

## Jacob Heil – GPLHS Class of 2026

What led up to your enrollment at GPL? Was it a simple decision or complicated? Were you in favor or reluctant?

*I have the privilege of being the youngest of 4 kids in my family who all went to or are going to Great Plains, so for me, it was a fairly easy choice. I was also lucky enough to be put into a situation where I already knew many people here, whether they went to my grade school, or I just knew them from my siblings.*

Describe what you were thinking and feeling in the days leading up to and on the day you moved into the dorm for the first time.

*Before moving into the dorm, I had a lot of thoughts going through my head. I would say I'm a fairly optimistic person, but even though I knew all of my siblings enjoyed high school, I was still skeptical, but once I got here, my mind changed. Since a lot of people in our school come from various places around the world, there are a lot of different personalities, and it's safe to say that if you're looking for a friend, you can easily find one.*

Talk about some of your classes and the activities you've been involved in.

*One thing I enjoy doing is singing, and as a Freshman, all students take music class, and not only is Mr. Martens a great guy, but his class is very enjoyable, and it's safe to say that was my favorite class. My desire to sing also led me to try out for our honor choir which is also very enjoyable, so if you have a great singing voice, the choir opportunities here at Great Plains are highly recommended.*

*The only sport I play is basketball, and not only is it a great sport in general, but the chemistry we build here is something great. When you have a team that comes from all over the place, in order to be good, the team needs to develop chemistry, and our coaching staff does a great job in making that happen. One of my older brothers, when he was here about 5 years ago, didn't win a game all year on varsity, but this year, our varsity team went 13-7, so it's safe to say we've improved.*

Talk about some of the challenges and blessings you have faced during your time at GPL.

*Though I really enjoy my time, I shouldn't sugarcoat everything and pretend like I personally haven't experienced any challenges here. After moving into the dormitory last year, I was homesick for about the first two weeks. However, since I only live 90 minutes away from here, there is an opportunity to go home every weekend, and I eventually found it easy to stay here, knowing I could see my family often.*

If you had to choose just one, what one thing do you want people to know about GPL?

*If there was one thing I want people to know about Great Plains, it is this: To any new high schooler here, as stressful as it may seem to come here, and as homesick as you may be once you get here, it truly will be worth it. Between the friends you make, the classes you can take, and the overall Christian environment we have here, if you let high school be enjoyable, it will be. To any parents deliberating whether or not to send their kids here, I can say with full certainty that my parents were very nervous when they sent my oldest sibling here, but once they did it, they were happy they did. From my perspective, I am confident that you can be confident in the dorm staff to take care of your son or*

*daughter, and you can be confident that the school will do all they can to educate your child in the way God would desire.*