


Salute to the Class of 2011


District 23 strives to set the stage for students to become lifelong learners and leaders by providing them with diverse opportunities in the areas of academics, fine arts, and athletics. The children who walk through the doors of District 23 make our schools better places by embracing these opportunities and adding their own special energy to this vibrant dynamic. Check out the paths of these six MacArthur students who represent the true heart and soul of our District through the variety of accomplishments they've earned and the experiences they've chosen during their time with us.

Sara Buresh




Sara Buresh is a "quadruple threat." She has enthusiastically navigated through the academic, musical, athletic, and extracurricular club worlds of Betsy Ross, Sullivan, and MacArthur, always striving to meet her goals with a smile on her face. As a student, Sara has been a well-respected member of Mac's Honor Society for three years. Her teachers describe her as "going above and beyond what is expected of her, whether it is completing extra credit, or e-mailing teachers to clarify homework." As a musician, Sara has played the flute in District 23 bands for the past four years and plans to continue with the band in high school. As an athlete, Sara has been on the seventh- and eighth-grade POM squads and has managed the girls' volleyball teams for the past two years. In the world of extracurricular clubs, Sara has worked on the yearbook and with the dance club. She said that extracurricular activities have given her some of her best memories in District 23. Her advice to incoming Mac students is, "Always try to do clubs or anything that interests you. Try your best." A well-rounded student, teachers and peers alike look to Sara for her leadership skills. Sara described what traits it takes to be a successful student. "Responsibility, a compassion for life, always wanting to succeed, taking initiative and loving what you do," she said. When asked about her goals for the future, Sara said, "I will graduate from college with high honors and will look for a worthwhile job, maybe teaching. Sara will eagerly take advantage of all the opportunities Wheeling High School has to offer in the fall.

Anna Johnson



Anna Johnson's advice to District 23 students is something she follows herself. "Never give up on yourself, no matter what! Give 100% to your teachers," she said. Her teachers are important to Anna because, since she was a young child at Eisenhower, she has planned to follow that same career path. "Good teachers get to know you on a personal level. They're open to any questions you have. They also have good personalities." An outstanding student, Anna is a three-year member of the MacArthur Honor Society and her teachers describe her as a "mature, thoughtful young lady" who maintains high academic standards for herself. The world of academics isn't enough for Anna, however. The extracurricular activities of music, government, and athletics play an important part in her life, too. Anna has been an active member of choir since fourth grade and has taken part in Mac's Student Senate. She contributes to Mac's Marauders on both the basketball and track teams. She also plays softball. Anna's favorite memories of her time in District 23 both took place at Mac. She loved her sixth grade unit on ancient civilizations and is proud to have made quilts for veterans in Home Economics. Anna is excited to go to high school where she plans to take a Child Development course, work in the preschool program, make Honor Roll, be a part of the softball team, and make new friends. There is no doubt Anna will be giving 100% at Hersey High School in the fall.

Noah Karpinski



Noah Karpinski sure knows the value of having fun. His advice to District 23 students is simple. "Have fun doing your work," he said. "Stress can take away from the fun experiences you can have in District 23." Noah's advice has served him well throughout Ross, Sullivan and MacArthur. His eighth grade teachers described him as "one of the most outstanding students who ever attended MacArthur Middle School," and as being "kind, dependable, and respectful." Noah has been involved in almost every part of life at Mac. An Honor Society member for three years, Noah takes extremely challenging classes. Of course, he describes them as "fun!" Noah plays trombone and has been in band, jazz band, and orchestra during his time in District 23. Cross country and track and field also can be added to Noah's extensive resume. Such an exemplary student as Noah must show excellent leadership qualities. Noah elaborated on what makes a good leader. "Teamwork," he said. "A leader has to be able to work and get along with everyone. You can't choose who you work with. Listening to everyone's ideas is important. Leaders need to have emotions and ..." (drumroll, please) "...they need to have fun!" In the future, Noah is looking forward to the challenging honors classes he'll take in high school and, although he is undecided about his career path (he is thinking about being a composer, professional trombone artist, graphic designer, or engineer), he does know the type of job he would like. "It has to be enjoyable and shouldn't feel like work. It should be fun." Noah will have a blast at Hersey High School in the fall.



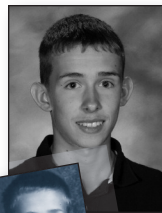


Natalia Kowalski

People are important to Natalia Kowalski. Whether talking about how to be an effective leader of her peers at Mac or reminiscing over her years in District 23, Natalia focuses on the people involved in these experiences. To be a good leader she

said, "You have to let people be a part of things. Don't ever leave people out. Listen to everyone's opinions and don't be bossy." Throughout her career at Mac, Natalia regularly has taken leadership roles in class group projects and while working with the Morning Announcement Team this year. Another example of how Natalia values the people around her is also her favorite memory. With laughter in her voice she recalled her last days at Eisenhower School. "It was in fifth grade at the end of the year. We had this huge party, a Hawaiian theme, I think. What I remember the most is how our class bonded and were all friends. Even now our grade is still pretty close." Natalia is a musician, too. She has played violin in District 23's orchestra program since fourth grade.

Academics and music would make a full schedule for any student, but Natalia's commitments reach much further than our Prospect Heights community. Every Saturday, from August through June, she attends a full day of curriculum, choir, and folk dancing at the St. Trojcy Polish School in Chicago. Her dance troupe from St. Trojcy has travelled throughout the U.S. and plans a performance in Poland in 2012. This well-rounded young lady offered the following advice to incoming MacArthur students. "At Mac, there are different things to do...different decisions to make and opinions to listen to. Think about every action you take. Also, stay organized. That helps a lot!" Natalia will lead, play, dance, and laugh her way to Hersey High School in the fall.



Bartosz Migus

What's your advice for District 23 students? "Give yourself a goal for every year," said Bartosz Migus. "My goal was good grades so I stayed on topic, didn't goof around in class and didn't go to sleep until my homework was done. I've gotten straight A's almost for three years."

Bart's goal-setting has certainly been noticed. His teachers describe him as having a "mature approach" to classes and a "superior work ethic." Bart came to Eisenhower School from Chicago in third grade. While he was a fifth grader at Ike, Mrs. Gember introduced him to the alto saxophone which he continues to play in Concert Band and Jazz Band at MacArthur. When asked what he was most proud of during his time in District 23, without hesitation he replied, "Going to Super State. The music level at Mac is very important to me." He credits Mr. Thomas's and Mr. Malek's leadership with the bands' achievements. In addition to his academic and musical successes, Bart is an accomplished volleyball player both at Mac and at the club level. "My dream when I was a little kid was to play soccer. Now, I see myself playing volleyball professionally in a league or for the men's National Polish team." Through his experiences in volleyball, Bart has learned perseverance and the benefit of facing his fears. "I began playing at the park district and then I started playing in Top Flight Club. I was scared at first because I was playing with kids who were older and stronger than I was. I found out that training with older kids is a very good experience. You have time to grow and you can take the advice from the older kids and learn from it." On top of his accomplishments in and out of school, Bart's teachers describe him as having a "wonderful disposition" and recognize his mannerisms and "exceptional motivation" for making him an extraordinary individual and student. Bart will continue setting high goals for himself at Hersey High School in the fall.



Anthony Ryan

Anthony Ryan can't pick a favorite memory of his years spent in District 23. "I liked everything, from Ross, Sullivan, and here at Mac. The teachers always talked to you in the halls and made you feel welcome. Everyone was approachable." If District 23's approachability sets the stage for success, Anthony has

enthusiastically taken advantage of every opportunity in front of him. When asked about his proudest moment, Anthony said, "In seventh grade, I was the only boy that won the four-sport award." His four sports are basketball, cross country, wrestling, and track. To succeed in school, a student athlete must manage his time and energy while being highly organized. How does he balance sports and schoolwork? Anthony said, "Sometimes I go in early to finish work and I try to do homework at lunch." Anthony's time-management systems have worked for him; he's been in the Honor Society all three years of middle school. Anthony's teachers describe him as having a "friendly demeanor" and being a "vital asset to classroom discussions and activities." Anthony's advice to District 23 students is twofold. "Don't be afraid to try anything because all the coaches and teachers are willing to take you under their wing. Also, in sixth grade, don't be discouraged if you're not as good at something as other people. You have all of seventh and eighth grade to excel and succeed." Where will Anthony be in 10 years? "I want to, if I don't get into professional athletics, be an attorney. I like working with people and taking a task and working through it. I like that challenge. I enjoy debates in my classes." Next year, Anthony hopes to make the football and baseball teams and be involved with clubs including S.A.D.D. Anthony will continue to perfect his balancing act at Hersey High School in the fall. •

