



## GRADUATE TOGETHER: AMERICAN HONORS THE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2020

Glen Lake Community Schools - Senior Karrigan LaCross



**Karrigan LaCross  
Class of 2020  
Salutatorian**

Karrigan LaCross from Maple City Glen Lake Community Schools is a renaissance young woman. In addition to being a three-sport athlete with all-conference and all-state accolades and awards, she is the salutatorian of the Class of 2020. Her academic success is fueled by her natural curiosity and stellar work ethic. She is thoughtful, insightful, and a tremendous role model for anyone trying to figure out how to be an all-round good human being.

During this pandemic, in addition to keeping up with her high school and dual-enrolled classes, Karrigan is working 11 hours a day, three days a week at an animal hospital as a curb-side runner. Karrigan is the person who greets cars in the parking lot, fully garbed in head-to-toe personal protection equipment – scrubs,

surgical gown, gloves, mask, eye protection, and hair net – to retrieve sick pets from their owners and complete their registration paperwork. Karrigan is risking her own safety by interacting with the public to help care for their ailing pets at a time when many kids are struggling to cope with the loss of their senior year activities.

Prior to the pandemic, Karrigan worked in the boarding area of the animal hospital feeding, walking, and spending time with animals who were being looked after. With boarding on hold, she found a role to play in helping with intake, paperwork, and medication administration of sick animals while the hospital restricted public access inside the facility.

Karrigan acknowledges that she is sad, too, but she's hopeful for her future and is not waiting for it to arrive to take action to move forward. With plans to attend Michigan State University's Lyman Brigg's Residential College in the fall and eventually attend veterinary school, Karrigan is engaged in the work she is passionate about. Caring for other people's animals and ensuring that they receive the attention, love, and high quality treatment they deserve allows her to stay engaged in meaningful work and to contribute in a positive way to the community. The fact that she is risking her own safety every time she greets a car or pet owner in the parking lot is just part of the job for Karrigan.

The Glen Lake School community is so proud of Karrigan and her initiative and drive. She exemplifies everything good about the graduates of 2020. She's academically and civically engaged, she challenges herself to go after her dreams, she's motivated and kind, and most importantly, she's setting an example of how to make the most of a difficult and scary situation with poise, courage, and resilience.

