

## Jillian Audrey Baumann



By Peyton Radtke

Where do I even start with Jillian Baumann? She's one of those people who just brightens up a room. I've known Jillian since pre-K, and what has always stood out is her genuine kindness. Whether she's cheering on the swim team, playing fetch with her dog Koa, or helping out her parents at Pinehurst Resort, she does it all with a smile.

I remember one time at the resort when a customer was having a tough day, and Jillian went out of her way to make them feel welcome. It's those little things—like her willingness to help with anything from serving guests to washing dishes—that really show what a special person she is. She is also incredibly close with her brothers, Gabe and Zach, and you can see the love and support she has for her family.

Working at Pinehurst with her parents, Ben and Trisha, isn't just a job for Jillian—it's like she's running the place with her own personal flair. She doesn't just wait on tables or wash dishes; she makes genuine connections with guests. I've seen her chat with regulars like they're old friends, and she has a knack for anticipating what someone might need before they even ask. It is that kind of thoughtfulness that really sets her apart.

Jillian plans to continue working at the resort next year.

## Melissa Janet Bjerke



By Allison Carlin

In 2008, something happened that would forever change the world. No, I am not talking about the housing market crash... I am talking about the birth of the one-and-only Melissa Janet Bjerke on March 11, 2008! Being born in the year of the rat, Melissa sure has scurried her way into many people's lives such as her father, Addam Bjerke; her stepmother, Alice Wildman; and her younger sister, Grace Bjerke.

Melissa has spent a majority of her time in high school participating in speech. Her favorite category is extemporaneous speaking. This is a perfect category for her because it harnesses her ability to talk in front of a large audience on the fly, pace dramatically around the room, and get judged based on her "interesting" choice of words.

She has been our class president for the past three years. Every single year, she would stand up in front of the class and boldly announce her candidacy to everyone. Thus, leading to her many victories. This wonderful accomplishment of hers led to one of her favorite memories from high school: "When I won class president this year because I had a very beautiful victory over Caleb." Take that, Caleb! Melissa took the crown!

Melissa plans on attending the University of Minnesota Duluth for political science on a pre-law track to become a lawyer due to her love for politics and

justice. Everyone is shocked that she did not choose to go into philosophy after we got to hear her favorite question every single day: "Would you rather live in a zoo or an aquarium?"

Yet, after she achieves her dream of becoming a family lawyer, she has quite the future laid out in front of her. Her goals are "just simple things. I want to become a family lawyer, governor of Minnesota, and then the president of the United States." So in 2048, when you are about to send in your ballot, be sure to write down the name "Melissa J. Bjerke."

Good luck on your endeavors, Melissa, for we are all cheering you on! The world isn't ready for what you are about to accomplish.

## Amaya Irene-Rose Blue



By Abby Strutz

On the morning of March 26, 2008, at 8:30 a.m. in Bemidji, MN, our world got a little brighter as we were blessed with a beautiful baby girl.

Amaya Irene-Rose Blue grew up in Mahanomen with her dad, Anthony Blue; stepmom, Cassandra

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