

Class of 2026 Committed Seniors

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The time has finally come. Four years of balancing academic excellence with extracurriculars have led to this moment: seniors committing to college. While graduating is a major accomplishment and moving on to college is an even greater one, there are a handful of seniors who won the lottery.

These select few have the outstanding opportunity to continue their academic AND athletic careers in college. These students have shown incredible dedication and commitment. For the class of 2026, four seniors have showcased their talents on and off the field. With two softball players, one field hockey player, and a lacrosse player, we clearly have a diverse group of student athletes moving on to the next step.

Abigail D'Orta ('26) and Sadie Wilde ('26) are four-year Varsity Softball athletes. These ladies have been playing competitive softball for 14 and 11 years, respectively. Committing to Western New England University, D'Orta says she has put "countless hours of work" into this passion.

Ever since she was a little girl, the idea of playing softball at the next level has been her dream. According to the Worcester Polytechnic Institute commit Wilde, it wasn't until "the summer before my junior year that college softball was something that I wanted to

pursue." After being teammates for so long, both captains are grateful for the opportunity to move forward.

On a more personal and emotional note, it is undeniable that they will miss their high school team. "With this being my last year of the high school season, I'm sad to leave all the friendships I've made with my teammates but I'm excited to start a new chapter and get the opportunity to make new bonds and memories with my future teammates," said D'Orta.

This can be applied to Wilde, as well. She agrees that she is "very excited for what is to come after this and to be able to play at the next level."

Moving to the turf, the field hockey senior is none other than Tess Hellweg-Lyons ('26).

After seven years of playing, she has decided to play field hockey at Bryn Mawr College.

When asked about how she feels leaving the Westhill Varsity field hockey team behind, Hellweg-Lyons highlights that she is "very emotional, especially when it comes to my team and field hockey overall. So, having this been my final high school season, I was very sad. But I'm so glad to have met the people that I did along the way."

After playing all four years, there is no doubt that these athletes would have feelings

of joy and melancholy about their journey moving on.

Last but not least, Westhill's senior boys lacrosse commit is Varsity captain Athan Tzavaras ('26).

After devoting four years of his life to lacrosse, he will soon be playing at Wilkes University. Tzavaras elaborates that he has known since the start of his athletic career that playing in college was his goal and dream. Despite the fact that he will miss playing with his teammates, Tzavaras is "excited to start fresh and play with new people and new coaches; new everything."

Every one of our committed seniors for the class of 2026 should be recognized for their outstanding achievements in furthering their careers on and off the field. Their perseverance and leadership don't go unnoticed.

Abigail D'Orta, Sadie Wilde, Tess Hellweg-Lyons, and Athan Tzavaras all serve as role models for the next class of student athletes. On behalf of the student body, we wish them luck on their next chapter and future endeavors. Once a Viking, always a Viking!



ABBY D'ORTA ('26) swings at the ball during a home Varsity softball game. Photo via Westhill's Softball Instagram.