

# COUNTDOWN TO GRADUATION

Our high school seniors work hard! They focus on academics, are interested in the arts, athletics and trades. They have overcome challenges. They volunteer, work, and are involved in many activities, while preparing for college, career or the military.

You can meet our seniors through video features every Friday and print features in *FOCUS*. Visit [www.bcs1.org/countdown](http://www.bcs1.org/countdown) to view archived videos featuring: Amanda Gundrum, Noah Pereira, Justine Kenney, Hadaree Nesmith, Sophia Avery, Tyler Hanko, Marinna Everdyke, David Sutton, Jessica Emmerson, Matt Prest, and Alma Haddock. Receive each Friday's feature directly to your email by signing up for High School E-News at [www.bcs1.org/enews](http://www.bcs1.org/enews).

We wish we could feature every member of the Class of 2014! Thank you to all the students who completed a survey for consideration, educators for their nominations and to the selection committee. We hope you enjoy learning more about our students!

Cory plans to attend The College at Brockport after graduation, majoring in biology. He hopes to eventually earn a master's degree in zoology, with a focus on large mammals.

## MEET Cory Stamp

"The worst thing that can come from trying something new is finding out that you don't like it," says Brockport senior Cory Stamp. "That's one thing I learned at Brockport High School that I'd like to share with others." Cory has taken that philosophy to heart – trying and excelling in a surprising range of activities, from English, drama and music to physics, biology and psychology, to the competitive MasterMinds program, Boy Scouts and volunteer work.

Organization and setting priorities are important skills in Cory's life. "You have to know when to work and what needs to be worked on first. Then you can play. I keep the end goal in mind. Being able to look at a finished project – the pride you get from that is awesome."

Cory has been playing the tuba since the fourth grade. "It wasn't actually my first choice. I wanted to play drums or violin. But when I sat down with the tuba, it was just a natural fit." He plays in the band and the pit band. He is also a featured player in the 2014 spring play, Shakespeare's "Comedy of Errors." Cory credits Mr. Izzo, English teacher, director and MasterMinds coach, with inspiring him. "He is a profound thinker. Always ready to share knowledge. He says, 'How can anyone tell you what the real world is like when the real world is different for everyone?'"

MasterMinds counts as a major accomplishment in Cory's high school career. He finished in the top five in Brockport's division. "It has been fun to be part of a great team of people and I really enjoy the friendly competition." Cory also considers his family to be absolutely vital to his success. "My sister and my dad have always been there to lean on, through all the hard times. Having a good home is probably the most important thing in my life."

Cory plans to attend The College at Brockport after graduation, majoring in biology. He hopes to eventually earn a master's degree in zoology, with a focus on large mammals. "I like the big ones, the dangerous ones," he says. In the meantime, he volunteers at the Brockport Free Methodist Church, helping with events and the community gardens. "My other job," he says with a twinkle, "is international gentleman. I'm not as big and scary as I look."

**Last Word.** "I don't know where I'd be without my friends. The best friends you can have are the ones who really know you. Just be yourself."



Cory's Stats
AP Psychology, AP English, AP Physics
Band
Performing Arts: Pit Band, Spring Play
MasterMinds
Boy Scout Troop 86