

Kanella will attend Eastern Michigan University. "One thing I have learned from Church School is to be open minded and not to judge others. I have learned to give everyone a chance. I made some of my closest friends through the church, and consider them like my family, especially the GOYAns."



**Samantha Stokes**

*Milan High School*

Samantha Stokes will be graduating fifth in her class with a GPA of 4.02. Over the years, she has participated in choir, band, 4-H, GOYA, the parish choir, National Honor Society, drama and swimming. She is an MHSAA scholar athlete and was on the state swim team all four years of high school. Her senior year she was captain of the swim team. Samantha plans to attend Michigan Technical University in the fall, majoring in Wildlife Management and Ecology.

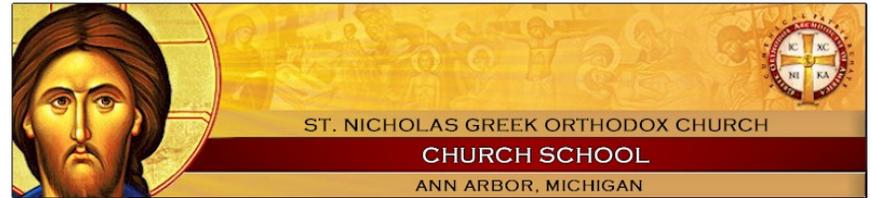


**Grant Vlahopoulos**

*Saline High School*

Grant Vlahopoulos was in the honor roll for his freshman and senior years, and has received leadership awards for all four years. He was elected class Vice-President for his freshman year, class President for his sophomore, junior, and senior years, and served on the student council for four years. During his senior year, he was a cast member in the High School musical "Annie". Grant has been a member of the Saline Track and Field team for four years; he was elected Junior Leader during his junior year, and Captain for his senior year. He also represented Saline

High School at the SEC Regional Athletic Leadership Conference held at the University of Michigan to promote equality and sportsmanlike conduct in High School Athletics. Grant started training in Tae Kwon Do at the age of four and reached the third degree black belt level in the Chung-Do-Kwon association. For the past two years he participated in Students Against Destructive Decisions; helping younger students in Middle School and High School to make better decisions. He has been performing traditional Greek dancing in the Ann Arbor Ya'ssoo Greek festival during the past five years, and in the Toledo Greek festival during the past two years. Grant has been serving as an Altar boy since the age of 8 and has been a member of GOYA for the past four years; currently serving as Vice-President. Starting in the Fall of 2014, Grant will attend Hope College where he will run Track for the Flying Dutchmen. "St. Nicholas church has provided the foundation for my faith and shaped the person that I am today. It will always be my home and the community will always be my family".



**ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
**ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN**

June 15, 2014

**2014**  
**CHURCH SCHOOL**  
**GRADUATING SENIORS**



**Jack Garris**

*Skyline High School*

Jack Garris was a member of Skyline's bowling and diving teams. During his freshman year, Jack held the school's varsity record for a 6 dive meet. He also participated in and was president of Skyline's ski and snowboard club. Jack has been a member of the Huron Valley Swim Club's swim and dive teams in the summers of 2001-2013. Jack plays the drums and is in several bands, performing at school talent shows, at *The B Side* downtown, as well as the *Ya'ssoo Greek Festival*. He has attended MDSC in

Rose City as both a camper and counselor in training. At St. Nicholas, Jack has served as an altar boy, graduated from Greek School, and participated in the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival. As a member of GOYA, Jack danced with the Ya'ssoo dancers, played basketball, rang the bell for the Salvation Army and has volunteered for Habitat for Humanity. Jack will attend Northern Michigan University in Marquette, MI this fall and has been awarded the Northern Michigan University Success scholarship. "In my years attending Church School and Bible Study, I've gained a useful knowledge of Orthodox history and have enjoyed a better understanding when reading the Bible. I am thankful to have had such an active and caring community to grow up in."



**George Kitromelides**

*Saline High School*

George graduated from Saline High School with a 3.75 GPA. He has been on the Honor-Roll for three years and won the all A's Award. He has also been a member of the Saline Marching Band, playing the Saxophone. At St. Nicholas, George has participated in GOYA and has been an altar boy for many years. He has been involved in many community services activities, including volunteering at the Red Cross and holding an intern position for the summer.

George will attend the University of Michigan, Dearborn in the fall, to study Engineering. George appreciates everything he learned in Church School and from serving as an altar boy. He plans to continue being active in the church and his faith will continue to be part of his life.



**Socrates Dimitris Kyprianos Papageorgiou**

*Huron High School*

Socrates, known as "Kyp", is graduating in the top 5% of his class and is an AP Scholar with Honor. He received a silver medal for the National Latin Exam and has been a member of the National Honor Society for three years. He performed in the musicals "West Side Story" and "The Sound of Music" in a lead role. Kyp is the President of the A Cappella choir, and is in the Chamber Choir at Huron as well as the musical arranger of several A Cappella small

group singers. He was voted "Most Outstanding Bass" while at Interlochen camp for vocal performance. Kyp has played the piano for 12 years and is the lead pianist for the Huron High School Jazz Band that received the highest State ranking. He is a volunteer piano player at the University of Michigan Hospital Lobby in the Gifts of Art: Music While You Wait program. In pool competition Kyp is the sole four year varsity letter winner for the Huron water polo team, served as captain and received the Team Award for leadership, integrity and sportsmanship. He was named All State Academic and received the All American Academic-outstanding award from USA Water Polo. Also team captain in swimming, Kyp is the 2014 South-East Conference champion for Breaststroke and is a four year Division 1 State qualifier in both the Breaststroke and Individual Medley. His 10 year swimming career brought him two individual State Championships in Long Course Meters as an age group swimmer as well as an individual WISC championship all in Breaststroke. He was named to the High School 1st Team All Conference, and is a four year Academic All State and Academic All American swimmer. At St. Nicholas he has been a member of GOYA and the St. Nicholas Dancers, an Altar boy, Choir member and attended Church School for 12 years participating in the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival. Kyp has attended the Metropolis Detroit Summer Camp since he was eight years old and will be working as a lifeguard there this summer. Kyp will attend the University of Michigan where he will pursue dual degrees in

Computer Engineering at the Engineering School and Performing Arts Technology at the Music School. His area of interest is in the field of psycho-acoustics that explores the science of sound as received in the brain and the treatment of illness with engineered music which improves patient outcomes. Kyp is an Elks National Foundation Finalist Scholar and a University of Michigan Regent's Merit Scholar. He received the National School Choral award, the Keeley Memorial Award from the AAPS Educational Foundation and is a Ufer Foundation Award scholar as well as an AHEPA scholarship winner. "The Orthodox faith has facilitated my spiritual and intellectual growth through its living, learning, and loving community. I am grateful and thank everyone for their positive influence."



**Alyssa Roopas**

*Pioneer High School*

Alyssa was a member of the National Honor Society for multiple years. She was the President of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes club her senior year and has volunteered for many causes throughout her years at Pioneer. Alyssa has been a member of the Pioneer Women's Swim and Dive team all four years. She was elected one of the Senior Captains this last season and voted "Most Dedicated" by her peers. This year she was presented with the Academic All

American Athlete award for the swim team. She has also been a member of the Varsity Women's Tennis Team for all four years. She has earned three Division I Regional Championship Titles and two Division I State Championship Titles in her flights. This year she served as Senior Captain of the tennis team and is headed to the State Championships with the team for the fourth consecutive year and her final time at the end of May. At St. Nicholas, Alyssa participated in Church School, the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival and was a member of GOYA. She loves helping at the Ya'ssoo Greek Festival and ringing the bell for Salvation Army. This fall, Alyssa will be attending Michigan State University, where she will be studying Kinesiology. She plans to pursue a career as a Physician's Assistant specializing in either orthopedic surgery or pediatrics. "St. Nicholas has brought me closer to God and enhanced my relationship with the Greek community. I know my faith will continue to grow during my college years and beyond."



**Kanella Smyrnis**

*Saline High School*

Kanella embraced a wide variety of opportunities while at Saline High School. She was President of the German club and Secretary of the French club, thus giving her the opportunity to participate in the French and German exchange programs. For many years, Kanella also studied Tae Kwon Do. And at St. Nicholas, Kanella was very active in the GOYA, becoming President her senior year. In the fall,