

The Grafton High School Athletic Booster Club exists to support ALL Grafton High School athletics. The work of the volunteers – we raise money to help support all aspects of the athletes and one piece of this is these scholarships. During the 2018-19 school year, the Booster Club awarded \$10,000 in scholarships and over \$27,000 in equipment and other items for various sports. In 2015, individual scholarships were \$500, and the Kittelson scholarship was \$750. There are now 10 individual scholarships for \$850 each and the Kittleson scholarship is now \$1500. And this is the second year of another scholarship to be awarded, the Bushy Voiles, valued at \$850 also.

The only requirements for earning a scholarship are to be a Booster Club member, which only costs \$10/year, to have participated in GHS athletics, and to have volunteered at the Annual Corn Roast and 3 concession stand events. And if you become a board member of the Booster Club, the concession stand volunteer requirements are waived. Naturally, the greater involvement in athletics and volunteerism, the better chance of earning a scholarship. But some years, like this one, there are not enough eligible applicants to award all of the available scholarships. So join the GHS Booster Club and put in a few hours of work to give your children the opportunity to earn a scholarship for their future education.

Here is the list of the GHS 2019-20 scholarship winners.

GHS Booster Club Scholarships, valued at \$850 each:

- 1) Jacob Aleknavicius - This was an easy selection. Jacob earned 6 Varsity letters in Baseball, Basketball and Golf team, elected to 2nd team all-conference and honorable mention all-conference as a pitcher, and honors in basketball and golf. He is also an A student in all his classes and was a member of the National Honor Society his Junior & Senior years. He plans to go to Michigan State University and study Actuarial Science
- 2) Kristen Van Ryzin – Kristen earned 6 varsity letters in Track and Volleyball and qualified for state her sophomore and junior years in track. She is a 4.0 student and was a member of the National Honor Society her junior and senior years, and well as being the GHS Vice President of the society. She plans on going to Wisconsin or Iowa to study Microbiology and pre-med.
- 3) Joe Birch - Another easy selection. Joe earned 5 varsity letters in both Varsity Football and Basketball, being selected a first team all-conference defensive back his senior year. He too is a 4.0 Student and was a member of the National Honor Society his Junior and Senior years. He is undecided on which college he will attend but will major in Business & Finance.
- 4) Josephine Gust – Josephine earned 6 varsity letters in Volleyball and Softball, and also played JV basketball. She was an A student and a member of the National Honor Society her Junior & Senior seasons. She plans on attending the University of Minnesota to major in Psychology.
- 5) Zack Weir – Zack earned 4 varsity letters in Football and Basketball. He was team captain of both sports his senior year and was elected to 2nd team all-conference in Football his Senior year. I don't

know if Zack is planning on going to a university off the west coast of South America, or to a university in Illinois that produced NFL players like Tony Romo and Jimmy Garoppolo, because he lists his college of choice as Easter Illinois, where he will study Marketing and Sports Media. ☺

6) Natalie McDaniel – Natalie earned 5 varsity letters in Softball and Volleyball. An A- student, she hasn't selected which university to go to yet, and she plans to study Psychology and or business.

7) Maxwell Stilb – Maxwell earned 4 varsity letters, all in soccer, where he won 2nd team all-conference honors. He plans to attend the University of Hartford and major in Business.

8) Connor Tiegs – Connor earned 3 varsity letters in Football and also participated in Basketball and Baseball as a freshman. A fine student, Connor will go to a Wisconsin state school and study business.

The Steve Kittleson scholarship is named for an amazing man who exemplifies the ultimate of a quiet leader. Steven Kittleson started as a Tech Ed teacher and wrestling coach at Grafton high School. He later was named the assistant Principal and then Principal of this school. When he retired the Booster Club created this scholarship to honor his service.

The 2019-20 Steven Kittleson Honorary scholarship, for a value of \$1500, goes to Ava Pedersen – Ava earned 8 varsity letters in Soccer, Cross Country. And Basketball. She was captain of the cross-country team her senior year and was a State Meet participant in Soccer and a Sectional participant in Soccer. She is a 4.0 student and was a member of the National Honor Society her Junior & Senior years. She plans on going to the University of Minnesota and major in Biology & the Environment AND in Spanish.

This is our second year for our last scholarship. In 2018, a group of two dozen Grafton high School graduates approached the Booster club about endowing an \$850 scholarship. The Bushy Voiles scholarship was established from these 1993, 1994 and 1995 graduates. They have gathered from across the United States every year for the past 25 years for a golf tournament of this same name. These graduates were all varsity letterman and recognize the role that sports played in forming lifelong friendships on which the Bushy Voiles tradition is built.

The scholarship pays it forward and hopefully will inspire tonight's attendees to create or appreciate their own traditions. The gentlemen of Bushy Voiles salute this year's scholarship winner, Owen Wiziarde.

Owen was the only applicant this year confident to fill in his paperwork with pencil. ☺ Owen won 4 varsity letters participating in Football and Basketball. He also played one year of golf. He plans to attend Wingate University in North Carolina, and major in Athletic Training.

We wish to congratulate all of tonight's winners along with their parents and coaches.