

# Class of 2018 'Boutta Drop Moreno made valedictorian

By Adam Crozier

For someone who “never took music too seriously,” valedictorian **Raul Moreno** is as prolific as instrumentalists and performers come.

He plays violin, guitar and was found delivering his senior send off speech in an unorthodox way: song.

“Perry High,” is an original track taking inspiration from Perry’s Class of 2018. It chronicles the adventures of the seniors and was performed live. This song, in its entirety, is available on Page 33.

The song is set to Miley Cyrus’ “The Climb.” “I’m pretty awkward,” Moreno said, “but I embrace the awkwardness. I’ve made it a part of my character, all these songs that I make and my terrible dancing... It makes people laugh.” When Moreno ran for class president, he turned to his passion again.

“When I first started senior year, I came out with a song called ‘Perry the Beautiful.’ Last year’s campaign I did a song instead of a speech. And I thought it would be good to end the way I started it—with a song.”

In “Perry High,” Moreno brings up a sensitive subject. In sixth grade, the class of 2018 was notorious for its behavioral issues. Annual field day events and a trip to an Indians baseball game was cancelled that year.

“Everyone had told us that



year that we were the worst class that had ever gone through school. Back then, it forced me into thinking my class was kinda bad. It made me believe that. But then freshman year we won the canned food drive and started doing all these awesome things together. It

made me realize we were a pretty good class.”

Despite its problems, Moreno wanted the students to be successful and felt invested. “I am a part of this class,” Moreno said.

He challenges himself in other aspect of his life.

“For academics, there is no end. You can’t just give up halfway.”

Moreno then proceeded to emphasize his “awkward” personality.

“If there’s one thing I hope people can take away from this, I hate mayo,” he said. “It’s disgusting

and repulsive and shouldn’t touch the face of the Earth.” He added that if the township schools were



condiments, “Southport would be ketchup, Perry would be Chick-fil-A Polynesian sauce.”

**Left: Seniors Raul Moreno and David Seals, welders of the highest and second-highest senior GPAs, 4.6316 and 4.5781, respectively, folded their hands like rappers on an album cover atop the powder blue rock of Perry Meridian High School.**

**Seals, a tennis player, cellist and the school’s Indiana Math League champion, plans to pursue engineering at Iowa State University.**

**Moreno is the student body president and is in a plethora of activities: cross country, diving, track, volleyball, CWC, NHS, Link Crew and Blue Crew, he is also part of the AP Capstone program, and along with Seals, plays in the school orchestra, as a violinist. The Wells Scholar will attend Indiana University Bloomington to study astrophysics (Photo by Adam Crozier).**

# Seals seals salutatorian

By Sam Cook

Salutatorian **David Seals** bears an embarrassed smile as he flexes his biceps during 6th period Finite. The entire class gasps and bursts into astonished laughter. Many of the same students that had cheered for him in his AP Literature class when he first showed off his hidden dragons were still overwhelmed.



Tennis may not always rank first in everyone’s mind as the sport requiring the most athleticism or muscles yet David’s wiry stature hides his bulk. Seals has played tennis since the summer before sixth grade and was a senior

member on the school team. Seals not only plays tennis but also enjoys a large variety of physical activity in the outdoors such as camping, hiking, kayaking and mountain biking.

Seals has pursued an interest in building and flying RC quadcopters (commonly referred to as drones). Already, Seals has built two different specialized drones adapted to different tasks. One copter is specialized toward cinematography while the other he designed last fall with athletically acrobatic maneuvers and racing in mind.

The latter drone can accelerate from zero to fifty miles per hour in around a second.

Seals said, “It’s a thrill to fly as well as build.” He starts with a

carbon fiber frame, motors and circuit boards. Seals then used a soldering iron to wire the circuit boards and plug in a programmed computer. The onboard computer and wiring allows Seals to pilot the drone using a set of virtual reality (VR) goggles and also stream live video from the drone’s camera to gain a bird’s eye view.

Seals considers building drones one of his most important moments outside of high school “because it reaffirmed my passion for aeronautics and helped me learn to become comfortable in areas of work I have no experience in.”

Inside the halls of Perry Meridian High School, he takes note of the relationships that he built. Seals explained that “from teachers to best friends to

classmates, all of these relationships have helped me grow and adapt as a person and prepared me for the real world environment.”

David’s skill isn’t limited to engineering. His favorite classes are math classes including Calculus 1 and 2 and Finite. He also enjoys classes that include math such as physics. For David, every test was a chance to get 100 percent or above when possible and he would remember his mistakes.

David placed first in this year’s Math League contest and was also honored at Honor’s Night by math department chair **Chris Allen**. Allen awarded Seals not only the department of mathematics award but also the first permanent and personal Gold Brick award because of Seal’s commitment in

the classroom.

Seals says that “Being salutatorian or any high ranking student of a class means two incredible things. One, you are intelligent and knowledge is easily received; and two, you’ve worked your ass off to apply your comprehension to the pursuit of knowledge. These are achievements to be proud of, but not achievements that should halt after high school.” For David, what’s next is just as important as the now. He is already looking forward.

David is choosing to fly from the Hoosier nest. He will attend Iowa State University and major in aerospace engineering with personal interest in propulsion, aerodynamics and orbital mechanics calculation.