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CLASS
OF
2023



Communities
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Kalamazoo

CIS NEWSLETTER, 6/2023

Join us in celebrating the 2023 Communities In Schools of Kalamazoo graduates! June is the month we celebrate the students who have set out to see their promise fulfilled—to graduate and be prepared for the next step in their unique path.

Read more about these unique individuals. Please feel free to fill out the enclosed envelope with a message to any or all of them.



Samier

Q: Describe yourself in one word.

A: *Curious.*

Q: When I think of CIS, I think ...

A: *Of help.*

Q: Where do you see yourself in five years?

A: *Completing trade school and starting a company.*

Q: What advice would you give a freshman starting their first year in high school?

A: *Stay in class and just knock it out.*



Gabrielle

Q: Describe yourself in one word.

A: *Go-getter.*

Q: When I think of CIS, I think ...

A: *Support.*

Q: Where do you see yourself in five years?

A: *Finishing nursing school at Wayne State University and starting as a registered nurse.*

Q: What advice would you give a freshman starting their first year in high school?

A: *Your first year is definitely an adjustment and it's OK to struggle or find your place. You should always try your best because it's difficult to get your GPA up but easy to bring it down. High school may seem intimidating but in the end, you'll miss it.*



Aujinae

Q: Describe yourself in one word.

A: *Fun.*

Q: When I think of CIS, I think ...

A: *Friends and family.*

Q: Where do you see yourself in five years?

A: *Having my own clothing line and being an influencer.*

Q: What advice would you give a freshman starting their first year in high school?

A: *Start off strong.*



Jiselle

Q: Describe yourself in one word.

A: *Goal-setter.*

Q: When I think of CIS, I think ...

A: *Family.*

Q: Where do you see yourself in five years?

A: *Traveling to different countries, while making digital concepts for different companies, and working towards being an interior designer.*

Q: What advice would you give a freshman starting their first year in high school?

A: *Don't ignore the advice of keeping your GPA up your first year and be as involved as you can!*



Joseph

Q: Describe yourself in one word.

A: *Skilled.*

Q: When I think of CIS, I think ...

A: *Of Ms. Emily and a place to seek help.*

Q: Where do you see yourself in five years?

A: *Being a professional in either tennis or sports medicine.*

Q: What advice would you give a freshman starting their first year in high school?

A: *Don't procrastinate.*



Imani

Q: Describe yourself in one word.

A: *Optimistic.*

Q: When I think of CIS, I think ...

A: *Motivation.*

Q: Where do you see yourself in five years?

A: *In graduate school!*

Q: What advice would you give a freshman starting their first year in high school?

A: *Have fun but not too much fun.*



Xavier

Q: Describe yourself in one word.

A: *Unique.*

Q: When I think of CIS, I think ...

A: *Of part of a family.*

Q: Where do you see yourself in five years?

A: *In my senior year in college to become a therapist and writing my own book.*

Q: What advice would you give a freshman starting their first year in high school?

A: *Be you and never try to fit in. This will be the best 4 years of school.*



Khamanni

Q: Describe yourself in one word.

A: *Quiet.*

Q: When I think of CIS, I think ...

A: *An organization that helps kids and the community with resources that they need.*

Q: Where do you see yourself in five years?

A: *Graduated from college and starting a career as a travel nurse.*

Q: What advice would you give a freshman starting their first year in high school?

A: *High School isn't fun and games. It is real life.*



DaJanae

Q: Describe yourself in one word.

A: *Beautiful.*

Q: When I think of CIS, I think ...

A: *Helpful people.*

Q: Where do you see yourself in five years?

A: *In my own apartment. Have my own car. Have a nice little job.*

Q: What advice would you give a freshman starting their first year in high school?

A: *Don't goof around. Take school seriously.*



Yacine

Q: Describe yourself in one word.

A: *Aware.*

Q: When I think of CIS, I think ...

A: *People doing anything to help in the way they can.*

Q: Where do you see yourself in five years?

A: *Completing undergrad and hopefully going to graduate school.*

Q: What advice would you give a freshman starting their first year in high school?

A: *Get involved in as much as you can. High school is special and unique so make sure you don't just let it pass you by.*



Apolina

Q: Describe yourself in one word.

A: *Kind.*

Q: When I think of CIS, I think ...

A: *A comfortable place where I can express how I feel.*

Q: Where do you see yourself in five years?

A: *Working my dream job.*

Q: What advice would you give a freshman starting their first year in high school?

A: *Be good, pay attention to your grades, and make sure that you are not skipping classes.*



Krystal

Q: Describe yourself in one word.

A: *Shy.*

Q: When I think of CIS, I think ...

A: *Of a space where you meet kind people.*

Q: Where do you see yourself in five years?

A: *In five years, I see myself still in school going for my graduate degree.*

Q: What advice would you give a freshman starting their first year in high school?

A: *Please reach out to teachers and take your classes seriously and make friends!*



Jamare

Q: Describe yourself in one word.

A: *Overcomer.*

Q: When I think of CIS, I think ...

A: *Helpful and loving.*

Q: Where do you see yourself in five years?

A: *Successful.*

Q: What advice would you give a freshman starting their first year in high school?

A: *Just don't give up when it gets hard.*



Tamisha

Q: Describe yourself in one word.

A: *Passionate.*

Q: When I think of CIS, I think ...

A: *Of a system that wants all students that are a part of CIS to succeed and flourish in their next step in life.*

Q: Where do you see yourself in five years?

A: *I see myself being in a position that I love. Accomplished all of my goals and still achieving my future goals.*

Q: What advice would you give a freshman starting their first year in high school?

A: *You're here for only 4 years, it might seem long, but before you know it you're a senior. Keep your head up and don't give up.*



Rashawn

Q: Describe yourself in one word.

A: *Role Model.*

Q: When I think of CIS, I think ...

A: *Of a place you can clear your mind and speak on things that are going on in school with your classes.*

Q: Where do you see yourself in five years?

A: *I see myself becoming a successful entrepreneur and playing in the NFL.*

Q: What advice would you give a freshman starting their first year in high school?

A: *Please pay attention in all your classes. Don't hang around friends you know that don't want to see you succeed in life.*



Lyric

Q: Describe yourself in one word.

A: *Kind.*

Q: When I think of CIS, I think ...

A: *CIS helps me with my missing classwork.*

Q: Where do you see yourself in five years?

A: *Be an actor.*

Q: What advice would you give a freshman starting their first year in high school?

A: *Do not horse around in class and in the hallways. Do not fail your classes.*

A Night to Recognize and Celebrate

CIS high school site coordinators and success coaches hosted CIS graduates and their guests at Revel & Roll for an evening of celebration and reflection.

For 2023, over 35 CIS supported students have graduated with their 2023 class! We are incredibly proud of all their efforts and barriers they have overcome to get to graduation.



Q: Describe yourself in one word.

A: Unique.

Q: When I think of CIS, I think ...

A: Of helping others.

Q: Where do you see yourself in five years?

A: Having my own business.

Q: What advice would you give a freshman starting their first year in high school?

A: Find yourself first before trying to fit in with others. Do what you have to do in order to succeed.

Alex'ria

Q: When I think of CIS, I think ...

A: CIS is an opportunity to provide students with support and resources that are fundamental to their success.

Q: Where do you see yourself in five years?

A: Getting my Master's in Psychology or going to MSU's School of Law.

Q: What advice would you give a freshman starting their first year in high school?

A: Don't set high expectations on yourself, it's okay to fail.

Vince

Q: Describe yourself in one word.

A: Quiet.

Q: When I think of CIS, I think ...

A: Extra help.

Q: Where do you see yourself in five years?

A: Playing basketball somewhere.

Q: What advice would you give a freshman starting their first year in high school?

A: Focus on school. The extra stuff will come naturally.

Darren

Q: Describe yourself in one word.

A: Extrovert.

Q: When I think of CIS, I think ...

A: Of a safe and comfortable place.

Q: Where do you see yourself in five years?

A: In college studying architecture.

Q: What advice would you give a freshman starting their first year in high school?

A: Keep going no matter how hard it may seem, mentally or physically.

Teriahna

Q: Describe yourself in one word.

A: Outgoing.

Q: When I think of CIS, I think ...

A: Helpful and understanding.

Q: Where do you see yourself in five years?

A: Very wealthy.

Q: What advice would you give a freshman starting their first year in high school?

A: Don't be afraid and don't let anyone or anything hold you back.

Geneva

Q: When I think of CIS, I think ...

A: I think of helping the community.

Q: Where do you see yourself in five years?

A: In college and just about to finish or graduate.

Q: What advice would you give a freshman starting their first year in high school?

A: Stay focused even if times get hard. Never give up. Always be on top of your classes and turning in your assignments. Most importantly, have a little fun once in a while.

Australia

Q: Describe yourself in one word.

A: Chill.

Q: When I think of CIS, I think ...

A: Helpful.

Q: Where do you see yourself in five years?

A: In college.

Q: What advice would you give a freshman starting their first year in high school?

A: Have fun but stay on top of your work while you do it.

Jaylyn

Q: Describe yourself in one word.

A: Hopeful.

Q: When I think of CIS, I think ...

A: Of people who are willing to help no matter what your situation is.

Q: Where do you see yourself in five years?

A: Hopefully in college and in my own place with a good job.

Q: What advice would you give a freshman starting their first year in high school?

A: Don't stress yourself out too much about starting high school. Everything will be easy once you get the hang of it and don't think you're all by yourself. You will have plenty of teachers and counselors to help you whenever you need them.

Aniya

Q: Describe yourself in one word.

A: G.O.A.T. [greatest of all time].

Q: When I think of CIS, I think ...

A: Helpful.

Q: Where do you see yourself in five years?

A: Somewhere on the beach soaking up the sun.

Q: What advice would you give a freshman starting their first year in high school?

A: Work hard during the first 2 years of high school so the last 2 years are not as stressful.

Jesse



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From our executive director

Going *further than before* is what Communities In Schools of Kalamazoo (CIS) is all about. The services, community connections, and one-on-one time we provide is meant to help our students go further than before.

A new pair of glasses allows students to see better than before. A tutor helps them understand better than before. A well-child visit or dental cleaning positions them to be healthier than before. A counseling or grief group session allows them to mentally feel better than before. Seeing, understanding, and feeling better than before is the key to going further than before.

As a first-generation graduate, I know what it feels like to "go further." In conversing with students, I often ask who will be the first in their family to graduate high school or college. While some feel self-conscious about answering yes to this question, many others recognize it for the significance that it carries. Not all CIS students are first-generation graduates, but all have overcome barriers – with the support of loved ones, school staff and CIS – to go further than they have gone before.

As you help CIS *go further than* we've ever gone before, you ensure that more kids in our community can continue to go further than before to stay in school and achieve in life. Thank you for all that you do!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Devers".

James Devers, Executive Director

News and CIS of Kalamazoo Updates

- ThinkSummer! will begin 6/26. Check out our Facebook page for lots of photos throughout the summer to see what kids are doing in the program.
- Annual Walking With Purpose begins in October! Learn more about the initiative or sign up to be a team captain now by visiting our website, www.ciskalamazoo.org!
- We are in need of more volunteers for the upcoming school year. If you are interested in volunteering or know somebody who would make a great volunteer, please visit our website, www.ciskalamazoo.org!

Sign up for our e-newsletter



If you believe in our efforts to ensure that ALL kids stay in school and achieve in life, please visit www.ciskalamazoo.org or call 269.337.1601 for more details on getting involved with CIS.

The work of Communities In Schools of Kalamazoo is supported by the Kalamazoo Public Schools, the City of Kalamazoo, the Michigan Department of Education (21st Century Community Learning Centers), local foundations, and donors like you.