

## *What Are Your Priorities?*

By Michaela Forkenbrock and Brittani VanWinkle

As high school students, it isn't always easy to balance school, sports, family, and friends. While trying to balance all their responsibilities, most teens tend to let academics be the least of their priorities. At Lyndon High School, academics has been proven to be the top priority of about 28% of the student body, increasing from last year. 9 freshmen, 12 sophomores, 10 juniors, and 7 seniors were recognized Tuesday evening for their hard work and dedication. These students maintained a 3.75 GPA or higher during the 2016 calendar year.

|                      |                   |                    |
|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Cassidy Anderson     | Kenzy Harsch      | Sadie Sellers      |
| Cody Anschutz        | Hailey Houser     | Mason Slusher      |
| Matthew Anschutz     | Shaun Houser      | Madison Smitha     |
| Aubrey Beyer         | Natalie Hughes    | Grace Spencer      |
| Haley Brecheisen     | Brooke Larson     | Teagan Sturdy      |
| Haily Chenoweth      | Aimee Lemmon      | Dexton Swinehart   |
| Josie Crawford       | Regan Martin      | Emma Kate Unruh    |
| Kennedy Criqui       | Chase Newberry    | Brittani VanWinkle |
| Ana Emley            | Gretchen Newberry | Kylie VanWinkle    |
| Raylee Emley         | Meghan Newberry   | Lauren Volkman     |
| Michaela Forkenbrock | Daniel Pine       | Mariah Wells       |
| Bethanie Gilliland   | Kaitlyn Pringle   | Meghan Wendling    |
| Sydney Gross         | Trystan Pringle   |                    |

Because Academic Night is such an honor, most students make it their goal to be recognized. It instills motivation in the classroom and drives students to take pride in their work. "We consider this to be our highest honor," stated LHS Principal, Mr. Brad Marcotte. He feels it is very important to recognize students who excel at academics. In addition, Mr. Marcotte believes that the night is very useful because it focuses on academics, not just athletics. "Academics is what students need to be successful in and after high school," added Mr. Marcotte.

In order to accomplish this acknowledgment, Ana Emley, Daniel Pine, and Maddi Smitha always try to do their best in school. Maddi said, "I do homework, tests, etc to the best of my ability." Daniel said, "I go to school, do my work, and receive good grades." Ana said, "I get all A's throughout the school year." All three students feel like they deserve to be recognized because they work hard, have good attendance, and good behavior. "Developing good study habits and time management is difficult when you want to go out with friends. But it is good to develop these skills to better prepare ourselves for college," added Maddi.

When asked what Academic Night meant to them, Ana, Daniel, and Maddi all replied with "Grades do actually matter and people do actually notice those who are doing well in school. Hard work in high school is worth it and Lyndon High School cares about its honor

students.” They appreciate that a night is dedicated to recognizing those individuals who accomplish great things. Mr. Marcotte responded with, “To me, it means a student is a hard worker and very diligent in what they do. To get a GPA of 3.75 or higher at Lyndon is not easy. It takes dedication, organization, etc. to accomplish this feat. Many of the students that are recognized will also be involved in many activities, which makes this honor even more deserving.”