

## Message from H.O.M.E.

Congratulations Class of 2023! Parents, we honor the investments you have made to provide your students with their foundation for a life of learning, character, and contribution. Graduates, we congratulate you on your accomplishments, and completing your journey on the road less traveled. May you be abundantly blessed as you venture into the future that the Lord has called you to. H.O.M.E. is honored to sponsor this Graduation and launch these students to their next steps in life. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in His holy people, and His incomparably great power for us who believe (Eph. 1:18-19)  
*Elizabeth Grace, Chair*

### Keynote Speaker – Alex Binz

Alex started homeschooling in third grade. At 16, he entered Seattle Pacific University with a four-year full-tuition scholarship. He graduated in Spring 2010, magna cum laude, with a B.A. in Political Economy and Rhetoric. He has worked for several think tanks, including Discovery Institute and Evergreen Freedom Foundation, and presented his economics research at annual conferences for the Western Economics Association International. These days, he works as a teacher, mainly with Heritage and Connections homeschool coops. A lifelong Christian, he was baptized at New Life Center at the age of nine, and formally entered the Roman Catholic Church on Easter 2016.

### Master of Ceremonies – Cathal Petris

Cathal and his wife Moira are natives of Birmingham and Liverpool, England. After arriving in Washington in 2001, God blessed them with the opportunity to homeschool their six children. Outside of homeschooling, Cathal has coached CYO 'Soccer' and held various leadership roles in the Cub/Boy Scouts. His family loves living in the PNW especially camping and hiking. Cathal has a Degree in Electronics and has worked for Nokia for 30 years in Technical Sales and Marketing through to Operations. He is an ardent devotee of the 'Beautiful Game' and a zealous fan of Liverpool FC. Trying to be culturally sensitive he will attempt to not call it 'real football.'

### Grateful Acknowledgements:

H.O.M.E. Board, for their leadership and support

H.O.M.E. 2022-2023 Graduation Steering Committee  
Caroline Bedward, Chair  
Melissa Lund, Treasurer  
Terri Day, Secretary

Keynote speaker Alex Binz, and master of ceremonies Cathal Petris

Cascade Community Church for hosting our ceremony, with staff assistance from Teresa Veggini and Burke Bakula

Graduation ceremony director Leigh Larson, photographer Ariella Noelle, AV/media tech support Alex Nelson, and graduate Alivia MacKenzie for program artwork

Reception volunteers, especially junior class and parents

... and to all who made today possible! THANK YOU!

H.O.M.E.  
Graduation

# Class of 2023



June 3, 2023  
1:00pm

Cascade Community Church  
Monroe, WA

**Class Theme:**  
*Perseverance*

**Class Motto:**  
"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts." – Winston Churchill

**Class Verse:**  
"Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him."  
James 1:12 NIV

# Order of Ceremony

# Class of 2023 Graduates

## Procession of 2023 Graduates

### Welcome

*Cathal Petris*

## Message from H.O.M.E. Chair

*Elizabeth Grace*

### Invocation

*Hudson Bedward*

## Recognition of Parents

### Presentations by Graduates:

#### "Life's Greatest Challenge"

*Natalie Wright*

#### "Eternally Grateful" & "Your Hands"

*Olivia Tibbetts*

#### "Moving Forward"

*Keegan Paul*

#### "In God We Trust"

*Isabelle Hahn*

#### "Friends"

*Hudson Bedward, Bryant Lund, Graham Nickols,  
JohnPaul Petris, & graduates*

## Introduction of Keynote Speaker

*Kyler Veenstra*

## Keynote Address

*Alex Binz*

## Video Tribute to Graduates

## Presentation of Diplomas

### Benediction

*Bryant Lund*

## Presentation of the Class of 2023

### Recessional

*"Best Day of My Life" by American Authors*

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*You are all cordially invited to join us for a reception immediately following today's graduation ceremony*

**Max Bartelheimer** plans to go to college and work to be a Physical Therapist.

**Hudson 立信 Bedward** is grateful for God's guidance through life and his homeschool education which has well prepared him to explore his career options in college and opportunities in life.

**Callen Day** is an honors student-athlete. He completed his first year at Edmonds College and played varsity soccer for Arlington High School. He intends to continue his studies and earn his bachelor's degree.

**Landen Day** is a musician and honors student, and has played jazz drums for Edmonds and Bellevue College. His future aspirations include music along with studying psychology and neuroscience at the university level.

**Moriah Derr** has been a Connections student for ten years. After graduation she is going to marry her high school sweetheart and pursue graphic design and writing as a career.

**Andria Dodrill** is excited to graduate from high school. She will continue at EVCC with dreams of becoming a professional counselor.

**Kenda Marie Danielle Eder** has powerfully navigated homeschool, private school, public school, and Connections. Following graduation, Kenda is interning at a church in Texas, then plans to pursue ministry and wherever God leads her.

**Isabelle Hahn** is excited to be graduating! She is passionate about theater, dancing, her family, and is looking forward to the next chapter God has in store for her.

**Ella Halverson** has been attending Homeschool Connections for twelve years. After graduation Ella will be taking classes at Edmonds College and figuring out what she wants to do for an art career.

**Bryant Lund** has been enrolled in Running Start through Cascadia Community College since 2021, and performed in Connections Drama shows for three of his high school years. After he graduates, Bryant will attend UW Bothell to study Computer Science.

**Alivia MacKenzie** has exemplified hard work, diligence, and determination throughout her home education. After graduation and summer adventures, she plans to attend Walla Walla University, pursuing interest in graphic design and business.

**Isaiah Menge** spent most of his school career in public school until he asked to be homeschooled so he could be a part of Stoa Speech and Debate his junior year. Now he isn't quite sure how he will get there, but is interested in a career involving Film and Animation.

**Graham Nickols** has been a part of homeschooling for all of his academic career, having spent seven years of that time at Connections. His current plan for the future is to study biomedical engineering.

**Kelson Nickols** has homeschooled most of his life. Following graduation, he plans to attend Grand Canyon University fall of 2023, majoring in Business entrepreneurship, with plans to enter the family business in real estate.

**Kaitlin Allison Orn** has learned how to persevere through high school thanks to God's guidance and strength. She thoroughly enjoys drawing, painting, and photography. College is undecided, but she wants to chase her dreams of being an artist.

**Keegan Paul** has been a part of Homeschool Connections for four years. After graduation he has an internship with Boeing. He then plans to pursue a career in the trades.

**JohnPaul Petris** has been going to connections for 11 years. After Graduation he plans to get a transfer degree at a local community college and then transfer to start a chemical engineering program.

**Isaiah Sinclair** loves the Lord, deep learning, Speech & Debate, and his cat Pickles. He will continue with Debate and classes at EVCC while hunting for his perfect university.

**Olivia Tibbetts** is extremely excited to graduate from high school. She plans to move to Idaho and attend cosmetology school to specifically pursue hair design.

**Kyler Veenstra** has attended Connections since 2014 and is currently attending Lake Washington Institute of Technology. He plans to continue pursuing higher education and a career in computer science.

**Natalie Wright** is a straight A student and has been a part of Speech and Debate for seven years. After graduation she plans on pursuing a degree in law, aiming towards the defense of human rights.