

how 'bout
now

horizon 2022

BLUE VALLEY NORTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL
overland park, kan.

volume
29

how 'bout that

SUMMER **008** SEPTEMBER **016** OCTOBER **034** NOVEMBER **052** DECEMBER **066** JANUARY **078**
FEBRUARY **094** MARCH **108** APRIL **126** PEOPLE **142** ACTIVITIES **264** SENIOR ADS **294** INDEX **424**



how 'bout THIS

During the August pep assembly at the DAC, senior Joey Robinson cheers for his classmates. "Having school spirit is very important because the seniors set the tone for the rest of the school and you should be proud of the school you go to," Robinson said. "It is very fun leading the spirit because I enjoy cheering for our school and getting everyone else involved."

photo by: ellison gracik



how 'bout
NOW

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so, how 'bout it?

We are finally back.

We walked over the numbers “2022” painted in purple and black on the sidewalk as we entered through the front doors on Aug. 18 not knowing what to expect.

Long gone are the days of hybrid and A or B days. No longer divided, we are now truly #ONENW.

It was a year of firsts ... or at least the first in two years.

You could feel the heat from the flames as you watched a sign reading “BEAT SW” light ablaze at the Homecoming bonfire. We can't forget the roar of the student section as cheer earned the state title, again. A blur of purple, white and black rushed the field as football took the state championship. Now, that's a first.

We watched as junior Demarkus Darensbourg pushed his shopping cart down the hall on Anything But A Backpack Day. How he got it up the stairs, we aren't sure. We felt the sweat dripping down our necks as we stood in the stands of the DAC for the first assembly of the year. We screamed until our voices were hoarse as senior cheerleader Sophia Steiner led the “We Got Spirit” chant. Of course, that is if you chose to brave the heat instead of staying in the air conditioned commons.

We finally returned to normalcy ... sort of. We all agree;

it's 'bout time.



Prior to the first home football game, the BVNW football team runs through an inflatable helmet to start off their season Sept. 3. “It elevates our intensity before we play a game when the crowd cheers when we run onto the field. It helps us get locked in,” senior Mikey Pauley said. photo by: ellison gracik

Senior spirit leader **Ryan Masterson** explains the importance of spirit and being involved within the stands to the entire student body during the Husky Rally Aug. 27. "I lead the school with spirit by showing that it is normal to do it, and showing others that it plays a big part in keeping our athletes and school going," Masterson said.
photo by: ellison gracik



Now, let's get this straight, coming back definitely wasn't easy. Our previously blank calendars now overflow with NEHS meetings, field trips and spirit skit rehearsals. We drown in the stress of it all.

The once vacant cafeteria now had more students to feed than the lunch staff could handle. The auditorium, which was once lined in neon tape to enforce social distancing and a place where students ate their popcorn chicken and bosco sticks, was now filled with audiences who came to see the spring musical, "Freaky Friday."

Having both freshmen and sophomores new to the Northwest experience definitely made things interesting. We made it work. We settled into a routine of hearing the announcement that bus 15 will be late...again. We wandered the halls as we tried to find an open bathroom. We sighed as we asked ourselves,

“WHAT NOW?”

We left behind the “unprecedented times” and learned to appreciate the little things.

We walked into first hour AP physics and smelled the aroma of Mr. Petersen’s coffee brewing.

We puzzled over the Wordle as we sat down at a lunch table in the atrium, finally not “six” feet apart.

We lugged around an extra backpack, so we had food for Sr. Turner’s Spanish class fiesta and shoes for soccer practice.

This year we really saw each other without the masks. We saw the **other half**. The other half of people’s faces. The other half of our class. The other half of Northwest.

Now, that was a breath of fresh air.

We had more than a year of normalcy taken from us. When can we **reclaim** our high school experience?

how ‘bout

NOW



Members of the Homecoming Court ignite the fire during the parade and bonfire event during spirit week Sept. 29. Senior Homecoming King nominee **Dylan Barthol** said that this event added a lot to school spirit. “Through the parade, bonfire, assemblies, skits, and spirit days, I saw lots of people having fun and being able to relax,” Barthol said. “It seemed like everyone was really into spirit week and wanted to win.”
photo by: **jessica witt**

WILLIAM WAXMAN 9

"The worst part of October was the modified Husky Halftime. You had to wait in line and then you did not get much time to eat."

KATELYN GAU 11

"In my math class there is this one pumpkin-scented candle that always makes me think of October. It makes me think of these pumpkin muffins that are really good and only come out in October and gets me excited for the month."

CAMERON LYNN 11

"My favorite memory was marching band. This month was really the most we had for marching band. We had a lot of competitions and a lot of fun experiences. We had a competition at Kansas State University and it was pretty fun. We got ones in all categories, which is really good. It was just a lot of fun performing at the stadium."

ISAIAH EDMONDS 12

"October changed my study habits a lot, because I had to get back into studying for math tests, but I really like the way it has changed me. I feel like I'm getting closer to being ready for college."

ADDISON NOVAK 9

"The energy at school is always fun and people are always talking about their costumes and what parties they are going to, and what they are going to do and that is always fun. I felt disconnected last year, whereas this year I felt super loved and connected to the month of October."

MARIN ADAMS 10

"I think it was stressful but exciting at the same time. I think it was because the school work load really picked up and a lot of extracurriculars got started."

During the volleyball pumpkin painting contest, sophomore **Ava Masterson** paints a pumpkin that resembles a scene from *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, Oct. 11. "I've always loved making sky backgrounds, so I combined that with the Halloween theme of Jack and Sally," Masterson said. **photo by: ellison gracik**



OCTOBER

how 'bout that?

Freshmen dance to 'Crank That' by Soulja Boy during skits on Decades Day Feb. 8. "Spirit Week is more fun when you get to engage more within the school," freshman **Aniah Mason** said.
photo by: sophia freimanis



Despite the uncertainty, we **never** backed down.

We made ourselves **heard**.

From shouting in the stands as junior **Grant Stubblefield** dunked the ball in the state semi-final playoff game against No. 1 seed Lawrence Free State, to senior **Kyra Bugg** standing amongst other protesters chanting and holding a sign that read "No means no."

It was all a bit exhausting. We actually had to get out of bed for class; although it didn't stop us from wearing our PJs to school. Some students packed their lunch bags with a Celsius for a much needed boost to get through the day.

Others tried to sneak a quick nap before sixth hour, in hopes we wouldn't end up on @bvnw_sleeps.

We **groaned** as the seniors found out the senior lot would be taken away due to the construction of the new gym.

We **laughed** and danced together, the sleep still in our eyes during 8 a.m. spirit skits.

HEAR US *now?*

Seniors Kaden Sorenson, Drew Kauffman, and Drew Ranallo act as ESPN broadcasters at a home basketball game against BVW Feb. 8. In addition to commenting on the game, Ranallo said that an Instagram Live was started to broadcast to those not present at the game. "The Instagram Live was a really funny idea and it made the experience feel somewhat real," Ranallo said.
photo by: hiba issawi



Things aren't completely back to **how** they were, and they never will be.

So, **how 'bout** we establish the new normal?

New traditions, new expectations.

Seniors now etch their names with black and silver Sharpie into the blue "2022" painted in the flex space.

Senior **Drew Kaufman** raises another new spirit stick into the air as he leads the stands through the "I Believe" chant. We watch as STUGO sponsor **Ms. Derks** lifts the tape off the freshly painted Unity Wall. There now seems to be a stronger sense of unity within the Northwest community than ever before.

Some of these new additions are more frustrating than others.

Hearing the constant dings of e-hallpasses being created in **Mrs. Deffer's** 4th hour AP statistics class. Husky Halftime being taken away and replaced by Academic Support Time. A line of tardy students filing into the auditorium at 7:30 a.m. each even day to serve their detention.

Not everything was ideal, but we did our best with what we were given.

how is that FOR A CHANGE?

Participating in 'Pie the President' at the homecoming assembly, senior **Ella Weigel** pies the face of junior class president **Ricki Li** Sept. 30. "I thought the fundraiser was a good way to raise money for the junior class Student Government while also being pretty fun and entertaining," Li said. "I'd say I wasn't the most excited to get pied but it was a fun experience."

photo by: **jessica witt**



In a world where nothing seems to remain constant, there will always be some things we can rely on.

The 300s hallway will always smell a little funky during cat dissections. We will always feel the rush of adrenaline as we race to submit our assignments by 11:59 p.m.

Activities Director **Mrs. Bakalar** will always be roaming the halls, asking students how their days have been.

We can't control everything, and we shouldn't try to.

All we can do is live in the **now**.

Most of us have had a part of our high school experience taken away. We know how important it is to cherish the memories we are making at this moment.

We know **now**, there is no better time than the present.

So,

HOW 'BOUT
now

how 'bout

THE HAT

Freshman Ainsley Adams, left foreground, performs with the color guard before the homecoming football game Oct. 1. "My favorite part about doing color guard at football games is being a part of the team and performing for an audience," Adams said.
photo by: jessica witt



how 'bout THAT



During the Homecoming Spirit Week assembly, sophomore **Max Passett** does the worm as a part of the sophomore skit Sept. 30. "My favorite part of the assembly is the skits," Passett said. "It wasn't really nerve racking performing in front of the school because I was just having fun, and I didn't care what people thought."
photo by:
sophia freimanis