kulik showed me an immense amount of kindness in middle school and helped give me my love for Shakespeare and journalism. Her wit and sarcasm made English incredibly fun to learn and experience, even if I've since then never needed to diagram sentence structures.*

**Ann Zhao**

Naperville North High School

**Sandy Parato**

*Mrs. Parato introduced the class to literature outside the traditional Western Canon, bringing in underrepresented groups from Native Americans to black women, creating a space in her AP Lang classroom full of discussion, inclusion, and intellectual provocation. In addition, she inspired me to explore my creative side with projects, a new skill that I try to use more often every single day.*

**Brian Zheng**

Naperville North High School

**Heather Schild**

*Although I have never had Mrs. Schild as an academic teacher, she has been my most prominent mentor for the past four years. As a badminton coach, she has taught me on and off the court, but as a friend, she has helped me overcome obstacles and supported me every step of the way, even after I trashed her hotel room as a prank.*



**Taylor Zhou**

**Naperville North High School**



*Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your own inner voice. And most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition.*

*~ Steve Jobs*

# *Naperville* 2013

Community Unit School District

