



Quinn Alles



Sophia Andrews



Rachel Axtell



Rayne Ballstaedt



Jonathan Barns



Megan Baumler



Emily Benesh



Joshua Blasdell



Sabrina Bleile



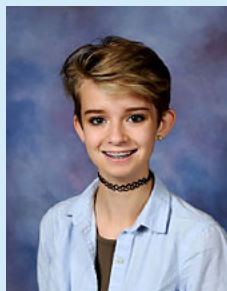
Chiara Blythe



Sage Boettcher



Valjot Boyal



Kaylynn Burgin



Lauren Burkle



Rylan Butterbaugh



Daniel Coia



Kaiden Coleman



Alice Conroy

FRESHMEN

ROOD'S GOT TALENT

By Maggie Dale

One could say that freshman Jasper Rood was born to act. His mom was from Iowa and his dad from Wisconsin, but they met in New York City, where they had each moved to pursue acting in the late '90s. His parents started dating when they were cast opposite each other in a show. Jasper himself has been involved with theater since age three, when he was cast as an elf in "A Christmas Story." Since then he has played a variety of roles, ranging from a Fish Footman to the Artful Dodger.

Rood's love of theater began when he was in middle school. When he was only three, his parents introduced him to, or "forced him into," as he says, Odyssey Theatre, a theater group in Mount Vernon that is run by Karla Steffens-Moran. By the time he was in sixth grade, Rood started to enjoy acting, and his passion for it has only grown.

"The best part of theater is the people," Rood said. "They're very nice, and very energetic and fun to be around." He also enjoys the stories behind the show, and seeing them unfold right there on stage.

As an eighth grader, he landed what is his favorite role to date — a pastry chef posing as a gangster in *The Drowsy*

Chaperone, a production by Mount Vernon High School's Velvet Curtain. "I got to work with high schoolers for the first time. It was a great opportunity to show them what I've got."

Rood said his acting goes beyond delivering lines. "Every move I make in a show is telling a story in a way. When I'm on stage, I become someone I am not. I have to be that character in every way. I was a pastry chef who was also a gangster. I had to show that in the way I walked, the way I talked, all my mannerisms. I had to make something out of nothing." It was a challenge the young actor was happy to meet.

Rood's interest in the arts is not limited to theater, however. He's been in both band and choir since sixth grade, and plays the alto saxophone in band. "I enjoy singing because it's one of the things that go along with acting," Rood said. Singing has been something he realized he might have a talent at in seventh grade. "I sang a song from 'Hamilton' and people really liked it, and I decided to pursue music in high school."

Rood hopes to go to New York and study acting, just like his parents. He also has an interest in acting in movies, and already has a company he'd like to work for in mind.



Jasper Rood poses with his saxophone.



Jacob Coon



Madison Cranston



Ellen Crock



Keaton Dennis



Madeline Dickson



Kathryn Edwards



Trevor Ellison



Camryn Ellyson



Nicholas Emig



Lance Eriksen



Matthew Erlandson



Elena Gonzalez



Elijah Exley-Schuman



Kaleigh Fox



Logan Griebel



Annalise Harp



Lillie Hawker



Travis Hines

CLASS OF 2021

ANNABELL STEIL



I'm happiest when...

I am in the weight room.

What is your dream job?

Strength and conditioning coach

What is a song that you know by heart?

Any song by One Direction

JAKE COON



Who is your celebrity crush?

Ariana Grande

What is a song you know by heart?

I don't know any songs by heart.

You can only eat 3 foods for the rest of your life, what are they?

Tacos, pizza, and chips

MADDIE DICKSON



What is your dream job?

Journalist

What is your most useless talent?

Being able to catch grapes with my mouth.

Who is your celebrity crush?

Dave Franco

Layout by Lauren Hauser