

Mid-Michigan Homeschool Graduation

Sponsored by C.H.E.S.S.



Class of 2020

Class Theme
God With Us

Class of
2020

Class Verse

*For I am convinced that neither death nor life,
neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the
future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor
anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us
from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Romans 8:38-39



Rebekah Alvaro



Daughter of Gerald and Kari Alvaro

Accomplishments: Rebekah loves music and she loves soccer. As well as playing guitar, she has been in 6 musical productions with Homeschool Performing Arts and 3 productions with Midway Theater Company. During high school, Rebekah played soccer for the L.A. Dragons where she had several successful seasons.

Future Plans: Rebekah plans to attend Cornerstone University to study social work and will play soccer for their women's team.

"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Galatians 2:20

Rearden Biritz



Son of Jennifer & Michael Biritz

Accomplishments: 3.7 GPA, Varsity Basketball, Dual-enrolled at Olivet College

Future Plans: Will attend Olivet College full time in the Fall of 2020

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 (NIV) A Time for Everything

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:

*a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance,
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to
refrain from embracing,*

*a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away,
a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak,
a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.*

Anna Burke

Daughter of Lance & Carla Burke and Scott & Faith Friar

Accomplishments: Having a big, crazy family to cheer me on through life has and continues to be such an amazing blessing in my life. God has used them all in different ways to help grow me into who I am today. Throughout high school I have enjoyed being apart of various activities. Some of my favorites include performing in Homeschool Performing Arts' Beauty and the Beast and The Music Man and learning various styles of dance. I have also been riding for 11 years and have shown my horse in 4-h. These experiences have grown me in many ways, and I am beyond thankful for being given these opportunities.

Future Plans: Although I have no clue as to what direction God is leading me, I am going to start taking my basic classes at LCC. From there I am going to pursue God's plan for me as to where and what to do next. I am excited to see what God has in store for me as he unravels His magnificent plan for my future.

"I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name for evermore." Psalms 86:12 KJV



Abigail Carson

Daughter of Paul and Jinny Carson

Accomplishments and Future Plans: I got the opportunity to run with the CHAP Chariots XC and track and field team starting my freshman year through my senior year. With the homeschool music association, (HSMA) I played the cello. I worked at the Hall of Justice Cafe and then Fidlers on the Grand before becoming a team member at Culvers, where I am currently working. In my senior year, God placed a very special man in my life, Isaac. We intend to follow God's leading in our lives together. I am taking a gap year to further my education in life skills needed for a successful future family.



"Let no man despise thy youth; but to be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, and purity." 1 Timothy 4:12 (KJV)

Kaylee Collins



Daughter of Philip and Michelle Collins

Accomplishments: Kaylee has taken part in many opportunities throughout her high school years. She enjoyed attending the LEAD Program at SSL, playing piano for 4 years, and participating in many theater productions such as, Fiddler on the Roof, Annie Get Your Gun, and Seussical. Kaylee tried her hand at entrepreneurship by successfully starting and running her own rabbit breeding business for several years. She touched the lives of people both in and outside of the U.S. by volunteering at summer camps, VBS, and participating in mission trips to Tijuana MX, and providing humanitarian aid as a result of the flooding in 2017. Kaylee excelled academically throughout high school and was also a member of the National Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS).

Future Plans: Her future plans include attending California Baptist University in Riverside, CA in the fall of 2020 and pursuing a degree in nursing.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take." Proverbs 3:5-6

Haleigh Compton



Daughter of Brian and Janelle Compton

Accomplishments: Haleigh has been part of Children's Community Theatre for the past 7 years, performing in 15 plays. She has also been part of CHAP Track and Field for 3 years, served on the production team at church, volunteers in the sound booth at her church's MOPS group, played piano for 10 years, and was recently promoted to trainer at Chick-fil-A. Haleigh has also participated in the LEAD summer program for 3 years. She loves to travel and read.

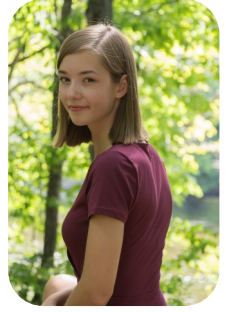
Future Plans: Haleigh plans on attending Cedarville University in the fall majoring in Film Production and getting a double minor in Bible and Theater.

"Sometimes I'll start a sentence and I don't even know where it's going. I just hope I find it along the way." - Michael Scott

Elizabeth Cooper

Daughter of Joseph and Debbie Cooper

Accomplishments: Elizabeth was a part of Homeschool Performing Arts for three years. She has been a Sunday school teacher at her church for the past five years, and is now a student leader for the middle school youth group. She enjoys reading, writing poetry, hanging out with friends, and eating goldfish.



Future Plans: Elizabeth plans on attending LCC in the fall, and eventually transferring to MSU for a potential degree in English. She would someday like to publish some of her poetry. She is excited to see where God will lead her in life, whether that be becoming a missionary, or a homeschool mother.

“But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”
2 Corinthians 12:9-10

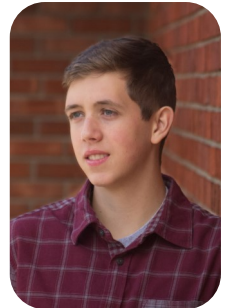
Darien Courter

Son of Colin and Jessica Courter

Accomplishments:

- **Sports** – Played on the L.A. Dragons Four Years
- **Areas of Service** – Help at my Church's Food Pantry
- **Hobbies** – Strategy Games, Video Games, Reading

Future Plans: Plans to attend Great Lakes Christian College.



“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9

Timothy DeMass



Son of Bryan and Cindy DeMass

Accomplishments: Tim participated in cross country with CHAP for five years. He attended youth group at New Hope church throughout all of high school, and was involved in battalion for several years. He enjoys doing things outdoors such as camping, hiking, and snowboarding.

Future Plans: Tim plans to work full time at his lawn care businesses he started with his brother in 2012, but is open to other career options as well.

"Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and He will establish your plans."

-Proverbs 16:3

Syrena Drake



Daughter of David and Shameka Drake

Accomplishments: Syrena has served in many ways including: Mount Hope Church Community Outreach projects, Fire Up, Youth Haven, City Rescue Mission and Ronald McDonald House.

She is a Marvel and Star Wars super fan and lover of animals. She also loves baseball... Lets go Dodgers (clap clap clap)!

Future Plans: Her future plans are to pursue her desire to be involved in the filming industry and/or baseball industry.

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

Quote: "No! Try not. Do. Or do not. There is no try." -Yoda

Hannah Flowney

Daughter of Brad and Lisa Flowney

Accomplishments: Hannah is the second oldest of 6 children and the only girl, which has been quite interesting. She has enjoyed being homeschooled all of her years of schooling, for which she is grateful. Hannah has been heavily involved in her youth group at South Church. Through this group she was able to participate in short-term mission trips to Chicago for the past four years to serve the Humboldt Park Community. Over the years she has enjoyed participating in sports such as basketball and soccer. She also had the opportunity to perform with Homeschool Performing Arts in the play Beauty and the Beast.



Future Plans: Hannah plans to go to Lansing Community College to pursue a career working with children.

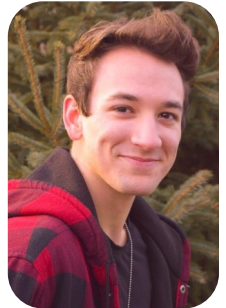
"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

Son of Lewis and Deborah Gaddie

Accomplishments: I've grown up shooting guns and competing in rifle matches, I ran for Chap Chariots for four years, and I've learned to play the cello and sing in a choir with HSMA.

Future Plans: I plan to go to Crown College in Tennessee to get a bible degree. Then I will come back to MI and work as a machinist while I take classes at LCC.

Gabriel Gaddie



"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Philippians 4:13 KJV

Isaac Gollapalli



Son of Elias and Rosie Gollapalli

Accomplishments: Isaac has excelled academically throughout highschool maintaining a 4.0 GPA. He has participated in MSU's highly competitive FutureDOCs and OsteoCHAMPS programs. He has completed the Ambassador League and the House, Senate, Media, Campaign, and Mock Trial tracks at Student

Statesmanship Institute. Isaac is passionate about music and has enjoyed playing the cello for 14 years, and he was successful in various competitions. Over the past two years he has performed in two HPA plays which were challenging yet extremely rewarding. During the fall season of his high school years, Isaac played soccer and was the captain of his team three times. He played basketball during the winter months and captained his team twice. Isaac loves to travel and help people. He used these God-given talents and passions in medical and gospel focused mission trips to India, Bahrain and the Philippines. Some of the organizations that he has volunteered at locally are Sparrow Hospital, the Michigan House of Representatives, Michigan Freedom Fund and SSI. Other organizations that Isaac has volunteered for include MEDIC Corps, Encourage Intl., Hand in Hand Intl., and Manna Ministries. Isaac enjoys playing his cello and guitar for church and youth groups. He also loves reading and cooking.

Future Plans: Isaac will continue his education majoring in Biology at Lyman Briggs College at Michigan State University.

"Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity." 1 Timothy 4:12

Camille Guillen



Daughter of Dennis and Pam Guillen

Accomplishments: I have enjoyed school immensely and am so thankful for all the opportunities I've had. Music has been very influential in my life (solo violin, 13 years, along with five other instruments). I've been involved with HPA for five years and many other memorable roles and shows. I participated in SSI's Ambassador League and earned the John Quincy Adams Award (if you know, you know.) My hobbies include: all kinds of art, theatre, political science, cross-country running, reading, writing, traveling,

hammocking, photo shoots with friends, and outdoor sportsmanship.

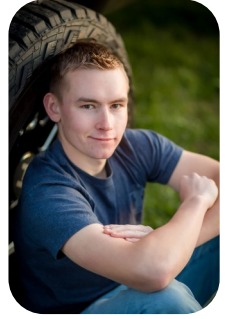
Future Plans: My true goal is to serve God wherever He calls. But, for now, photography is my passion and I plan to pursue my degree for it at LCC while continuing to run my business. I was dual enrolled at Great Lakes Christian College where I may return for other base classes. I hope to continue in performing arts and also hope to do some kind of political internship to further myself in that arena.

"Spread love wherever you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier." - Unknown

Silas Gusey

Son of Michael and Jessica Gusey

Accomplishments: Silas has always loved driving heavy equipment since he started operating a Skidsteer at age 9. He is currently attending AIS Heavy Equipment Operations Class through Eaton RESA. Silas works full time for a local farmer driving and repairing tractors and machinery. He enjoys racing dirt bikes, riding at Silver Lake Sand Dunes, driving his lifted Dodge Cummins truck, and playing his guitar.



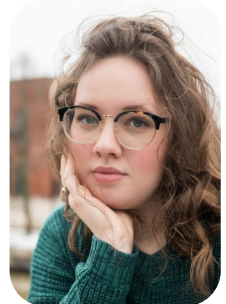
Future Plans: Planning to continue working full time at Klotz Family Farms in Sunfield while taking classes at Lansing Community College.

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."
Ephesians 2:8-10

Ana Holland

Daughter of Paul and Rachel Holland

Accomplishments and Future Plans: In high school she was a part of a homeschool performing arts group and participated in choir, theater, and was a lead in 2 musicals. She is attending Freed-Hardeman University in the fall and majoring in Business Management. She also plans on singing in the university's chorale. She's incredibly sad to leave her family, but also very excited about the future!



"For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control." 2 Timothy 1:7

Elizabeth (Lily) Krepps



Daughter of Paul and Mary Ann Krepps

Accomplishments and Future Plans: Lily has received several soccer awards, including an All-Star award from the National Homeschool Soccer Tournament, an MVP and a Captain award from LA Dragons. She enjoyed her ten years of piano study and loves to play by ear. She recently accepted a two-year scholarship to LCC and plans to pursue an Associates in Communications.

“being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” Philippians 1:6

Lydia Mangopoulos



Daughter of John and Wendy

Mangopoulos

Accomplishments: During high school, I've enjoyed pursuing my interests in music and art. I've played piano for over eight years, and have been doodling something as long as I can remember. More recently, I've loved learning and creating digital artwork and I hope to keep improving at it. I've also used my artistic abilities to create custom-designed cookies for weddings, showers, and other events, running a small business for parts of my junior and senior year.

Future Plans: In all honesty, I don't have it 100% figured out. For now, I plan on working and learning more about business in the following months, as well as to continue pursuing art in hopes of eventually being able to turn that into a business of my own at some point.

“If I ride the wings of morning, if I dwell by the farthest oceans, even there your hand will guide me, and your strength will support me.” Psalms 139:9-10

Emily McWethy

Daughter of David and Michelle McWethy

Accomplishments: At a young age, Emily has had a passion for performing. At age 2, she started training in ballet. Since then, she has adopted the skills of many different forms of dance and performing arts. Emily participated in five musicals with Homeschool Performing Arts. In high school, she found a love for science and technology. Emily would like to thank her family and friends for supporting her passions and future goals.



Future Plans: Emily plans to attend Western Michigan University as a Lee Honors College member studying aerospace engineering.

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” Philippians 4:6

Matthew Othmer

Son of Rudy and Christin Othmer

Accomplishments:

- Grajuatin' HomeSchool
- Eagle Scout, class of 2017

Future Plans: Attend Michigan State University beginning in the Fall of 2020 studying to become a Veterinarian. Remain in the area and work on the family farm.



“You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.” Psalm 23:5-6

Jack Owens IV



Son of Jack and Joy Owens

Accomplishments: Jack's favorite things to do are hunting and fishing, he's an excellent marksman, loves shooting, and competed in 4h shooting sports.

Future Plans: Jack plans to attend LCC to pursue the electrical trade.

"The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable: but the mouth of the wicked speaketh frowardness." Proverbs 10:32 KJV

Gracie Perrault



Daughter of Kirby and Julie Perrault

Accomplishments: Opening her own online store, Gracie & Co. She also runs her own fashion and lifestyle blog. Gracie has experienced many years in performing arts including Children's Ballet Theatre's Cinderella, Faith Project Ministry production and HPA's Beauty and the beast. Gracie has enjoyed playing volleyball for Chap Chariots, Attack and Ballistic volleyball clubs.

Future Plans: - She plans to continue her entrepreneurial journey by opening a storefront in the future. Gracie plans attend Liberty University in the fall.

"Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails." Proverbs 19:21

Aleah Ramirez

Daughter of Ricardo & Carrie Ramirez

Accomplishments: Aleah's many hobbies include baking, building Legos with her Dad, drawing, painting, writing, origami, embroidery and sewing, taking care of her 2 dogs (Peyton and Tonto) and her cat (Eli). She also enjoys spending time with her family.

Future Plans: Aleah is a very talented writer and hopes to pursue a career as an Author.



"So be strong and courageous all you who put your hope in the Lord."
Psalms 31:24

Ellie Rigas

Daughter of Ryan and Marla Rigas

Accomplishments: Ellie enjoys belting out songs in the car with her two younger sisters, cooking and making funny videos. Ellie has participated in HSMA's Bel Canto and Chancel choirs for 5 years. While in HSMA, she has loved meeting new friends and going on tour in 2018. She took the Culinary Arts and Hospitality class at Wilson Talent Center where she received her National ServSafe Certification. She has also volunteered at the City Rescue Mission and at Camp Barakel as a technician.



Future Plans: Ellie is not fully sure what her future looks like, but she is planning on starting her career in the culinary industry.

"Perhaps this is what this season is all about: trusting in the unknowns, finding gold in the little things, trading fear of what's uncertain for freedom to thrive within it."

- Morgan Harper Nichols

Sophia Shoemaker



Daughter of : Kevin and Beth Ann Shoemaker

Accomplishments: 4 Year CHAP Cross Country and CHAP Track & Field Varsity Letter Winner and Team Co-Captain, 6 Years in HPA

Future Plans: : Ministry or Mission Work and College (TBD)... hopefully running in College

"...Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." Hebrews 12:1

Purity Taracks



Daughter of Dan and Christine Taracks

Accomplishments: Purity holds a brown belt with black stripe in Original Okinawan Karate, she has performed for many years with HPA, and plays the piano.

Future Plans: She is scheduled to be an intern at Mexico Caravan Missions for the next year, beginning in the fall. She feels the Lord May be calling her to full time mission work.

"Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity." Timothy 4:12 NKJV

Micah Testa

Son of Joe and Kelsey Testa

Accomplishments and Future Plans: On his dad's boat, Micah has worked as the first mate since he was 11 years old and has been fishing since he was three. During all of their 4-10 hour fishing guide trips, Micah has shown over 450 people how to use techniques to make their experience fun and successful. Throughout his schooling, Micah played soccer for seven years with the LA dragons and participated in many performances with HPA.



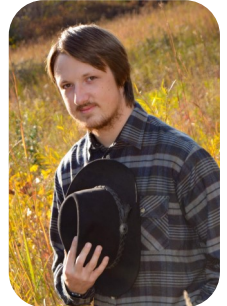
Future Plans: Micah plans to attend LCC this fall then transfer to a four-year college. He is considering majoring in education or business.

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified, do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

Kaleb Thompson

Son of Kevin and Jessicalynn Thompson

Accomplishments: I have lived on Middle Caicos in the Turks and Caicos Islands since April 2016. Here I have had many opportunities to serve. Which have included delivering clean water to locals, serving breakfast with Food for Thought TCI, and teaching S.T.E.M. classes to local school children. I survived Hurricane Irma and Maria. Then helped with post-hurricane clean up and repairs. I trained with TCI Swimming Federation/Lifesaving Society of Ontario for National Lifeguard Service and First Aid/CPR certifications. My experience in TCI has taught me to appreciate the simple things in life and that contentment can be found in the little blessings as well as the big.



Future Plans: I plan to attend Missouri Science and Technology in the fall. I will be majoring in Aerospace Engineering and minoring in Russian. I also plan to get my pilot's license.

"Therefore, I say unto you, what things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." Mark 11:24

Lilly Widdicombe



Daughter of Bill and Melinda Widdicombe

Accomplishments: I count myself extremely blessed to have been homeschooled all my life. I have had the opportunity to pursue many interests. I have played piano since 2009 and participated in nine piano festivals, earning a superior rating each time. I started playing flute and joined HSMA six years ago, playing in Symphonic Band for the past four years. I participated in S&E, the Youth Arts Coalition Honors Recital, and HSMA tour. I also have a passion for youth ministry and have been involved in my church's youth group

(called Pathfinders) and Bible Bowl team for eight years. I have grown my leadership abilities by being a TLT (or Teen Leader in Training) in Pathfinders for the past four years and have completed the Pathfinder Master Guide requirements. One of the most challenging and fulfilling aspects of my academics through high school has been the opportunity to take college classes, first at GLCC, then Andrews University, and now at LCC, earning 36 college credits. I was honored to have placed on the President's List.

Future Plans: I will be attending Andrews University this fall and majoring in Biology/Pre-Med before continuing on to medical school. I am also planning on taking a year off of my studies to serve as a student missionary overseas.

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I set you apart...."

Jeremiah 1:5

James Williams



Son of Don and Stephanie Williams

Accomplishments: James loves most any outdoor activity, learning about firearms, playing guitar, joining in on airsoft battles, hanging with friends and using his brawn. He has been faithfully playing guitar in his church worship band and at youth group for the last several years. He has also loved being a part of four Homeschool Performing Arts productions.

Future Plans: This summer he will be a YAP (Young Adult Program) at Camp Barakel for 12 weeks. When he returns home, he will be pursuing an apprenticeship in the trades.

Before I do anything, I ask myself, "Would an idiot do that?" If the answer is "Yes", I do not do that thing. Dwight K. Schrute

Sarah Winter

Daughter of Mike and Kim Winter

Accomplishments: Sarah has been homeschooled all of her life and has had the privilege of participating in many extra-curricular activities. Sarah played 10 seasons of CHAP volleyball and has many fond memories of the sport – her favorite being the last two years she went to nationals in NE with her team. She has participated in two HPA shows, but due to the virus, only performed one. Another big part of Sarah's life has been her involvement in the after-school outreach ministry of Fire-Up. Photography and music are two of Sarah's passions that she hopes to continue to develop after high school.



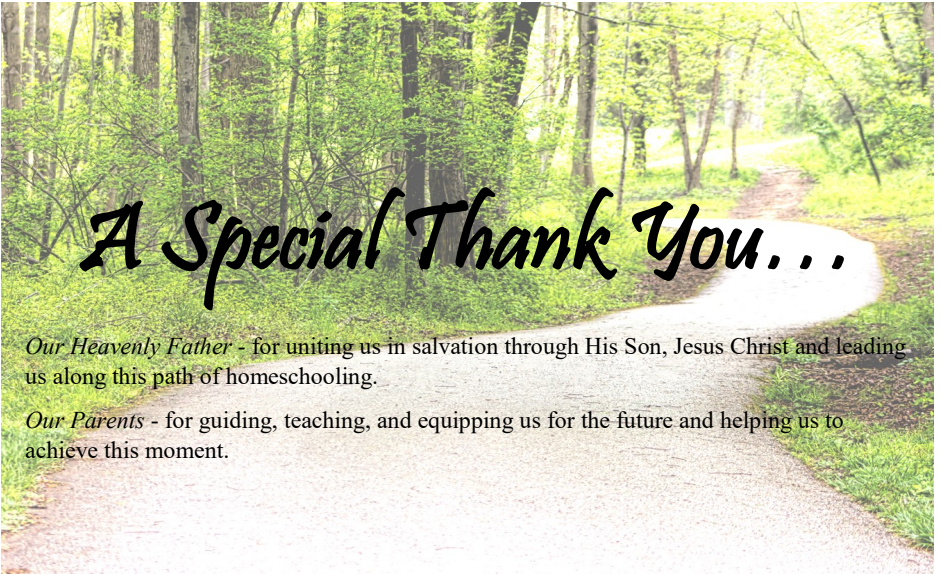
Future Plans: Sarah hopes to use her creativity to create and inspire others. She is currently planning to pursue graphic design but is trusting God to lead her according to His will.

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” Galatians 2:20

A Special Thank You...

Our Heavenly Father - for uniting us in salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ and leading us along this path of homeschooling.

Our Parents - for guiding, teaching, and equipping us for the future and helping us to achieve this moment.



Congratulations Class of 2020



Mid-Michigan Homeschool Graduation