

Congratulations

Class of 2026!

Students will attend schools in

27

states and

6

countries, including the United Kingdom, India, Mexico, Canada and Australia.

124

Members of the Class of 2026

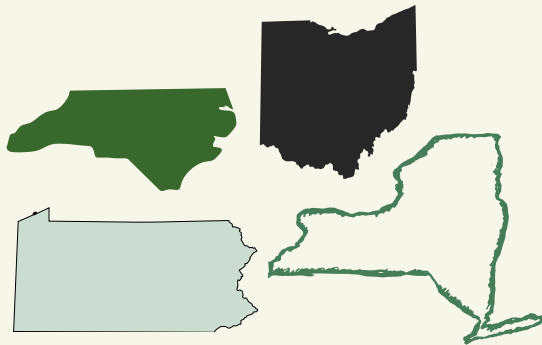
257

Schools Offering Admission



Most Popular States

For College Matriculation:
Ohio, Pennsylvania,
North Carolina, New York



The Class of 2026 comes from...

14 Countries
18 States

Notable Distinctions

7

National Merit
Scholarship
Finalists

8

National Merit
Commended
Scholars

3

US Presidential
Scholar
Candidates

2

OSU STAMPS
Eminence
Scholars

1

McDonald's All-American (first in WRA history!)

4

Students pursuing military service

2

Students attending HCBU (Historically Black Colleges and Universities)

1

National ROTC Scholarship Winner

Students will attend **82** different colleges & universities

Students in the Class of 2026 were
three times as likely
to be admitted to a Top 25 College
than the national average



\$15,310,000

in scholarships*

**with 44% of students reporting*

84%

of applicants
accepted to
Top 50
Colleges/
Universities

35

committed athletes across
Div. I, II and III including
the NESCAC and Big 10
conferences

in seven different mens and womens sports

basketball

lacrosse

soccer

volleyball

wrestling

tennis

track & field



 [Click to view the full acceptance list.](#)

WHAT A CLASS!

Below, we highlight just a few standout Pioneers from this unforgettable class — scholars, artists, volunteers, leaders, innovators, performers and changemakers.

Jayden Kersh



Hails from: Baltimore, Maryland
Attending: Howard University

Jayden simply cannot be summed up in one word. That's because he effortlessly balances life as a scholar, athlete, actor and even a DJ, bringing contagious energy and positivity to everything he does. He dives into every subject with curiosity and joy, all while uplifting those around him with a collaborative spirit and natural grace. Whether in the classroom or elsewhere on campus, Jayden leads in a way that makes others feel deeply valued and ready to rise alongside him.

As Co-President of the student body and a leader across eight campus organizations, Jayden embodies what it means to lead by example. He is just as comfortable delivering a speech as he is staying late to clean up after an event or help a friend prepare for a performance. His academic path reflects both ambition and talent across all disciplines, from pursuing advanced coursework since his first year to maxing out opportunities in the Wang Innovation Center.

Perhaps most honorably, Jayden's love for Reserve is most demonstrated through his efforts to continue making it a better place. He devoted his senior year to making the same WRA experience he's loved more accessible to future black students, resulting in numerous new initiatives including a supply of black haircare products made available in the campus store.

What continues to set Jayden apart is his character. His legacy at Reserve is one of generosity, empathy and joyful commitment to others. He has given his time, energy and heart freely, and shaped the community in myriad lasting ways by demonstrating both strength and vulnerability. We know he will take his voracious spirit to Howard University and seize all it has to offer, leaving it a better place and delivering an effervescence that is impossible to replicate.

Lydia Lockwood



Hails from: Hudson, Ohio
Attending: University of St Andrews

Lydia Lockwood leads the way she lives: with consistent care and a quiet instinct to show up when it matters most. Whether lingering after a soccer game to gather equipment while others celebrate or welcoming prospective families as a Chief Ambassador, Lydia's leadership is defined by a refusal to let anyone or anything be overlooked.

She doesn't seek the spotlight, yet her warmth and "ever-present smile" have a way of illuminating the path for everyone around her.

In the classroom, Lydia brings equal parts tenacity and curiosity. She has pursued the most rigorous courses available while maintaining a record of excellence, producing award-winning historical research, including a National History Day documentary recognized by the Cleveland Grays Armory Museum.

Her curiosity is perhaps best captured by her yearlong CL Compass project, where she helped establish WRA's on-campus farm. This was a massive undertaking that required equal parts vision and hands-on labor. She helped grow and harvest fruits, vegetables and herbs, many of which made their way into the Dining Hall, while also creating guides focused on food sustainability. Her work ensures that what she has planted — both programs *and* produce — will continue to nourish the community long after she graduates.

This fall, she heads to the University of St Andrews, where she will study Sustainable Development. We have no doubt her impact in Scotland will be just as generous and deeply felt as it has been here in Hudson.

Victor Wang



Hails from: Shanghai, China
Attending: Duke University

Like the carefully chosen and thoughtfully placed pins decorating his blazer, Victor's path at Reserve reflects intentionality and great pride. A National Merit Commended Scholar, member of the Cum Laude Society, recipient of the Rensselaer Medal, and first-place finisher in the National History Day Competition, Victor has distinguished himself at the highest academic level. His groundbreaking research on breast cancer vaccines took him to Hawaii to present at the American Association of Immunologists conference last spring.

But what truly defines Victor is not simply what he achieves (or is capable of achieving), but how he moves through the world. Two years ago, he cold-called several professors at the University of Michigan seeking internship opportunities. He not only earned a position in the Prensner Lab in Ann Arbor, but, through the strength of his contributions and work ethic, helped establish a lasting summer internship opportunity for future Western Reserve Academy students! This impact will extend well beyond his time on campus. Beyond his work in the lab, he is a dedicated dorm prefect, captain of the cross country team, and founder of BioMedia Club. Aside from his formal leadership roles, Victor is down-to-Earth; he is known around campus as the one to beat on the pool table and made it a goal this year to challenge everyone on campus to a match.

Victor moves between the lab and athletics with a signature blend of humility and curiosity, always approaching challenges with a genuine sense of humor. This fall, Victor heads to Duke University to study biology, ready to apply his scientific precision and his endless thoughtfulness to the world's most pressing challenges.

Anika Soni



Hails from: Fairlawn, Ohio
Attending: The Ohio State University

Armed with a megawatt smile and a warm, inviting aura, Anika Soni has spent her time at Reserve as a formidable scholar and a committed change agent. It is no surprise that she was awarded the prestigious Stamps Eminence Scholarship at The Ohio State University, and will embark on a four-year journey reserved for a select few who embody the heights of academic rigor, service, and leadership.

Anika's intellect is matched only by her profound empathy. While she conquered sixteen Honors/CL courses and elevated every classroom discourse, her true legacy lies in her service. Driven by a deep connection to the immigrant experience, Anika's Compass project blossomed into a sustained commitment to the North Hill community in Akron. There, she teaches financial literacy courses and provides winter gear to new Americans, driven by a belief in working toward something bigger than herself. To expand this impact, she founded the non-profit A Call To Action, which streamlines the volunteer process to connect those in need with those willing to help.

Beyond her outreach in Akron, Anika has a unique gift for folding her personal passions into her advocacy and leadership. As a leader of the Desi Club, she promotes a deep appreciation for Indian culture on campus, always stepping up to the plate with the same joyful spirit she exudes on stage as a talented member of the advanced dance program. She has also used the game of chess as a tool for social good twice over: founding the Discovery Chess Learning Academy to help incarcerated youth with emotional regulation, and serving as a community organizer for Chess for a Cure to support women's cancer research.

Max Born



Hails from: Montevideo, Uruguay
Attending: Carnegie Mellon University

Some people immediately stand out — Maximo "Max" Born is one of them. As a global citizen with roots in Uruguay, Argentina, and Belgium, Max arrived in his junior year determined to be the best version of himself in every arena. He rapidly emerged as a cornerstone of the community, captaining the Varsity soccer team, and through his involvement with Latinos Unidos. He will leave WRA even better than he found it, thanks to his integrity and constant drive to "do the right thing."

An entrepreneur at heart, Max honed his strategic thinking in the Wang Innovation Center's "Idea to Product" course, demonstrating the creativity and courage to venture into new territory. Yet, even as he looks toward the future, he remains deeply anchored in his heritage as a leader of Latinos Unidos, often sharing his cultural passion with the larger community at morning meetings. Whether he is breaking down the intricacies of cryptocurrency in his Financial Mathematics course or leading by example by keeping the cleanest room in the dorm, Max thrives when he is tasked to meet the challenge.

Max's commitment to service is best seen in his work back home, where he assists a non-profit in supplying and installing wooden floors for impoverished communities—quite literally building from the ground up. This fall, he takes his aspirational, service-minded spirit to Carnegie Mellon University to study economics and play soccer. We have no doubt that Max will follow the best principles of his chosen field, supplying the CMU community with far more than he demands.

Charlie German



Hails from: Canton, Ohio
Attending: Rhode Island School of Design

Since her arrival as a freshman, Charlie's artistic brilliance has been a palpable force on campus, coloring everything she touches. Whether transporting a 3D masterpiece across campus or petitioning her English teacher to submit a handmade sculpture of the Globe Theatre in lieu of a standard essay, Charlie has spent four years proving that art is a way of life. Her expansive portfolio is as bright and adventurous as her spirit.

At Reserve, Charlie's leadership has been as creative as her canvases. As a dorm prefect, mental health advocate, and art editor for BUFO, she led with a distinct humility and a mission to beautify her community. Beyond her professional-caliber accolades, her legacy is defined by her generosity, sharing handmade gifts, establishing campus art shows and designing custom gear for her peers. She hasn't just created her own pieces; she has sculpted spaces for others to shine.

The mark of a true artist is the ability to make others feel, and the WRA community feels immensely proud as Charlie heads to the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD). We are devoted to see her immerse herself in a community of artists as skilled as she is.

We can't wait to see the doors she'll open for herself, and the many we know she'll sculpt for others along the way. (P.S. If you've been lucky enough to get your hands on a Charlie German original already, maybe put it away somewhere nice...)

James Vacca



Hails from: Strongsville, Ohio
Attending: Purdue University

From James Vacca's early days as a quiet freshman contributing to a winning TEAMS design to his sophisticated work in Agricultural Engineering — where he developed a complex irrigation system for 42 garden boxes — James has always been a builder. His research with BioBuilders, focused on creating environmentally friendly alternatives to road salt, further reflects a mindset rooted to the greater good. For James, engineering is never abstract; it is a means to improve the world around him.

Yet, James is far from a one-dimensional engineer; he is a student of both strategy and spontaneity, a balance that defines much of his time at Reserve. That duality is perhaps most visible in his commitment to fencing, where discipline, timing and control are everything, and in his unexpected leap into the performing arts. Despite having no prior experience, James took the stage in *The Three Musketeers*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* and *Clue*, winning over audiences with sharp comedic timing and a confidence that surprised and delighted the campus community. What began as a risk became another arena in which he could refine both focus and expression.

Across disciplines, James brings the same thoughtful intensity — whether designing systems, testing ideas or collaborating with peers. He approaches challenges with curiosity and a steady sense of humor, qualities that make his work both rigorous and distinctly human. The confidence gained both in the lab and on the stage, this head for analytics and a performer's charisma, will serve him well. This fall, James heads to Purdue University to study Radiological Health Sciences, a field that perfectly bridges his technical expertise with his desire to protect human life. He isn't your typical engineer, and at Reserve, that has always been the point.

Christine Baek



Hails from: Seoul, Korea
Attending: Massachusetts Institute of Technology

As Editor-in-Chief of The Reserve Record and a columnist for Korea Daily, Christine has mastered the art of the "careful question." Her pursuit of clarity famously led her to interview *New York Times* legal correspondent Adam Liptak for an Intellectual History Day project, engaging him not just as a student, but as an intellectual peer. Christine refuses to be confined to a single discipline, treating language as a tool for understanding everything from the nuance of the press to the logic of her CL Philosophy and Latin courses.

That same precision anchors her prolific work in the sciences. A student in WRA's Cancer Immunology program and two-time intern at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Christine has conducted high-level research on the genetic drivers of aggressive cancers — work that earned her a spot in *The Journal of Immunology* and a presentation at the national American Association of Immunologists conference. Her senior workload featuring CL Differential Equations and CL American Literature & The Free Market Economy, reflects a student who views complex data and prose as two sides of the same coin.

Outside the lab and the classroom, Christine's presence is also felt across campus as a dormitory prefect, Chief Ambassador and talented cellist. She approaches every endeavor — Varsity riflery, campus tours, biomedical research, musical performance — with her unique blend of curiosity and drive. This fall, she heads to MIT to study biology, continuing a journey defined by her refusal to accept easy answers and her commitment to shaping a more thoughtful future.

Logan Adams



Hails from: Hudson, OH
Attending: Washington & Lee University

For decades, WRA has sought to define the "Midwestern values" that set the school apart — the elusive blend of kindness and grit that defines our DNA. In Logan Adams, we found the personification of that ideal. Arriving from Oklahoma with a mix of Southern charm and steady manners, Logan came to Reserve seeking a greater challenge than his local public school could provide. He arrived with a strong sense of self and the courage to "level up," proving that wanting more for oneself doesn't have to come at the expense of being a good friend.

Academically, Logan met that challenge head-on, mastering a rigorous slate of courses including CL Linear Algebra, CL Economics, and CL Physics. It was due in part to the challenging nature of his CL Econ class that led to his desire to study the subject in college. Drawn to the realms of math, finance and economics, Logan has always had a passion for numbers and their real-world applications. Yet, his impact on campus is defined less by his transcript and more by his character. Whether serving as a leader in the dorms or working diligently "backstage" — building sets for theater productions — Logan understands that true success often happens away from the spotlight. He is the rare leader who doesn't seek the center of the circle; instead, people are naturally drawn to his warmth and reliability.

Logan is the "friendly face" of the Pioneer spirit, a student who balances high-level achievement with a genuine gift for listening. As he heads to Washington & Lee University, he leaves behind a legacy of intentional kindness and intellectual bravery. We know he will take the Shenandoah Valley on storm — the pleasant kind of storm that brings a welcome, steady rain by a summer evening—as he continues to lead with the same quiet force field that made him an essential part of our community.