



# The ALL-STAR Newsletter

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Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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## School of Bright Promise Holds Graduation

It was all about pomp and circumstance during the latest graduation ceremonies at the School of Bright Promise on May 19.

Staff, administrators and loved ones gathered at the Jeffco Center at the Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities in Steubenville, where three secondary students and six preschoolers earned certificates as they marked the next step in their life journeys. Teria Brown, Leah Lacko and Isabella “Bella” Wright were recognized for their achievements as they formally became alumni and planned their move toward adulthood.

Teria Brown was recognized as smart, sweet and a memorable part of the school. Children’s Services Director Dr. Georgia Pavlic-Roseberry described her as a joy in class and someone who was full of love.

“Teria will be missed at Bright Promise, but we are excited for what is to come for her,” Dr. Pavlic-Roseberry added.

She also described Leah Lacko as a happy young woman who always has a smile on her face.

“Her enthusiasm for doing work in the classroom is addictive,” she added. “We will miss Leah and we wish her the best in the future.”

Dr. Pavlic-Roseberry also commented that Bella has come a long way.

“She is always willing to participate in anything going on and offers a helping hand anytime her peers need it,” she commented. “We wish her the best in her future and she will



The School of Bright Promise conducted its 2023 graduation ceremonies for preschool and secondary students on May 19. Isabella Wright, Leah Lacko and Teria Brown, pictured from left, closed the chapter on their schooling and entered adulthood while preschoolers, below from left, Gabriel Reese, Savannah Jobs, Cameron Gibson, Braden Francis, Benjamin Crawford and Lilliana Castelli advanced to kindergarten.



be missed.”

Earlier that day, preschoolers Lilliana Castelli, Benjamin Crawford, Braden Francis, Cameron Gibson, Savannah Jobs and Gabriel Reese had their chance to don little caps and gowns and celebrate their transition to kindergarten.

was a special day and the children spent their time building trust, relationships and teams. “We moved through the year, growing and learning and building the foundation your child will bring with them to kindergarten. And now, it is

Teacher Jenna Joyce said it (Continued as GRADUATES)

## Graduates (Continued from Front)



Newly minted alumna Isabella “Bella” Wright tosses her graduation cap in celebration of her achievement following the ceremony.

the end of the year and it is very hard for us to believe your children are leaving us. It is time for your children to move on. We will miss them more than you know, but we smile through the good-byes because we are so grateful to have been part of their lives and yours during this time.”

JCBDD Superintendent Michael Zinno summarized the entire day by saying the focus of the program was to prepare the children to thrive within the community.

“Our mission is ‘Building a Community of Belonging’ and our vision is ‘Recognize Ability.’ As your kids grow, dream big and raise the bar for your children,” Zinno said. “Great things can happen when expectations are raised.”

## Getting to Know You...Graduates' Edition!



### ★ Teria Brown

Teria Brown, of Amsterdam, is a smart and memorable part of the School of Bright Promise.

Those who know her can attest her love of music and television and her sweet personality. School officials touted her as being a joy in class and full of love, saying she would be sorely missed.

Teria’s mother, Jamie, said she was still deciding her daughter’s course for the future, but noted that Teria has gained a real sense of self at school.

“The socialization has been good for her,” she said. “She loves people and people-watching is probably her favorite.

“She’s very affectionate and has a sassy side.”



### ★ Leah Lacko

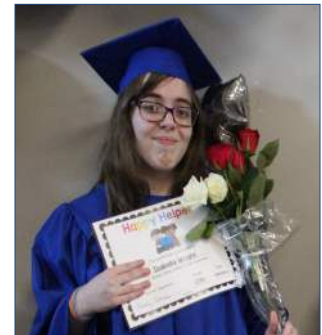
Leah Lacko, a resident of Brilliant, was beyond excited for her graduation.

Leah considers music, particularly Blake Shelton songs, as her favorite and enjoys interacting with people.

Her aunt, Sandy Wells, said she would attend adult day service to enjoy activities and camaraderie with others.

“Leah’s going to adult day care which is fun and is associated with Stanton Homes [in Steubenville],” Wells said, “[The school’s] also been wonderful for her. She’s really grown a lot.

“After everything she’s been through, everything she does is a miracle.”



### ★ Bella Wright

Isabella Wright has come along way on her journey to graduate from the School of Bright Promise.

Bella, as she’s also known, hails from Steubenville and mom Clarissa Wright said she has achieved so much through the years.

“When she was young, we wondered whether she would ever be able to talk. She does, and this was a big accomplishment,” Wright said.

Bella counts coloring, puzzles, Candy Land, air hockey and the movie “My Little Pony” among her favorite pastimes. She said she was happy and liked meeting people, plus she enjoyed learning and gym.

Wright said they were still planning Bella’s next steps and now will take time to relax.