

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.

We hope you enjoyed meeting seniors through video features every Friday and print features in the *FOCUS*. Visit www.bcs1.org/countdown to see our video tribute to the Class of 2014 and all archived videos featuring BHS seniors: Matt Allen, Sophia Avery, Samantha Butler, Jessica Emmerson, Marina Everdyke, Victoria Falco, Amanda Gundrum, Alma Haddock, Tyler Hanko, Taylor Haug, Justine Kenney, Hadaree Nesmith, Noah Pereira, Matt Prest, Tom Redick, Olesya Shchendrigina, David Sutton, Kristin Taylor, and Adam Wilson.

We wish we could have featured 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.

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MEET *Amanda Stroh*

"I don't like having someone tell me I can't, or try to limit how far I can go," says senior Amanda Stroh. "It makes me work harder to prove them wrong." Amanda struggled with math in her junior year and was given the advice to give up on Regents-level mathematics; take something easier. She dug in and pushed herself, and passed the math Regents exam. "Not my best score ever, but it proved I could do whatever I put my mind to doing!"

That determination to just jump in and do it has been central to Amanda's career at Brockport High School. From a 2012 Citizen of the Year Award for Brockport and Spencerport, to her three years on the Keep the Peace committee, and her work as Class of 2014 Vice President and organizer for the second annual Homecoming Parade, Amanda has done her part to help her class and her community. "I'm very proud of the work we did on the Homecoming Parade and the connections we built between the school district and the Brockport government and local businesses. It will result in more sponsor funds for prom and other events."

Amanda's leadership and problem-solving skills were put to the test this year with her involvement on the Principal's Advisory Committee. She led the effort to change the school's "No Tolerance" cell phone policy to a more thoughtful, realistic compromise policy that balances freedom with respect. "It was tough making the case to the School Board," she says. "But the new policy makes a big difference for both students and teachers."

All that confidence hasn't come easily or naturally to Amanda. She credits her mom with pushing her to meet new people. "She always told me 'Smile. Don't be rude.'" She says Dr. Boshnack has also quietly pushed her into challenging situations where she was able to test herself and meet new people.



Amanda plans to spend the summer working at Brockport Golf Club, and is then headed to Sedona and Arizona State University to study clinical psychology. "I did an internship at a Brockport Elementary School counseling office," she says. "I was intrigued by how kids think, and disturbed by how many serious problems young children have to cope with. I want to do something to help."

Last word: "Spend the first two years of high school trying everything. Join every club and organization. Quit if you don't like them. Find out what you are really interested in. Then spend your last two years focusing on the two or three things you are really passionate about."

Amanda's Stats

Student Council
Principal's Advisory Committee
Class Vice President and Parade Committee
3-1-3 Program
Junior year: AP US History
Band and Pit Orchestra
Volunteer work at Seneca Park Zoo