



Karlina Kauffman is a 2008 graduate of Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/High School.

After graduating from Conemaugh Township, Karlina attended Gettysburg College where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry/Molecular Biology with a minor in English. In addition, she was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society. During her time at Gettysburg, Karlina conducted research in the Chemistry Department, studying the organization of the cell membrane as well as interactions between the cell membrane and the protein that causes Huntington's Disease. Currently, she is a PhD Candidate in the Cell Biology Department at Yale University. Her research focuses on autophagy, a cellular process whose dysfunction has been implicated in diseases ranging from cancers to neurodegenerative disorders such as Huntington's and Parkinson's Diseases. Recently, Karlina worked on a project that studied the bacterium that causes Legionnaire's Disease. Specifically, her team studied a protein the bacterium uses to protect itself from being removed from the cell it is infecting.

Karlina currently lives in New Haven, Connecticut.

When asked about her favorite teachers at Township, Karlina stated, "I really liked all of the teachers I had at Conemaugh Township, but the two who stand out are Mrs. Haddle and Mrs. Bowman. Mrs. Haddle made chemistry so much fun and interesting. She is the reason I am a Biochemistry major instead of just a Biology major. Also, Mrs. Bowman is one of the reasons why I completed a minor in English."

Some of her fondest memories were performing with the Marching Band and in the musicals, as well as hanging out with the rest of the Speech Team between rounds at meets.