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Hopkins High School Graduates Accelerated Student

On May 24, 2013, Hopkins High School will graduate 131 seniors. Included among them is Samuel Smit of Dorr, who is graduating a full year early. Sam is the son of proud parents Jeff and Karri Smit, and brother to younger sisters Olivia and Isabelle and older brother Zac, who is a 2011 Hopkins graduate. Mrs. Smit says that while having a gifted child is a blessing, it is one that comes with its own set of challenges, stating, "He has always amazed us, and we have tried to keep up with his ambition. We couldn't be more proud."

Graduating with the Class of 2013 with a cumulative grade point of 4.0341 as of the end of second trimester, Smit has satisfied all of the graduation requirements as well as many college level classes. Sam achieved this great feat through an individualized curriculum including high school classes during his middle school years as well as online courses throughout his three years of high school.

Smit has shown advanced potential since a young age, and began his great push by taking 7th grade advanced math in 6th grade. After completing the course Smit tested out of Algebra 1, and began attending High School Geometry classes as a seventh grader. He quickly absorbed all of the material, completing his AP Calculus course, typically the highest level of math a high school student attempts, as a Freshman. He completed Calculus II his Sophomore year and finished Calculus III as an independent study with Mr. Ben Herrick this year. "Sam is easily the most gifted mathematics student I have ever taught. He exceeded every expectation I had for him, including receiving a top score on the National AP Calculus exam as a Freshman", says Herrick.

Smit also has completed advanced courses in many other areas to round out his education. He completed AP Chemistry as a Sophomore and this year is finishing AP Physics. Within the High School, Sam excelled in Animation and Website Design, Spanish I, as well as a college level Macroeconomics course. His online education also included two years of Latin. Hopkins High School Principal Ken Szczepanski commented on Sam's achievements, saying, "We are so proud of Sam's accomplishments and I am certain he will be successful both at Michigan Tech and in his future endeavors."

In addition to academic excellence, Sam has also been an active athlete during his high school career, running cross country and playing soccer as a dual athlete each fall, and running long distance in track in the spring. Overall he has received nine varsity letters in athletics.

Outside of school, Sam is active in church at Byron Center Bible Church, where he has competed across the country as part of the quiz team, and has operated video cameras for internet service

coverage for about three years. He also runs independently, participating in the Fifth Third River Bank Run 25K for the past four years. His time this year was 1:50:14.

Hopkins Public Schools lists individualized curricula to serve all students as one of its primary practices. Superintendent Chris Stephens states, “We are proud of Sam and the efforts he has made to push himself academically. We strive to meet the individual needs of students and Sam, his parents and the staff have used existing courses, early college courses and AP courses to tailor a program to meet Sam’s needs. We are confident that with Sam’s interest in learning and his drive to be successful, he will do great things in the future.”

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