

School Matters



Special Insert
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School News for Residents of the Kimberly Area School District



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Superintendent

Welcome to this Special Insert section to our School Matters newsletter. I wanted to share the story of one exceptional student as he represents so many of the positive people and events happening within the Kimberly Area School District.

Max Lom, a junior at Kimberly High School, received a perfect score on the ACT. But that's just one aspect to Max's story - as a student who pursues excellence, he represents a living example of our mission to help students reach their potential in all aspects of their life and still find time to give back to our community.

Congratulations to Max, his family and the educators and staff who have supported his journey!

-- Bob Mayfield

Max Lom, a Student at Kimberly High School, has Earned a Perfect Score on the ACT

Max Lom, son of Eric and Rachel Lom, and a junior at Kimberly High School (KHS), has earned something extraordinary - a perfect score of 36 on the ACT. While the number of students earning a composite score of 36 on the test varies from year to year, on average, less than one-tenth of 1 percent of students who take the ACT earn the top score.

Among test takers in the high school graduating class of 2015, only 1,598 of more than 1.9 million students earned a composite score of 36. The ACT consists of tests in English, mathematics, reading and science. Each test is scored on a scale of 1-36, and a student's composite score is the average of the four test scores.



Max Lom, a junior at Kimberly High School, has earned a perfect score of 36 on the ACT.

One lesson that can be learned from Max's accomplishment is the power of setting a goal and the perseverance it takes to reach it. He has taken the ACT every year for the past four years, starting in eighth grade where he took the test through the PACE program. "When I took it the first time in eighth grade and got a 33, I thought it was pretty good and that I could improve," said Max. He realized that as he progressed through school, a 36 could be within his reach and set that as his personal goal. "I'm just so proud of Max," said Rachel Lom, Max's mom. "He sets big goals for himself and expects a lot from himself both in and out of school. It's fun to see him achieve something he puts his mind to."

Max was at school when a friend told him the ACT results were available online. He texted his mom and asked if she could check

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his score. “She sent me a text back with a lot of exclamation points, it said ‘Yay!’ and stuff like that,” said Max. He recalls his family being especially excited about the accomplishment when they saw him after school that day.

Now that he has earned a 36, he feels a sense of accomplishment. “When I knew that I got a perfect score I was happy, and a little bit relieved,” said Max. “I’m still really excited and proud to be able to do that.” Although he has earned the highest possible score on the test, Max will have to take the ACT one more time this spring as part of the statewide testing requirement for all eleventh graders in public schools.

When asked what advice he would share with other students preparing for the ACT, he recommends taking the test to get comfortable with it and to learn how much time it will take to complete each section of the test. “I was really comfortable taking it,” said Max. “Because it was my fourth time, I knew what all the sections were going to be.” In the past, there were some sections that he hadn’t completed because he ran out of time. He learned which sections he always seemed to have enough time for and those which he had to speed up his pace for, such as the English section, in order to finish it on time.



Max is a great example of a student who actively pursues opportunities to reach his potential. He volunteers through Kimberly High School’s Key Club and he belongs to the National Honor Society. The high school junior also stays busy year-round with his involvement in soccer, a sport he is very passionate about.

He plays on the high school’s soccer team, where he has been team captain of the JV team for two years, and this fall he also played on the varsity team. When he’s not playing on the high school team, he plays club soccer. He referees soccer as a part-time job during the summer and winter.

Max Lom works hard in the classroom and on the soccer field. He enjoys playing, refereeing and coaching the sport.

One accomplishment he’s especially proud of is coaching his younger sister’s soccer team, a group made up of 9 and 10-year-old girls. “When I see them actually doing something that I was trying to coach, it’s really fun,” said Max. “I really like soccer so anytime being around that is fun, plus, the little girls are really funny, too.” Although he’s passionate about the sport, he sees playing and coaching soccer as something he will do after high school for enjoyment rather than pursuing it as a career.

As for what he does want to do for a career, Max isn’t quite sure but he does know that he wants to pursue further education. “I’m just starting to look at colleges, but I definitely want to go to a four-year school,” said Max. He plans on majoring in math or physics.

ACT test scores are accepted by many U.S. colleges and exceptional scores of 36 provide colleges with evidence of student readiness for the academic rigors that lie ahead. Max is the third student in Kimberly High School’s history to earn a perfect score on the ACT. He joins Max Anderson, Class of 2016, and Nick Bartholomew, Class of 2012, in the extraordinary accomplishment.