



Liam Bynum, Senior at the Sage School

# Engineering a future

**L**iam Bynum, senior at The Sage School, wants to be an engineer and loves to invent – whether that be tinkering with bicycles or creating new culinary delights. Perhaps it’s in his genes, as his grandfather was the prolific inventor, Ed Scott. Whatever the reason, it’s a passion that drives him. “I love the idea of bringing something new to the world,” he said.

Bynum was born in Hailey and has lived in the same house since. His father Steve is the highly recognizable former manager of the Magic Lantern Cinemas in Ketchum, where Liam logs part-time hours. “I’ve been watching movies my whole life. It’s something that I really enjoy and take a huge satisfaction in,” he said. Before attending The Sage School, he attended the Donnelly School, Bellevue Elementary, Hailey Elementary, Hemingway, the Wood River Middle School and Wood River High School. “I’ve been pretty bored growing up here. I just felt that there wasn’t a lot to do here until the last two years when I really got into physical activity. Before then it was a lot of hanging around the house and practicing my music or playing video games. Today, I love to hike and ski, which has given me a completely new perspective of the Valley. But it’s still two-sided. On the one hand I love that everywhere you go you know everybody, but it’s also a tough place to meet new people.” He has traveled to New York, Hawaii and Chicago. “I love the cities. It’s just amazing how big they are and the size of the buildings as well as the size of the populations. They are just so full of life that I imagine myself living in one some day.”

Bynum attended Wood River High School but felt that it just wasn’t for him. “I didn’t really like my peers or relate to them and some of the teachers seemed burned out, but there are others, like Mr. Barnes, who loves what he does. I know it is an amazing public school, but I just never felt there were the resources available for me to work with. I felt I never pursued what I wanted to do at Wood River. I love The Sage School. It’s the greatest education I’ve ever had. It’s a smaller, friendlier

## student spotlight

BY: JONATHAN KANE

environment and it lets me enjoy what I’m learning. Because it is so much more hands-on, I can learn what I’m doing rather than just get an answer to a question. I also get to choose my own elective and I will be pursuing

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engineering and will have the opportunity to work on that with someone in the Valley. For my senior project I will be building a boat as a way of pursuing my interest in aqua applied sciences, which explore how water works. Engineering is amazing and helps you make something exist that had never existed before. I love to take things apart and then make a hybrid of the same thing. My dream is to go to Cal Poly, study aerospace engineering and become an astronaut. I’d love to go into outer space. It would be a hands-on amazing way to understand the complexity of everything and to be able to work with it.”

In the meantime, Bynum loves to engineer with food. “I recently got into it. You more or less need to know about food if you want to survive independently. I love everything about food – the smell, the sight. I also go online a lot to see what other people are doing so that I can improve on it.” Certainly that’s a recipe for success in any venture. **twp**

Each week, Jonathan Kane will be profiling a local high-school student. If you know someone you’d like to see featured, e-mail [leslie@theweeklypaper.biz](mailto:leslie@theweeklypaper.biz)