

Alleghany High School Graduating Class of 2021



2021 Commencement to be held at Woodruff Stadium

The 2021 Alleghany High School graduating class will receive their diplomas in ceremonies at Woodruff Stadium on Friday, May 21, beginning at 6 p.m. Some 95 seniors will walk across the stage as they mark this passage into adulthood. In case of inclement weather, graduation will be held Monday, May 24.

In contrast to the 2020 graduation that was limited by COVID-19 restrictions and saw seniors and family drive into the stadium to receive their diploma, this will be a traditional ceremony. The

only pandemic restrictions are the size of those in the stands. They are limited to 700 family and friends.

Graduates were permitted to request up to eight tickets to provide to those wishing to celebrate their last hurrah as high school students.

Other events leading up to graduation bowed to pandemic restrictions. The Top 20 dinner which recognizes the top academic graduates has been traditionally held in a local restaurant. This year it was a catered meal held in the high school's old gym. In

addition to school staff who were present, the 20 students recognized were allowed to bring two people each.

Academic awards were announced via Zoom on May 13.

The Scholarship Awards was a seniors-only event and was live streamed with just a few presenters participating. Some 62 graduates received scholarships – many multiple awards – from 93 scholarship programs.

These graduates' last year of school has been under the cloud of the pandemic. They

began classes on Aug. 17, 2020, with half of the student body at the school for in-class learning Mondays through Thursdays and half learning remotely. The next week, the groups switched. Friday was reserved for deep cleaning of the school.

The school year was marked by periods when COVID-19 exposure required all students to learn remotely. Students did not have the opportunity to return to full in-class learning until March 29. Fridays remained closed to students for deep cleaning.

Athletic competition did not begin until late November. Seasons were rearranged and shortened, such that football, traditionally a fall sport, was played in late winter and early spring, one game taking place in blowing snow and bitter temperatures.

Many games were cancelled because one of the competing teams could not play because players were under quarantine because of COVID-19 exposure. Many other games were played with key players unable to take the field because they were under

quarantine.

In spite of those restrictions, the Lady Trojans' volleyball team made it to the elite eight in state competition before being defeated. And the Lady Trojan's softball team advanced to the third round of the state playoffs before losing by only one run in a game that went extra innings.

Seniors will receive their diplomas in the middle of baseball, men's tennis, track and wrestling seasons. The last regularly scheduled competition will not occur until June 10.

AHS Class of 2021 graduates share their future plans



ZACHARY LANDON ABSHER



KATLYN GRACE AILES

Katlyn Ailes of Sparta is the daughter of Steve and Amie Ailes. She enjoys working with animals, helping her dad restore cars, and listening to all types of music.

She wants to work with animals in some aspect possibly by becoming a veterinary technician.



TAYLOR NICHOLE ALLEN

Taylor Allen of Glade Creek is the daughter of Brandy Evans. She was a member of the volleyball, basketball, and softball teams. She plans to attend college and play softball.



JASMINE SHYANN ARNOLD

Jasmine Shyann Arnold of Sparta is the daughter of Terry and Roxanne Arnold. She took many art classes and art is still a hobby of hers. She plans to attend college.



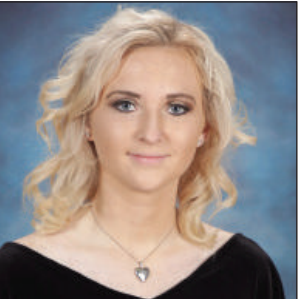
CARLOS MARIO RAMOS AZUARA

Carlos Azuara of Glade Creek is the son of Imelda Ramos. In 2019, he was awarded best in Biology and best in Game Art Design. He attended a coding and programming camp at the Fusion Innovation Academy. He participated in soccer, tennis, track and field, cross country, and swimming. He plans to learn coding to be able to go to a medical school to study for ophthalmology or optometry.



AUSTIN COLE BARE

Austin Cole Bare of Glade Creek is the son of Matthew and Jana Bare. He is a member of the football and baseball team. He plans to attend lineman school.



MADISON BELLE BARNES

Madison Barnes of Piney Creek is the

daughter of Rena Mahan. She attended Governor's School. She was a member of the softball team. She plans to become employed after graduating high school.



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Graduates!***



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