



## **Seven VES Student-Athletes Sign with Colleges and Universities**

### **November 9, 2022**

*Remarks from Athletic Director Bob Leake*

Today we honor seven VES senior student athletes who have made the decision to continue their athletic careers at the collegiate level. Being able to play in college is a dream that many students have but few are able to realize. Many of us begin our athletic careers at a very young age. Youth leagues, club teams, travel teams, JV, and ultimately to a varsity team. The countless hours practicing and the miles traveled to contests have finally paid dividends for these young athletes. Ahead lies hard work, dedication, new adventures, and new friendships as they pursue their athletic careers. They have helped VES continue our strong standing in conference and state play all while maintaining solid academic performances and a strong VES community presence.

#### **Kaitlyn Bauer - Lynchburg, Virginia**

From Coach Bright: Putting up fast times takes hours of practice, focus on technique and a drive towards excellence. Kaitlyn has certainly made investments in all these areas. Her superpower is her ability to harness patience and self-control. To be successful as a swimmer over time is knowing how to pace – it takes discipline and self-awareness. She has left an indelible mark on Bishop Swimming. She currently has four individual school records in the 200 free, 100 fly, 500 free, and 100 backstroke and is part of two record setting relay teams, the 200 free relay and the 400 free relay. She is the first VES female swimmer to swim in the VISAA state championship finals, finishing 4th in the 200 free and 5th in the 500 free. She was also part of the 200 free relay team that finished 14th. Kaitlyn will continue her swimming career at the University of Richmond in Richmond Virginia

#### **Charlie Felmler - Lynchburg, Virginia**

Charlie has been a three year starter for the varsity baseball team. While Covid and injuries have impacted his career at VES, he has been instrumental in the revival of the VES baseball program and helped lead the team to their first appearance in the VISAA state championship tournament. Charlie, a catcher on the team, currently ranks third in the school's baseball history for doubles and third all-time in runs scored. He is the first VES baseball player in over 30 years to be a Division I commit. Charlie will continue his baseball career at the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg Virginia.

#### **Will Harris - Raleigh, North Carolina**

Will has been a three year member of the varsity lacrosse team. According to Coach Gates, "for the third year in a row Will will be the quarterback of the offense for the varsity lacrosse team". As an Attack on the team, Will has scored 13 goals in his career at VES and has 14 assists to his credit. Will has also been a

valued member of the varsity football team at VES where he was also named as a captain by his teammates. Will will continue his lacrosse career at Lynn University in Boca Raton, Florida.

#### **Jed Howard - Lynchburg, Virginia**

Jed has been a four year starter on the varsity baseball team. He is the second Division I baseball recruit from VES in the last 30 years. Beginning his career as pitcher for the Bishops, Jed has become a multidimensional player for the team. Not only pitching but also contributing by playing first base, leftfield, and centerfield which has allowed him to focus on his hitting. Jed currently ranks first in VES baseball history in homeruns, triples, hits, and runs scored. He also ranks second in RBI's and third in career earned run average. He has also been named all-conference and all-state. An avid fitness enthusiast, you can always find working out to improve his game. Jed will continue his baseball career at Davidson College in Davidson, North Carolina.

#### **Bryce Ledwith - Raleigh, North Carolina**

Coach Gates states, "I have been coaching lacrosse for over 30 years. Over the course of this time, I have been fortunate to have had some pretty good goalies that have played for me. Bryce is the best one I have ever coached". Bryce has been a four year starter on the lacrosse team. Fearless, courageous, and sometimes just downright crazy are words that describe his play between the pipes. Whether taking shots off his body, catching them in his stick, leading an offensive charge up the field, or delivering hits on opposing players, Bryce is always totally engaged in the game. A two time all-conference selection, Bryce will continue his lacrosse career at Bellarmine University in Lexington, Kentucky.

#### **Michael Shamus - Manakin-Sabot, Virginia**

Michael is new to VES this year and will be a member of the varsity baseball team this spring. He previously played at the Steward School in Richmond Virginia. He comes to VES as a third baseman and middle infielder and has compiled some impressive statistics already in his baseball career. He had a .386 batting average in 2021, collected 26 hits, and drove in 19 runs. He also sports a .494 on base percentage. We look forward to seeing Michael make his VES debut this spring. Michael will continue his baseball career at Randolph Macon College in Ashland Virginia.

#### **Kayla Williams - Baltimore, Maryland**

Kayla has been a four year member of the girls varsity lacrosse team, not to mention three years of varsity volleyball, and two years of varsity basketball. An all around athlete, Kayla can be found leading any team she participates with as a charismatic leader of the program. It is lacrosse that is her first love. As a defender, Coach Hooper writes, "She is the anchor of our defense for the last three seasons. She is a pleasure to coach and brings an abundant energy to the team that is unmatched by anyone on the team. She knows when to have fun and when to lock in and her vocal leadership is something that all the members of the team look up to. Kayla will continue her lacrosse career at Frostburg State University in Frostburg, Maryland.

Speaking for the school and those assembled here today we want to congratulate all of you on the success of your high school careers. The VES community is proud of the accomplishments of these student athletes and we will enjoy following their accomplishments at the collegiate level. We wish them nothing but success in their future endeavors.