



December 9, 2020

Groves Families,

Given the unprecedented year we are having in the world of education, our students continue to shine in many areas!

I want to highlight some recent accolades of our Falcons -

GPAC News

This past weekend was the annual Michigan Thespian Festival. In the past this was an in-person conference/festival, but this year we moved it to the virtual format. Groves students competed in the Individual Events with 21 entries. These events are adjudicated by 3 professionals or university professors with expertise in the particular category.

Here are the results for the Groves students:

SUPERIOR (highest rating possible)

Maya Ousachi-Monologue, Lily Reed-Nordwall-Monologue, AJ Camisa/Lily Reed-Nordwall-Duet Acting, Laurent Sainte-Marie/Anna Forberg-Duet Acting, Clare Birley-Solo Musical Theatre, Ainsley Nelson-Solo Musical Theatre, Clare Birley/Ainsley Nelson-Duet Musical Theatre, Jim Allen-Sound Design, Jack Handzel-Sound Design, Gillian Emerick-Makeup Design, Adam Rhen-Theatre Marketing, Sami Meal-Playwriting, Hayden Miller-Short Film

EXCELLENT (second highest rating possible)

Alexis Richardson-Monologue, Taylor Hunter-Monologue, Hayden Miller/ Hope Sherwood-Duet Acting, Jack Handzel/Gillian Emerick-Duet Acting, Annelise Ross-Solo Musical Theatre, Annelise Ross-Theatre Marketing, Mia Frank-Short Film

In addition to the individual events, Alexis Richardson participated in both college scholarships and thespian scholarship auditions.

There are only 10 Thespian Scholarships given out, and Alexis received one of those scholarships. This is a huge honor and every exciting indeed. The amount of the scholarship is \$500.00, but the prestige is the more meaningful aspect of this distinction. **In addition Alexis was offered scholarships from 8 different universities totaling over \$200,000!!! Congratulations, Alexis!**

Football

OAA All-Association Honors were given to the following football players - Kyle Coleman, Jackson Tinsley, Ben Simmons, Jaden Mangham, Logan Flaherty and Joe Hess. Congratulations!!

Debate Team

Groves Varsity Policy Debate Team won the MSU Spartan Debate Invitational, December 4-6, 2020, for the 2nd year in a row, besting Glenbrook North HS (IL) on a 3-0 decision in the final round. Ben Glick and Jonah Lipman defeated another Glenbrook North team in semis on a 2-1 decision, while besting Wooster (OH) HS in quarterfinals and Detroit Country Day School in octafinals, both on 3-0

decisions. They posted a 4-1 win/loss record in preliminary rounds and broke 7th seed overall. Although Groves Debate Team has won this tournament in the past (including 2019), this is the first ever virtual Spartan Invitational, which featured 33 teams representing 9 states (Michigan, Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Ohio, Texas, Georgia, Oklahoma and California). Also representing Groves in varsity policy debate at MSU were Eleen Laham and Lily Schafer.

On Saturday, December 5, at the Dexter Delight Invitational, Groves' first year public forum debate team, featuring Alaina Williams of Groves and Luca DeSanto of Seaholm debating as a hybrid team, posted a 3-1 win/loss record in preliminary rounds. They won their octafinal round over Ann Arbor Skyline HS on a 2-1 decision before losing to eventual winner in novice public forum Dexter HS on a 2-1 decision in quarterfinals. Alaina was 8th and Luca 23rd individual speaker in a field of 90 first year competitors.

So proud of all of you,

Dr. Smith

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