

BELOIT CALL

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Congratulations!

Beloit High School 2025 graduates 50 students

Kelley encourages, “To get on with it”

BELOIT – The Beloit High School 2025 graduating class of 50 students was recognized on Saturday, May 10, 2025, in the gymnasium.

The orchestra played “Pomp and Circumstance” by Edward Elgar, conducted by Ms. Julia McMains.

Class Vice President Ashlyn Loomis welcomed all who attended, and for all of the endless support they have received.

Superintendent Jeff Travis introduced the Class of 1975, who were in attendance.

The BHS Choir sang “Homeward Bound,” under conductor, Gary De Kler.

Class President Katyna (Kat) Gray gave a senior talk, “Catch, Drop, Repeat.”

“It is an honor to see faces coming to celebrate our graduation,” said Gray. “Thank you for a wonderful community, our family and friends, to those serving us food each year, even if it was

chicken patties, to those cleaning up after us, and for those keeping us up in step.”

“For many years, you hear us say, I can’t wait to graduate. But deep down in my heart, I can wait. To stay in this place, we call home. Because to graduate, means it’s the last time as students at this high school.”

Gray said she didn’t grow up with her classmates. She moved to Beloit five years ago. “I was nervous, but the second I walked in the door, I was welcomed with open arms. And they have always made me see the bigger part of myself.

Kat talked about her friend, Patrick Gray, and how he taught her how to juggle with baseballs.

“He would encourage me and tell me not to overthink, “Like everything could go wrong.” For over two hours I struggled, before I could master the juggling. Pat was always there to help. “You will get it, you can do



Seniors Jayden Mosher and Gatley Wichyoah celebrate as they make their way into the Class of 2025 graduation ceremony, held on May 10, 2025, in the Beloit High School gymnasium. The Beloit Orchestra led them in music, conducted by Julia McMains.

SHARON SAHLFELD PHOTO

anything Kat,” he said.

“Sometimes, like the juggling, you are presented with a hard opportunity, but you have

to take it. It can be hard to pick up that baseball, time and time again. But I wasn’t taking the step alone.”

“You don’t have to get it right the first time, the fifth time or even the 50th time. It’s never too late to take that baseball off the

shelf, cause you can do anything.”

Beloit High School Vice President Kyle Beisner introduced guest speaker, and former teacher of Beloit, Darrell Kelley, who graduated from Mankato High School in 1977.

“This class has always been a favorite class of mine,” said Kelley. “They have always been hungry to learn. We did a lot of current events back in the day and they always wanted more. They about killed me. I’d stay up late at night and get up early in the morning because I knew they wanted more info. We also had a boycott list going which they also liked. They even brought in some of their own ideas on products not to buy. In 35 years of teaching, it is still one of my most enjoyable years. They made those two years fun, but then they went on to high school and left me in junior high.”

See BELOIT on 2B

St. John’s Catholic graduates 11 students

Holdren addresses: JP II “Be not afraid, open wide the doors to Christ”

BELOIT – The St. John’s Catholic High School graduated 11 students on Mother’s Day, Sunday, May 11, 2025.

A total of \$1,218,830 in scholarships have been accepted by the St John’s Class of 2025 (not including offers from other schools they declined to attend).

Out of a class of the 11 students, two students were chosen as Rudd Foundation Scholars, where every last dollar of college expenses is paid minus other scholarships (one accepted, one declined).

Two students were provided the full-tuition Presidential Scholarship to Benedictine College. It’s the first time two students from the same high school have won that scholarship the same year.

Nine of the 11 students

were chosen for Dane G. Hansen Foundation scholarships.

Guest speaker, Allen Holdren, addressed the class of 11.

“On a podcast I recently listened to, a high school English teacher like myself said that lessons should be brief, clear, and repeated to be effective. I’m adopting that strategy today. With all brevity and clarity, I can tell you that this is a special class. I’ll repeat that: this is a special class.”

“For me, they’re unique because they’re the first graduating class I’ve had for all four years of high school,” said Holdren. “We’ve grown up together, in a sense. We went through the rite of passage of four years of high school together. This, of course, was my second time around. Whereas



Henry Holdren receives a congratulatory hug after the St. John’s 2025 graduation, held on Mother’s Day, Sunday, May 11, at the St. John’s Catholic High School.

COURTESY PHOTOS BY LILIA CLARK AND LYNELLE GENGLER

some of them have grown a lot taller over that time and some of their voices have *dramatically* changed, I’ve grown bald-er and grayer - perhaps also due to their influence.”

“I’ve gotten to know them quite well through English, Spanish, media, and entrepreneurship classes and also through the trip we all took to Rome together last Thanksgiving. We’ve spent a lot of time together – They are a special class. “Chat cooks,” as their generation might say. They function a bit like a body, each brings something to the whole. It would be difficult to imagine them separated.”

Holdren spoke about each student as an individual:

Johanna Clark is new to the party, from Newark

Valley, New York. She arrived in time for junior year but it’s hard to remember a time when she wasn’t here. You just fit right in, Johanna. She’s the creativity. Johanna can whip out a masterpiece drawing in minutes. You all should know that when Johanna is under stress and on a deadline - when she’s “crashing out” - she speaks in a high pitched, unintelligible language of her own. For a time this year, with a Comp I paper pressing, I simply referred to her as Huh HA haa after not understanding a single word she said. Be courageous, Johanna, you have a lot to offer the world. God has given you great gifts. Art is one of them. Don’t be afraid to share that and all your gifts with others for His glory.

See CATHOLIC ON 1B

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