

# Xceptional Teen

SPECIAL EDITION IV 2026

*Dream Big. Lead Boldly*



## DEFINING SUCCESS ON OUR OWN TERMS

CLASS OF 2026



MASTERING YOUR  
FEED: THE SCIENCE  
OF INTENTIONAL  
SCROLLING

HOW THE STATE  
OF THE COUNTRY  
SHAPES MY FAMILY

BUDGET LIKE A BOSS:  
TAKE CONTROL OF  
WHERE YOUR MONEY  
GOES

\$9.99 US \$13.99 CAN



# Braylon Walker

Age: 18

High School: Gahanna Lincoln High School

Next Step After High School: Attending Trade School

**What inspired your chosen career path or next step? Was there a specific moment of realization?**

I've always known I didn't want to take the traditional route. Seeing how hard my family works and learning about the trades made me realize I could build something solid for myself. It really clicked when I realized I could graduate early and start working toward my future now instead of later.

**What was one moment in high school that completely changed the way you think or see the world? OR What was the biggest challenge you faced during your four years, and how did you navigate it?**

Going through challenges with people and realizing not everyone moves how you do taught me to stay focused, protect my energy, and keep pushing forward no matter what.

**Dream job (even if it sounds unrealistic)?**

Owning my own business and being successful enough to take

care of my family and live life on my own terms.

**Three words that describe your future?**

Focused. Successful. Unstoppable.

**If you could give your graduation speech one headline, what would it be?**

"Do It Now, Don't Wait"

**When your name is mentioned at your high school five years from now, what do you hope people remember about you?**

That I stayed true to myself, did things my own way, and didn't let anything stop me from reaching my goals.

**Who is one person in your school or community who helped you cross the finish line, and why do they deserve a shout-out?**

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m o m ,

because she never let me give up, always pushed me to do better, and stayed on me even when I didn't want to hear it.

**What achievement are you most proud of as a member of the Class of 2026?**

Graduating early and taking control of my future.

**Give one piece of advice to the incoming Class of 2030.**

Stay focused, do your work, and don't let distractions mess up your future.

**Go-to song or artist that got you through high school?**

NBA YoungBoy

**Describe yourself in three words as a freshman versus three words as a Senior.**

Freshman: Young. Carefree. Learning.

Senior: Focused. Driven. Ready. ●



Photo Credit: LadyLems Photography

"In seeking happiness for others, you will find it in yourself." - Unknown

# Meet Cade Lanre Ahm

Age: 18  
High School: Mansfield High School  
JROTC Program: Tiger Battalion  
Role: Battalion Commander and  
Next Step After High School:

**Dream job (even if it sounds unrealistic)?**

Senator

**Three words that describe your future?**

Money, fun, healthy, family

**If you could give your graduation speech one headline, what would it be?**

Stop sitting on your butt and do to be better

**When your name is mentioned at your high school five years from now what do you hope people remember about you?**

The amount of time and effort in to understand things I do and to be good at

**Who is one person in your school or community who helped you cross the finish line, and why do they deserve a shout-out?**

SFC Kinneel, he helped me get AROTC scholarship