

The Lion Yearbook  
McKinney High School,  
McKinney TX  
Designer of the Year submission



**W**hen I joined yearbook sophomore year I had no idea what an impact it would have on my own life and others. Over the past three years, I have learned how to tell a story through my designs and make the stories become a work of art. This year, due to the pandemic, designing became more of a challenge to me than the previous years because we weren't able to cover school spirit the way we usually do. When thinking about covering events, I had to come up with designs that incorporated the little photos that were taken, but still went along with the

tone and mood of this book. For the spreads that had lots of options for photos, I could design it like I normally do but for the spreads that were a one-time event with a smaller amount of photos, I decided I could do a strong dominant across the whole spread and do smaller packages of photos with a white bar bleeding off the spread. McKinney High typically goes for a big and bold book but this year I wanted to change it up from our typical look. Our theme this year was "It's Like This" and I wanted a simple, magazine look, so using the big photo with one smaller package of photos fit perfectly with the

rest of our book. This year has helped me grow as a designer because with limited photos I have had to adapt. I've had to change the way I attack spreads and adjust my thinking on how to get a good amount of coverage. By changing the look of our book it has helped me become a well rounded designer because I have learned how to do two completely different styles and still make it work.

## NO Matter WHAT

Students explain why they attended protests

“I thought it was important for me and my family to go and support something that pertains to me. I went to support the Black community and to get my voice out there.”

—**Christan Barnes, 12**

“I just wanted to do something about it because it's affecting the people around me and my community. It was a very unifying experience because I saw people from different schools.”

—**Jenni Omotayo, 12**

“Making the signs was a very emotional experience, but overall getting to physically witness the communal demand for justice in McKinney was so empowering.”

—**Hanna Triana, 12**

“I went because I have a lot of friends who are of color and have gone through a lot because of the color of their skin. It didn't sit well with me to not do anything even though we are in a pandemic.”

—**Anna Green, 11**

# FEELING the HOPE

Students and staff advocate for Black Lives Matter movement

English teacher Samantha Woodson took to the streets and plan protests in support of the Black Lives Matter movement to express her concern toward police misconduct in the U.S.

Groups rallied together throughout the country this summer and fall to protest police brutality, and stand up against the unjust treatment of the black community. Many of the city's residents, including students, stood together in response to police violence and anti-Black racism in the U.S.

On June 5, hundreds of protesters marched from McKinney's Ron Poe Stadium to downtown McKinney and back. The murder of George Floyd on May 25 was a catalyst for this march and others throughout the summer.

“Why are we talking about the same conversation that we talked about in the '50s and '60s?” Ms. Woodson said. “Once I saw the murder of George Floyd I was like ‘Yeah this is it. I have to be boots-on-the-ground. I can't just teach students empathy. I have to get out there and defend Black lives because they're under attack.’”

After being arrested for allegedly passing counterfeit \$20 bills at a grocery store in Minneapolis, Floyd was killed after a white police officer forced him to the ground while pressing his knee against Floyd's neck and back. The initial report stated the officer knelt on Floyd's neck for a period of eight minutes and 46 seconds.

including the three minutes in which Floyd was already unconscious. An individual autopsy report revealed that George died from “a result of mechanical asphyxiation.” A video caught Floyd pleading with the officer saying “I can't breathe.”

“The Black Lives Matter movement shows that our lives do matter,” senior Kennedy Stone said. “No matter how light you are or how dark you are. We come together, and even our allies of different races and sexual orientations stand together and acknowledge that we support Black lives.”

She marched outside in the heat for hours cycling McKinney while other supporters passed out water and fans for them.

“It was incredible,” Ms. Woodson said. “You could feel the support and the hope between the people that showed up.”

Protesting and voicing concerns about the issues going on in America have opened the doors for dialogue and conversation between different people.

“I protest every Sunday night in Gainesville, Texas,” Ms. Woodson said. “Last Sunday we walked through a residential area, and we walked through the historic part of the town. We've been protesting out there for months, but we have never left the square. That one protest has already created

dialogue between the police department and the residents of Gainesville.”

Many who support this movement describe it as a gateway to justice, change and equality.

“If we can't have a voice in the way that our lives are shaped, enforced, or how our police officers are trained,” Ms. Woodson said. “If we even have the right to voice those things, or to a diverse police department. Those are all things that can come out of protesting.”

Kennedy actively shows her support of the movement by protesting and spreading information about the goals protesters want to achieve.

“We're not trying to downplay any others, we just really want to be acknowledged as a life,” Kennedy said. “This has nothing to do with trying to diminish anybody else's life because everybody's life matters. We're trying to get equality for our lives as well.”

According to the Black Lives Matter website, this global initiative is more than just a movement about police brutality. It is a demand to confront racial prejudice. It is a movement that addresses and recognizes the systematic racism and structure of a society that was built on the backs of others. It is a network that builds power to bring justice.

“I don't think any child

should have to grow up questioning their identity.”

senior Symone McCarrell said. “Or not being proud about the color of their skin because people will treat them differently.”

Ms. Woodson said being involved with Black Lives Matter is about being a part of something big.

“I believe that when you see something wrong, unjust or unfair, that you have a moral obligation to do something about it,” Ms. Woodson said. “So for me, being involved in the Black Lives Matter movement is bigger than myself. It is a civic duty. It's the second wave of the Civil Rights Movement.”

story by **Jayda Blake**  
design by **Sydney Caldwell**



# Feeling THE HOPE

This spread was difficult to design because I wanted to highlight the people in our community that were speaking out, while having enough room for the story and not having to cut it. For this spread our photo editor went to a protest in downtown McKinney and took photos. I came up with the idea to have our illustrator draw one of the photos he took to include people in the spread. I wanted the illustration to pop out of the black border to represent people marching.



IT WAS STRESSFUL MAKING SURE EVERYTHING WENT RIGHT AND GETTING EVERYTHING PLANNED. I FELT SUCCESSFUL WATCHING THE NOMINEES WALK DOWN THE FIELD AND HOW HAPPY THEY WERE WHEN THEY WON."  
-Bianca Rodriguez, 12

A Sweet Knight: In the student section, senior Paige Knight and Madison Gadek hold hands during the game. Paige was crowned as homecoming sweetheart. "I was nervous because I was going against a lot of my friends and being in front of everyone in the stadium while hearing my name," she said. "It made me feel really appreciated that people took the time to vote for me and that they wanted me to win the homecoming sweetheart title."



Jump Start: After scoring, senior R.J. Carver holds the ball in his hands while junior Jeffrey Pearson jumps over him. R.J. dedicated this game to his friend who passed away. "I felt confident going into this game, we take every practice as if it's a game and being prepared for it," he said. "After the game it was great because we got the victory and celebrated for the rest of the night."



Jeffrey King



Jeffrey King

Running Man: While running with the ball in his hand, senior Cameron Rivers forces the opponent team. Cameron is a wide receiver for the team. "We went out there excited and won the game for everybody from school and all the families," he said. "We thought it went well. We did mess up a couple times but we were able to win."



Jeffrey King



Crowning Glory: While on the field, senior Kayla Nguyen stands next to her mom as her name is announced. Kayla won the title for princess of clubs. "I felt that all of us had a pretty solid opportunity to win regardless if we win or not," she said. "I was grateful that I got a chance to be nominated for what I wanted to be." Photo by Brandon Swavo



# Close to HOME

Senior Matt Camaligan at stadium to accept homecoming win

Prince of Excitement: While standing on the field, junior Jeremy McDonald was standing next to his mom. Jeremy was announced as prince of special olympics. "I was feeling excited during the game but I thought I was not going to make it," he said. "I remembered my mom was crying because I made it when they called my name."

## Winners:

- KING: Ethan Orozco
- QUEEN: Cynthia Le Beau
- BEAU: Matt Camaligan
- SWEETHEART: Paige Knight
- PRINCE OF FINE ARTS: Nathan Delcid
- PRINCES OF FINE ARTS: Lexi Short
- PRINCE OF CLUBS: Arlun Brangava
- PRINCESS OF CLUBS: Kayla Nguyen
- PRINCE OF ATHLETICS: R.J. Carver
- PRINCESS OF ATHLETICS: Emma Deaton
- KING OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS: Jeremy McDonald
- PRINCE OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS: Kaleb Seibert

The announcers call the winners of the 2020 homecoming court, each contestant standing center field shimmering in the stadium lights. The winners are handed their crowns, sashes, and flowers, all except one. Senior Matt Camaligan decided to take his final year online after his mother was labeled extremely high-risk. Matt is normally seen at school events, games, surrounded by a laughing crowd, singing in Harmony, or playing football. The school year was different for many reasons, with new exceptions to old rules. Matt is the first court winner to not be present

to receive their award, dedicating his year to keep his family safe. "It felt like the safest option," Matt said. "With my mom going through what she's going through it was better for me to be at home. I can help take care of her." Senior Jordyn Breland, a close friend of Matt's, nominated and campaigned for him during homecoming. Matt won easily, with an outpouring of support for him and his family. "I nominated Matt because he's my best friend," Jordyn said. "I did it as a joke at first, because I knew he didn't want to do it himself. I didn't think they were going to choose anyone that was virtual. So, hearing

that he made the nominee list was awesome." Involvement in school events and activities has made Matt a name for himself, often in a crowd or in front of one. But in times like these it is easy to feel alone. "I made a joke about it one time to my friends," Matt said. "It was cool, because when you're not asking for it or campaigning that means people thought about you." After weeks of nominating and tallying votes the winners were announced during the homecoming game at halftime. Matt ultimately won for homecoming Beau, and found out after the fact. "I was hoping that someone else would win, because I know at least you'll get the game to be a lot more satisfying for people," Matt said. "Then, I remember I was eating dinner when I got FaceTime from Jordyn Breland and she's yelling 'Matt you won!'." Matt's homecoming win shows how even when separated, people can band together to uplift one another. Whether virtual or in-person the people are what make school memorable. "To any of my other virtual learners, it's tough," Matt said. "It's a lot different, and it's a big adjustment, but good on you for getting through it. It'll be okay."

story by Brontie Rollsch

# Close TO HOME

Knowing how long the story was going to be for this spread, I decided that I didn't want to have two to three long columns on either side of the page. When I decided what photo would be the dominant I knew I could fit the story under it and I could use the winner list to break up the text and cover who won. I put quote marks there to help rope in more of our theme.



Senior Headhunters pave path for organization's future

**A** mixture of fear and exhilaration was felt between all the Headhunters as they stepped onto the field for their first game of the year. They knew that the student section's energy was in their hands, regardless of what the game entailed. The minute that their energy runs out, the student section's energy is soon to follow. But that didn't stop them from giving it their all, cheering the crowd on as the football team got their first win of the season.

The Headhunters have tried every spring to decide who will be on the team the next year. The members all have different reasons for trying out, but all have one goal in mind: to be part of the Headhunters.

"I was in middle school when I went to some of the football games and saw them doing their thing," senior co-captain Maddie Davison said. "I thought that they were really cool, and last year someone who was on told me to sign up, so I did."

A total of 93 Headhunters were selected for this school year, with the co-captains being seniors Maddie Davison and Jack Holmes.

Their first event of the year was the first football game of the season.

"The first game was really fun and intimidating at the same time," senior Trenton Thomas said. "I stepped on the field and I just felt like I had."

the responsibility of keeping the high energy of the crowd. We feed on the crowd the same amount they feed on us energy-wise."

Headhunters play an important role when it comes to school spirit, especially at football games. They're partly responsible for raising the energy of the crowd while keeping them engaged in the game.

"I feel like we play a big part in the high school experience at football games," Maddie said. "I think we're just another push to get everyone a little more hyped and into the game."

The Headhunters hope to expand to other sports so that future Headhunters can continue to hype up the student sections at other sporting events.

"Mr. Mrow, our sponsor, used last year to get a feel for what the Headhunters are like and what he is doing," senior Hayden Winstead said. "This year, he was ready to expand into other sports to have us create the same impact on the student body that we create at football games."

The Headhunters hope that the program will stay strong in the coming years and continue to create an impact on the student body.

"Being a Headhunter has changed my life," Maddie said. "It's pulled me out of dark places and improved my outlook on a lot of things. It's just nice having a little group that will always be there for you. I've grown a lot as a person and created a team and family within this program, so I encourage people to try out and see where it takes them."

story by Nick Frazier  
story by Sydney Caldwell

**It Was All Yellow:** At the Boyd game, senior Maddie Davison holds up the drum. Maddie says she enjoys the atmosphere she's built with the team and the energy they have. "Everyone in the group was so different, but we clicked," Maddie said. "I call them my dandelions because they are my yellows and make me so happy, and I'm truly blessed to have them." Photo by Parker Kemner



**Leap of Faith:** In the air, junior Landon McLaws leaps over people. During the game, cheerleaders and other Headhunters would lay down for Landon to jump over. "I joined Headhunters because it gave me the opportunity to let out all my energy," Landon said. "Headhunters is one of the few things that coronavirus didn't ruin completely." Photo by Brandon Swope



**Spirit In My Head:** During the game against Boyd, senior Brayden Sener and Giovanni Montez beat the drum. The Headhunters make up the stanzas and chants they say during the games. "It was a little different this year, but it didn't stop us from showing our spirit," Giovanni said. "Everyone always gives 100% of their energy to cheer and pump up our team." Photo by Parker Kemner

**Jump For Joy:** While looking down, senior Hayden Winstead jumps over other Headhunters and cheerleaders. Hayden joined Headhunters because he wanted to be involved in something his senior year. "It's a culture that we see at McKinney High. Lions and we are the best, and being part of that culture was an amazing feeling," Hayden said. "It wasn't just Headhunters, it was a family. We had each other's backs and we all made even the losing games fun." Photo by Brandon Swope



**Like Nothing Else:** While cheering, senior Trenton Thomas gets the crowd hyped up. Trenton says his favorite thing about being a Headhunter is the energy during the games. "Between the student section and the players, Friday Night Lights are like nothing else," Trenton said. "I loved the chants we got to do at the beginning of the Boyd game. The entire student section was in the game and you could feel the energy from everyone." Photo by Brandon Swope

# Head IN THE GAME

As soon as I saw this photo I knew I wanted it to be the dominant, however the background of the photo is busy and the captions were hard to read on it. I came up with the idea to bleed white bars off the sides and put the photos together. Doing that allowed for the photos to stick out and the captions were now readable.

# A WHOLE NEW BALLGAME

New Spikeball Club brings students together

**Closer To Serving** While senior Sarah Stoddard moves her hand closer to the ball, the ball is set to be served. Sarah has been playing spikeball since October. "It does look harder than it looks but it is very fun to play. I like that anyone can play so you don't have to have specific skills for it," Sarah said. "But we play with a bunch of people and move around a lot so it is fun."



**Celebrate Ajar** Winning senior Nathan Unsted celebrates with his team. Nathan had a challenging time focusing on hitting the ball but he made it through and won. "I was nervous at that moment although I kept missing up more than I should have, but we made it through and won," Nathan said. "It was just a game and we were all just there to have fun and play."



**Quick With The Ball** Quick on his feet, Junior Nicholas Thomas took the hit on hitting the ball and let it touch the net. Nicholas took an interest in spikeball after his friend mentioned it to him and invited him to come play. "My favorite thing about the game is that I get to hang out with my friends," Nicholas said. "It is very competitive but it can be easy for beginners who want to join."



The ball flies through the air as the teams pass it back and forth. Two-by-two, they play back-and-forth. But in this sport the only goal is to have fun and enjoy one another's company. Every Thursday the spikeball club met on the school grounds to play. Every week a new spot is updated via Instagram live and even though the club was relatively new, started last year by seniors Tyler Price and Nathan Unsted, the club is thriving as a way for students to get active and have fun. "Me and my friend about a year ago last summer, we started playing some ball with a couple other friends," senior Trey Dickmaat said. "We immediately fell in love with it. We thought we should start a club. Spikeball was fun and other people

enjoy the sport too. So that was kind of the idea behind creating the club." The game was played in two teams of two, using a mix of foursquare and volleyball and a ball the size of a baseball. Once a player passes the ball passed over the net or it hit the ground, it changed possession. "I feel great, because it's a sport that can actually play," senior Nathan Unsted said. "I'm not very athletic, at least compared to my friends. You can have people from any skill range and you can still have fun playing it. I could play it for hours on end. It's not a very physically draining sport." Although the club was out on hold last year because of the pandemic, the club was even more active in its second year. "COVID interrupted the first year," Tyler said. "But we decided there were a lot of others at our school that enjoy playing sports. We decided we should make a club. We didn't quit and it's paid off." Not only did spikeball become a huge hit as a club, but the sport grew in various local tournaments and competitions. "They're started by a group of college kids around our area," Tyler said. "They open up tournaments for anyone to join. So I met my friend. They paid a fee to get into the tournament. The first place team gets a cash prize and one time we got first place winning \$80. By doing these tournaments, we've learned that there is an entire association of spikeball for Texas, and they host tournaments and promote spikeball in the community. It's bigger than we first thought." Although the club was just for the members and

their own enjoyment, new tournaments and local matches made it a sport available for students year-round. "I would say go out and try new sports. They said 'For me, I always played basketball, soccer, and baseball a little bit. Then once I became a junior, I really started playing a whole bunch of other sports. I started playing a bunch of things instead of just basketball. And that's kind of what brought me to Spikeball. Don't be afraid to play a whole bunch of sports, play a whole bunch of musical instruments or try new things. You will find something you love."

story by  
Kierrie Roltsch  
& Macklyn Winfield  
design by Sydney Calkwell



**Being To The Net** As the ball comes up in the air, Junior Tyler Price gets ready to serve the ball onto the net. Tyler is one of the opposites for Spikeball. "One of my favorite things overall was the game and being in it, especially since there is no other sport like it," Tyler said. "As well as the community is a big part of it, all, it is a great place to meet new people and interact with them while playing."



**Ready To Serve** With the ball in his hand, Junior Noah Gamboa began to serve. Noah has been attending spikeball since the club started in early 2020. "Playing the game is nice but just the fact that there is a lot of people there makes it more fun," Noah said. "When I first started out, I wasn't knowing nothing about it but over time you just get used to it and I learned the entirety of the game."

all photos by Sir Vicia

# A Whole New BALLGAME

Spikeball was a new club this year and when I looked at the photos I knew it needed to be a cool spread. I cut out the dominant picture and placed it on top of the headline and had it overlap the photo package on the left. Again, I used a white stroke around the spread to keep the magazine feel and to connect all of our breaker type spreads.



## It went like this.

The school year was starting to wind down, and we only had one more quarter of the school year left. Texas decided to lift the mask mandate, and while the reactions were mixed, it was crazy to think about how we've been in the pandemic for a year. Luckily, we had a normal spring break, and we actually got to come back to school after a week off. Seniors celebrated the announcement that there would be a prom after all, and rushed to pick out a dress or tuxedo. March reminded us of how much our lives had changed, but it also made us excited for the future.

Oliver Attitude While performing, senior Sly O'Leary looks at a giant peach. In the show, Sly played Aunt Sponge. "I love the role that I have," Sly said. "I'm not a mean person but being a character that's supposed to be really mean, means I can be funny about it."

# Calendar DIVIDER

Typically our book separates by a student life and sports section but because of COVID, our editors decided it would be best to do our book chronologically by month so that if events were cancelled it wouldn't throw everything off. For every month we did a calendar and a calendar divider that broke up the events. I combined the two opening designs from our book to open each month.