

but it was more than that: "When we were in line to perform, my safety pin opened and stabbed my finger, and the blood got all on my whites," Kaleigh Bolton (9) said.

stop the clock

students look forward to halftime performances and dances

something new

"When I first watched halftime, I was shocked to see how much effort and school spirit American high schools have," Lucia Medina (11) said. "It was a great experience not only visually, but also hearing the band's music was incredible as we don't have any of that in Spain."

first timers

"Watching halftime for the first time was amazing," foreign exchange student Grete Daniel (10) said. "When the Showstoppers and color guard started dancing, I was speechless. Their costumes were beautiful and so was the performance."

For starters

Lined up on the home side, Showstopper Aimee Womack (10) stands by Blakely Duke (11), ready to run on the field.

"Doing our run out is definitely my favorite part of halftime," Aimee Womack (10) said. "It's an adrenaline rush and gets us prepared for our dance."

Waiting their turn to take the field, band students chat behind the scenes.

"Hiding behind our props at the beginning and listening to the pre-show is probably the best part," Loriann Hensel (11) said. "Since no one can see us, we get to talk and remind each other about a new visual we learned that week."

"I love getting to be a part of the tradition of us 'pinky promising' for good luck," Destinie Pardon (9) said. "It brings us together, like a family."

Halftime, part 2

The Showstoppers leap as the band plays, and color guard tosses up their multi-colored flags. The band marches in sync, and the crowd cheers. Another

successful halftime.

And then, a break.

Both groups clear the stands, heading to the restrooms and concessions for the third quarter. Some time off — that is, until it turns into a big rush back to the stands.

"We're rushed every single time," Timothy Overlock (11) said. "There were a few times where the line was so long that we didn't get to get anything from the concession stand."

Although they're rushed, students like Loriann Hensel turn the situation into a fun game.

"Even though we're sprinting back, it's fun and exhilarating," Loriann said. "Especially when there's a lot of people, they're like obstacles and we have to weave around them."

But the show is the thing, the best part of halftime.

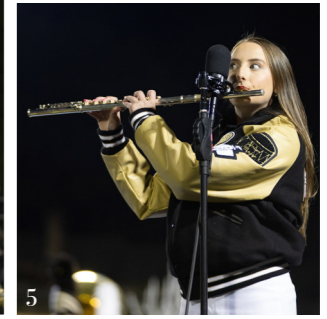
"I love performing," Taylor Harding (9) said. "It's the best of both worlds. I get to be with my friends and do what I love — dance — plus I like being the center of attention."



clock-in

"When I performed at halftime for the first time, I was more excited than nervous. I loved seeing all of the expressions of people in the audience, especially at the big parts of our show. I knew that I would remember that moment forever."

+ Addison Fry (9)



4. Lifted in the air. Aimee Womack (10) holds her position during the routine. "I always get super nervous before halftime," Aimee said. "I'm really bad about getting in my head so I always just take a deep breath right before we do the strut." [CSanders] **5. With a focused look,** Maggie Parker (12) plays her instrument. "I love the adrenaline you get when performing at halftime," Maggie said. "It's nice to get the chance to show off what we've been working on for months and months and months." [CSanders] **6. In formation with his head held high,** drum major Miguel Rodriguez (12) plays his trumpet during the halftime performance. "What I love about halftime is seeing how far my band has progressed since the beginning of the year," Miguel said. [HBarthel]

With a bright smile, Jayla Tank (9) swings her flag. "Halftime gives me an opportunity to focus on what I can improve on," Jayla said. "After each performance I tell myself, 'Okay, now I can work to get better at this.'" [CSanders]

the show's not over yet



1. At attention, Phillip Lam (11) plays his trombone in the halftime show. "The coolest part about halftime is playing in front of hundreds of people," Phillip said. "It's fun watching other schools perform, especially we're going to be competing against them in an upcoming competition." [CSanders]



2. In her whites, Elizabeth Johanson (11) leaps alongside her teammates. "So many little girls get to watch us dance and it's so sweet because they look up to us and want to be like us." Elizabeth said. "I love that the whole community come out to watch us dance as a team." [CSanders]



3. Waving the flag, Lissy Pich (11) smiles during the half time show. "Performing gives me a rush." Lissy said. "The best part is when we're done and everyone is cheering, especially if it was one of the better runs of the season." [CSanders]