



Freedom Grads ---> Future Stars

Ezekiel (Zeke) Stroupe, a 2012 graduate of Freedom Area High School, attended Washington and Jefferson College and graduated in 2016 with a B.S. in Child Development and Education with a minor in Environmental Studies. He is currently a 7th/8th grade gifted support teacher at Seneca Valley and is working on his master's in educational leadership and principal's certificate.

While at Freedom, Zeke was a High Honor student and played on the baseball, football and wrestling teams. He was team captain for the wrestling team, a member of the 100 win club, section champion, 2x WPIAL placer, regional placer, MAC all-star selection, and Most Valuable Wrestler Award 2011. Zeke was team captain for the football team, PA representative for the Penn Ohio game, honorable mention all section receiver and corner, and Earl Genova Award recipient.

For his Freedom senior project, Zeke held a wrestling camp for young wrestlers to further develop their skills. He has continued this summer wrestling camp for the last 9 years at Freedom. This would've been the 10th year if not for COVID. Those early campers are now in college and coming back to help coach the young wrestlers. Zeke has worked with over 450 kids from 14 different local schools through the camp and has raised over \$10,000 with funds going to the Freedom varsity wrestling team and local families in need. Zeke credits that senior project for giving him a start and interest in organizing fundraisers and events.

Zeke received the President's Award (based on GPA) while at Washington and Jefferson and received the 2015 Academy for Adolescent Health's Youth Advocate Award (given to an individual who has made a substantial difference in the lives of kids in Washington County). He also received the Jerry Nelson Community Service Award in 2015 and 2016. Zeke was the Vice

President and Philanthropy Chair for Phi Kappa Psi and member of the Outdoors Club. He was named to the Dean's list for five semesters and attended the Woodrow Wilson Leadership Academy.

Zeke was a four-year starter and team captain of the wrestling team at W&J. He received the 2013 Martin Reiley Award given to a member of the wrestling team who has made a substantial yet unrecognized contribution to the team. Zeke was named the 2016 Most Improved Wrestler, 2016 NCAA Scholar All-American (qualified with a 4.0 GPA and a 67% season win percentage.)

Zeke recently participated in the Classrooms Without Borders travel seminar (through a scholarship from CWB and the Seneca Valley Foundation) and winner of the 2019 Classrooms Without Border's Call for Lesson Plans (awarded third place from Classrooms Without Borders for developing a lesson to commemorate the Tree of Life Shooting). Holocaust Unit featured in mini-documentary on WQED- <https://watch.wqed.org/video/the-hunger-lesson-ceczq4/>, W&J College Alumni Education Panel

Zeke's thoughts on Freedom. "The teachers at Freedom were incredible. Being a smaller school, they truly value you as a person and as a student. I still stay in contact with numerous teachers all the way back to fifth grade. Mrs. Moore and Ms. Ging actually have collaborated with me and allowed me to bring their CSI Day to my students at Seneca Valley. Mrs. Boyd, Mr. Miller, Mr. Heisler, Mr. Smith, Dr. Wargo and Dr. Hernandez are just a few of the teachers that helped make my time at Freedom so enjoyable and that have helped me in my own career as a teacher. Similarly, I felt that the science education at Freedom was very strong. I was able to excel in my science courses at W&J thanks to the background knowledge I gained at Freedom and the love for science that they helped me foster. Being a graduate of Freedom is something that I am proud of. I loved my time at the school and the area I grew up. I am honored to be able to remain close to the wrestling team and run my camp at Freedom with the help of other Freedom alumni, coaches, and current wrestlers."