

Ben Baumer
Class of 2009

Chicago Cubs, Groundskeeper 1



BHS activities: During high school, I participated in basketball for 2 years and baseball for 4 years.

Life after BHS:

Education: After graduating from Batesville High School in 2009, I attended Purdue University where I majored in Turfgrass Science. I graduated in 2015 with a Bachelor of Science degree.

Professional: During college, I worked for the Purdue University Intercollegiate Athletic Department. I worked as a student worker in the Sports Turf department where I helped maintain all of the athletic fields/facilities. During the fall, my duties mostly consisted of assisting in painting the football and soccer fields for games, and in the spring, most of my time was spent at the baseball and softball facilities. I would also drive down to Indianapolis early every school year to work with the game crew at Victory Field, the home of the Indianapolis Indians (triple A affiliate of the Pittsburgh Pirates). During my junior year, I spent a summer in Washington, DC completing an internship with the Washington Nationals. Before I graduated from college, I was offered a full-time job working for the Brownsburg Community School Corporation. I assisted in maintaining all of the athletic facilities and grounds there. I worked there for a year a half before I was offered a full-time Groundskeeper 1 position with the Chicago Cubs. I am currently in my

third season working with the organization. This past season they were lucky enough to win the World Series, and along with the players all receiving World Series rings, the front office with the Cubs, including me, also received a World Series ring. I also got to hold the Commissioner's Trophy (the one given to the World Series champion) on the day for the World Series parade. During my time in Chicago, I have appeared in the movie "Landline," where I had a speaking part with Tom Arnold and Jim O'Heir. The movie just came out this spring and was written and directed by Mathew Aaron. This past winter, I went to Florida to help open up a brand new spring training facility in West Palm Beach for the Washington Nationals and Houston Astros.

Best memory from BHS: The teacher that made the biggest impression on me during my time at BHS was Mr. Zimmerman, who is now retired. He confirmed my love for science, especially botany. Not only did I learn a lot of science from him, but more importantly I took away a lot of life lessons that can be applied outside of a classroom setting. He preached "peace, man" — to love everyone and treat everyone as you would want to be treated. I also took away from him how important it is to be good environmental stewards of the planet and to try to leave the world a better place than the way you found it. I also took away from him that no matter what it is, find your passion in life and go out and pursue it.

Thoughts on education: "The more you know, the less you think you know." Mr Z often said this and I took a liking to it. You can study and study some more on one subject matter and think you are an expert on the subject matter but come to find out there are things along the way that you didn't know. That reason alone means you should always strive to find out more, which could lead to something else in your life.