

Ben Kick
Class of 2014



Education: Purdue University, majoring in biochemistry, minoring in aerospace studies, and graduating in May 2018. Also part of the Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC).

Extracurricular activities/accomplishments: I'm part of an Olympic weightlifting team at Crossfit Uncommon, and I fly as much as possible in my spare time. I'm also a Purdue Admissions Ambassador (tour guide), and do undergraduate research in a biochemistry lab.

Post-graduation plans: After graduating, I'll commission as a second lieutenant, and then go on to serve a 10-year commitment as a pilot in the USAF. Pilot training lasts around two years depending on airframe, and from there I'll serve in an active squadron. As for airframe, that is dependent on how I rank in my graduating class from pilot training, but I would like to fly fighters. I'm extremely humbled and excited to be given this opportunity to serve our nation while representing Batesville.

Family info: Dr. Kimberly Kick and Michael Kick are my parents, and Anna Kick (also attending Purdue!) is my sister.

Activities while at BHS: Football, golf, National Honor Society, Student Council, and Kiwanis Student Leadership Academy.

Best education-related memory: "My favorite teacher is Mr. Aaron Garrett at BMS. He instilled my passion for history and has always encouraged me to follow my dreams in regards to serving our country. I'd also like to thank Mrs. Rose Lacey for teaching my English classes. It's important to remember we are officers first, and her help with speech in particular has allowed me to excel in leadership positions and in speaking with confidence. Finally, thank you to Mr.

Charlie Raab for introducing me to chemistry, with which I have a love-hate relationship — thanks to him."

Personal quote about education: "Knowledge comes in many forms, whether it be in school, in a book you're reading, or out in the world with other people. Never give up on the fire that drives you to learn new things."