

# NW PASSAGE

OCT. 13, 2022

ISSUE 3

VOLUME 54

## SAFETY FIRST

NW'S NEW SAFETY PROCEDURES

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## HOMECOMING COURT

2022 HOMECOMING CANDIDATES

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## STAFF SHORTAGE

Northwest, like many other schools is facing a shortage of staff



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# NW PASSAGE

Oct. 13, 2022 Issue 3 Volume 54

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The shortage of staff affects the food and transportation services across the nation. Longer lunch lines and field trips being adjusted or canceled were some of repercussions of this nationwide shortage.

cover photo and design by  
Evan Johnson



## OUR PASSAGE

The purpose of the Northwest Passage is to relay important and interesting information to the community, administration and students of the Shawnee Mission Northwest High School.

As a news magazine, the Northwest Passage will cater to the interests and concerns of the student body. Outside concerns and activities will only be covered if they somehow affect the school or students.

The Northwest Passage is a 24-page news magazine. The paper will be distributed monthly as possible. Subscriptions will be available to the community for \$25.

The Northwest Passage firmly supports the First

Amendment and opposes censorship. The content of the newspaper will be determined and created by the entire staff. When questions concerning word choice, legal problems or ethics arise, the editorial board and adviser will discuss the problem to find the solution. In these cases, the editor-in-chief and editorial board will have the power to make the final decision.

Letters to the editor will be accepted and encouraged. The staff reserves the right to edit for grammatical mistakes, length and good taste. Letters may attack policy but not people. In no way will ideas or viewpoints be changed. The editor-in-chief and editorial board reserve the right to refuse any letter.

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# ANOTHER WAY

## The school should focus on a better strategy to deal with tardiness

Roughly 50 students are counted absent every single day. When those students walk into school late, they are then required to wait in the tardy kiosk line until they receive their pass. When students walk into class after the bell, teachers are forced to stop and restart class over and over again.

Being late is not acceptable, however, the kiosk is an inefficient way to collect tardies. Sometimes, students are kept waiting for 10 or more minutes, causing them to be later than they already may be to class. It doesn't reduce tardiness either, the lines aren't getting any shorter. Other schools, though, have been trying a different approach.

A study by Ashli Tyre, Laura Feuerborn and Jennifer Pierce, a program called Positive Behavior Support (PBS) had significant results. During the study, the participating school set clear and consistent consequences for tardiness, and focused on positive reinforcement. One of their consequences included a student needing to complete a postcard that would be sent to their parents when they were tardy one to three times. On this postcard, they must write the date and time, the reason they are late and the corrective measure they could take to arrive on time. The results showed a consistent fall in the level of tardiness in school. The study ended with a 67% drop in tardiness levels. This shows that schools significantly lowered their tardy rates when this program was in effect.

PBS focuses on positive reinforcement and prevention instead of just a regular punishment. Another aspect of the program is called "Positive Phrasing." The idea is that teachers should model good behavior so it influences the students.

Numerous schools around the nation have executed this program, and it works. Instead of the kiosk, the school should be focusing on plans like this. They are effective and it isn't seen in such a negative way by students. If the school implemented this program, maybe people will actually start taking their attendance seriously.

## THE VOTE

A staff editorial is an opinion piece crafted by a single writer and voted on by the entire staff of the NW Passage. It is not an unbiased news article, but an opinion piece tackling a major issue. Here is how the NW Passage voted on this editorial.

10  
agree

1  
disagree

2  
abstained

# WE HEARD YOU

## Students give their opinion on the tardy kiosks

by Zadie Tenpenny  
design by Veronica Meiss

"I don't like the line because it takes longer to wait in the line than it does to walk to class, and the bell rings early so you are on time but still have to wait."  
- sophomore Delaney Claycamp

"There have been so many times I've walked in seconds before the bell rings, and they make me go through the kiosk. I would understand if you were over five minutes late, but the tardy kiosk just makes people even more late to class."  
- senior Elinor Engel

"I feel like it defeats the purpose of wanting to be to class on time because you end up in line for ten minutes. You're coming into class even later."  
- freshman Bella Alvarado

"I think the tardy kiosk is a great idea for chronically tardy people. It's much harder to slip by without the tardy being counted."  
- senior Max Van Daalen

# COLUMNS FRAUD



## Sometimes fitting in isn't as easy for some people as it is for others

by Izak Zeller

I've told my parents, so I can finally write this. I'm gay.

I've known for a long time — since about 7th grade, although some people who know me may say they've known since elementary school. I'm not quiet about it, either. If people want to know, I'll tell them. But I used to be different.

Fitting in is a little more complicated than it looks. You need to have the right balance of every part of your social, school and personal life. You need to have the right attitude. You need to change parts of yourself.

What most people don't know about me is that I'm actually an introvert. I just act as if I'm an extrovert so people will be friends with me. Those people who look unattainable are suddenly possible to grasp when you act, so I did what I had to do.

Near the beginning of my high school career, I definitely faked my personality, my demeanor and my life. My likes and interests changed drastically.

Suddenly, I started to try to fit into a mold. I tried so hard to seem like the gay kid who wasn't "too much." The gay kid who kept it "toned down." I got into social media and it practically took over my life.

I told people things that may or may not have been true. Telling people I loved TV shows I had never even heard of before. Making mountains out of molehills. Over dramatizing events to entertain people. It was exhausting keeping up with all of the lies and having to remember what I told people.

As I racked up my years in high school, I became more confident with myself. I made more friends and I no longer feel like I have to fake it. Being gay is hard, that's no question. In order to fit in with everyone else, you feel like you have to be a different person than your true self, but you don't.

I've found that real people, real friends, will love you for who you are. Don't let anyone take that away.



# METAMORPHOSIS

## Being in high school made me realize I'm sort of a social butterfly

by Zadie Tenpenny

I'll be the first to admit that I've never been an extrovert. If given the choice of staying inside all day or hanging out with people, I'd choose staying inside.

Going into high school, I expected it to be pretty similar to middle school, but with stricter teachers. I didn't expect to make new friends or to feel more comfortable around people. I always thought Link Crew was just supposed to say things about getting involved, and maybe they are, but there's a truth to it.

I joined Band and Newspaper, both of which are a big family. It initially felt closed off, because I didn't know anybody who wasn't also a freshman. They all knew each other, so it was awkward at first. However, the longer I spent with the two groups, I didn't feel uncomfortable.

After getting out of my comfort zone, I'm beginning to figure out who I really am.

It's pretty silly to find out in high school, because you'd think being 14, I would know more about myself.

I've always relied on others to tell me what I'm like, but I don't think I want that anymore. I want to be myself, which apparently means being social. I'm less of an introvert than I thought I was at the beginning of the year.

To anyone who's more of an introvert, try and get out of your shell. Listen to all those speeches Link Crew makes about getting involved. It doesn't have to be as drastic as joining a 125 member band, but try joining a small club. You might discover something new about yourself.





As the only cashier in this lunch line, Judy Maxon works to check students out as quickly as possible. The food services staff has been experiencing a shortage of workers since students returned to the building during the pandemic. "Some days it's a little more challenging getting started in the mornings or getting lunch on time," Maxon said. "We're working as fast as we can go, [but we're] short-handed." photo illustration by Evan Johnson

Waiting in line, junior Dylan Paflas shows junior Alanna Nasby his phone Oct. 6 in the cafeteria. With fewer lunch periods and only one cashier per lunch line, students are forced to wait in longer lines to check out. "My classrooms are far from the lunchroom so I'm usually one of the last [people in line]," Paflas said. photo by Kara Simpson



by Veronica Meiss  
design by Greta Grist

# STAFF SHORTAGE

**Like districts throughout the nation, SMSD lacks the cafeteria workers and bus drivers needed to keep schools running smoothly**

Since COVID-19, school districts across the country have a declining availability of non-certified staff members. The Shawnee Mission School District (SMSD) is no different. Field trips being canceled due to a lack of bus drivers and waiting 15 minutes in a lunch line just to get food and then check out are examples of the direct impact of the shortage of staff on students.

Due to the shortage of bus drivers, field trips cannot leave schools until 8:45 a.m., after morning routes have been run and must return by 2 p.m. to allow the drivers to pick up students after school on time. Some field trips have been canceled or rearranged due to these requirements.

"For our Tall Oaks field trip, we pushed back our arrival time at the camp," journalism teacher Susan Massy said. "Buses could not pick us up at the time we requested because there were no drivers who weren't running morning routes. That was my first experience with the shortage of drivers."

That was in August. In September, Massy canceled a field trip because the restrictions would have forced the group to arrive late and leave early.

"Since we weren't able to leave until 8:45 a.m., we wouldn't have arrived until the opening to the conference had ended and the first session had begun," Massy said. "We would have had to leave early, missing the last session. I canceled the trip and feel bad that my students didn't get to have that experience."

The National Association for Pupil Transportation (NAPT) did a survey in August 2021 to determine the status of the nationwide bus driver shortage. In the survey, 51% of the participants said their bus driver shortage was severe. 77% of participants in the Midwest said they have altered transportation service due to COVID-19.

"Filling busing positions has been something our district has worked really on," principal Lisa Gruman said. "I know that in food service, there are needs in different pockets in the district."

NW's food service department faces staff shortages as well. With only one cashier per lunch line, the wait to get food is much longer.

“Everything is just nonstop running.”

— Mike Shepherd  
kitchen manager

"Everything is just nonstop running," kitchen manager Mike Shepherd said. "There have been days that we haven't made everything that's been on the menu just because we physically don't have the time."

With all of his attention devoted to the lunch lines, Shepherd hasn't had enough time to work on his other responsibilities.

"I love doing my paperwork and there are days I can't do that now," Shepherd said. "I hate going home with that paperwork above my head."

Several students have been forced to wait 10-15 minutes to get their food.

"It's really annoying," junior Dylan Paflas said. "I get it. There are tons of reasons for the lines being super long but lunch is the only time I'm not expected to be working on something. Having to spend most of my time just standing in line is pretty infuriating."

Gruman acknowledged Paflas' frustration.

"Sometimes there are shortages, and sometimes it's day-to-day," Gruman said. "Our staff serves a lot of students. I think part of the difference in the lines occurred because we moved from four lunches to three lunches."

The district continues to struggle with a shortage of staff.

"I think there are still some other openings area schools are trying to fill," Gruman said. "It is a real need. We need to get people to look at these types of roles in education."





Grabbing her pass, a student checks in at the tardy kiosk Oct. 6 in the auxiliary office. Students who arrive after classes begin must input their student numbers and grab a printed pass before heading to class. Getting the pass often requires a lengthy wait in line with other late students.  
photo by Kara Simpson

# SAFETY FIRST

by Elaina Hammes & Izak Zeller  
design by Greta Grist

## Administrators begin enforcing procedures strictly to keep students safe

Nationally, as cities grapple with issues such as school shootings and gun control, students are starting to feel the effects. Schools are starting to crack down on their safety policies, and the Shawnee Mission School District (SMSD) is no different.

Quite a few safety features are being enforced differently this year including added security at entrances and exits. New sensors were put in and they are able to detect when people prop open doors.

School Resource Officer (SRO) Officer Mark Coenen said. "After about 20 seconds if a door isn't shut, an alarm shows up and [alerts us of which] door."

This new system allows school administration to catch students skipping, particularly during seminar. If a door is held open for too long, the SRO officers will check the cameras and investigate the situation.

All students must enter through the main entrance doors on the east and west sides of the building. An exception to this, however, are teachers.

"If for some reason that teacher would need to prop a door, they would have to call and let us know," Coenen said. "Then, they would have to stay with that door. No more propping the door and then just walking away."

A leadership team consisting of Principal Lisa Gruman, the Associate Principals—Britt Haney, Eddie Lyday and Connie Springfield— and Athletic Director Angelo Giacalone create the procedures within a set of parameters that the district gives them.

"We're really just trying to do a better job of keeping the building secure as much as possible," Haney said.

Any parent or student must be buzzed in when they enter the building. This allows the school to screen their intentions, from coming to see a counselor to being a guest speaker in a classroom.

"During the school day, the doors lock," Gruman said. "We have what's called 'Restricted Access.' Any guests and students need to be buzzed in. They just are screened through our main two entrances."

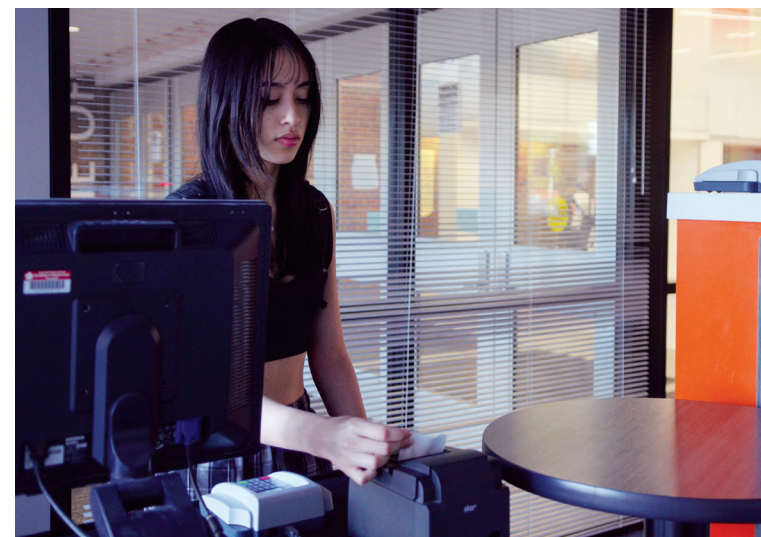
If a student props open a door during the school day, administration would start with one day of In School Suspension (ISS).

"It allows us to screen people coming in," Gruman said. "We ask students to carry their ID and present it to them when they are checking in on the west end."

These procedures didn't come out of nowhere. According to a report released by the National Center for Education Statistics, there were 93 school shootings in the 2020-21 school year. This set a record as the highest in the history of their data collection.

"Anytime you have an incident that happens at a school, it always makes the school look at what they can do to improve their procedures," Coenen said. "We've always had the rule where teachers aren't supposed to prop doors and kids aren't supposed to come through those exits. It hasn't been enforced. So this year, if a teacher gets caught, there's punishments."

These procedures were created and are enforced with student's safety in mind. They help keep the building secure and eliminate the possibility of potential threats.



After arriving late on Oct. 6, senior Bella Gonzalez takes the tardy pass that she will need to present to her teacher. After the bell rings, late students form a line in at west end of the mall as they wait to get to the tardy kiosk. "I struggle to wake up in the morning even with the loudest alarm," Gonzalez said. "I think it helps prevent students being counted absent. A tardy isn't as impactful on a students record than an absent."  
photo by Claire Reed



# HOMECOMING COURT 2022



**COMFORT ADEGOKE**  
**Homecoming Queen**  
**Runner Up**  
*Nominated by Link Crew, BSU, Prom Committee, Beekeeping Club, SOS & Earth First*  
**What's your favorite Northwest memory?**  
This year's bonfire. I loved the whole spirit week leading up to it.



**MICHAEL HOUSER**  
**Homecoming King**  
**Runner Up**  
*Nominated by StuCo, Prom Committee, Cross Country & Link Crew*  
**If you could go back 10,000 years in the past and make a cave painting to confuse everyone, what would it be?**  
I would draw my portrait of Dr. Winston which includes a very large jaw and nose.



**TORI CREASON**  
*Nominated by Volleyball*  
**What would you be famous for and why?**  
I want to be famous for making up new prosthetics, that's been a dream of mine because my sister wants to be a biomedical engineer.



**JACK GROEBE**  
*Nominated by Spirit Club & Soccer*  
**If you could only listen to one song for the rest of your life what would it be?**  
"Pursue the happiness" by Kid Cudi



**BRAYLON HARVEY**  
*Nominated by Cheer*  
**Who is your celebrity crush?**  
Madeline Klein from Outer Banks



**MADALYN HESTERLEE**  
**Homecoming Queen**  
**Second Runner Up**  
*Nominated by Dance Team*  
**Who's your favorite Northwest teacher?**  
My dance coach, Ciara Walahoski.



**SAM BALDWIN**  
**Homecoming King**  
**Second Runner Up**  
*Nominated by Link Crew*  
**What dance move are you really good at?**  
I'm really good at hitting the stanky leg.



**ADRIANA JAIME**  
*Nominated by FCCLA, CCC & DECA*  
**If you could go back 10,000 years and make a cave painting to confuse everyone, what would it be?**  
A clown. It would just be funny.



**EVAN JOHNSON**  
*Nominated by Photojournalism, BSU & Earth First*  
**Who's your favorite Northwest teacher?**  
Susan Massy. She helped me find my passion for photos.



**NICO JURANI**  
*Nominated by Math NHS*  
**Who is your hero?**  
I'd probably say my grandpa. I think I can attribute quite a bit of my life to him coming over to the US.



**HENRY BORN**  
*Nominated by Cross Country, Earth First & Young Democrats*  
**Who is your favorite Northwest teacher?**  
My favorite teacher is Mr. Stewart because he's really funny and I love his teaching style.



**REESE BOWMAN**  
*Nominated by Spirit Club*  
**If you had a warning label what would be on it?**  
Warning: "She'll say she's not hungry, but she actually is."



**GRACE KARLIN**  
*Nominated by Young Democrats, Spanish NHS, Girls' Tennis & NHS*  
**If you could say one thing to the underclassman, what would it be?**  
Don't change for other people.



**PAIGE MULLEN**  
*Nominated by Cross Country*  
**Who is your celebrity crush?**  
Jesse Williams



**ANNALIESE NGUYEN**  
*Nominated by StuCo, Earth First & NHS*  
**What's the strangest thing in your refrigerator?**  
Off brand lunchables because my grandma just buys them and gives them to us.

**Meet your 2022 Homecoming Court**  
by Morgan Tate, Kara Simpson, Evan Johnson, Ashley Broils & Sofia Ball  
design by Veronica Meiss  
photos by Brody Carlson





**FRANK TOMASIC**  
*Nominated by Dance Team, StuCo, Spirit Club & Marching Cougar Pride*

**Describe your walking partner in one word.**  
Beautiful.



**NOAH VAN AUKEN**  
*Nominated by CCC*

**Favorite high school memory?**  
One time I had this substitute that fell asleep and that was just hilarious.



**ELLA VOOS**  
*Nominated by Soccer*

**What dance move are you really good at?**  
I used to do ballet, so I'm pretty good at pirouettes.



**ERIN MOODY**  
**Homecoming Queen**  
*Nominated by StuCo, Link Crew & Cheer*

**Describe your walking partner in one word.**  
Determined. He has a lot of goals he's working toward.

**If you had a warning label what would be on it?**  
Caution: cover your ears.

**Would you survive in a horror movie?**  
I would survive because I would leave. If something's wrong, I'm running. I see something wrong and I'm taking off.

**If you could be any animal what would you be and why?**  
A spider-monkey. They're really cute, and they have five limbs. Counting the tail as a limb because it can grab things.

**What did you want to be when you were a child?**  
The President of the United States. Little Erin was pretty bossy. She loved telling people what to do and got in trouble for it often. I wrote a speech in first grade and everything, but then Erin learned about politics. She decided no, that's not the career for me.

**What would you be famous for and why?**  
I could see myself tripping and falling down, in the craziest way and it getting posted on TikTok.



**MALIK O'ATIS**  
**Homecoming King**  
*Nominated by Football*

**Describe your walking partner in one word.**  
Energetic.

**Who's your favorite Northwest teacher, and why?**  
I like Miss Robins. I've had her all four years I've been here and I'm friends with her. I think we relate a lot because she has a teenage son that's my age. She teaches freshman biology and zoology.

**If you could go back 10,000 years in the past and make a cave painting to confuse everyone, what would it be?**  
I would paint something that has to do with COVID-19 to warn other people years ago. Just a few world events that happened. Paint the twin towers to warn people.

**Favorite high school memory?**  
I have a lot, but one of them was freshman year homecoming when Damare Smith crowd surfed. That was pretty fun.

**What is your most random impulse buy?**  
Since eighth grade I've been randomly buying snow globes; I have a bunch of snow globes. Whenever I go somewhere, I just buy a snow globe.

**Who is your celebrity crush?**  
Malika Andrews from ESPN.

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# Kind of BLUE

**Four years ago, the man who led senior Michael Houser to discover his passion for music died. Today his grandfather's influence is seen in what Houser writes as he continues to process the loss**

Terry Swenson: a gentle giant who smiled with his whole face, who loved the Red Sox and tolerated the Royals, whose vinyl collection numbered in the hundreds, who loved his grandson Michael Houser (NMH).

Swenson had heart problems all his life and, in 2018, spent a long stretch of time hospitalized.

In the winter of that year, he was finally cleared to leave.

His daughter and wife drove him home. As he got out of the car, he fell to the ground. He was rushed back to the hospital. He didn't survive.

That night, driving on the last stretch of street before the turn into his neighborhood, Houser's father told him the news.

It had all happened so quickly.

Houser didn't know that his grandfather was supposed to come home that night. He didn't know the extent of his grandfather's condition. He didn't know how to make sense of the loss.

For years in the basement of his grandparent's house, Houser had worked sorting hundreds of records with his grandfather. With each record Houser touched, his grandfather would give him a new quip:

**"Elton John's Greatest Hits, I remember the summer I got that."**

"I still remember that anecdote every time I listen to 'Tiny Dancer,'" Houser said. "He had so much appreciation for music. Biggest love was for jazz. The intricacies of music and the way things are composed are really important to me because of him."

A year prior to Swenson's passing, Houser was going into seventh grade.

It was a tumultuous time in his life, but his creative writing class offered refuge. In that classroom a friend introduced Houser to the possibility of creating his own music.

Soon, Houser began writing and producing his own albums. Following his grandfather's death, he used this as a way to process the loss.

"I started writing about how I would be okay,

about the experience I went through," Houser said. "I had already made music before it happened, so I just continued."

Houser wrote:

***Against all odds, I'm better now.***

***Against all odds, I'm lighter than a feather now.***

Years have passed since his grandfather's death, but Swenson has stayed with his grandson. In 2021, Houser released an album titled "3". "Shame" is one of the last few songs featured on that album. He wrote:

***The loss of grandfather was a pivotal point***

***Do I quit what I'm doing or continue; basically I'm flipping a coin***

***He meant the most to me***

***I think about him all the time***  
***Never finished organizing records with him. That's a crime***

***I know he's watching over me, make sure I stay right***

***Got a TV in the sky so he can watch the Sox at late night***

***Now that I think on it my taste for jazz came from him, too,***

***So when I listen to Miles I feel a kind of blue.***

Houser played "Shame" for his mother.

"She was looking down bobbing her head to it, then when it got to the last few lines where it directly referenced him, [she cried]," Houser said. "I wrote it in 2020 and he passed away in 2018. There had been a long period where we didn't really come to terms with it. That was a moment that really provided closure. It showed that a part of him was in me and what I'm doing with my music would make him proud."

by Grace Logan

## liner notes

Senior Michael Houser has produced four albums, four Extended Plays (EPs) and four singles. These are works his grandfather also influenced. "All of my music acts as expressions of my musical and writing abilities that I wouldn't have gained without his influence in my life."



**The Gemini**  
Album • 2019

"[Although his influence isn't as apparent in this single], I wouldn't be making music or caring about music without my grandfather."



**Nehme**  
Album • 2022

"I used more jazz samples on the instrumental side of 'Nehme,' partly because of my favoritism toward the genre that came from him. My lyrics are also more naturally thoughtful because I wrote with him in mind, what he would think when listening to certain songs, how I could best express the person I am now through music."

**Senior Michael Houser looks at the dust jacket for Otis Redding's "Sittin' on the Dock of the Bay," one of the albums owned by his grandfather.**  
photo by Evan Johnson



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NW Passage

## SPOOKY STYLE

Students show off their unique Halloween costumes

feature | 17

by Morgan Tate & Zadie Tenpenny  
design by Ellie Zeller  
photos by Ashley Broils



**LAUREN SNYDER** – WIRT FROM “OVER THE GARDEN WALL”  
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**Why did you choose to dress up as Wirt from “Over The Garden Wall?”**

I really like ‘Over The Garden Wall,’ it’s one of my favorite cartoons. It’s weird, but it’s funny. I like Wirt, I can relate to him a little bit. He’s a funny character. My sister is dressing up as Wirt’s little brother, Greg. He’s a silly little guy.

**How much of the costume are you going to make yourself?**

I’m planning on making Wirt’s cloak myself. Somebody else who’s on the PTA for Benninghoven is making the pattern for me. I’ll sew it with the help of my mom. I’m planning on making the hat, myself, too. For the shirt, suspenders and stuff, I’ll probably just buy or I might already have them.

**Before you decided on Wirt, what else were you thinking of going as?**

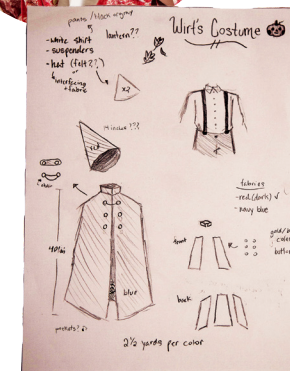
Well, I was thinking about being a ‘Demon Slayer’ character with my friends, but I couldn’t really come up with one of the characters that I wanted to be.

**Is this your first homemade costume?**

I’ve been other things in the past, where my mom has sewn things. I was an owl one time. When I was really little, she made me a lion costume.

**Is this your first time sewing a proper costume?**

It is my first time sewing a proper costume, but I’ve sewed some things in the past such as pillows and bags and stuff, my mom taught me.



**ADDIE EVERETT** – “THE PURGE” INSPIRED  
**COST** – \$0.00

**What’s your history with “The Purge” movies?**

I’ve seen clips of it, and I just thought that it’s really interesting. I haven’t gotten around to watching it because my brothers consistently hog the TV.

**What inspired your costume?**

I’m usually always doing makeup, and “The Purge” always stood out to me and I’ve always wanted an excuse to do it.

**What will your makeup look like?**

It’s like the glowing masks in “The Purge,” it has the smile and the “X” eyes. Basically, it’s just a base color of the outline and then you put white over it, which makes it look like it’s glowing.

**What parts of the costume did you make?**

I found a pink camo shirt and some old jeans that don’t fit anymore. I put a bunch of rips in the jeans and then put one big blood wound on it.

**Have you made your own costume before? Were you nervous to make one?**

I’ve done a few mending things or adjustments to a costume, but I haven’t really fully made a costume. **What other costume ideas did you have?**

I was thinking about doing some sort of witch. I did something similar to it last year but this year I had a big cloak. So I was thinking about doing a witch but then I saw The Purge



# FORKS DOWN: Coffee Edition

## We try caramel coffee from three different coffee shops around the area

design by Ellie Zeller  
photos by Cooper Evans, Haylee Bell & Kyra Highlander

### DUTCH BROS: ICED CARAMELIZER

3.5/5 by Sofia Ball

All everyone’s been talking about recently is the new Dutch Bros location that just opened up in Shawnee. It catches the eye of every student that drives by. It has a wide menu with several different choices for whatever strikes your fancy.

Off the bat, I could definitely taste the espresso. There were hints of chocolate milk, which certainly added some sweetness. There was so much ice, I originally expected it to be watered down. Instead, it did quite the opposite, preserving the drink’s flavors while keeping it cold. I wished there had been less ice. Due to the drinks name, I expected there to be much more caramel. Instead, there was a paper thin layer that had pooled at the bottom of the latte. Overall, the drink wasn’t too sweet, however, I expected more.



Iced Caramelizer from Dutch Bros Coffee Oct. 5

### SCOOTERS: ICED CAMELICIOUS

3.5/5 by Izak Zeller

Scooters is a staple of students’ diets. With locations all around Shawnee and Lenexa, it’s an easy place to get too. Each location is the size of a room, with its drive through being the way people get their coffee.

Scooters is the only coffee place on this list that I am familiar with. I had been there a few times, but not a crazy amount. The Iced Carmelicious had a nice amount of caramel, more than the Dutch Bros one for sure. The drink did taste a little watered down though. The flavors got less strong the more I went along. In general, this drink is pretty good.



Iced Carmelicious from Scooter's Coffee Oct. 5

### CARIBOU COFFEE: ICED TURTLE MOCHA

5/5 by Elaina Hammes

Caribou Coffee, similarly to Dutch Bros, has a very wide menu that ranges from special drinks, to nitros, to lattes. Caribou Coffee has a dark brown exterior that feels cozy. It smells like fresh ground coffee and fall spices. It’s lesser known than Dutch Bros but nonetheless, it’s still a known brand.

I was really excited to taste the Caribou Coffee, a lot of my friends and family members have recommended Caribou to me before, but I never found time to try some. When I took my first sip, I was somewhat shocked, instead of being met with an overbearing sweetness, I found that the coffee was a perfect combination of sweet and bitter. I found this drink to be a good mix between the sweet of the caramel and the bitter neutral taste of the mocha.



Iced Turtle Mocha from Caribou Coffee Oct. 5



Looking over, senior Gabriela Barrientos-Sanchez sits on the Latinos of Tomorrow float Oct. 7 in the teacher parking lot. The Latinos of Tomorrow float showed their representatives dressed in Dia de los Muertos fashion. photo by Haylee Bell

## Representatives from the club Latinos of Tomorrow speak about Hispanic Heritage Month

by Veronica Meiss & Grace Logan & Izak Zeller  
design by Greta Grist

### What does Hispanic Heritage Month mean to you?

**Perla Moreno:** “I’ve never really liked Hispanic Heritage Month, just because it’s not a full month. It’s a really awkward time between the middle of the month instead of just having a whole month to ourselves. It’s a really funny joke, basically like making us cross a border for this. Yeah.”

**Yency Hernandez:** “Growing up in America, I feel like you don’t get to share a lot about your culture because most of your life is assimilation. It’s a lot [of] conforming and fitting in, but for Hispanic Heritage Month, and in general, being able to showcase your culture allows you to become more prideful and confident.”

**Ashley Solis-Jimenez:** “Hispanic Heritage Month is important because it’s fun to let other people know about a different culture. And because it’s a beautiful culture to let other people know about and to show pride.”

### Do you feel as if Northwest knows about Hispanic culture?

**Yency Hernandez:** “I walked past this like group of Hispanic guys and they knew the music we were playing. Like within the community it’s very known, but like I feel like outside it’s just like, oh wow you’re from Mexico. That’s cool.

### Why did you join LOT?

**Valaria Perez:** “The reason I joined was probably just a representation. I also wanted to be part of the events and stuff. “

**Perla Moreno:** “I wanted to join the club because I felt like I could be the representation for [my brother]. Like I feel like I could be a role model. Because this is what you need to do. You need to be proud of your heritage because you come from a lot of amazing people and an amazing culture.”



Waving to the crowd, seniors Yency Hernandez, Carlos Guerra, Ashley Solis-Jimenez drive by on the Latinos of Tomorrow float Oct. 7 down Caenen Ave. The Latinos of Tomorrow float was themed after the movie “Coco.” photo by Kara Simpson



# Fall Sports Check-in

The middle of October marks the beginning of the end of the fall sports season

## Football Falters at Homecoming

The Homecoming football game Oct. 6 didn't end the way the team or Coach Black had hoped. The Cougars scored twice in the first half and once in the fourth quarter but weren't able to overcome the Falcons' offense in the second half in spite of a mid-4th quarter rally.

"We were very disappointed in the outcome of the game," Black said. "We played a really good team, and we are getting better [with each game we play]."

Coach Black hopes to finish out the season strong, with wins at the remaining two games.



Offensive line Carter Walsh blocks Falcon player at the Homecoming Game on Oct. 6.

## Volleyball Ends Regular Season Tonight

After a rocky start to their season, volleyball has been on a quick turn around, winning both their games on October 6 against Shawnee Mission North and Olathe North. With a record of 22-9 the Cougar volleyball team is ranked 8 in Kansas Class 6A.

The final match of regular season will be tonight at 5 pm and 7 pm in the main gym. The Cougars will take on the 4th ranked team in Kansas, the Lansing Lions and battle it out for the second time this season against the Shawnee Mission West Vikings.

## Soccer Continues Winning Streak

With an 2-1 win over the Olathe East Hawks, the Cougars continued their four-game winning streak. The Cougars' scored at the beginning of the game, maintaining 1-0 lead through halftime. The second goal was scored by the Cougars, swiftly followed by the Hawks' scoring.

The Cougars' maintained the 2-1 advantage until the end.

"We were just battering their defense over and over again," goalie Bryson Mischlich said.

"They scored and then we fought for five minutes and just didn't back down. We were controlling the game."

## Cross Country State Meet Approaches

Cross Country will be attending the Sunflower League meet at Rimrock Farm on Oct. 15. The following weekend, varsity will be attending the regional meet at Johnson County Community College on Oct. 22.

If students qualify they will be

moving to state, which will also be held at Rimrock on Oct. 29.

"This team works really hard every day and is dedicated" team captain Paige Mullen said. "I have more confidence in the boys and girls teams this year than I have in a few years."

## Tennis Season Ends at Regionals

Varsity girls tennis competed at regionals on Oct. 7. Six players attended; two doubles teams and two single players.

All players lost their first matches, except doubles team Chloe Carter and Ruby Corzine who advanced to the next round. The pair lost both following

matches and were unable to continue in the barcket.

The girls tennis team did not qualify for state, putting an end to their season.



Coach Todd Boren gives directions to the varsity soccer team during half time Sept. 1 at Blue Valley District Activities Complex. "This season has really been about the idea of trying to get better every single game," Boren said. "It has been a learning process for a lot of the boys in terms of what it takes and what is expected in order to close out and win soccer games."

photo by Evan Johnson



For more sports updates and additional information scan the QR code.

# DOUBT DEFERRED

After a serious back injury put her on the sidelines for six months, junior Kaia Givner has become the gymnastics team captain

As gymnast Kaia Givner swung around the bar, she told herself she would let go on three.

She began to count.

One: the first time tried, she had landed the double-backflip.

Two: this was going to be her second attempt.

Three: she was confident she was going to land.

She released the bar and flipped through the air, head over heels. She came closer to the ground.

Her vision blurred and she lost track of her position in the air.

She crashed down into the foam pit — landing on her neck.

One of the plates in her back broke and the other pushed against her spinal cord.

Givner spent the following six months watching from the bench as her teammates worked and improved. She tried to maintain a positive attitude.

"I would come into practice sometimes just to see everyone and [they were] getting so good," Givner said. "I wanted to jump right back in. I wanted to get back to how I was before."

It has been four years since Givner's injury. She is now captain of the gymnastics team.

"I [have to] set a standard," Givner said. "I know that everything I do reflects off everyone else."

At times, Givner sees her teammates doubt themselves; doubt allows injuries to happen.

She doesn't want her teammates have the experience she had four years ago.

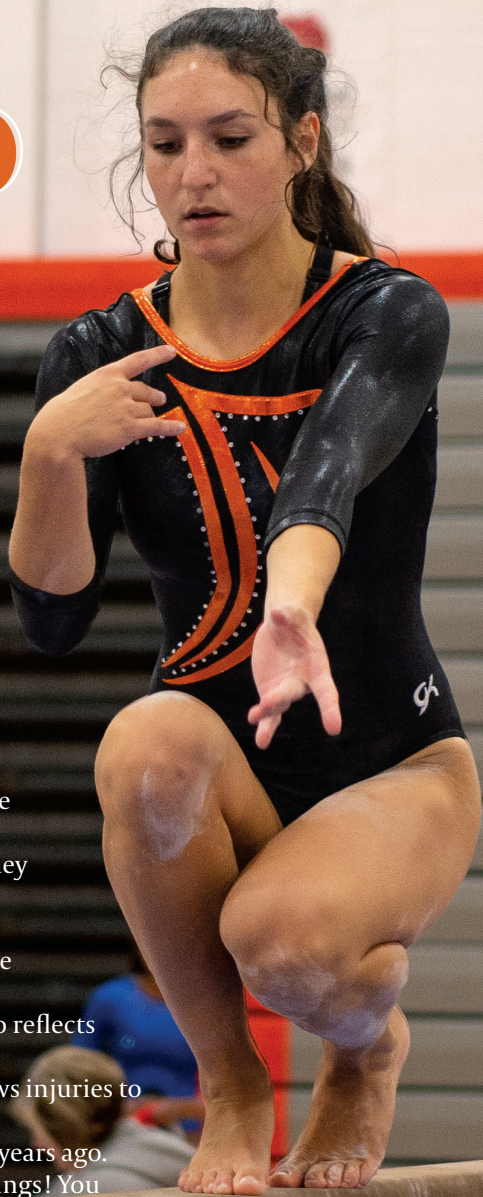
"[I tell my teammates] 'You know who you are! You can do these things! You can do this,'" Givner said. "If you're going to go for it, just go for it fully. If you don't, it can be really bad."

Givner's positive attitude and encouragement have influenced many newcomers on the team.

"I think that Kaia is a super easy person to talk to," freshman Camila Melendez said. "She never judges, no matter what I tell her and always finds a way to make fun out of sad situations. Kaia is a big part of my confidence being so high now."

In spite of her injuries and setbacks, Givner continues to work hard to accomplish her goals as a gymnast.

"My hope is that our team can come together, go to state and place this year," Givner said.





# UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct. 17

**2nd Quarter Begins**  
After a three-day weekend, school starts up again.

Oct. 19

**Parent-teacher Conferences**  
Some conferences will be held in the evening at Northwest.

Oct. 21

**No School**  
Due to parent-teacher conferences, no school will be held.

Oct. 21

**Football Senior Night**  
It will be held at 7 p.m. at the North District Stadium.

Oct. 24

**Board of Education Meeting**  
Meeting starts at 6 p.m. and will be livestreamed on Youtube.

Oct. 25

**Orchestra Chamber Music**  
Held at 7 p.m. in the Little Theatre.

Oct. 27-29

**Ghost Hunt**  
Thespian Troupe #888 will be performing in the Greg Parker Auditorium at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 or free with student ID.

Nov. 7

**NHS Inductions**  
New members of the National Honor Society will be inducted at 7 p.m. in the Greg Parker Auditorium.

# MONTH IN PHOTOS

**1:** Senior Cynthia Chen is lifted in the air Sept. 29 at College Boulevard Athletic Center. Chen is a flyer, a flyer is the person at the top of all stunts. "Every move is being watched," Chen said. "Everything happens so fast I don't have the time to stress over mistakes." photo by Ashley Broils



Smiling, seniors Adriana Jaime and Annaliese Nguyen hug Oct. 8 in the mall. The theme of the dance was "A Night at Gatsby's." "The dance was a lot of fun," Jaime said. "I loved seeing everyone having fun and enjoying an event I planned." photo by Haylee Bell



**2:** Straining, seniors Franco Perez, Carmen Sanz, Bridgette Opoku and Carter Walsh pull the rope in a tug-of-war game against the teachers Oct. 7 in the Main Gym. The seniors took second place after the teachers. "Going against the teachers was difficult," Walsh said. "I think the seniors could have had a better lineup." photo by Nailah Jones




**4:** Senior Clare Taylor returns the ball Sept. 29 at the College Boulevard Activity Complex. Taylor and her doubles partner freshman Syra Honargohar won this match against Olathe Northwest. "[W]hile playing, I focus on technique," Taylor said. "I make sure I'm putting the right kind of spin on the ball for the shot I'm trying to go for." photo by Kyra Highlander



**5:** Riding a go-kart, senior Keith Springer trails behind the KUGR float Oct. 7 on 67th street. Springer was dressed as podracer Anakin Skywalker from Star Wars: Episode I -- The Phantom Menace. "We have a podracer helmet in the KUGR room," Springer said. "I have a go-kart and everything fell into place from there." photo by Sidra Sakati  
**6:** Senior Malik O'Atis holds the ball Sept. 29 at College Boulevard Activity Center. The Cougars lost to Olathe West owls 53-49. "I think [the season] is going better than what our record shows." photo by Anna Torres



# NWP



Senior Erin Moody hugs senior Ella Huggins Oct. 7 at the SM North district Stadium. Moody was nominated by StuCo, Link Crew and Cheer and was crowned as the 2022-2023 Homecoming Queen. "I was overcome with joy and full of so many emotions," Moody said. "All my cheer friends swarmed me and congratulated me. Everyone else who wasn't on the track ran down to hug me. We all cried together and it was really beautiful." photo by Evan Johnson.