

SCHOOLS 2015-16 *Snapshot*

volunteers, business partners, civic groups, parents and more combine with the work of staff to help students reach their goals.

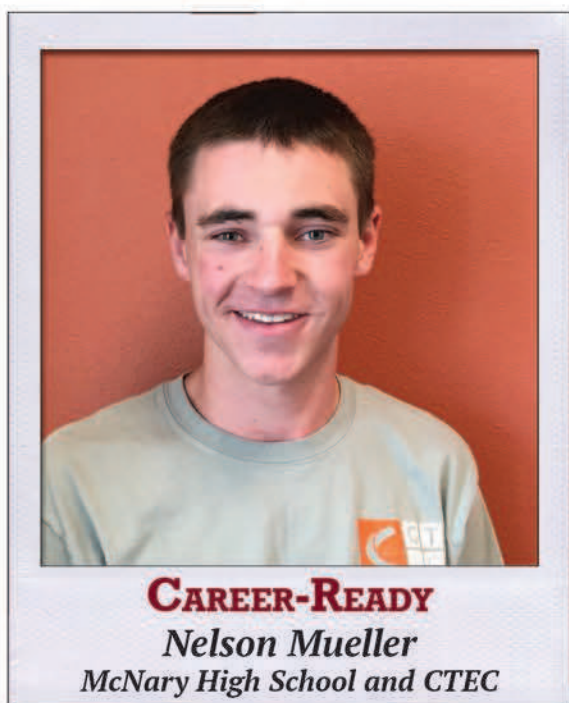


To show you, our community, some results of our joint efforts, we proudly present this snapshot of the graduating class of 2016. These students represent a small sample of the young adults who graduated from Salem-Keizer this year.

In the sixth grade, **Nelson Mueller** discovered career-technical education, and it was a perfect fit. Among his favorite projects created in Mr. Earl's woodshop at Whiteaker Middle School were a floor lamp and a baseball bat. He still has both, and they both still work great.

Now a graduate of Salem-Keizer's Career Technical Education Center (CTEC) and McNary High School, Nelson has always gravitated toward CTE classes. He's taken drafting, automotive technology, computer aided design, and completed independent study in McNary's machine shop, to name a few.

When he's not making something at CTEC or McNary, Nelson can be found working in the woodshop on his family's blueberry farm North of Keizer. He's especially proud of a drill jig he made for crafting wood lamps, and face plate for the wood lathe.



CAREER-READY

Nelson Mueller
McNary High School and CTEC

Making the decision to enroll in CTEC was easy for Nelson.

Sitting in a chair doesn't appeal to me. I like to pay attention to detail. I have a lot of patience, and I like to make things that have a definite purpose," Nelson explained. "In other pursuits, you don't always know if there's a use for what you have made, like an essay."

While sitting at a desk and writing may not be Nelson's preferred form of work, he has excelled academically. He graduated with a 4.0 grade point average while carrying a challenging course load that included Advanced Placement classes in U.S. History and Chemistry, and concurrently studied Spanish through S-K Online.

"My mom always said it would be OK if I got a B, but I didn't want to. My older brother got a 4.0, and my younger brother is too. I want to do as well or better and make my family proud."

Nelson plans to become an electrician. This summer, he will be joining Portland IBEW 48 as an apprentice Journeymen.



SCHOLAR-ATHLETE
Katelyn Macaitis-Smith
Sprague High School

Ask the Sprague High School athletic department to describe **Katelyn Macaitis-Smith**, and this is a sample of what you will hear: Well-rounded. Versatile. Excellent. Hard-working.

Accomplished both on the field and in the classroom, Katelyn graduated from Sprague this month with a cumulative 3.8 GPA and was a two-sport athlete for the majority of her high school career. She played wing and post positions on the girls' basketball team for three years, and third base on the softball team all four years. In her senior year, she received an honorable mention from the Greater Valley Conference in basketball, and was named second-team, all-conference in softball.

Katelyn says her proudest moments in sports come from hard work with the team. "I am really proud of the progress our basketball team made over the last few years. We worked hard and got better each year."

Her proudest moment in the classroom says a lot about the value she places on hard work. As a student who earned mostly A's in her high school career, Katelyn reports, "I'm proud of the B I got in Precalculus. It was a really hard class, but I got it."

Katelyn will attend Pacific University in the fall on an academic scholarship and will also play softball for the school. She plans to study early childhood education with the goal of becoming an elementary school teacher, motivated in part by participating in Sprague's vocational program, Little Olys Preschool.

Katelyn also grew up in an environment dedicated to young children. Her grandmother runs a daycare center in the home where Katelyn was raised. Her grandparents adopted her in elementary school.

When asked what motivates her to be successful, Katelyn responded that she wants to improve her life so she can be more helpful to others. She wants to make her family – both on the field and off – proud.

"Life can be rough. The people in this community are good motivators and encourage you to go on and do something bigger in life – to be part of something bigger than yourself."

Brandon Pressley has been making music since he was seven years old. Now a graduate of West Salem High School, Brandon will be attending the University of Oregon on a music scholarship in the fall majoring in music performance and jazz studies.

It all started when he was in the second grade when he got a guitar for Christmas. Brandon taught himself to play by watching videos and reading method books. As a fifth grader, Brandon started learning to play percussion instruments, and eagerly joined Walker Middle School's jazz band the following year. In the eighth grade, Brandon received a trombone for Christmas, and taught himself to play yet another instrument.

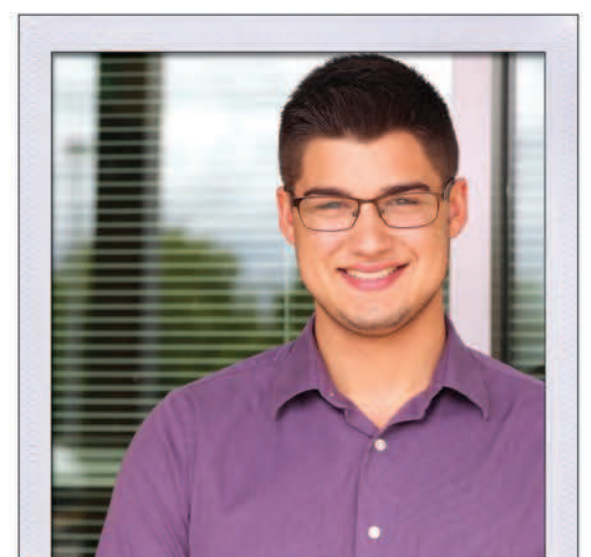
At West, he has participated in marching band, pep bands, jazz band, wind ensemble, and symphony orchestra, to name just a few. At one point during his sophomore year, Brandon found he was playing one instrument or another in eleven different groups.

At the 2016 OSAA state music championships, Brandon placed in four different soloist competitions: fourth place in mallets, second place in rudimental snare, second place in timpani, and first place in orchestral snare. Brandon says of the competition, "The orchestral snare piece was really challenging because I had to use my voice and my hands. I performed vocal percussion – we call it drum speak – and played the snare with my hands. It took a lot of coordination."

Brandon's proudest moment in music came recently when he received a letter from the Carnegie Hall Honors College in recognition of his awards in solo performance this year.

Brandon is also very proud of being part of West Salem High School's seven straight state championships in wind ensemble. He credits the community for helping both him and the program succeed.

"The community support for performances with many different ensembles is incredible. You can't develop as a performer without the audience. In that way, the Salem community has been amazingly supportive."



MUSICIAN
Brandon Pressley
West Salem High School



This year, three graduating seniors gave their parents a special **thank you for their support**. Sprague graduate **Reede Fisher**, South Salem graduate **Calista Kountz**, and North Salem graduate **Frank Hurtado** each showed up in cap and gown with a card, flowers and balloons at a parent's work place and read a special message they had written for their parent.



Thank You!