



## PRESS RELEASE

DATE: Wednesday, December 10, 2025  
TO: Twin City media outlets  
FROM: Phil Kuemmel, Activities Director, Park High School  
RE.: Park High School's ExCEL Award Winners

Park juniors Allison Devine and Ben Paulsen have been nominated to represent the school for the MSHSL ExCEL award. ExCEL – Excellence in Community, Education, and Leadership – is a unique recognition program designed exclusively for Minnesota high school juniors who are active in school activities, show leadership qualities, volunteer in their communities, and are model citizens.

Park's female recipient this year is Alli Devine. Alli served as a two-time captain in cross country and is also a letter winner in track and field. In school she is involved in band, National Honor Society, Key Club, Student Council, FCA, and Link Crew. Devine is also very involved in the community, volunteering at the local senior center, summer camp, and organizing a local food drive. She has taken many IB and PSEO classes and has a GPA of 4.1.



GPA.

Ben Paulsen is Park's male award winner. Ben is a three-sport letter winner in cross country, Nordic skiing, and track and field. He serves as a captain in two of his sports and earned All-State Academic honors in Nordic skiing. Paulsen is also in the orchestra, National Honor Society and Student Council. Outside of school, he volunteers with Special Olympics and with his church. Ben is a Full IB Diploma Candidate and has a 4.3

*The mission of the Park High School Activities Department is to create learning opportunities for students to develop character, become well-rounded citizens, and achieve excellence in their activities, school, and community.*



This is the 30<sup>th</sup> year that the MSHSL has sponsored the ExCEL award. An independent panel of judges from schools throughout Minnesota will select ExCEL Award recipients in January. State award winners (sixteen males and sixteen females) will be announced via the League website in February and will be recognized on KSTC-TV (Channel 45) during the broadcast of the 2026 winter state tournaments. Park graduates Hollen Thompson and Sam Paulsen (Ben's brother) were both selected as state winners of this award in 2024. Additional information about the ExCEL Award may be obtained by visiting the Minnesota State High School League's Web site at [www.mshsl.org](http://www.mshsl.org). Congratulations to Alli and Ben for demonstrating excellence in community, education, and leadership.

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