

Congratulations to the Fox Valley Swim Team Graduating Seniors Class of 2023



Steffan Anderson
Avery Ball
Christopher Cottrill
Peter Crudele
Isabella Egan
Megan Furuichi
Rahini Giridharan
Emily Huffine
Ethan Huynh
Anna Karubas
Dima Kondrashev
Ryan Lee
Jonathan Mannisto
Madeline Obora
Katherine Pierros
Amehia Selmon
Kaidnce Woellhof

We are so proud of our Class of 2023. Through the years, they have shown tenacity, resilience, an incredible work ethic, the ability to manage their time, and a keen appreciation for team and friendships. They are champions and we are so proud of them.



Steffan Anderson
Neuqua Valley High School
Class of 2023

I started swimming when I was 6 years old.

My first swim team was Ashbury Alligators (go Gators!).

I joined Fox in 2013 when I was eight years old.

My favorite events are 200 free, 100 free, and 500 free.

My favorite swimming memory is belly flop relays with my fellow Ashbury coaches.

Notable achievements: 1x All-American, 1x All-State, Metea Valley Pool Record (400 free relay), 2x NCSA qualifier, and 3-4x Ashbury team records.

Plans after graduation are attending The University of Minnesota - Twin Cities and majoring in Engineering

Words of wisdom, "Happiness is more important than success. Find something you love and stick with it, not because you were told or pressured to, but because it makes you happy."



Avery Ball
Waubonsie Valley High School
Class of 2023

I started swimming when I was 6 years old.

My first swim team was The Oakhurst Orcas.

I joined Fox when I was eight years old.

My favorite event is 100 back.

My favorite swimming memory is meeting all of my closest friends.

Notable achievements: 4 year varsity athlete, college commit.

Plans after graduation are swimming at Valparaiso University studying Business.

Words of wisdom, “Cherish the moments you have with swim because it goes by a lot faster than you would expect.”



Christopher Cottrill
Neuqua Valley High School
Class of 2023

I started swimming at five years old.

My first swim team was The Otters.

I joined Fox in 2012 at 7 years old.

My favorite events are 50 free and 100 free.

My favorite swimming memories are swimming in the championship meets.

Notable achievements are swimming on the high school state relay team. Qualifying for age-group state meets. Ranking in the Top 20 Fox swimmers in 500 Free and 200 Back for 13-14s. Ranking in the Top 20 Fox swimmers in 50 Free, 100 Free, and 200 Back for 11-12s. Ranking in the Top 20 Fox swimmers in 25 Free, 50 Free, 25 Back, 50 Back, 25 Fly, and 100 IM. Holding the Otters record for 25 Back for 6u.

Plans after graduation are attending Iowa State and majoring in Engineering.

Words of wisdom, "Always try your hardest and never give up!"



Peter Crudele
Homeschool/Waubonsie Valley
Class of 2023

I started swimming in the summer when I was 12.

My first swim team was Otters.

I joined Fox when I was 13.

My favorite events are the 50FR, 100FR, 1650FR, and the 200BK.

My favorite swimming memories are being able to persevere through hard practices with my teammates.

Plans after graduation are to go to college and swim.

Words of wisdom, "Enjoy the gift of swimming. It is such a privilege no matter how hard it gets at times. Work hard, relax, and have fun!"



Isabella Egan
Neuqua Valley High School
Class of 2023

I started swimming when I was six years old.

My first swim team was The South Pointe Swim Team.

I joined Fox when I was 8 years old.

My favorite events are 100 and 200 butterfly.

My favorite swimming memory was the University of Tennessee Training Trip.

Notable achievement was qualifying for senior champs.

Plans after graduation are to go to Marquette University and majoring in nursing.



Megan Furuichi
Neuqua Valley High School
Class of 2023

I started swimming at age 7.

My first swim team was The NAPY Porpoises.

I joined Fox at age 11.

My favorite events are 100 breaststroke and 200 IM.

My favorite swimming memory was my first travel meet to Indy on Fox.

Notable achievements are NCSA & IHSA state qualifier.

Plans after graduation are to continue my swimming career at Rollins College with a major in education.

Words of wisdom, "Have fun and work hard!! Support your teammates and make memories with the people around you, they'll last a lifetime!"



Emily Huffine
Neuqua Valley High School
Class of 2023

I started swimming when I was seven years old.

My first swim team was Swim Mac in Charlotte, NC.

I joined Fox when I was 9 years old.

My favorite events are all the backstroke events and the relays.

My favorite swimming memories are the Tennessee and Florida team trips.

Notable achievements are going to Nationals in Orlando Florida and the senior champ meets.

Plans after graduation: I plan on attending Michigan State University and studying supply chain management.

Words of wisdom, "Enjoy these moments while you can it'll fly by fast."



Ethan Huynh
Waubonsie Valley High School
Class of 2023

I started swimming when I was eleven years old.

My first swim team was Lifetime Swim Team.

I joined Fox in 2018.

My favorite events are the 100 breaststroke, 200 breaststroke, and 50 freestyle.

My favorite swimming memory was placing 7th at IHSA state my senior year. It was a great way to end my high school swimming career.

Notable achievements including earning an All-American in the 200 medley relay and All-American consideration in the 100 breaststroke.

My plans after graduation are attending Boston University where I will swim and study business administration.

Words of wisdom, "Work hard and have fun."



Anna Karubas
Neuqua Valley High School
Class of 2023

I started swimming at age three or four.

My first swim team was NAPY and Ashbury Alligators.

I joined Fox in the summer of 2018 at age 12.

My favorite events are 1000 and 100 free.

My favorite swimming memories are hanging out with the swimmers before and after practice and talking with my seniors still.

Notable achievements are State qualifier in 50 and 100 free. NCSAs in 50 and 100 free. Four year varsity letters.

Plans after graduation are attending NMU with swimming. Focusing on environmental science and biology with ecology focus.

Words of wisdom, "It's a pipeline, enjoy while you can."



Dima Kondrashev
Neuqua Valley High School
Class of 2023

I started swimming in at age four.

My first swim team was Lifetime Swim Team.

I joined Fox in 2013 at age 10.

My favorite events are 50 free, 100 free, and 200 free.

My favorite swimming memory is getting a Neuqua pool record.

Notable achievements are All American 2x, All State 2x, All Conference 2x.

Plans after graduation are to study Biochemistry and swimming club at Tulane University.

Words of wisdom, “As tough as it may get, push through the training and you’ll be happy with your outcomes.”



Ryan Lee
Waubonsie Valley High School
Class of 2023

I started swimming when I was five years old.

My first swim team was White Eagle Swim Team.

I joined Fox when I was 8 years old.

My favorite events are the 200 IM, 100 breast, and 100 back.

My favorite swimming memory in the pool was dropping almost 4 seconds and breaking 2 minutes in the 200 IM in my last high school race ever. Out of the pool, my favorite memories involve hanging out and having team dinners at big meets.

Notable achievements are: 4-year varsity member and co-captain (with Ethan) of WV boys team; IHSA sectional team member, IHSA state alternate, DVC Sportsmanship Award, DVC All-Academic, Illinois Senior Champs qualifier and Age Group State qualifier (finalist in 200 breast).

My plans after graduation are attending Northwestern University next fall, where I will be studying economics. I will also be joining my sister on the Northwestern Club Swim Team.

Words of wisdom, “Swimming is hard; what helped me succeed was finding a balance between school, swim, other extracurriculars, and a social life. Make sure that you spend an adequate amount of time on schoolwork; neglecting it will put you in a big hole that is hard to recover from. Also nurture the friendships you make in swim. My friendships helped relieve the stress I felt in both academics and athletics.”



Madeline Obora
Neuqua Valley High School
Class of 2023

I started swimming at age five.

My first swim team was Stillwater Starz.

I joined Fox in the summer at age 7.

My favorite event is 100 Fly.

My favorite swimming memory is coaching the little starz back where it all started. I love watching them get started.

Notable achievements are 100 Fly Open Champion, 57 in 100 free.

Plans after graduation are attending RPI to study Mechanical Engineering.

Words of wisdom, "Try your best. That's all that matters."



Kate Pierros
Neuqua Valley High School
Class of 2023

I started swimming at age six.

My first swim team was The Breckenridge Breakers.

I joined Fox when I was 7.

My favorite events are 200 IM and 400 IM.

My favorite swimming memory is catching frogs during morning practices at Oakhurst and Naperville Tennis club during the pandemic.

Notable achievements include:

Competed in seasonal, travel, regional, and IL state championship meets

Specialized in 200 IM, 400 IM, 100 breast, 200 breast events

All Conference Academic Award, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 NV

DVC Sectional All-Conference Team Member (500 free), 2022 NV

DVC champ 2020 in fresh/soph 100 breast

2nd place DVC varsity 500 free 2022 NV

6th place at Sectionals in the 500 free 2022 NV

Senior Championship cuts in 100 br 200 br 2 IM and 4 IM (fox)

After graduation I'm going to swim for Rhodes College and major in psychology.

Words of wisdom, "Swimming is a fun sport but sometimes, especially when you get older, it gets really tough and you may want to stop. But if you keep pushing yourself and practicing at your best, everything will be worth it in the end."