

# Junior Brock Jones graduates year early

By Luke Abels

For many high school students, graduating a year early does not seem like a good idea. There can be disadvantages, like missing out on a year of high school activities, along with the stress of having to finish course requirements in three years, not four.

Brock Jones, a junior at Durant, does not agree.

He is graduating in two days and will study aerospace engineering at Iowa State University in the fall.

Aerospace engineering, he says, essentially deals with designing and building spacecraft and airplanes. Ever since he was a little kid, he has shared an interest in airplanes with his dad from going to air shows. This led to an interest in space and ultimately Jones' future career plans.

"My interest in airplanes eventually branched into an interest in space after I talked to some astronauts at Oshkosh, a big air show," he said.

Jones says that, at least for him, the benefits of graduating early outweigh the disadvantages. It will allow him to get started on his passion earlier and enter the workforce more quickly.

In fact, he thinks more high school students should think about graduating early.

"If you're not too attached to high school, I think it's definitely a huge benefit to you because you can save a year of your life and get into the workforce early if you want like I do," he said.

"Of course, you miss your senior year. A lot of people freak out about that. For me, I've never been too attached to high school, so I'm not really too worried about it."

He says that another difficulty with graduating early is that it can be harder to make sure you are prepared for college. However, for him, there is not a whole lot more that he can do in high school to prepare for his career path since it is a specialized field.

"I essentially knocked out all of my gen eds for college, so there's basically no reason for me to sit around because I've got enough credits to graduate, and I can't take any more college classes," he said.

With starting college, there are two things that Jones is looking forward to.

"The freedom will definitely be nice. It will be cool to get away and kind of have my own place and figure out what it's like to live more independently," he said. "I'm also just excited for my major. I really like space, and I'm excited to learn more about it."

Jones is also excited for the future of aerospace engineering. He believes that space travel will be a huge part of the future and predicts that, potentially, within the next 100 years, space travel could become more accessible to the everyday person, and that's one thing he wants to focus on in his future career.

After he graduates from Iowa State



Junior Brock Jones holds the rocket he made in physics class. Jones wants to pursue a career in aerospace engineering.

University, Jones plans to enter the workforce as soon as possible. In 10 years, he plans to live somewhere near the mountains where he can pursue his career while enjoy-

ing other hobbies, like backpacking, hiking, fishing, and hunting.

Overall, it is safe to say that Jones's future is looking up!

# Senior poll reveals class favorites in 11 different categories

By Timothy Junis

What do *Step Brothers*, Zac Efron, the Chicago Cubs, the color blue, and Queen all have in common? The answer: they are favorites in the recent *Wildcat Chronicles* senior poll.

Last month, the seniors were given a set of preselected choices that were determined by the newspaper staff. Most answers had a clear winner, but a few like favorite movie and favorite school subject were split down the middle.

Out of the 26 responses, *Step Brothers* won in the favorite movie category. It had a total of six votes. However, *Avengers: Endgame* and *The Notebook* weren't far behind with both having four votes each.

Seniors were also asked who their celebrity crush was growing up.

Zac Efron held the top spot for male celebrities and overall. Efron had eight votes, and for the women, Jennifer Aniston and Scarlett Johansson both tied with three votes. A possible reason for Zac Efron winning it all is the very popular *High School Musical* movies.

However, senior Kaylee Behrensmeyer gave a much more succinct reason.

"Because he is hot, why else?" said Behrensmeyer.

Physical Education was the winner of the favorite school subject category,

receiving seven votes. Social studies and science were tied for second with four votes each. One of those people who selected P.E. was senior Abbey Rhoades.

"P.E. is my favorite subject because I like being active. It's fun to play kickball or dodgeball with friends and classmates," said Rhoades.

International travel topped the seniors' bucket list, receiving 18 votes. However, Rhoades was an outlier and chose to be a professional athlete at the top of her bucket list.

"I've always wanted to be a professional athlete," said Rhoades. "It was always a dream of mine when I was little to be a professional volleyball or soccer player. It's a goal today, but it's not likely to happen."

Another category that was not very close was the seniors' favorite sports moment. The top spot went to the Chicago Cubs winning the World Series in 2016. A total of 14 votes were cast for the Cubs' World Series win.

"I feel that, personally, it is the greatest sports moment of all time because of two possibly biased reasons," said senior Brian Graves. "It was an amazing accomplishment for the team, a team that I am a fan of. It was also a moment that I was able to watch on television when it occurred, which adds much personal value."

This question consisted of various monumental sports accomplishments that had occurred while the senior class was in school.

Kobe Bryant scoring 60 points in his last game as a Los Angeles Laker earned second-place honors with five votes. Only one vote was cast for Tom Brady's seventh Super Bowl victory in February.

In the question asking who is the G.O.A.T. (Greatest of All Time) between Michael Jordan and LeBron James, Michael Jordan won with nearly 60% of the votes.

One category that was very split was favorite musical artist. Queen had six votes, Luke Combs and Juice WRLD both had four votes, and Michael Jackson and Elton John had three votes each.

A surprising fact is that three of the top five vote getters are artists who were popular before the senior class was even born.

"I think Queen was the greatest band of all time," said senior Makenna Buesing. "I think for their time they were breaking the music standards left and right especially with *Night at the Opera*. And Freddie Mercury is hands down the greatest singer of all time."

Buesing also believes that the music of the '80s and '90s is still appreciated by the class of 2021. One reason for her is

because her parents would play that kind of music for her when she was a little kid.

In the favorite video game category, popular title *Minecraft* won. It took around half of the total votes. Behrensmeyer chose this game as her favorite.

"*Minecraft* is my favorite game because it is great for all ages," said Behrensmeyer. "It's not just placing blocks and farming. There's some adventure to it, and that's what keeps it exciting."

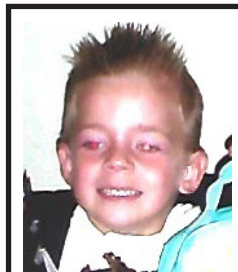
To no surprise, the color blue was voted the seniors' favorite. Gold was not an option.

After eating the school's lunches for quite some time, everyone has developed a favorite lunch item. The winner for the seniors, by far, was Crispito. Multi-cheese garlic bread took the second-place spot.

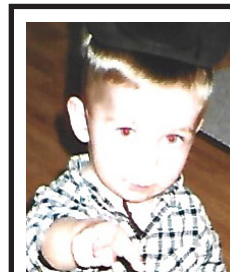
The last question in the poll was favorite season. To no one's surprise, 17 people picked summer, while only two picked winter.

It was not a shocker to see summer get so many votes because who doesn't love summer. However, senior Lexi Schlapkohl believes that winter is the superior season.

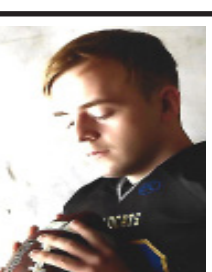
"I chose winter because I find the snow very beautiful. I think it makes for wonderful pictures. I also prefer the colder weather over the hotter weather," said Schlapkohl.



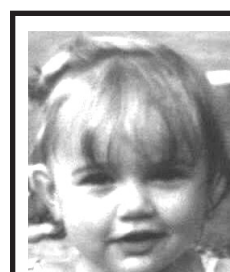
Kaidyn,  
From Papa's little buddy to graduating from high school...where has time gone? Looking forward to seeing all that you accomplish. Love you, Papa McCormick



Kaidyn,  
We couldn't be more proud of you and your accomplishments. You have grown to be an incredible young man, and we know you will continue to do amazing things. Good Luck at Greenville University! Love, Mom, Dad, and Reice



Good looks, brains and a diploma, too. You have it all. Congratulations! We love you, PaPa & Mammy



Dream big, and you can do anything you set your mind to. We are your biggest fans! Love, Mom & Dad