



Thursday, June 9, 1988 O&E

# 1,180 seniors ready to test their mettle

**A** TOTAL of 1,180 seniors from four Farmington-area high schools will graduate and move into the adult world this spring. Following is information about each school and top achievers:

● **FARMINGTON HIGH**  
Graduation was held last night at Ford Auditorium, when 305 students received diplomas.  
Class colors are blue and silver, class flower is the white rose, and class song "The Best Is Yet to Come." Class officers include president Jeff Brandt, vice president Kim Colone, secretary Laura Gallagher and treasurer Vicki Hill. Counselor James Whitledge was class adviser.  
Valedictorian is Katherine Kretler with a 4.0 grade point average, and salutatorian is Ray Schneider with a 3.81 grade point average.  
● Kretler is a Farmington Hills resident, the daughter of Susan Kretler and William Kretler. She plans to attend either the University of Michigan or Harvard this fall. "My long-range sights currently rest on law," she said. "Ideally with an international emphasis. I would like to pursue some career that keeps me in touch with the public."  
During her high school years, Kretler has been president of Students Against Driving Drunk, student council, was freshman class president, and was involved in a variety of activities including class musicals, marching band and academic competitions. The national Merit Scholar has won a variety of honors and scholarships, including the Observer's Academic All-Star team, the Rensselaer Medal, the Madame Curie Award and first place in

the Farmington Musicals Scholarship.  
● Schneider has plans this fall to attend the University of Michigan where he will apply to business school. The son of Ray Schneider and Tina Schneider, he has been active as a church retreat leader, in the student council blood drive, and involved with many National Honor Society activities such as bowling for handicapped people and the Goodfellows food drive.  
In school, Schneider was treasurer of the student council, ran track, played intramural basketball, was a drum major in the marching band and played in the school orchestra. He was named to the Academic Hall of Fame, was a Latin Exam Award winner, and graduated Phi Beta Kappa.  
● **HARRISON HIGH**  
A total of 150 Harrison seniors will graduate tonight at Ford Auditorium.  
Class colors are peach and cream, class flower is the white rose, and class song is "We Said Hello, Goodbye" by Phil Collins. Class adviser was Donald Batten. Class officers include president Scott Kay, vice president Phillip Rider, secretary Amy Gibbs and treasurer Mark Bonasso.  
Five Harrison seniors share top honors each carrying a 4.0 grade point average: Steve Bissell, Neal Blatt, Richard Brockhaus, Alicia Courtney and Christi Eldredge.  
● Bissell, a West Bloomfield resident, is the son of Phil Bissell and Mary Beth Bissell. He played football, basketball, served on his class board, student council and was active in drama club. He was also a

## Class of 1988



member of the National Honor Society during his junior and senior years.  
Bissell worked with the Wood Creek Elementary math/science challenge and was active with the Goodfellows food drive. He received "most improved player" and "scholar athlete" awards for his football career and the West Bloomfield Optimists Scholarship and Principal's Scholarship Award. This fall, Bissell plans to attend Albion College where he will study international business.  
● Blatt plans to attend the University of Michigan this fall. He is the son of Dr. Ronald Blatt and Sharon Blatt and lives in Farmington Hills. President of the National Honor Society, active in the marching band, orchestra and Olympics of the Mind, Blatt is also a member of the Oakway Symphony Orchestra. He has also been active with the Goodfellows food drive.  
Blatt was one of the top 100 scorers on the Michigan Math Test and qualified for part two of the American Math Test. He attended Boys State, the Michigan Summer Institute for the Arts and Sciences and is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate.  
● A National Honor Society member, Brockhaus is the son of Gene Brockhaus and Ann Brockhaus

and lives in Farmington Hills. His high school activities have included football, tennis, and intramural basketball. Brockhaus was all-division in both football and tennis, served as president of the student council and was sports editor of the Catalyst, the school newspaper.  
This fall, the Phi Beta Kappa graduate plans to attend the University of Michigan where he will study business.  
● Courtney has been active in cheerleading, track, marching band, student council, French club and National Honor Society. The Farmington Hills resident is the daughter of Donald Courtney and Yvonne Rausch.  
She served as Girls State representative and is graduating Phi Beta Kappa. During her high school years, Courtney held a hostess/waitress job and during her other free time enjoys running, swimming and tennis. She plans to study biology and engineering at either Albion College or the University of Michigan, and plans a future career in biomedical engineering.  
● Eldredge will enter college this fall to study a pre-med curriculum. She is the daughter of Herbert Eldredge and Judith Eldredge and lives in Farmington Hills. The Phi

Beta Kappa graduate and National Honor Society member served as captain of the varsity soccer team, and was chosen most valuable player. She was treasurer of the French Club and played volleyball during her high school years.  
She holds a full-ride scholarship to Wayne State University, and was also offered a scholarship to the University of Miami in Florida.  
● **MERCY HIGH**  
A total of 252 young women graduated from Mercy High School May 27 at the Baldwin Pavilion at Oakland University.  
Class officers include president Theresa Comor, vice president Kandice Boyle, secretary Suzanne McDaniel, treasurer Laura Matlas, and spirit director, Molly McWood. Class advisers are John Gernay and Michele Massoglia. Class colors are peach and cream, class flower is the Lady Diana Rose and the class song is "These Are the Times to Remember."  
Valedictorian is Benita Brown with a 3.97 grade point average and salutatorian is Crystal Caruana with a 4.0 grade point.

● Brown, a Detroit resident, is the daughter of Oliver Brown and Bernice Brown. Her school activities include: student government, Spanish Honor Society, National Honor Society, ski club, and science club. She served as captain of the track team and tutored in algebra, chemistry and Spanish.  
During her high school years, she served as a candy striper at Sinai Hospital, was active in AKA Team — a teen leadership/community service group, and was a children's Bible school teacher. She is a recipient of the Martin Luther King Scholarship and numerous awards. She plans to attend the University of Michigan this fall in a 7-year medical program, and wants to specialize in obstetrics and gynecology.  
● Caruana plans to attend Kalamazoo College this fall, to study either medicine, engineering or secondary education. "I want to work with and for people," she said. She is the daughter of John Caruana and Vicki Caruana and is a resident of Detroit.  
School activities include: forensics, school plays, treasurer of National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, ski club and school fundraising committees. She was also involved in a school retreat program. She worked in the community as a

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## inkwell

Inkwell provides news and information about Farmington-area primary and secondary students. The column appears monthly throughout the year as part of the Observer's "School Page." Send news items to: The School Page, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48324. Include a telephone number where a contact person can be reached during the day.

● **PERFECT ATTENDANCE**  
Grant Grider of Farmington Hills has completed nine consecutive years of perfect attendance from kindergarten through eighth grade.  
The former Dunckel Middle School and Kenbrook Elementary student will enter North Farmington High School this fall.  
He has been a Farmington Observer carrier for the past three years.



Grider

● **AWARDS GIVEN**  
Each year, the Farmington Education Association awards a scholarship to a deserving student at each high school. This year's scholarship recipients include: Kelly Vroman at Farmington High, David King at Harrison, and Mary Beth O'Sullivan at North Farmington.  
The scholarship money comes from teacher contributions made in support of higher education. This year's winners will each receive \$50.

● **CONTEST WINNERS**  
Several Warner Middle School students have been honored recently with awards from two writing contests.  
Jenny Weh received the top award in the Detroit Free Press Writing Contest for her essay, "Discrimination in a Teenage World." Nick Burdor was awarded second place for his essay, "The Language of Racism." Winners were chosen from 8,300 entries. Weh received an embossed dictionary and a certificate. Three winners were named in the America and Me Writing contest. They included: Nicole Addis in first place, Margaret O'Sullivan in second place and Elizabeth Patela in third place. A plaque engraved with Addis name was given to the school.  
All winners are eighth graders in Judith Monroe's English class.

● **SPECIAL PEOPLE**  
Students from Carol Barrett's third-grade class at Our Lady of Sorrows Elementary School in Farmington learned about history by studying historical figures.  
In her reading class, Barrett had students read biographies, then asked them to do a book report and special project.  
Famous characters read about included George Washington, Helen Keller, Gordie Howe, Harry Houdini and others.

● **2 LAUREL**  
Two Farmington-area high school seniors received \$1,500 federal college scholarships to be used at the college of their choice.  
Steven Elkin of North Farmington High School and Mary Strimel, a student at Farmington Hills Mercy High School and a West Bloomfield Township resident, are two of 216 Michigan students to receive the Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarships from the state Board of Education.  
Each high school principal in the state nominated an outstanding graduating senior based on high school academic achievement and test scores.

● **TOP AWARD**  
The Mercy High School Newspaper was recently awarded the "Buckeye Award," a top overall award for student newspaper competition from the Great Lakes Interscholastic Press Association at Bowling Green State University.  
The Farmington Hills school competed with high school newspapers from Ohio, Indiana and Michigan.  
Two Mercy juniors received awards for their sports writing. Nicole Frohm of Farmington Hills received a certificate of commendation and Barbara Thomas of Detroit received an honorable mention.

● **SPECIALLY PUBLISHED**  
Don Sweeney, a sophomore at Farmington High School, entered an English essay in a Dream House Writing Contest sponsored by the Palm Beach Post newspaper. His essay was one of eight featured in the April 19 edition of the paper.

● **TOP COMPETITION**  
Two Farmington High School forensic team members, Julia Jennifer Zytowski and Heather McNichols, competed in the state finals of the Michigan Interscholastic Forensic Association at the University of Michigan May 7.

● **14 GRADUATE**  
Fourteen Farmington-area residents graduated May 22 from Birmingham Brother Rice High School.  
They include: co-valedictorian Mark Mayotte and seniors Matthew Gessler, David Green, William Hoogerwerf, Larry Kassab, Jeffrey Kietzke, Stephen Levar, James McCaffrey, Joseph McCarthy, Michael O'Connor, Rick Patterson, Kevin Shaughnessy, Andrew Watkins and Jason Wolf.  
Commencement exercises were held at Ford Auditorium for the class of 238 students.

● **AWARD GIVEN**  
George Hansen, a student at Farmington High School, was one of 16 students receiving honors at the 21st Annual High School Design Competition held at the Lawrence Institute of Technology in Southfield April 23.  
Hansen was given an honorable mention in the competition, designed to encourage students to pursue the field of architecture.  
The competition asked Michigan juniors and seniors to design "The Galleria," a suburban shopping mall. More than 100 entries were submitted from throughout the state. Winners received scholarships totaling \$4,750.

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