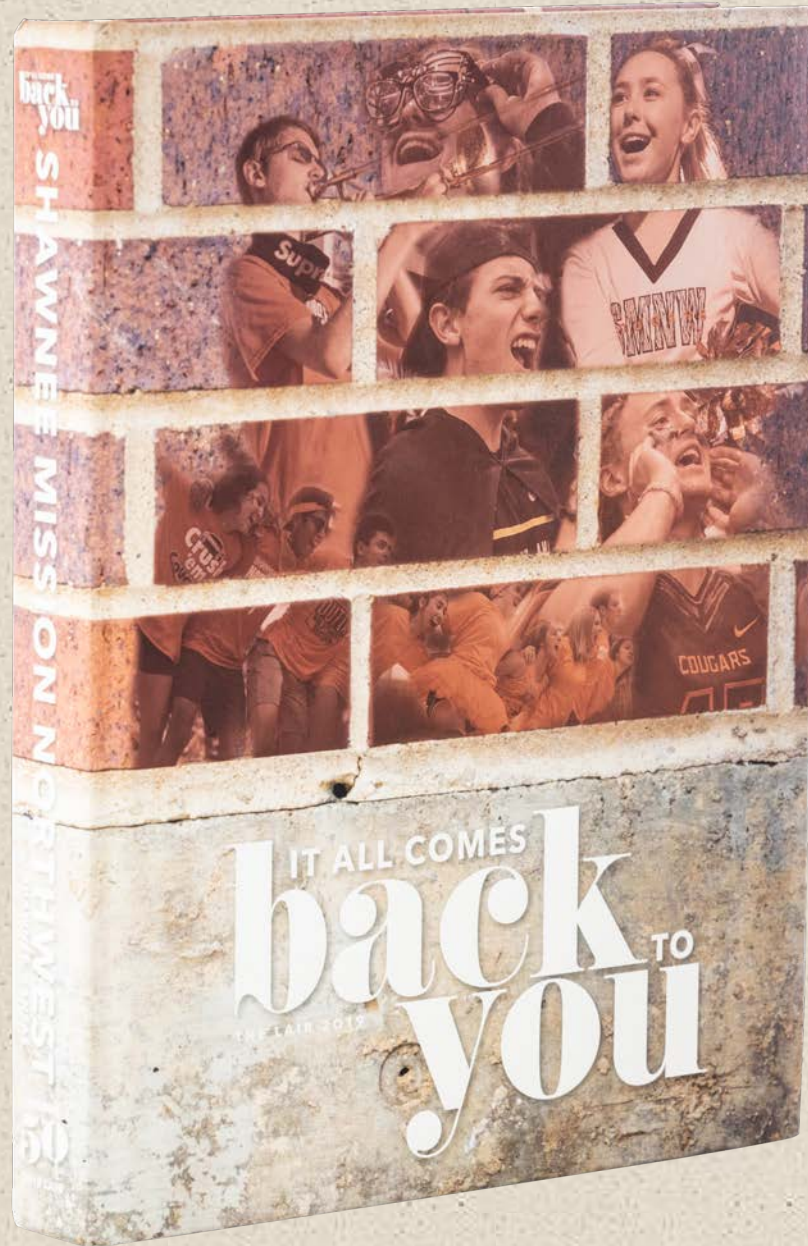




**NSPA
PACEMAKER**



// **The Lair**

*Shawnee Mission Northwest
High School
Shawnee, Kansas*

EDITORS: Tatum Goetting,
Wairimu Gitonga Mbogori

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RAVES *from the judges*

// Beautiful cover with texture focuses on students with a great visual/verbal connection to the theme.

// Bold typography, with subtle gradient, integrated well to enhance photos and graphics, not distract.

// Outstanding photography and copy told stories and drew the reader into every spread.

// A nice job integrating the 50th anniversary without taking away from contemporary coverage.

// **The Lair**
Shawnee Mission
Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas



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Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas

IT ALL COMES back you^{TO}

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Junior Adam Consiglio looks for a book to use for his research paper Jan. 17 in the Library. Consiglio's research topic was about the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings. "I really liked being able to have control over what we wrote about," Consiglio said. "I was actually interested in my topic and I think that made it easier to write." *Photo by Amy Ross*

IT ALL COMES
**back TO
you**
THE 2019 LAIR

Hey, You!
Have you seen the murals
around the school? Yeah, you
know the ones — with the Waldos
hidden in them. We don't know
who started the tradition, but we
decided to continue it by hiding 50
Waldos in this book. Betcha can't
find 'em all...

Shawnee Mission Northwest
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Students: 1529
Faculty & Staff: 177
Principal: Dr. Lisa Gruman
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Shawnee, KS 66216



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY KATH SEMENOVREMUITE

SHAWNEE MISSION NORTHWEST HIGH

You

You may not realize it yet, but the first time you come back after 10, 20 or maybe even 40 years, it'll still be there.

There's that smell.

The combination of waxed concrete, cleaning fluid, cheap perfume and, well, sweat.

And, suddenly, it all comes back to you.



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Standing at the top of the bleachers Link Crew Director Matthew Wolfe speaks to freshmen on their first day of school just 30 seconds from Link Crew's homecoming football game. The first thing we do is establish relationships between the freshmen and upperclassmen," Wolfe said. "The other thing is that we try to convey to them that they would not find themselves on the first day of the first week. There is a place for them here, and they will find it. It took him time." *Photo by John Rossi*



Sound

It's the sounds.

The ones you haven't heard in years.

Like Matthew Wolfe's "NO TOUCHING!" reverberating in your mind. Or Fran Koenigsdorf's "Good morning, beautiful children!"

Or maybe it's the thunder of the drumline.

Or the deafening shouts: We. Are. North. West.

It could even be associate principal Eddie LyDay's reminder to get to class.



On the stage, junior Ally Banks plays violin with the rest of orchestra Dec. 26 in the Greg Poirier Auditorium. Banks has been playing in the orchestra concert band since freshman year. "My favorite part of being on stage is the satisfaction I get when I realize we've been working so hard to perfect this music and now we're playing it in front of a crowd and sounding good," Banks said. Photo by SEAMUS ENGLISH



Feel

It's a feel.

There's that sense of possibility that flows through this place.

That clean-slate feeling at the start of a new semester.

Somewhere - the orchestra room, the StuCo couch, your favorite bench in the mall or front-and-center on stage - was your home, your safe haven, the place where everybody knew your name. It all comes back to you.

The first students who entered Shawnee Mission Northwest 50 years ago were just like us. Teenagers facing the same decisions, heartbreak, homework and opportunities that we experience today. They would see themselves in us.

Yeah, you don't realize it yet, because you are still here. What we do now matters. The choices we make, the decisions we labor over, the friends we keep and those we don't. Whether high school results in college or a career or a calling, it's our responsibility.

Because 50 years from now...

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Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas

NEW beginnings

On the **first official day of the school year**, freshmen clustered in the mall, **laughing and waiting** for the day to begin. It finally starts Link Crew members lead them past clapping and cheering faculty to the Auxiliary Gym

FRESH(MAN) START

I woke to the sound of my mom walking up the stairs; I could not lift my arms out from under the covers. My body knew I wanted to stay in bed, and I struggled to open my eyes.

When we got to school, it was exactly what I imagined: a huge crowd of freshmen stranded in the hallway, everybody catching up with their old friend groups.

I sprinted to my friends, relieved that I didn't have to stand awkwardly alone on the first day. While we were talking, we noticed that the teachers were lining up.

We walked through the gauntlet of teachers. It was awkward. I did not want to walk through a bunch of teachers who were giving us

high fives. You never know what is on people's hands. The teachers were enthusiastic about the start of the school year, that was clear. One was even blowing bubbles across the "Welcome Freshmen" sign as we walked through. We were led into the Main Gym, where we were told to grab our name tags. This was confusing because I didn't get the memo that the stands were set up according to last names. On each name tag was a number. The number represented the group we would be with throughout the day. Our group consisted of eight other freshmen and two Link Crew leaders, seniors Tanner Anderson and Ava Hauser.

When we were released to go find our group, we were welcomed

with colorful leis placed around our necks. We looked awkwardly at each other because we didn't understand what was happening. One of my leaders, Anderson, told us that whoever had the best group theme got free Homecoming tickets. We didn't have the best theme, and we definitely didn't have the most enthusiasm.

Later, we each scrambled to find our classes: Room 202, Room 204, Room 216. No matter where I went or what hallway I went down, I could not find Room 217, my first hour. I finally worked up the courage to ask a random Link Crew leader where my class was. He silently and rapidly walked me to my class. We spent seven minutes in each class. The teachers talked about what the

school year would look like and how excited they were. I thought it was amusing how every teacher was so pumped for the year. We all know, after a while, everyone's just looking forward to the end of the day.

As this day came to an end, we ran back to the gym, knowing it was almost 2:40. We got another talk about how everything was going to be awesome, and how we needed to stay on top of our school work. It all seemed very repetitive.

When the bell rang, we all jumped up and rushed to find our friends. It was as if we couldn't live without them. In my peripheral vision, I saw my best friend and waved her down so we could walk out together. The day was over.

STORY BY MADDY GRAFT



EARLY BIRD

As I stepped into the doors, a splash of cold air hit my face. Schools are cold; they always have been. This school wasn't so bad, though. Trailridge was much colder than this.

Link Crew sponsor Matthew Wolfe shouted through the microphone. People say it was comedic and inspiring, but I wasn't really listening. I always space out during the "inspiring" part. I have a habit of not being able to pay attention for long. He gave us a couple of challenges, including organizing ourselves from tallest to shortest and from youngest to oldest without talking. No one followed the rules. Once we were organized, he presented a new game to us. We were to hold our hands up so that we and the person across from us held hands.

He gave us several lines to say to our partner, such as "In my dreams..." and "See ya' later, buddy." As we laughed out the lines in flirty voices,

we fell into fits of giggles. In spite of our embarrassment, it was mesmerizing to see everyone so happy at school. At Trailridge, no one was this happy.

We followed junior Ally Banks and senior Mabel Anstine through the halls on our way to Room 132. The colorful walls caught my eyes, but I didn't want to stop and look at them; I was afraid of getting in trouble for holding everyone up. But, then my shoes started squeaking. Great. I had to walk on my tiptoes to keep them silent. I almost fell over. Whoops. This is totally how you make a first impression, I swear.

Time flew by in the classroom: playing games, laughing, me almost falling flat on my face. High school had just started, and I already had memories to hang on to. It had only been what? Twenty minutes?

Maybe high school wouldn't be so bad.

STORY BY CHARITY SAUNDERS



1. Freshman Mackenzie Meharry plays a bonding activity in Freshman Day Aug. 30 in Room 132. Freshman Day was an opportunity for freshmen to get acquainted with the school before the official start of the year. "I thought [this activity] was a good problem-solving skill and it really helped us all work together," Meharry said. Photo by Senay Hasegawa

2. During Freshman Day, students fist bump in the Main Gym. The freshmen lined up across from each other and played get-to-know-you games directed by Link Crew sponsor Matt Wolfe. Photo by Abby Rossi



STARTING OVER

I felt nervous. All the freshmen were scattered around the gym, awkwardly giggling, as we went through lines forced into awkward icebreakers. Upperclassmen threw out compliments and high fives like candy.

Breaking into our groups was even more uncomfortable. My group consisted of 10 people: 10 strangers in a big, empty classroom. For fear of sounding stupid, no one gave more than a one-word response.

Led by our Link Crew leaders, we toured the school dressed to represent our theme, the World Cup. Toward the middle of the tour, we stopped and were judged on our ensembles and ability to perform a cheer.

We weren't aware that we had to do a cheer until we saw the group before us

chant "C-C-C-O-U." in perfect unison. Our group wandered up to the "stage" and clumsily cheered. As we were leaving, we heard the next group do a perfect, "We got spirit; yes, we do!"

By the time I went through my schedule and met my teachers, I knew this year would be better than the previous one. The teachers here have passion. They genuinely loved their jobs and were eager to connect with incoming students.

I had never experienced all the energy that NW students have; everyone loved it here. The assembly at the end of the day was crazy. Students were peppier than the cheerleaders.

The day ended, and high school wasn't scary anymore.

STORY BY TEAGAN VANBLARCOM



Freshman Evie Hrencher talks with her new classmates on Freshman Day. At the beginning of the day, freshmen did bonding activities with their classmates and Link Crew leaders. "The best part of the day was sitting with my friends in the gym," Hrencher said. "It was a lot of fun to learn about my future." Photo by Senay Hasegawa



Junior Katie Wood hugs freshman Andrew Braun to pop a balloon Aug. 30 in the Main Gym. Freshmen run to hug a Link Crew leader to pop a balloon between them as a part of a relay activity. "The boys were so competitive I almost couldn't use my arms to pop the balloon because I was laughing so hard," Wood said. Photo by Senay Hasegawa

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BACK IN THE DAY

Freshman Day underwent a change in culture with the addition of Link Crew

Link Crew was introduced in 2015 by former associate principal Nancy Tynon. Tynon, who had been at Turner H.S. was inspired by a similar program there.



Mark Petrie and Colleen Freeman, Class of 2016, are interviewed by Fox 4 KC reporter Matt Stewart on Aug. 12, 2015. Fox KC reported a live story on Link Crew, a group formed to introduce freshmen to Northwest on their first day of school. "I was worried that I would say something that didn't make sense or I would look stupid," Freeman said. "I tried to hide my nervousness and just be excited." Photo by Bianca Rex



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Surrounded by students, the Northwest Bonfire waited a comeback Aug. 29 in the Shawnee Parking Lot. Bonfire was replaced last year with the Cougar Kickoff run by Spirit Club. Photo by Dylan Kitchell

reignited

Kaitlin Pauli began a student-led movement to get Bonfire back for her senior year

Cheerleaders marched to beat of the drums, smiling and shaking their hips to the rhythm, as students crowded into the Main Gym, scouring the tightly-packed class sections for an empty seat. It was time to celebrate the return of the Bonfire.

"Last year, we didn't really have an option when they changed the fields to turf," Spirit Club co-sponsor Kiera O'Boyle said. "We didn't really expect [the change] so that's why we changed it to the Cougar Kickoff last year. We had [students] who really stepped up [for] Bonfire to come back."

Last year, Spirit Club was forced to cancel the Bonfire after new turf fields were installed on the old bonfire site. The only clear alternative was the parking lot.

"We had to figure out some type of barrier between the asphalt and fire," senior Kaitlin Pauli said.

It started with a proposal that Pauli presented to local businesses

who agreed to donate sand to protect the asphalt from the flames, as well as the wood. The proposal was presented to be approved by building administrators; the process took about three months.

"Tradition is important; it really helps to shape the school culture," principal Lisa Gruman said. "We hope it's one where everyone feels like they have a home or a space. We want everybody to feel like they're connected to Northwest. Bonfire is another way to foster that."

As students crowded around the fire, the yellow-orange flames licked at the humid air, sharply contrasting with the darkening sky.

As the band broke into "Hey Baby," the pom-poms of the cheerleaders and dance team members pulsed with the beat. Student athletes gathered beside the makeshift stage, waiting to be recognized, and the crowd of students cheered.

"My favorite part was when we were out on the risers, and I looked out at everyone having fun with the band and the cheerleaders by the big bonfire," Pauli said. "I was very happy that it all came together and people were having fun."

While the students were having their final pictures taken and conversation died down, so did the crackling flame. The bright white headlights of the Shawnee Fire department's fire trucks lit up 67th street and cut through the twilight.

Associate principal Corinne Springfield's voice echoed as she yelled to students to get behind the cones that surrounded the sandpit while firefighters doused the last burning embers.

"If you want to bring something back, it's a lot more work than it looks," Pauli said. "But I learned that if you really want something, you need to put your mind to it [to] get it done."

STORY BY KAYLA NICOLE

BACK FOR MORE

As the batane torch set fire to the long pieces of wood and dried grass, the Shawnee firefighters helped Spirit Club members start and put out the 2018 Bonfire.

"Firefighter recruit Matt Levy started the fire," firefighter EMT Cory Gearin said. "Then, when the teachers said it was time to close the night, Levy also extinguished the fire."

As the flames roared and sized students cheered.

"We enjoy doing it every year. It was cool to see everything and to be a part of the community," Fire Chief Doug Sims said.



1. With his hands forming a megaphone, senior Tyler Fisher leads the "senior verse" chant at the front of his class section. Students often start chants between sports presentations. "My favorite part was leading 'Senior class we're here to end,' Fisher said. "I've always been the first row and we're the most spirited." Photo by Austin Boussett



4. How in hand. Firefighter recruit Matt Levy puts out the bonfire Aug. 29 in the evening parking lot. Photo by Austin Boussett



BACK IN THE DAY

1989

First bonfire

1998

Bonfire became a yearly event

2004

First Spirit Stick introduced at Bonfire; senior class won

2017

Bonfire cancelled

2018

Bonfire brought back



// The Lair Shawnee Mission Northwest High School Shawnee, Kansas

50 YEARS IN THE MAKING

As Northwest reaches its 50th anniversary, former and current students helped us look back through history to see how it has changed

STORIES BY TATUM SCHUEMAN

1969-1972



CHARLES
Clark

Charles Clark swung open the doors of the west entrance of Northwest and looked around. He walked through the halls, admiring the colorful murals on the walls and peering into his old classrooms. Memories filled his head when he walked past the locker he had used for four years and the library which looked nothing like the library of 1969.

Clark attended this school the first year it opened, when he was a sophomore who had transferred from SM North. The first half of his year was spent at a middle school.

"Shawnee Mission Northwest was not completely done when I got here. We had to spend part of the year at Trailridge Jr. High. We split time with their students," Charles Clark said. In fact, the high school students attended classes in the morning at Trailridge and the junior high students showed up at noon.

Clark was involved in sports that were offered. "I started on the basketball team," Clark said. "We weren't very good. All the good athletes were at West. We didn't win a single game. I am pretty sure your team now would have beat us."

During Clark's time here, the students organized a senior skip day.

"We had senior skip day, which we could only do with written permission from our parents," Clark said. "I was sure my parents would not give me permission to skip, so I forged a permission slip. Being worried about actually forging my dad's name, I signed it 'Mr. Charles Clark,' and it worked. My parents found out later and, to my surprise, were not upset."

Clark remembers having fun with friends at football games and meeting his wife.

"I miss the friends I had at Northwest the most," Clark said. "I see them occasionally by accident, and some are Facebook friends, but it's not the same. I guess that is just a part of growing up and life."

As he walked through the mall, Clark stared at walls, wondering how different the school was.

"When I walked into the building, my first time at the school, it was overwhelming. It was so big. It was bland. Just concrete, brick and tile," Clark said. "Returning to the school now, it doesn't seem as big. The murals in the halls add color. The trophy cases in the mall add character and the record boards in the gym add history. Good memories."

1984-1988



JIM
Sanders

Pulling into the east circle, Jim Sanders dropped off his daughter so that she could get to her first hour. He looked at the white metallic letters that read "Shawnee Mission Northwest High School."

"Honestly, from the outside, the school doesn't look super different," Sanders said. "Every time I come back, all the memories from high school just kind of flood back."

Although the heart of Northwest had remained the same since the mid-'80s, there were still noticeable changes.

"The school today was a lot like it was back in 1988, except we didn't have social media or iPhones and, at one time, we actually had a smoking lounge for the students," Sanders said. "We also didn't have an auxiliary gym, and the library was smaller. Drivers Ed was a class with a simulator for each student in the class. Oh, and Northwest was one of the few air conditioned buildings in the district."

Sanders made many crazy memories here. "For the Homecoming football game, we played Shawnee Mission North at their stadium," Sanders said. "Several students painted a giant cougar paw at the 50-yard line the night before. The field used to be grass, so it ruined it. By game time, North had painted four giant boxes in black over the four paws. The next day, the Northwest greenhouse burned down. Everyone believed North students did it."

One of Sander's daughters graduated from here, two attend this year and one will become a student here in years to come.

"Having my daughters go to Northwest is fun," Sanders said. "Going to games and hearing the cheers and the chants, and seeing the traditions that haven't changed in 30 years brings back a lot of memories."

Suddenly, a car honked at Sanders. He snapped out of the memories and pressed on the gas pedal to leave the school.

"I was youngest of five, so I couldn't wait to get to Northwest," Sanders said. "I loved the school even before I got there and I loved it more when I left."

BACK IN THE DAY

The Parsons family has a long history at Northwest. Pam Parsons was not only the first of her family to attend Northwest but also a member of the first class to enter the youngest Shawnee Mission school in 1970, SM Northwest. Pam's daughter Amanda attended the school from 1995 to 1998 and her daughter, junior McKenna Parsons, is now a junior.



What significant changes have you seen in the school?

"When Pam Parsons [Class of '72] went to school, there was not a freshmen class. Also, the security virtually non-existent. When she went for school, she got ready and waited outside for her bus. Northwest traditions were just beginning when the building opened. And then there were also the changes in security."

"Society is much more violent than it was in my day. I mean, think 50 years, there's a lot of changes in the world in 50 years," Pam said. "Look at all the school shootings and stuff taking place." Amanda Parsons [Class of '98] added, "That wasn't something that was happening when I was in school."

What was the first day of school like for each of you?

"The school was still in construction. The ladders were up and the workers were here," Pam said. "The gymnasium was not open yet. We still had to borrow other high school gyms for basketball games. It wasn't wasn't completed until February of 1970 and our last game of the season was our first game in the gym."

"In my era, we had to build traditions," Pam said. "With a brand new school, they had to come up with the colors and they had to [name] The Passage and the Lair, you know. I mean, our classes were the ones that established that and set that in motion."

"The school to me feels pretty much the same except for the library," Amanda said. "The area behind the band room, the choir room and the Little Theater wasn't here when I was here."

How has the world changed?

"I think we're more restricted. They could go out and come back whenever they wanted. During that time, there was a war and yet students faced fewer restrictions," McKenna Parsons [Class of '20] said.

"You guys are much more aware of everything around you because of the technology," Pam said. "People had to pick up a phone and call or they'd send faxes or things like that."

"They sent telegrams," Amanda whispered. "We didn't even have pagers," Pam said. "Oh goh, we had pagers when I was in school," Amanda laughed.

"To be able to get the word out immediately like an alert on phones and all that stuff to make the public or the school community aware," Pam said. "That's immediate. [My] parents never had that."

1996-2000



DREW
Perkins

Drew Perkins paced along the soccer field sidelines, at the Shawnee Mission Athletic complex (SMAC). He yelled at players to attack the space. Overhead, the sky turned gray and rain began to fall. Perkins put on the hood of his black raincoat and continued to coach. The water fell in streaks past the white "Shawnee Mission Northwest" logo.

Perkins graduated from Northwest in 2000.

"I actually lived in the West district," Perkins said. "I had a buddy I played soccer with who went here and he convinced me to transfer."

At the beginning of Perkins' freshman year, he was greeted by the seniors in an unusual way.

"The biggest seniors guys all charged down the freshman hall. It was like a stampede," Perkins said.

Transferring to Northwest made Perkins was nervous.

"The first time I entered the school was weird," Perkins said. "Because I was a transfer student, I didn't know anyone, so I had to find my path but wasn't sure what that'd be."

Perkins' favorite memories come from his experience on the soccer team. In fact, he enjoyed it so much that he returned and is currently the assistant coach both varsity soccer teams.

"We had fun we worked hard and we had success," Perkins said. "Coaching at Northwest has and is a privilege and an honor. The soccer program was a huge part of my high school experience. The coaches were amazing and created a family-like atmosphere. I hope that we create a similar atmosphere as well. My teammates became lifelong friends."

Those memories lead to thoughts of what he misses most.

"That's easy the people," Perkins said. "I had some amazing teachers and classmates. I had more fun here than I probably could explain. In the end, without people this is just a building and it's because of good people that I have so many special memories here."

Buzzzzzzzz

After the game ended, Perkins gave every player a high-five and told them that they played amazingly.

"Being a student at NW was a big stage in my life as I tried to figure out who I was and where I was going," Perkins said. "You struggle and pick yourself up, but my four years here were some of the best of my life."

2017-2021



MORGAN
Kastelan

Twenty minutes before her tennis match, sophomore Morgan Kastelan walked into the girls' team locker room. She put in the combination for her locker and grabbed her tennis bag. After she opened it, she pulled out her white tank top with orange lettering that read "SMNW."

"I thought the school was huge, and I felt very small, being a freshman, but, after awhile, the school seemed smaller and I felt welcome," Kastelan said.

Assemblies were Kastelan's favorite aspect.

"Everywhere you look, everyone is hyped," Kastelan said. "Everywhere you look there is spirit. Usually you see student moping from class to class, but at assemblies they come alive."

With two honors classes and being involved in Spirit Club and girls' tennis, Kastelan struggled with the pressure.

"I swear, every day when I see my friends in the hall, I tell them about crying in my last hour," Kastelan said. "I might not always do it, but I always feel like I'm going to."

Kastelan walked through the crowded hallway while she showed her friends a funny video on Instagram.

"Honestly, the best part of the day is seeing my friends in the halls," Kastelan said. "In between classes, you need a distraction from the fact that you are still in school. My friends are the perfect distraction."

When Kastelan got home, she stayed in her room and worked on homework she didn't complete at school.

"I do homework every day," Kastelan said. "I mean, I feel like homework is part of every high school student's life."

After her match, Kastelan put her racket back in her locker and changed into the clothes she had worn to school that day. She shut her locker, grabbed her keys and went home.

"Northwest is so amazing, I really can't think of a better place to spend my high school career," Kastelan said.

"I've already made so many memories and I am only a sophomore. I can't wait to see what this school has in store for me in the next two years."



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SEARCHING FOR A story

Stepping off the bus, journalism students stored their snacks in trash cans and made their way to the LLC to further their publication skills

"I woke up one morning, to the sun shining through my window. I looked around my room. There was a picture of us on Homecoming night, her navy blue dress with violet flowers complimented her hazel eyes so well. All around the floor were clothes I stole from her over the years. I had hid them so she wouldn't find them. I thought about all the times we played 'Glee' in our backyard. How we would wake up in the middle of the night to go to McDonald's... She was leaving—" I read to myself from my computer.

Waiting for my turn, I tried to support my peers by listening, but I couldn't help drifting back to my own story, rehearsing it in my head. I didn't want to sound stupid.

Less than 48 hours prior, our instructor, Collin LaJoie, opened our eight-person session with the questions, "What is journalism?" and "Why do we write?"

He laid out big sheets of paper with questions about the effects of fake news. Yearbook co-copy editor Kelsey Volk wrote an essay in response to each question. I didn't know what to write.

"Let's read," LaJoie said, directing our attention to a pile of photocopies before my thoughts had a chance to catch up.

"I was walking the way most of us do in New York, following the same path I did every Saturday," he read to us from a "New York Times Magazine" story. "I peered out from under my umbrella. The glare of

headlights caught a small figure, clutching a polka-dot umbrella. And then a car smashed into her, throwing her forward. I thought she must be dying and that I would hold her hand, so she would know someone was there."

I closed my eyes and I could see it. I felt like I was watching a movie.

I felt the freezing rain on my head and heard the sirens getting louder. I saw the trauma unit, all the nurses running around. I could picture her hair matted with blood and her light blue eyes. I could hear her say, "She didn't care if she lived or died."

What is journalism? Why do we write?

After dinner that night, I sat down with LaJoie. He talked about college journalism; he asked me about my plans. I wondered if he knew I was a sophomore and that I wasn't even thinking about college yet. He told me I was a good writer. I found it hard to believe because I only started writing for yearbook the year before.

I nodded along and said, "Thank you."

That night, I couldn't think of anything to write about. I didn't have a story. Nothing interesting to tell. I lay on the bottom bunk as other girls played "Never Have I Ever," their giggles filling the room. My head spun as I tried to dream up a story that people would find interesting. There was nothing.

What is journalism? Why do we write?

My phone started vibrating. It was my sister, who had left for college two weeks

earlier. I answered. I told her I missed her, and then I knew what my story was going to be about.

"You share people's stories," LaJoie had told us the day before. "That is what we do as journalists."

Despite my nerves, the story came easily.

The next day, I stood in front of my teachers, my peers, my friends. I kept trying to make eye contact because someone once told me that's what you're supposed to do when presenting to people. It was too intimate, too personal, and I couldn't, but I kept reading my story anyway.

"I rush upstairs to find her black slug bug pulling out of the driveway. I didn't wake up in time to say goodbye. I thought about texting her, but I remembered she was driving. I stood in my front yard for five minutes wishing I would've set my alarm. There were so many things I was going to say, but she was already halfway to Arkansas."

The small circle of writers clapped politely. I looked down and saw the teardrops on my computer. I was embarrassed, so I went back to my seat as quickly as I could.

When I sat back down, he handed me a note.

"Thank you for being so vulnerable. I really felt it. Your story was beautiful." — Collin

STORY BY TATUM SCHUEMAN



Writing on a poster board, sophomore Tatum Schueman explains the concepts of journalism. "At Tall Oaks, I learned about the pros and cons of journalism," Schueman said. "With the world we live in today, journalists' jobs are getting extremely difficult with the claims of 'fake news.' It makes me wonder as a journalist if this is the field I want to go into." PHOTO BY SEBASTIAN DUBSON

BACK FOR MORE

Groups planned and choreographed lip-sync routines to be judged by the instructors



1. On senior Day, *Junior The Matras* raised his hands in a choreographed dance to "The Lion King" Aug. 25 at Tall Oaks Conference Center. Journalism students were split into 20 Disney-themed groups to perform in a lip sync battle. "I was 9th grade, I'm very charismatic and have big hair like a mane," Matras said. "We were very in sync and had a plan that we executed pretty well." PHOTO BY AARON ROWERS 2. On stage, junior *Skyler Deagan* lip syncs to the song "Under the Sea" Bragans group. The Little Mermaid placed second in the lip sync battle and first in the camp competition overall. "The lip sync battle is always the best part of Tall Oaks and it was especially fun this year because my group all got super involved," Bragan said. "This year will become my best memories. We had so much fun." PHOTO BY NICK STRASS 3. With *podde* in hand, junior *Annalisse House* lip syncs to "How Far I'll Go" from the movie "Moana." The Moana group placed third in the lip sync battle. "Being Moana was really fun because I already knew all the songs to lip sync and I got to carry around the podde," Huxler said. PHOTO BY AARON ROWERS



50 BACK IN THE DAY

Tall Oaks was introduced to NW Media in 2005 as an educational tool

The first Tall Oaks was in 2005 to take the place of summer workshops without losing the ability to prepare both experienced and new journalism students for the coming year and give them a chance to bond. "In general, journalism, whether your yearbook or newspaper or photo is a great metaphor with trying to work with people your own age to achieve a product you're working on together," assistant adviser Wes Mikel said. "A lot of academic pursuits are an individual workload, but when you get out into the universe, you work with other people and figure out what steps to take, how to make it better and how to present it to other folks. I find that journalism is a good way to prepare people for a lot of lessons that will help them when they older." Tall Oaks has been an annual event every year for NW Media students. In 2015, KUCB started attending Tall Oaks to further their skills in video production.



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COME
AGAIN?

Freshman Jillian Sharp found her first Muckfest experience a little different than she expected



For freshman Jillian Sharp, Muckfest turned into a disappointing night. While Sharp was running to get water balloons, a rogue balloon exploded on her face.

"It seemed as if it had come at me 50 mph," Sharp said. The impact was so hard that her eye immediately became bloodshot and she couldn't open it. Sharp found her mom to see if anything was hospital-worthy. By the time her mom figured out she was fine, it was all over.

Sharp didn't get to heave a water balloon or a fistful of shaving cream at anyone. She didn't get to splatter anyone with mud, and she didn't even get to be sprayed by the fire truck.

She will, however, be back next year and out for revenge.

A BIG mucky mess

Muckfest's combination of sibling rivalry, sticky mud, shaving cream and cups of flour made for a messy situation

As freshman Kyra Gottfried ducked and dodged the globs of mud coming at her, she reached for a water balloon. In the midst of the chaos at Muckfest, Gottfried's main goal was to nail freshman Tamara Harris-Webster in the face.

Muckfest, hosted by YoungLife, served as a kick off to the school year. It was a way to get the word out about the organization and encourage students to get involved. All five Shawnee Mission high schools participated in its 20th year. The ammo consisted of mud, flour, water balloons and shaving cream, all provided by YoungLife.

While everyone waited for the rest of the students to arrive, firefighters prepped the mud. The first thing YoungLife leaders handed out was big trash cans full of water balloons. Once all the water balloons had been used, YoungLife leaders began spraying shaving cream into people's hands. There was not nearly enough shaving cream; people were so desperate to arm themselves with it, they were climbing on top of each other. Toward the end of the night, YoungLife leaders brought out tubs of flour. Since people were already wet and covered in shaving cream, the flour stuck to them like glue.

"If you didn't go home dirty, you didn't even go to Muckfest," freshman Blake Reeder said.

While the event was supposed to be a competition between the schools, students tended to target their friends instead.

"The best part about Muckfest was getting dirty and making other people dirty," freshman Kael Farkes said.

Farkes was so excited, he dove into the trash can and started firing water balloons, one by one, attacking SM West students.

Before Muckfest started, YoungLife

director Wendy Franco told everyone that rocks may have been accidentally mixed in with the mud. If one was found in the pile, it was to be put to the side, not thrown at anyone. Freshman Sammi Meeks did not listen to Franco's warning, she was intent on finding and attacking her sister, junior Mallory Meeks.

When she reached Mallory, they splattered mud on each other, but Mallory took it to another level. She grabbed Sammi by the neck and rubbed mud all over her. This infuriated Sammi. Sammi stood up, looking for things to throw at Mallory.

Sammi spotted a rock, which Franco considered contraband, and decided to seize the moment. She went after Mallory and nailed her in the back.

"I was going to go back and attack her, but I just left it alone because it was just going to cause me more pain," Mallory said.

After the Meeks sisters and other students finished throwing muck, they ran toward the fire truck where firefighters blasted water at them, washing away the gunk from their arms, legs, faces and hair. The torrent of cold water left students shivering.

The night ended surprisingly early. While students danced in puddles of muddy water, a group from SM West started crowd surfing. At 7:15 p.m., Franco announced that crowd surfing was dangerous and was not to be done. When the students ignored her, she turned off the music and announced that the night was over.

Students booed. No one was going home; instead, they danced on top of their cars in the parking lot for the rest of the evening.

STORY BY MADDY GRAFF



During Muckfest, freshman Maddy Graff strikes freshman Mary Morstad with a handful of shaving cream Sept. 19 at Shawnee Mission Park. Every Shawnee Mission public school participated in the event. "In the days just before Muckfest, a senior told me that if I didn't go there and get dirty, I didn't really go," Graff said. "So my goal was to smash it in her face and get mud on my face." Photo by Elin Dore

1. During Muckfest, sophomore Duke Henke catches a water balloon as it pops Sept. 19 at Shawnee Mission Park. Water balloons were the first thing to be thrown at Muckfest. "I was trying to hit people with the balloons instead of getting hit myself," Henke said. "I really liked being there with my friends and just having a good time." Photo by Elin Dore 2. Competing in a piggyback race, freshman Drake Schotland rides on freshman Ryan Borberg's back. The competitors had to run to the center, switch positions and run back. "Borberg was a good partner and we had a lot of fun competing against the other schools," Schotland said. "If he was a horse, we would win two out of three triple crown races, guaranteed." Photo by Cassie Moore 3. Freshman Dante Wheatcroft hits his friend with mud. High school students covered each other in shaving cream and mud and threw water balloons at each other during the YoungLife-sponsored event. "Being a freshman, the start of [the event] caught me by surprise," Wheatcroft said. Photo by Cassie Moore



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BACK IN THE DAY

Students have been getting yucky for almost two decades



Shocked by the freezing cold water, [then] senior Durrey Leslie cries out in surprise.

Over the Theater in the Park sign, YoungLife leaders hang a banner for Muck Fest.

The first Muckfest was held in 1999. It was set to kick off the new year for YoungLife. The weekly club met on Wednesday evenings and was supposed to entertain students with skits, weekly announcements, a raffle and talks about aspects of faith. Students from each of the five Shawnee Mission high schools met as a group once each quarter.



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new AND improved

The library remodel featured fewer books, a makerspace, a coffee shop and new furniture, all thanks to a voter-approved district bond issue

At 7 a.m., not many places are occupied within the walls of the building. Students are beginning to trickle in the mall and random teachers may be meeting with their pupils. But there is one place where students are able to work on homework and projects due that day while sipping a freshly brewed cup of coffee: the library.

"I go [to the library] almost every morning because I arrive at school pretty early," senior Hope LaMartina said. "I use the time to finish up homework or read a book. I like it because it's much quieter than the mall and it gives me a good place to study."

Librarian Meghan Stigge had worked in the library for three years. Her first year was 2015 and, since then, she has found her niche in the NW community.

"Librarians wear a lot of hats, just like teachers do," Stigge said. "Sometimes I am helping students who are upset while fulfilling the other duties as librarian."

Like the library itself, the role of the librarian has changed drastically. While Stigge works closely with students, she also handles day-to-day tasks regarding paperwork and technology.

"I would say teaching is my number one role," Stigge said. "Traditional literacy, technological literacy and information literacy are the three main [topics] to be taught now."

To say that the library means a lot to Stigge was an understatement. She played a vital role in the NW community. According to Stigge, being the only librarian came with its struggles, but also its rewards.

"There's a lot of work that goes into just maintaining the library," Stigge said. "Circulating materials, getting things checked out to students and getting them returned by students. And I love it. I love my job."

The decision to remodel the library was not one that was made by NW administrators alone. The order came from the district as a new initiative to get more students to interact with the library.

"The bond issue was approved for all five high school library media centers to be renovated a while ago, but they phased it in at different times," Stigge said. "But as far as the progress here at Northwest, we

really started sitting down and having conversations last year about what it was going to look like."

The remodel included a revamped design with new furniture, and a larger space for more tables and a seating area. Of course, in the remodel, there were plans to integrate a coffee shop. The shop was to be run by the marketing classes. The students had to submit a proposal to allow it to be student-run.

"Marketing class has been concentrating ads with the newspaper so we haven't really done anything with the café," senior Cody Andrews said. "We plan to open up in the mornings and at lunch. We would just serve basic coffees with flavoring. Dr. Gruman wanted to open a coffee shop not only because we were the last school in SMSD to have one but also because we want to put money back into some of the clubs and try to help them out."

Cougar Coffee opened in January, bringing more foot traffic to the library.

"Students used [the library] quite a bit before, but now it's like a snowball rolling down the hill," Stigge said. "More and more people want to use the library, which is nice to see happen."

Of course, to finance the renovations for all the Shawnee Mission schools, Johnson County officials had to give their opinion about giving more money to public schools. While it wasn't a cheap expense, Stigge thinks that the update was beneficial to everyone involved.

"The Johnson County area taxpayers decided that our students deserve a nice place to sit and work and learn," Stigge said. "It's just a great thing to think about."

The new library meant new chairs, updated furniture and an in-house café ready to serve coffee. But for Stigge the renovations meant something deeper.

"I love this job because it mixes all of my favorite things which are students, literature and inspiration," Stigge said. "What I love about the renovation is that the visual is just as beautiful as the learning that happens here."

STORY BY ALIUS JAGRE

IT ALL COMES DOWN TO...

As with the rest of the Shawnee Mission schools who updated their libraries, a café area was added. Administrators asked students to select a name for the coffee shop. Cougar Coffee won in a school-wide vote.



Writing in her notebook, junior Charlie Quiral takes notes while her AP US History classmates present their edgery Dec. 10 in the new library. Quiral's group gave their edgery from the point of view of Mary Suratt, a confederate sympathizer. "Some people had way more opportunities for creativity and most of them did a good job," Quiral said. Photo: Aislinn, Rozares



BACK IN THE DAY

Since the school first opened in 1969, the library has played an integral role in the lives of many students.

In 1969, the library was technologically advanced for the time. The architecture of the room was not similar to the room now. There were library carols which students used to study in as well as an emphasis on more books. Although there is still an emphasis on books, there are many different ways to access them now.

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1. Librarian Meghan Stigge laughs with junior Jaylan Moore Dec. 10 in the library. Moore shared her dreams of becoming a coordinator in a circus. "Dibs, Stigge has helped me through a lot of hard times," Moore said. "The library is practically my second home." Photo: Aislinn, Rozares 2. During the combined AP US History and English classes, junior Bailey Corn laughs as a classmate performed the AP US History were assigned a historical figure to give a eulogy from for a funeral for Abraham Lincoln. "Our teacher encouraged us to make our presentations funny, so it was a lot of fun to see how creative they were," Corn said. Photo: Aislinn, Rozares 3. With her feet up, junior Alison Snawder types on her laptop Dec. 10 in the library. Snawder worked on her AP US History assignment after her class held a memorial for President Lincoln. "In the library, it feels like I am sitting on the couch at home working on homework," Snawder said. "I love the new look of the library and I think it's attracted more people to the library." Photo: Aislinn, Rozares 4. Reading "The God of Small Things," senior Hope LaMartina sits in the renovated library. LaMartina went to the library most mornings before class started. "I like the open, relaxed space to do homework, read, or study," LaMartina said. "I'm able to focus easily and get all of my work done." Photo: Aislinn, Rozares



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icyymi

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

DRESS CODES



Students were met with **newly enforced** dress codes coming into the school year

It was 7:25 a.m. and Maggie Dewsbury realized she was supposed to be out of the door and on her way five minutes ago. Scrambling to get everything she needed for her day, she raced back up the stairs to grab her blue flannel. The probability of getting dress-coded for the scoop neck tank top she was wearing was high.

"I was wearing a tank top, but it wasn't a v-neck, and I was wearing a flannel over it," Dewsbury said. "I thought [associate principal Connie Springfield] had stopped me for my shorts because they had small rips in them, but they weren't short, so I was confused. I was taken back when she said my tank top was the problem."

In previous years, most girls were not dress coded for wearing spaghetti straps, off the shoulder tops or having rips in their jeans.

"It seems like dress codes have been more problematic this year," sophomore Emma Milovic said. "Girls are getting dress coded for more minor things than in the past."

As more girls were stopped for dress code violations and

word spread, a group chat of 37 girls formed where frustrations could be vented and they could freely discuss what they were wearing that led to the violation. Senior Riley Demo, a member of the group chat, decided it was time to take some action and have a meeting with Springfield.

"My meeting with Ms. Springfield was easier than I expected it to be," Demo said. "She listened to my side and I told her about all of the girls' frustrations and not just my own. She laid down the rules she was trying to enforce."

Since the meeting, some rules were discussed and some items that were in question, as in off-the-shoulder tops, were resolved when Springfield read the district dress code from 2014. However, some guidelines were reinforced, such as straps have to be wider than two fingers.

"We're just trying to prepare students for the future. Learning [how] to act and be appropriate is all a part of the reason you come to school," Springfield said. "The way you dress is a character piece and, in the real world, you have to dress professionally."

STORY BY MAGGIE DOLNAR

HOMECOMING

Who spent more during Homecoming?
You or your date?
Out of 99



IN THE CLOUDS

Rather than smoking in the bathroom, students were vaping in the classroom and everywhere else

It's a quick turn of the teacher's back that allows students to reach into their backpacks for a small, portable vaping device. Or maybe it's a quick run to the bathroom that gives students an outlet to vape with privacy.

Forty percent of students vape, according to a NW Passage poll. Thirteen percent of these students vape both in the bathroom and the parking lot, while 10 percent vape in the mall. According to the survey, about 58 percent of students who vape claim that they do not vape at school.

"I think that a lot of the reasons people vape is because a drinking buzz is so much longer and you can't control yourself while you are drunk or high," a junior girl said. "People choose to vape because the buzz goes away and you can easily gain it back."

Students in possession of a vape or who are caught vaping on school grounds face a three-day, out-of-school suspension on the first offense. Any additional offense will result in a five day of suspension. According to associate principal Jack Johnson, on an average, one student each day is caught vaping at NW.

A majority of students claim that peer pressure is what prompted them to vape in the first place.

"I was 13 when I first vaped and I started because I saw my friends doing it," a sophomore girl said. "It looked interesting and I haven't stopped since."

STORY BY RORY DUNGAN, ANNALISSA HOUSER & KATE LAWRENCE

WE'VE GOT SPIRIT

Cheerleaders attended a summer camp and competition to **prepare for the year**

The mall was completely silent. July 27 at 8 a.m. except for the squeaks of the janitors' shoes against the hallway floor. No students walked the dimly lit hallways. The low sounds of the beats progressively got louder as one approached the gym.

"I think that National Cheer Association camp [NCA camp] is definitely a good place for bonding," varsity co-captain Temaya Burgin said. "It's also just a good place to prepare for everything that cheer is going to bring."

Cheerleaders not only learned cheers at the National Cheerleader Association camp, safer ways to stunt, dance and create routines, but also about themselves, their teammates and how their talents could combine.

"I really like learning the dances," sophomore Nessie Gragg said. "[The camp] is only three days long so I like to have the pressure of [learning] something new and

then performing it the next day."

Before their final performance, the NCA staff - wearing black, red and white cheer uniforms - presented awards. The girls sat with their squads, slouched and exhausted.

"Best overall tumbling goes to, drum roll, please..." the announcer said as the sound of hands patting the mat filled the gym. "...Shawnee Mission Northwest."

Cheers erupted as each team member was presented a purple award ribbon and high-fived the staff members. Some girls tied the ribbon around the bow that already held their ponytails.

"My favorite part is probably the staff members," junior Riley Brocker said. "They can be hard on you and there can be some serious moments, but there's a lot of times where they're super into it and they're having a really good time."

When the last award was given, it was

almost 5 p.m. and camp was coming to a close. The cheerleaders jumped to their feet and moved in formation for the final dance.

An upbeat tune began to play and, as the cheerleaders began to move, their ponytails began to get looser and looser from hair ties. A rainbow of colored bows and uniforms moved in unison as they danced what they had been learning all day.

"I think sometimes it gets a little difficult [for people] to understand how much work cheerleaders put in," Burgin said. "We sweat, cry, bleed [and] break things, but we are still very determined. We put out the best work we can and we keep building on what we learned on and off the mat at camp."

STORY BY TATUM GOETTING



SPEAK UP WALK

Students and adults **came together to walk** in support of suicide prevention as well as survivors and families of those who have committed suicide

Light poured onto the gray sidewalk, baking the crowd in the warm wave. In the sea of blue senior Jackie McKay listened intently as Speak Up co-founder Allison Doss spoke. The crowd fell silent.

No one spoke during Doss' speech. She emphasized that untreated depression is the leading cause of suicide worldwide. As Doss stepped away from the podium, co-founder Steve Arkin began to speak. His voice shook as if he was on the verge of tears.

The speeches kicked off the Speak Up Walk Sept. 16 on the Garmin Campus. This statewide event worked to raise awareness and to reduce the stigma of teen mental health issues while supporting survivors and families of those who have committed suicide.

"I believe the walk was needed," McKay said. "We were so distraught by the tragedy last year. We needed to find ways to support everyone so it wouldn't happen again."

Last year, two NW students committed suicide within two

days of each other, leaving students searching for answers. This walk allowed participants to provide needed support for one another.

The blue and white Speak Up banner was lifted in the blistering heat of the day as the walk began. Murmurs from those walking were drowned out by the sound of shoes on the pavement. McKay followed the crowd of blue, gazing at the banner as her feet pulled her forward. She kept pace with the crowd, sauntering along the sidewalk which wound around the campus.

"I thought the walk was too short," McKay said. "It felt like it was over in two seconds. Why have a walk that short?"

As the participants moved along the half-mile stretch of sidewalk, volunteers distributed apples, Gatorade and water.

"It was inspiring to see everyone pitching in to help for the cause," McKay said. "It really shows how much our community cares."

STORY BY CHARITY SAUNDERS



In a group of students and teachers, receptionist Mary Akagi, school social worker Melissa Osborn and principal Lisa Gruman participate in the Speak Up Walk Sept. 16 at Garmin Campus. The walk was less than half a mile long and thousands of people attended. "It was very important and impactful because it was a short walk, but seeing all the people I'll find small space helps you acknowledge that people are impacted by health issues," Gruman said. "Being present with people and getting to hear their stories helps you to learn and grow." PHOTO BY SEBASTIAN ENDRSON



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TO BE decided...

Despite the **stress** of Theory of Knowledge, the students **worked their hardest** to succeed in the International Baccalaureate Diploma program

Theory of Knowledge (TOK) and psychology teacher Amy Walker moved to the front of Room 155. A smile spread across her face as class began.

"How are we?" Walker asked.

The room grew silent as the students waited for someone else to speak up.

"Stressed," one student replied.

Other students chimed in, agreeing and adding to the response, and the room fell silent again.

"All right, Extended Essay. Before [Thanksgiving] break, we talked about the bigger picture and where we're headed," Walker said. "Dr. Winston came in and had this elaborate conversation about our deadlines."

As part of the TOK curriculum, students are expected to write a 15-page research paper on a topic of their choosing over a period of two years. They had the ability to use books, articles and even movies as a part of their search to understand and define the topic.

"I've decided that I'm doing the school-to-prison pipeline [for my research paper], which is basically the idea that students who think they will fail will ultimately fail," junior Alyssa Murray said. "Statistics show that 60 percent of African American males who drop out of high school end up in prison. That is something that should astonish our country, yet it's not even talked about."

The students were silent for a moment, contemplating the mass of information Walker had presented. They considered the things they had learned all year and how they might cross-apply learning objectives from different classes.

"So, you have a mentor, right? You have a general area. I assume within that general area you have a direction you think you're moving toward at this point," Walker said to the class. "In my experience, the students who see their mentors the most tend to be the most successful. When you pop in every so often, all those little pieces of communication help tremendously."

Each International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma candidate picked an IB teacher as a mentor. The students met with their mentors multiple times a year but could meet with them as often as they wanted. These mentors helped analyze the various drafts of the research papers, gave constructive criticism and helped students improve their papers.

"Mr. Pabst is my mentor for the Extended Essay," junior Shayan Karimiy said. "I picked [him] because I knew he could rip my paper apart and make it good."

TOK was one of the many classes in the IB program; it helped students think more independently and encouraged students to think deeper about topics that pertained to real-life situations. Janine Deines served as the coordinator of the program.

"I think the [program] has brought the school a lot of prestige," Deines said. "I know a lot of students come to the Northwest area because we have the IB program. I think for the kids who are here, it has done a lot to provide opportunities that they wouldn't have otherwise academically."

STORY BY JASON FUERNBERGER

BACK IN THE DAY
 In its time at Northwest, IB has evolved, been a point of controversy, and grown to include more students than before

International Baccalaureate (IB) started at Northwest in the fall semester of 2008-2009 school term with just 39 students. The program has grown to more than 200 students in grades 11 and 12. The program now features academic courses in every core curricular area, including social studies, art, music, math and world languages. In 2016, the school board moved to discontinue the program, but with action from parents, teachers and students, NW IB survived.



1. Diving Theory of Knowledge, junior Alyssa Murray tonight with her classmates in Room 155. TOK is a class during which IB Diploma students talk about how knowledge is acquired and what it means in everyday life. "We take real world situations and build questions to challenge our perspective," Murray said. "I love how we get the opportunity to think beyond what we've been taught." Photo by SENLAP BROGAN



2. English teacher Ben Pabst leads a discussion during Theory of Knowledge. "It's amazing to experience just how deep students thinking can be, and it's exciting how unpredictable a discussion can be — how many directions it can head," Pabst said. Photo by SENLAP BROGAN



3. Juniors Victor Fuentes and Isabel Dory discuss Andy Warhol's art with their class during Theory of Knowledge in Room 155. The more recent assignments in TOK covered the life and art of Andy Warhol. "The stuff that seems from the conversations in class is really mind-blowing and covers things that no other class has the time nor the means to touch," Fuentes said. "There are a lot of 'whoa' moments after we've discussed something as simple as color art." Photo by SENLAP BROGAN

At her desk, junior Shweya Patel jokes with her classmates Nov. 29 in Room 155. TOK students must analyze a world video to discuss in class. "We make TOK fun by sharing our thoughts and listening to each other react to situations we would normally never think twice about," Patel said. Photo by SENLAP BROGAN



COME AGAIN?
 Senior Mina Rujs shared how she felt after turning in her Extended Essay

"I was genuinely interested in and enjoyed my topic. I really felt the culmination of a lot of hard work done over the course of my junior and senior years. After going through so many drafts and reading the same lines over and over again just for the sake of changing one or two words, finally finishing the paper was a relief."

— SENIOR MINA RUJS



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AT THE END OF THE game

We all know the feeling: the **pressure** to win, the pressure to **make everyone proud**

The score was 20-24.
I looked down. My forearms were red. I felt my hands start to shake and my mind start to wander.

I thought about how many people were watching. Their eyes were on my team and me.

I thought about what my coach would say after the final whistle blew. How she would scream about how we should've tried harder, even though every girl was sitting on the sideline, barely able to breathe.

I thought about the sympathy "You did a good job" we'd get from all the parents. They would hug us while we tried not to cry. We would all know; everyone would hear it.

Every athlete knows what the ride home is like after a loss.

If you're in the car with your parents, they try to give you advice on how to be better. You roll your eyes thinking "How would they know?" But, if you are on a bus with your team, it's even worse.

No one talks.
No one plays music.
It's...
Silent.

The ref blew his whistle.
I snapped back from the future into the now. My coach was yelling at me to watch the court.

The ball was served directly at me. I didn't even need to think before bumping it up to my setter. With all the practices, things came naturally to me.

Timing was everything.
Approach was everything.
"Left, right, left jump," I thought to myself. "Left, right, left."

I started my approach as the ball left my setter's fingers.

I jumped and swung. As I opened my eyes slowly, my team screamed and started to hug me.

Our team went on a run. We earned four more points.

The score was 25-24.
Game point.
I closed my eyes and took a breath. The win or the loss...
It all comes back to me.
We've all felt that pressure.
Everything that was once muscle memory, you now overthink.

I inhaled as I took a step forward to serve and exhaled after I saw the ball sailing over the net.

I watched as it hit their libero's head and then the wall.

We had won.
I stopped thinking about my heart racing and my stomach cramping. I started to jump. I felt like I owned the world. This was for the school, to fill the trophy case.

This was for pride, so we could earn the title "everyday champions."

The parents stood and applauded, all eyes on the team.

My coach told us this was a well-deserved win and that we have given it our all. She told us she was proud and how it was a great way to end the season.

I ran to my dad and jumped in his arms. He told me I played amazingly. My brother asked me the score, but I didn't seem to care that he wasn't watching.

The car ride home was loud. Full of voices talking about their favorite plays from the game.

I tuned out.
The adrenaline was gone, but I remained on cloud nine. All the late night practices and the summer training finally made sense...well, maybe not, but it didn't matter.

I didn't really realize that this was the end of our season, the end of this team's journey, but we ended on a good note.

26-24.
Victory.
STORY BY TATUM SCHUEMAN



With their hands together, the Lady Cougars chant before a match. Aug. 25 in the Main Gym. After the captain and coaches talk to the team, they gather to encourage each other and get ready for the match. PHOTO BY ARIANA PLOSKY



// The Lair
Shawnee Mission
Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas

Watching drum major Caroline Sanders, senior Hannah Sullivan plays her clarinet Sept. 21 at the SNM North District Stadium. The marching show theme, "Where No Man Has Gone Before," was based on the movie series "Star Trek." "I really liked the melody and the build of the movements [in this show]," Sullivan said. "My favorite part is always the end when we yell 'Northwest' because there is so much pride and emotion in it." PHOTO BY SYLVIA BUCKMAN



Music TO MY Ears

From **winning grand champion** at the Neewollah Marching Festival, to **not making the finals by a small margin** at the KBA Marching Festival, the Marching Cougar Pride experienced the highs and lows of competition and performance



// The Lair
 Shawnee Mission
 Northwest High School
 Shawnee, Kansas

Playing Rock, Paper, Scissors, junior Justin D'Silva tries to beat junior Sara Greer. Also, 1 on the football field. Band camp allows band members to get to know each other as well as get the show ready for the upcoming marching season. "I thought we could really improve after last year," D'Silva said. "The band was really motivated and working. This really helped improve the quality of the show." Photo by SIDNEY HINKENBUKEN



band TOGETHER



1. Out on the field, senior Anna Schmitt plays ultimate rock, paper, scissors July 2. During ultimate rock, paper scissors, the winner took a step forward with the same foot each time, but the loser took a step backward with the opposite foot. "The Dance Team girls were really good at it because we would get really close to doing our splits, but not fall," Schmitt said. "It's good when building and gets us talking and laughing with other people in band." Photo by SONIA OLIVEIRA
2. Junior Robin Berger plays her clarinet with sophomore Janna Wilson, freshman Abigail Butler and sophomore Luke Perry July 30. During band camp, the Cougar Pride spent eight and a half hours practicing every day. "I love marching band because of the payoff that comes with hard practice," Berger said. "After spending a whole rehearsal on a set, I come out of practice feeling accomplished." Photo by SONIA OLIVEIRA



BACK IN THE DAY
 The Marching Cougar Pride performed for over 65,000 people at the Kansas City Chiefs-Pittsburgh Steelers halftime show in 1975.



3. Lined up with the trumpets, sophomore Colby Johnston played his instrument July 31. Johnston was the leader of the trumpet section. "Marching band has helped me form friendships with people I wouldn't have met otherwise," Johnston said. "I've gained leadership experience and it's made high school really enjoyable." Photo by SONIA OLIVEIRA
4. Junior Claire Anderson plays the trombone on the football field. "Band camp is a week full of sweat, long hours, and great achievements," Anderson said. "It's the best and worst week of my life, but the end result is always worth it." Photo by SONIA OLIVEIRA

On the field **every morning at 7 a.m.** and back on the field Friday's at 7 p.m., **band students stuck together**

The sweltering heat of the August sun shone over the football field. The Marching Cougar Pride stepped to the beat. Their shirts stuck to their backs and sweat beaded on their foreheads.

"You see football players and tennis and track, and you know that they practice all the time," drum major Ellie Ridgeway said. "I'm like 'wow, they did so great at that competition because they practice so much.' I feel like no one really ever says that about Marching Band."

While the majority of the student body soaked up the last few days of summer, the band and drill team were on the field by 8 a.m., walking. Just walking, but in a complex formation they would walk every day for the next four months.

"It's a week of your summer that is just doing band, and I don't think a lot of people know how much time and dedication goes into it," drum major Evan Wapp said.

Band camp was divided into three blocks daily. Trying to beat the heat, students learned the basics of marching outside during the first block. The second block focused on the music itself, indoors. The band members broke into sections to learn the songs for the marching show, "Where No One Has Gone Before." The third block combined the previous two: marching while playing the music.

"It takes a lot of work to get everyone on the same page, and that's kind of what the goal of

band camp is," Wapp said. "Everything has to be same time, same thing, same way. If one person is different, it's obvious. If another person goes to the wrong spot, you're going to notice."

When the band was dismissed for a break, the instrumental sections ate lunch together, although they had already spent the morning with the same company. Many of these relationships were years in the making, yet each freshman was wholeheartedly welcomed into the group, laughing and creating new inside jokes with the upperclassman.

"The best part, as a freshman, was that I was in a program where I had 150 friends before I started school," clarinet section leader Josh Zumalt said. "I was introverted and I wasn't ready to open up to people. Band exposed me to a lot of new experiences and a lot of new people and sort of put me out there."

On paper, the goal of band camp was to teach the freshmen the basics of marching and music. In reality, it was much more than that.

"I'm more caring and thoughtful of other people because of band," Wapp said. "I know getting up at 6 in the morning to come to school is not fun at all, so if someone is struggling, I can help them in a way I wouldn't be able to without band. With band, you always have somebody next to you."



Shouting a command, senior Hannah Sullivan stands with fellow marching band members July 31 on the NW field. Marching band and dance teams spent the mornings and afternoons marching and would go to lunch and dinner with each other in between. "There are so many different personalities and strengths within the whole band," Sullivan said. "They all blend together to make something amazing for all the people in the stands." Photo by SONIA OLIVEIRA

YOU'LL COME AROUND
 In order to keep things interesting, each Marching Cougar Pride section had spirit days each day of band camp. Drum line did this:
 Monday: America Day
 Tuesday: Tropical Day
 Wednesday: Circus like Eichenman day (Bret Eichenman, band/percussion director)
 Thursday: Thigh Thursday (short shorts)
 Friday: Marching Show Shirts

STORY BY KELSEY VOLK



// The Lair
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BACK FOR MORE

I love performing because...

"It [know] that all the hard work I put into it paid off. For a performance you spend so many hours practicing, just like other sports."

**SENIOR
CO-CAPTAIN
ASHLYN MILLS**



"Before I perform, I feel a mixture of nervousness and excitement, but, afterward, I feel really accomplished, because I know I put all my effort into it and it paid off."

**JUNIOR
CO-CAPTAIN
PEYTON AERNI**

"The adrenaline is really high. The whole team is supportive of each other, and we all congratulate each other and say good job."

**SENIOR
CO-CAPTAIN
ANNA SCHMIDT**



1 With one arm raised, sophomore Kerie Paul performs at halftime Sept. 21 at the SM North District Stadium. The theme for Dance Team's performance was "Where No One Has Gone Before" from the "Star Trek" franchise. "When out on the field my head is so focused on what I'm supposed to be doing and what part comes after the next," Paul said. "I always have to think about the corrections we get and where to set my flag." Photo by Esai Hartzel. **2** Looking behind her, junior McLoraine Parks smiles on the sidelines Oct. 11 at SM North District Stadium. "When you finish a performance and you are standing there and everyone is cheering for you, you just know it's all worth it," Parks said. "Every practice and the stress, you just forget it all." Photo by Alexis Roberts.

Surrounded by flags, senior Sadie Lucier lifts her waving flag during the third song of their halftime performance Oct. 11 at the SM North District Stadium. The team used 100 flags that they made themselves to add unique effects. "We got to turn these plain white flags and the music was slow and dramatic," Lucier said. "That was our team's biggest achievement. We had the audience through our music and lights in Alexis Roberts."

IT'S THE little things

Repetitive **frustration**, to persistent **nervousness**, to overflowing **happiness**, how the dance team makes it through a performance

5, 6, 7, 8.
The dancers whispered the counts to themselves. They focused on the music, made sure they were in exactly the right place at exactly the right time.

Step, step, turn, start over.
Step, step, turn, start over.

Timing was everything.

"We do things over and over again until it's perfect," co-captain Peyton Aerni said.

The dance team spent countless hours perfecting their routines before the student body saw them.

The team went to National Dance Alliance (NDA) camp in June. Sessions and practices run from sunrise until well past sunset and focus on new routines and competing against other schools. Dance team members say it is exhausting, with little time for sleep; instead, giving the teams the chance to learn new routines. Despite the exhaustion and various dance backgrounds of the girls, the team reached new levels of bonding and became more in sync.

Even the captains had drastically different dance backgrounds.

"I did classical ballet," senior co-captain Ashlyn Mills said. "In a ballet studio, they're super strict. You have a uniform you have to wear and there's no talking during classes. Your teacher just yells at you to just be constantly improving. Drill team is a much lighter environment. It's more like a team, rather than practice."

Mills has been dancing since she was two. Aerni has been in competitive dance since third grade and senior co-captain Anna Schmidt has danced in a studio since kindergarten.

"You're able to see [the team's differences]

in all of our dances," Schmidt said. "It definitely makes it more fun. You can play around with more styles and girls can help each other with different things. Some girls are stronger at turns and we have them help other girls with turns. We help correct and support each other."

Bonfire and Homecoming were two of the biggest regular season performances for the team and they worked tirelessly on them. In addition to assemblies, Dance Team performed at most of the fall and winter sports' home games, no matter the weather.

Sequin tops on, they walked in perfect synchrony. Heads down. They took one deep breath and exhaled a cloud of white into the cold air. The crowd focused on the field.

5, 6, 7, 8.

Heads up. Smiles ear to ear. First flag in hand, they began to wave it to the music.

All the early, cold mornings spent on the field with the band came back to them.

Everything was muscle memory. With the number of times the team had worked on the field, they didn't need to think about what the next motion was, they already knew.

Flag after flag mesmerized the student section, though they were soon abandoned as the girls began to waltz around the field. They gathered in the middle and vanished under a large black sheet which symbolized a black hole.

The band quieted and the students cheered. The dancers got up, picked up their flags and walked off as perfectly as they had walked on.

"The energy is insane," Schmidt said. "The adrenaline is really high the whole team is really supportive of each other."

STORY BY TEAGAN VANBLARCOM



Waving her flag, senior Gabby Chavez performs at a home football game at the SM North District Stadium Sept. 21. [My favorite part about the flags] is the feeling I get when I toss it, and then catch it," Chavez said. "I love these girls. They are my family and we've been through everything together." Photo by Esai Hartzel.

BACK IN THE DAY

Dance team uniform changes

The original uniforms featured white cotton shirts with sailor collars under an orange wool sleeveless top and a short multi-colored wool skirt. A black tie and white majorette boots with an orange tassel on one boot and black tassel on the other completed the look.



Captain Kathy Lankston, sponsor Mrs. Conell and Co-Captains Colleen Sullivan and Kathy Mosier.



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PHOTO AND ILLUSTRATION
BY ETHAN SCHREIBER

penny snead

LOVE NOTES

In spite of the hardships along the way, band director Penny Snead passed her **music experience** on to her students while **forming unbreakable bonds**

Grad party invitations and handwritten notes from former students covered the windows of Ann "Penny" Pendleton Snead's office. These were just one example of how much her students loved her.

"Snead is like a second mom in a way. She cares about everyone; she treats the band like a family," senior Caroline Sanders said. "She makes Northwest feel like a home because I can always go to her. It doesn't matter if it's something with a friend or something with school. I can just go into her office and she will listen."

The feeling was mutual. Snead raved about how much she loved her job and her students.

"I know it certainly doesn't look like it, but I feel like they've made me younger. When you're around young people all the time, it's a little harder to get old," Snead said. "They're so bright and enthusiastic and fun."

Snead has been the head director of the band program for 19 years and worked at SM North for 14 years before that. In her last year at North, she was ready for a change in her life. That was when assistant band director and former college friend, Doug Talley, recruited her to work here. Teaching at a new school was challenging.

"My first year was miserable. I think a lot of times a band director has a special relationship with students and for me to leave North and come here was really difficult for everybody," Snead said. "I think as difficult as it was for me, it was probably more difficult for the students. I'd been at North for 14 years and so I was used to having students believe me, respect me and like me. When you come to a new situation, it doesn't matter how knowledgeable you are or how much experience you have, you really have to prove yourself all over again."

Snead taught marching band and percussion, ensemble and concert band here in the mornings and then traveled to Trailridge to finish the day working with the middle school band students.

"For the first several years that I was here, I didn't feel like I had a home," Snead said.

Snead had her heart set on teaching her entire life, specifically being a band director. Her love of music and her students remained present in her life.

She learned a lot from teaching. According to Snead, the biggest lesson was to be more observant and to have more compassion for her students.

"You don't always think about the fact that [a student] might be having a bad day, or something [may] have blown up at home," Snead said. "I try to stop myself before I start thinking negatively or reprimand a student."

Snead is very understanding of her students, as they are to her.

"I like how Snead is always very straightforward and direct with everyone in the band," senior Merritt Parsons said. "She always challenges us to grow as musicians and work hard."

She had to get hip surgery earlier this year and being gone for the first part of the school year was difficult because she was so close to her students. Her hip had started deteriorating, going unnoticed by doctors. It got to the point that she couldn't walk on it anymore.

"[Recovery] was fantastic, but then I got an infection and had to go through surgery and sort of start all over," Snead said. "It was really tough for me."

She was away from the band much longer than she had planned. When she came back, her struggle was similar to the difficulty of her first year teaching here.

"I couldn't function at the level I needed to. I think even my students saw that," Snead said. "They tried to help me in any way they could. I had to learn how to accept help. Hip surgery isn't anything catastrophic. I was just used to being active and independent."

Once she got back to normal, she had to worry about being prepared for cold mornings on the football field, preparing for games and Thursday morning songs in the mall.

"Halftime shows are created with a lot of thought. We try and choose music that fits the talent of the band and that the band students as well as the crowd will like," Snead said. "Then we assemble a team of professionals to write the choreography, help with dance team and arrange the music."

Because the band worked so closely with the dance team, Snead formed a bond with varsity dance team coach Kelsi Horner.

"Horner's great. She was a student of mine here," Snead said. "All of the Horners went through band. I mean I wasn't here, but I think her parents are Northwest grads."

In addition to Talley, Snead worked alongside percussion band instructor Brett Eichman.

"I love them just like I love my kids," Snead said. "They make my life very fun here at school. They are incredibly helpful and supportive."

Band was a safe place for Snead. She had a great experience with it as she was growing up and hoped she could give the same experience to all the students involved in it.

"Band is a wonderful family. It gives kids a home and a place that makes them feel comfortable," Snead said. "For me, band gave me self confidence, it gave me drive - I wanted to be better. You can express yourself through music sometimes better than you can speak. I feel like that's me."

Hanging from the window in Snead's office, one note seemed to say it all:

"Compared to happiness, you are pure joy. You take the mood and swing it around until everyone is only happy, and we forget what sadness means. You are the love."

STORY BY TAYLOR VAN BLANCKOM



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Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas

COME
AGAIN?

These senior volleyball players developed their passion for the game well before they jumped into it in high school



"I've been playing since 3rd grade. My parents wanted me to be involved as much as possible. I just tried it out and ended up liking it."

SENIOR
HANNAH BLACK



"My friend's mom started a team and we always practiced in her backyard with a bunch of girls from our elementary school when I was seven or eight."

SENIOR
ABBY MADSEN



"I started playing volleyball because we played it in gym in 4th grade. I just fell in love with the sport and I decided to join a team. I've played ever since."

SENIOR
WHITNEY DUGAN



With her hands in the air, junior Rylee Garrett celebrates winning a point Aug. 28 in the Aux. Gym. The team supported each other with cheers after blocks and wins. "I get most excited when I see my teammates excited by things that I've been watching them work on every day in practices," Garrett said. Photo by Angus Rowers



1. Gathered away from the net, sophomore Taylor McCarthy celebrates a point with her team mates. This type of celebration was part of the personality of this team. "The best feeling is when you are winning and you can just feel your team coming together," McCarthy said. Photo by Angus Rowers. 2. In the air, freshman outside hitter Ellie Masson spikes the ball Aug. 28 in the Aux Gym. The setter had to establish control of the ball for either the outside, middle, or right side better. "I've been learning how to hit correctly since fourth grade," Masson said. "I still find different techniques to make my hit stronger and more strategic." Photo by Angus Rowers. 3. Varsity coach Susan Specht talks to the team during their time out. During time outs, Specht went over the areas needing improvement for the rest of the game. "We call a time out after the other team has had a four- to five-point run," Specht said. "We discuss how to take care of our side by eliminating the errors." Photo by Angus Rowers



SPIKE TO THE heart

The Cougars and Jaguars faced off in the volleyball sub-state championship match up

Bump.
Set.
Senior Hannah Black hit the white and orange ball over the net onto the hardwood of the opposing team's side. TWEEEEEEET! TWEEEEEEET!
The ref brought her arms across her chest after her whistle blew, indicating the match had ended.
The players in black with orange lettering ran to the middle of the court, yelling and cheering for their win in the first match of the sub-state tournament against Olathe West.
"This summer, we made jokes about going to state," junior Rylee Garrett said. "We realized if we just kept working together, we had a chance."
Serving the ball over the net and setting up hits in the short corners, the players warmed up for their next game, against Blue Valley West.
"The first thoughts going through my head were that we could do it," Garrett said. "If we just kept playing our game and didn't worry about what was happening on the other side of the net, we could push through to state."
As the ref checked the Jaguars' rotation, the Cougars huddled in the

middle of the court. Garrett gave her team a pre-game pep talk.
"This is it," Garrett said. "We have nothing to lose. We make the ultimate decision if we go to state or not. It's not just gonna be handed to us."
As players returned to their base positions, freshman Vivian Kieffer stepped behind the boundary line and prepared to serve. She pulled her arm back and took a step forward.
Smack!
The ball flew over the net as BV West players screamed "Mine, mine, mine!"
"Waiting for the other team to hit the ball back is scary," sophomore Audrey Bennett said. "You have to remember to stay low and be ready for anything."
The Cougars and the Jaguars rallied back and forth, bumping and setting the ball for their teammates to hit until the Jaguars' got their 23rd point.
"To help recover from a chaos play or stupid mistakes, I would pull everyone in the middle," Garrett said. "I made everyone stop for a second, just take a deep breath, and just explain what we needed to get [fixed] and keep them calm."
Black looked up at the scoreboard. In reddish-orange numbers, the scoreboard

read 19-24. The Cougars were down.
"When we are down, I try to tell myself to take [one] play at a time," Black said. "And to remember that I have a whole team here who has my back."
The Jaguars had the serve.
Smack!
The ball sailed over the net.
Garrett bumped the ball for Bennett to set for Black so she could hit it.
Bam!
Black hit the ball over the net and the Jaguars returned the blow.
Bump.
Set.
Hit.
Garrett dove for the ball. It deflected off her forearms.
The ball hit the wall. It bounced on the gym floor.
The Cougars had lost the sub-state championship game.
"I couldn't believe that the season was over," Black said. "It never really occurred to me that I would never play with this team again. I only realized it after that game had ended."
STORY BY MATTHEW BUSTAMANTE
& TATUM SCHIERMAN



WHAT'S IN A name

What does your name mean to you?

Maybe it's the mixture of laughter and embarrassment that follows a substitute teacher's mispronunciation. Maybe it's a sort of nostalgia for a deceased grandparent whose namesake you bear. Maybe it's a name you invented for yourself. Or, maybe it's just the nickname you told your friends to call you.

We searched Northwest for all different types of names: common ones, duplicate ones and ones that are frankly just hard to pronounce.

These are your names. These are your stories. It all comes back to you.

UNIQUE NAMES

Harmony Bailey
Dinsmore Baker IV
Canyon Harvey
Selma Basic
Tyger Husband
Shannon's Dubique
Sir-Michael Vincent Madrigal
Shealynn Yazel

Erin Dory
"I guess my name is kinda different because it is like the fish. I mean, people come up to me and are like 'Hahaha, you found Dory!'"

HOW DO YOU SAY THAT?

Abbygail Ashlock
Abenezzer Z. Bereha
Esther Loicla Bella Ngoa
Lamon'te Bennett
Arisbel Beyonce' Black
Yeretzzy Blanco Martinez
Calen Cacioppo
Kira Cacioppo
Kasiem Diggs
Josue Dubique
Shanon's Dubique
Daijon Estell
Requan Estell

Akorede Gbadebo
Sidney Henkensiefken
(SID nee • HENK n seef kin)
"I always get asked about my name. A 13-letter name is a little hard for a 5-year-old to spell, so my parents taught me to sing the spelling to the tune of 'Jingle Bells'. I look forward to people trying to pronounce it. It's so funny to see them try and awesome to hear when they get it right! My favorite moment was when I heard one of the office ladies call my name through the intercom and pronounce it with a W in it. After that one of my teachers then sent a pronunciation key so from now on she could say it correctly!"

Keahnjana Henderson
Ahren Hohe
Evangelina Hrenchir
Lucas Ihde
Yairee Juarez
Alieu Jagne
(ah LIL • JYN)
"Growing up with a name that was hard to pronounce really made a big impact on me as a child. Everyone I knew had super easy sounding names. Even the other kids of color had names that weren't hard to pronounce. It's always something that made me stand out and especially when I was younger I didn't fully grasp how unique it made me. There were times that I felt like an outcast because I didn't have a 'normal' name. I've definitely had my share of misspellings and substitute teachers saying my name incorrectly, but it's a part of me. My name is something that has taken me a while to accept, but I think now I wouldn't want to have any way!"
Amy Kowalczewski
Matthew Kucharczyk

Citlalli Luna
Ella Mackiewicz
Aicha Majt
Kasi Manikala
Bhathal Mankirt
Nayely Martinez
Alex Marvine
Josh Marvine
Paras Marwaha
Wairimu Gitonga Mbogori
wy REE mo • gi TONG a
• buh GOR ee
"I never really didn't think my name was hard to pronounce until I went to elementary school. On the first day, my kindergarten teacher completely butchered my name. That's when I really started going by the nickname 'Mimu (MEE mo)'. But people still get that name wrong, too. People ask if I get annoyed when people say my name wrong. Honestly, no. I think after growing up correcting people, I've become used to it!"
Mackenzie Meharry
Carson Metivier
Kanoelheua Misipeka

Kaulani Misipeka
Tyler Munsayakhum
(TY lur • mun SYu cam)
"One time someone pronounced Monkey-cum. I wasn't really that offended I just kind of laughed!"
Bijou Nabavira Muragizi
Oscar Neis
Peter Opoku-Ware
Petar Ozegovic
Jovan Ozegovic
Caila Poyaoan-Felix
Josue Rosa Rosa
Keri Sengpraseuth
Landze Solir
Joseph Spruyt
Tales Sterchile
Lucy Soumpholphakay
Yonahan Tilahun
Kym Berlin Tsun
Ashlyn Van Nieuwenhuyse
John Van Nieuwenhuyse
Natochia Warren
Haley Wiercinski
Layziah Yeager

MOST COMMON GIRL NAME



AND ABBY... AND ABBIE... AND ABBI... AND ABBYGAIL

Pictured left to right: Abby Hamilton, Abby Winner, Abbygail Ashlock, Abigail Barker, Abigail Flickner, Abigail Madsen, Abigail Roberts, Abigail Rosales, Abby Ryan, Abigail Oberpot, Abigail Story. Not pictured: Abigail Anlo-Camilo, Abigail Huber, Abigail Monahan.

"There is another Abby in my class, so it is always really weird and confusing when the teacher calls on an Abby but it turns out that you are not the person they wanted."

—Abbygail Ashlock

"I didn't think that there were many Abby's but now that I am here and can see the line there are definitely a lot. Many people misspell my name which is Abby, but some people spell it Abbye or Abbie and that is just not my name."

—Abigail Flickner

"There are two Abby's on my volleyball team and whenever they tell us to do something, we both kinda look at each other wondering which one they are talking to."

—Abigail Madsen

MOST COMMON BOY NAME



AND WILL... AND WILLEM... AND BILLY... AND MAX... AND RYAN

Pictured left to right: Will Corner, Will Morris, William Brown, William Crofton, William Debat, Billy Dillon Kinard, William (Max) Garay, William (Ryan) Gentry, Will Helman, William Mehrtner, William Sebold, Will VandenBee, William Tate. Not pictured: William Rawlins, Billy Soarlen, William Kinade.

William Garay and William Gentry both go by their middle names, "Max" and "Ryan", respectively.

"I thought that there were about three other Williams in this school."

—William Dillon Kinard

"The largest amount of other Williams or Wills in my class is about three"

—William Gentry



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Sophomore Kaylee Miller helps junior Sierra Penell with a paper Nov. 15 in Room 104. Miller said she likes to make new friends and that her friend Penell is kind to others. Photo by Evan Dory

1. Freshman Daniel Schnacker plays charades with his class Nov. 15 in Room 104. Schnacker said he likes to hang out with his friends during this class. Photo by Evan Dory
2. Sophomore Sam Coleman rolls a bocce ball during practice for the Special Olympics Nov. 15 in the Main Gym. Coleman said he likes his teacher and the friends he has made this year. Photo by Evan Dory
3. Hark Singh picks a charades card from the pile Nov. 15 in Room 104 during the Cadet class. Singh enjoys the crafts and activities they do in the class. Photo by Evan Dory



THE SOCIAL game

Students applied for the **Cadet teaching class** to help teach social skills to their classmates

Senior Hannah Coates ran down the first hallway, trying to get to Room 104 before sophomore Hark Singh.

"Here you go," Coates said, out of breath and holding the door open.

Singh turned on his electric wheelchair, placed his hand on the joystick and pushed it forward to enter Room 104.

"Thank you," Singh said.

Singh rolled to his seat and high-fived sophomore Gabe Holgate, his best friend.

In the class, students with special needs learned social skills and how to act in social situations from the Cadets.

"When I found out the school had a program where I would be able to work with special needs kids, I immediately filled out an application," senior Olivia Sloan said.

"So, today we are gonna play charades," cadet teacher Debbie Jenkins said. "You are not allowed to talk. You have to recognize people's body language in social situations and that is something you have to do in charades."

Students separated into two teams on opposite sides of the room and came up with team names. Student shouted from the right side of the room, "We are the Peppa Pigs!" and from the left "Cowboys!"

"Who wants to go first?" Jenkins asked. Junior Kelsey Volk looked around the room and raised her hand.

"Anytime we play games, if you get into it, they will get into it and it makes the experience just more fun," Volk said. She reached in the box of cards and grabbed one. She looked down and chose a word to act out. She started to waddle.

"The students are always so excited to play games," Coates said. "The way they are so into it makes it so much fun to be a part of this class."

"You're a penguin!" Peppa Pig teammates shouted. Holgate grabbed a card from the box and handed it to Singh. He laughed and gave Holgate the side eye before running his fingers through his hair.

"Putting on gel?"

"Combing your hair?"

"Brushing your hair!"

"That's it," Holgate said.

The Cowboys added a point to their column.

"We have so much fun, and I don't say that lightly," Volk said. "The bond we have in that class is unlike anything I have ever experienced."

Not only did the cadets enjoy the class, the students did as well.

"I like this class 'cause of my friends in the class," Singh said.

"I made lots of friends, 'cause I'm not from here," junior Matt Cruz said. "We helpful to each other, 'cause we are friends."

"My favorite memory is meeting my cadet," freshman Daniel Schnacker said. "It's fun to be in a group."

Student began to pack up their school work. Partners high-fived and did their handshakes as they all began to say "I'll see you tomorrow."

"The class gives people a whole different experience," junior Cate Cunningham said. "It teaches us not to judge others by their disabilities, but actually get to know them. If everyone did, people would learn they are the same on the inside."

"I like it 'cause of the sports and 'cause it is very fun," freshman

MY SON HAD PARTICIPATED IN SPECIAL OLYMPICS SOCCER AND FOUND IT REWARDING. I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE GREAT TO HAVE HERE [SO I SUGGESTED IT]. THE KIDS NOW HAVE AN OUTLET WITH SPECIAL OLYMPICS."

—soccer coach Todd Boren

STORY BY TATUM SCHUEMAN

BACK FOR MORE

Students from the Cadet Teaching gathered to compete

Down on one knee, sophomore Sam Coleman stood ahead at the zone where he knew his bocce ball had to land. As he pulled the ball back, he stuck his tongue out of the side of his mouth, focused on the power of his toss.

1. 2. 3.

The ball bounced past the first cone. Coleman stood up watching it closely.

It gradually stopped near the second cone. The judge pulled out his tape to measure the distance between the first cone and Coleman's ball.

"About 17 feet," the judge said. Coleman turned around with a grin on his face. His teammates' cheers made him laugh. Senior Hannah Coates jumped up and gave Coleman a high five.

"Special Olympics Unified Sports give the special needs students in our school a chance to participate in sports. Each cadet gets partnered up with a student," Coates said. "It's really amazing. Special Olympics gives them the chance to learn in a sport."

The Special Olympics team practiced every Thursday in the Main Gym. They competed in basketball during the fall, bocce during the winter, and soccer during the spring.

"I love [Special Olympics] because sports are a huge part of high school," senior Olivia Sloan said. "I think it is awesome that these students are getting the chance to be a part of that."

"I like it 'cause of the sports and 'cause it is very fun," freshman



Freshman Josh Nohisek plays charades Nov. 15 in Room 104 during the Cadet class. Nohisek said he has learned how to communicate better this year. Photo by Evan Dory



// The Lair
Shawnee Mission
Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas



Rain OR Shine

Although the rain
put a damper on
Homecoming
festivities, the staff
and students made
the most of it

Holding a boombox over her head, senior
Jody Rogers stands on the Homecoming
float just Oct. 5 on 67th Street with fellow
cheerleaders Nina Bartlett, Esperanza Lopez,
Kylie Brown and Kaleigh Rush. The boombox
played music for the cheerleaders to dance to
as they rode and waved with the float. "My
favorite part I definitely was getting to wear the
retro uniforms and getting to sit on top of the
float with the other seniors," Rogers said. Photo
by ANJAL ROBERTS



// The Lair
Shawnee Mission
Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas

FROM COURT to Crown

As the student body packed into the stands, they celebrated the Homecoming assembly while the candidates awaited their time to shine

As senior Henry Fears eagerly awaited his chance to walk across the gym floor, the school orchestra began with a delicate instrumental, slowing before building to a crescendo that was accompanied by cheering from the bleachers.

Freshmen wrapped themselves in bed sheets, like togas, taunting the sophomores, who were bundled in heavy coats and hats, representing the class themes of Ancient Greece and arctic adventures respectively. For their part, juniors cheered their candidates on from a sea of flamingo shirts and grass skirts, but the seniors, whose faces were painted with the swirls and stars of galaxies, dominated with their chant.

"Seniors! Seniors!" clap, clap, clap clap clap "Seniors! Seniors!" Fears scanned the audience looking for his friends, but only saw a sea of people, clapping, cheering, and trying to out yell each other.

Although Fears could not

find his specific cheerleading section, senior Hannah Black couldn't miss her best friend, senior Rachel Seibold, decked out in her galaxy gear and screaming her name.

"I was so excited for her because that not really her element; she's the sporty type and when I got to see her on court, I was so excited for her," Seibold said.

"I hadn't really thought about being nominated," Fears said. "It was pretty nerve-racking because you are presenting yourself in front of the entire school."

On the other side, wearing a flowing maroon dress, Black waited for her escort, king candidate Dylan Brunner. Black waved to her friends in the senior section.

"I was so nervous I thought I was going to fall on my face because I had heels on and I'd never worn heels before," Black said. "The experience of being on the court was fun, and if you

want the chance to be on court, you have a better chance if you get involved in a lot of clubs."

The bleachers rumbled when the friends and families of the candidates rushed out on the court to congratulate them. Seibold scurried through the chaos on the gym floor, looking for Black.

"I was happy and I couldn't believe it was over," Black said. "When I saw my friend Rachel there as I was walking toward the stand, it was fun to see her reaction."

Black and Seibold hardly had time to catch their breath before they rushed out of the gym. Students streamed toward the exits, crashing into each other, on their way to join Black, Seibold and the other candidates outside for the parade.

[The assembly] is something that I've seen throughout my four years here," Fears said. "It was just a blast to be a part of it."

STORY BY KAYLA NICKLE

Smiling, seniors Henry Tomasic and Sophia Clark walk arm-in-arm across the Main Gym Oct. 5 at the Homecoming assembly. Tomasic and Clark chose to be walking partners because they have been friends since fifth grade. "It was a really exciting experience for me to be on court and for some of my accomplishments to be recognized by the entire school," Tomasic said. "I'm glad I got to share that experience with some of my friends." Photo by Kaiti Szewasakurke



BACK IN THE DAY

The homecoming tradition at Northwest began before the students moved into the building. As fashion and the times changed, the tradition evolved

Karmen Sharp (70) was crowned the first Homecoming queen in 1949; queen candidates wore a suit jacket and skirt. In the early '80s, Homecoming queen candidates all wore identical dresses in different colors. Today, the girls wear formal gowns that they select



Riding on the soccer float in the Homecoming parade, senior Adam White was excited to jump up to cool kids in 10th Street. The soccer team won last float in the parade. "I had a lot of fun riding on the float in the parade this year," White said. "It was really cool to see everyone having a good time and excited to be part of the parade. It was really fun to be part of the parade." Photo by Kaiti Szewasakurke



1. Holding a loafball, science teacher Justin Peterson falls into the dunk tank Oct. 5 on the NVJ lawn. Different teachers volunteered to sit on the plank and let students throw softball at a target to drop them in the water. "While I was walking through [the store] looking for supplies to bring, I saw [the loafball] and I knew it was perfect," Peterson said. Photo by Aasha Rose. 2. Cheering on the sidelines, senior Anna Schmidt participates in the Homecoming assembly Oct. 5 in the Main Gym. Schmidt cheers with the variety Dance Team during assemblies. "I always enjoy being involved with the crowd and cheering with them during assemblies," Schmidt said. "The crowd's spirit influences our own spirit and helps us get up for our performances." Photo by Kaiti Szewasakurke. 3. Showing their school spirit, the band section erupts in cheers during the Homecoming Assembly Oct. 5 in the Main Gym. The band was not allowed to participate for the Spirit Stick in the Homecoming assembly. "It was nice to feel like we were really part of the assembly by being included in the assembly chants," junior Sara Gregor said. Photo by Eben Hovson



their STORY

It's early morning the day of the Homecoming dance, Oct. 6. **Girls are waking up** to get to nail appointments, hair appointments and sometimes even make up appointments. They spend the entire day getting ready for the evening. Their dates have made sure their tuxes are ready (well, their mom did that) and that the corsage has been ordered (yep, mom again). They will spend the day **sleeping or working or goofing around** with their friends. These are the parallel stories of sophomore Kendall Toomay and her date Kael Farkes as they prepare for Homecoming.

STORY BY TATUM SCHUELMAN

// The Lair
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Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas



7 a.m.
Toomay woke up and saw her light peach and black lace dress hanging on her closet door.

"The sun was shining right on my dress. The sparkles filled the room," Toomay said. "It was a nice way to wake up."

...Farkes was still asleep.

8 a.m.
Toomay ran her bathwater and struggled to keep her leg brace dry. She tore her ACL a week earlier playing soccer.

"I had to keep my leg up on the ledge to take a bath. I kept dunking my head in because I couldn't lie down," Toomay said.

Farkes got up quickly, and headed to the school to watch football film. "It was too early to get up, I wanted to sleep in," Farkes said.

4:30 p.m.
Toomay looked out the window to see Farkes holding a speaker.

"It was playing the national anthem," Toomay said. "I'm not sure why he was playing that but I couldn't help but laugh."

5 p.m.
Toomay left her house to go take pictures at The Jay Bar.

"My favorite part of the night is the pictures," Toomay said. "I got to make all these memories with my best friends and keep them forever."

Farkes followed close behind. "The girls had to take pictures until everyone looked perfect, but I just wanted to get to dinner," Farkes said. "I was hungry."

8:05 p.m.
After dancing for five minutes, Toomay took her 4-inch heels off.

"I couldn't handle it any longer," Toomay said. "If I was gonna dance, I had to take off my shoes."

Farkes followed behind. "I didn't understand why she would take off her shoes," Farkes said. "I get they might be uncomfortable, but seriously how bad can heels be?"

10 a.m.
Toomay got her nails painted a nude color at Le Le Nails.

"They made my nails really long and sharp," Toomay said. "My mom didn't think I would be able to put Kael's boutonniere on."

Farkes continued to watch film in Room N, trying to learn how he could improve for the next game.

COME AGAIN?

Homecoming court shared what they were feeling during crowning



HENRY FEARS
Homecoming King

"When I was walking up, I was studying the students and wondering how they could choose because I certainly didn't know who was gonna win."



NOAH GRUMAN
First Runner Up

"My mom has been watching kids win this type of stuff for years, so I couldn't wait to experience this with her and when they said I won the look on her face was priceless."



ALIEU JAGNE
Second Runner Up

"Having this experience with Libby was the best. We would talk about something like this happening in past years and when it happened we looked at each other and said it was fate."



HANNAH BLACK
Homecoming Queen

"I was focusing on not falling. It was only like my first time walking in heels and it was so uncomfortable."



MABEL ANSTINE
First Runner Up

"I was in my own little world when they told me I got 1st runner up. I didn't even hear the crowd screaming."



LIBBY JOHNSON
Second Runner Up

"I was so anxious. Not about if I was going to win, but standing in front of basically the entire school."

11 a.m.
Toomay exercised to prep for her ACL surgery in five days.

"I wasn't planning on going to Homecoming because of my leg," Toomay said, "but Kael asked me in the funniest way, so I couldn't say no."

Farkes left the school and went home to nap.

"All I wanted to do was go back to bed, so I did," Farkes said.

1 p.m.
Toomay's mom pulled out a Sephora Pro eyeshadow palette as Toomay turned the curling iron on.

"I was trying to multitask so that I could get ready faster, but it ended up being a big mess," Toomay said.

Farkes slept.

4:15 p.m.
After taking a quick shower, Farkes put his suit on and headed to Toomay's house to pick her up for the dance.

"I put a speaker over my head and played music," Farkes said. "I played the national anthem because it went with how I asked Kendall."

7 p.m.
After learning there would be an hour wait at Olive Garden, the group of six headed to IHOP.

"I was really upset we weren't able to go to Olive Garden," Toomay said. "I had been looking forward to that all day."

"All I wanted to do was eat!" Farkes said. "I didn't care where we went, I just needed food."

8 p.m.
They arrived at the dance in the NW cafeteria.

10 p.m.
They left the dance.

"There is something about Homecoming," Toomay said. "I can't put my finger on it, but it's amazing."

"The dance was okay," Farkes said. "My date though, she was pretty amazing."





// The Lair
 Shawnee Mission
 Northwest High School
 Shawnee, Kansas

JUST down THE hall

Six teachers share memories
 of their colleagues and friends

STORY BY ZOE CERDA

Q A WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED FROM EACH OTHER?

Schesser: Ashley is a wonderful teacher. She is new, so I like to talk with her about the newest methods in teaching. Her enthusiasm for teaching is contagious! She has so many fresh ideas that motivate me and inspire me to try new things. She instantly brought a lot of energy to the school. She is a positive role model for the students. They quickly connected with her because of her easy going personality, and she found that magical combination of being loving but firm.

Q A WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE MEMORY TOGETHER?

Strasser: Something nobody tells you about your first day of school as a teacher is that you're still going to be nervous about whether you're going to be able to make a new friend in this new part of your life. Luckily, when I started last year, I met so many new teachers who were excited to meet me and be my colleague. One of those friendly teachers was Lara Schesser. Lara and I met when I had some unexpected changes to the start of my first year and I had the opportunity to work closely with her and her department. Through this work, Lara and I developed a friendship centered around professional support, a shared love of coffee and music, and a desire to continuously positively influence those around us. I know I can count on Lara for comfort from a long day, a solution to a problem or just a calm voice telling me that things will work out in the long run. Lara has been such a wonderful part of joining the Northwest family and I continue to see how her influence helps me become a better, more patient educator.



ASHLEY STRASSER AND LARA SCHESSER



JANINE DEINES AND BEN PABST

Q A WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED FROM EACH OTHER?

Pabst: I've learned everything from [Deines]. I've learned how to teach from her. We have a good sort of ongoing conversation about our jobs, about the world. Teachers, coworkers of many sorts, actually go through a lot together. We lean on each other as we help current students. Teachers are constantly learning from each other. You learn hard work from your coworkers; there are certain people who set the bar very high, and she's one of them.

Q A WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE MEMORY TOGETHER?

Deines: My favorite memory of Ben is the time [with] "Where's Waldo" in the assembly. He dressed up as the Waldo for the assembly. The students had to find him and [he was] sitting in the freshmen section.

Q A WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED FROM EACH OTHER?

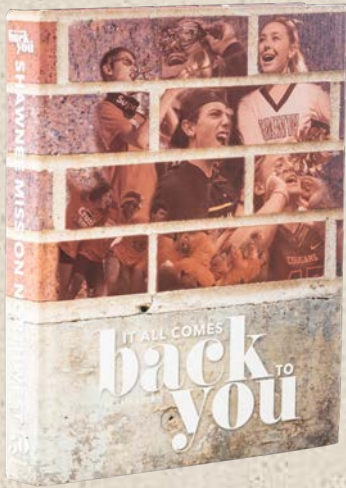
Wolfe: Todd Boren was a lifesaver for me when I began teaching at Northwest. He was easy to talk to and guided me when I had questions about Northwest and the normal operation of the school. When I got here, I took things a lot more seriously because I was just so thankful to be here. I've learned over the years that you don't have to take things so seriously all the time. You can relax. It was refreshing to see Coach [Boren] and Mr. Magwire tease the students — that really just allowed me to be able to not be so rigid. It's a lot more laid back around here, which I think also makes it a lot more fun.

Q A WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE MEMORY TOGETHER?

Boren: IB training last summer — that was the year we formed the band. That's all we're gonna say.



MATTHEW WOLFE AND TODD BOREN



// **The Lair**
Shawnee Mission
Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas



Culture OF *we*

With the their
best record
in years, the
varsity football
team made it all
the way **to the**
semifinals

As the rain falls, sophomore Duke Henke collects the ball at Jewettworth H.S. Sept. 7. Despite waiting up as a team, each player had his own way to prepare for the game. "Usually I stretch the same way, and then focus on catching as many passes before the game starts," Henke said. "I also jump rope three or four times before kickoff." Photo by Andy Riva.



// The Lair
Shawnee Mission
Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas



On the sideline, quarterback Ty Black hypes his team Aug. 30 at SM North District Stadium. This was the Cougars' first home game of the year. "Being able to win in front of your school is an amazing feeling," Black said. "The student section gives you energy that you can't get at an away game." Photo by Alex Price

BACK FOR MORE
The football team's records have gradually gotten better year after year

During the first year Bo Black coached NW football, the team ended with a 1-8 record and repeated that record the following year. Last year, the team finished 4-6 and this year they began with 3-0. Football has changed because of how much work the team and coaches put in throughout the summer. Summer camps, off-season training, new game plans and a more in-depth playbook have all had positive outcomes. Northwest also added three new coaches: Matt Jacobson, Seth Bromsika and Ron Parker. The last time Northwest won their first playoff game was in 2010 against SM West. This year ended the eight-year drought with a 35-28 win against SM North, but fell to Gardner-Edgerton with a 49-28 loss.



1. On the sidelines, coaches Bo Black and Jay Black review a series with sophomores Easton Dubbert, Ty Black, Justin Mitchell and Duke Henke Aug. 30 at the SM South District Stadium. Having a TV this year was new to the team, making it easier to make play adjustments during the game. "The players get immediate feedback - not only the coach telling them but them actually getting to see [the series] themselves," Bo Black said. Photo by Abby Ryan 2. On the sidelines, offensive linemen coach Dave Coopman talks with junior Johnathan Verbeke Oct. 19 at SM South District Stadium. The Cougars lost to the Raiders 41-49. "The advice I give is to play hard for each other, do the little things we practice and stay calm when the action starts," Coopman said. Photo by Sprad Beckow 3. Varsity defensive lineman Marques Cook breaks through SM North's offensive line Oct. 26 at the SM North District Stadium. "The best part about our team is the atmosphere we have," Cook said. "We all have each other's backs and fight for one another." Photo by Elin Dore



LIKE FATHER LIKE
SON

Sophomore Ty Black experienced his first season as **varsity** quarterback with his father, Bo Black, taking on the role of **dad and coach**

As the team suited up in the locker room, each player maintained his focus on the game against SM South. The players stood around, earbuds in, putting on pads, pulling on jerseys, lacing shoes. As they left the locker room, the players yelled and smacked each other's helmets and pads, energetically, almost aggressively.

The emergency sirens of the "The Purge" by Kobe Mumpower began to blare; senior Spencer Gruwell, a Cougar flag waving above his head, sprinted down the field. The team charged from the Cougar tunnel, music blaring. They were ready for the game, ready to take the win away from South, ready to further improve their 3-0 record.

The Cougar defense was strong throughout the start of the game. In the last two minutes of the first quarter, SM South's quarterback, Jack Roberts, launched the ball to his wide receiver, who snagged the ball in the end zone, giving SM South the first points of the game.

Just before sophomore Ty Black was dragged down by SM South's defense, he threw a 35-yard pass to senior Peyton Carder to make the second touchdown of the night. His dad, head coach Bo Black, cheered him on from the sidelines.

"I enjoyed getting to be with my teammates all the time and making memories with them," Carder said.

This was Ty's first year on varsity as a sophomore and the first time he had his dad as his coach.

"In high school sports, you're going to win a few and lose a few along the way, and the one thing you try to do as a

coach [is] keep that in perspective," Coach Black said.

The concept of having family in the game changed the way Coach Black looked at high school football.

"It's exciting to coach my own son," Coach Black said. "My dad was a high school football coach and now I'm on the other side of that. It's a little different because you get to be a part of the competition that he is in."

With only a few minutes remaining in the 2nd quarter, Ty glanced at the clock before snapping the ball. He fell back into the open field, searching for an open receiver.

As he focused on his target, he pulled his arm back behind his head and launched the ball. As he released it, time shifted into slow motion for the teams and the fans. A South defender intercepted the ball.

"During the game, you don't worry about the messed up plays, but that night after the game, when you watch it back on film, you realize what you need to correct the next day," Ty said. "There was a tad bit of frustration, but you learn to get over the little mistakes."

After the upsetting loss to South, the Cougars returned to the locker room, heads down, 3-0 record smashed.

"When you win, you can learn from that and the same thing when you lose," Coach Black said. "It's not the first time we suffered a loss and that's a good thing. Young people need to understand how to handle both good and bad."

STORY BY MICHAEL SEE



4. Senior Peyton Carder and coach Alex Goodposter celebrate Sept. 7 at Leavenworth. Carder scored the winning touchdown. "It's an awesome feeling after you score a touchdown and celebrate with your team," Carder said. Photo by Abby Ryan 5. Coach BJ Dunbar talks to players about their strategy Sept. 9 at ODAC. The Cougars win the game, continuing their undefeated streak. "I just stay positive even when we were down," Dunbar said. "Everything we did wrong was fixable, we just needed more practice time to correct it." Photo by Stephen Hinzman/Kansas



50
BACK IN THE DAY

This NW graduate has a Superbowl ring from his time with the Colts and was twice on the Chiefs' roster

Ryan Lilja, class of 2000, had planned on playing for K-State. Early in his senior year, he got caught up in a scandal regarding SMHS's drug and alcohol policy and was removed from the NW football team. After graduation, he spent a year at Coffeyville Community College before signing at Kansas State where he finished his collegiate career after being named to

the 2nd Team All-Conference Offensive Line. Lilja's NFL career took off as an undrafted free agent for the Chiefs in 2004. Later he played for the Indianapolis Colts from 2004 to 2010 who were the AFC Champions in 2006 and 2009 and Super Bowl Champions in 2006. He then re-signed with the Chiefs in 2010 and retired in 2012. He lives in Lake Quivira.



RYAN LILJA,
CLASS OF 2000



// The Lair
 Shawnee Mission
 Northwest High School
 Shawnee, Kansas

COOKING UP Success

Between **classes on baking and catering**, lessons on serving and experience running The Broadmoor Bistro, students immerse themselves in the culinary arts and **grow their passion**

The sound of metal pots and pans clanging together filled the spacious kitchen in the culinary arts center of the Center for Academic Achievement (CAA). Students focused on the meals they were hurriedly cooking for the public, whisking, grilling, sautéing and more. This was just another Wednesday night at The Broadmoor Bistro.

"I definitely learned a lot more than I thought I would have being in this program," junior Reis Miller said. "You don't expect the culinary world to be very complicated until you actually get into it and experience it firsthand."

Senior Braeden Hovermale took orders from patrons while making casual conversation with them. The order was then handed off to Miller. Once he put the finishing touches on each dish, Miller passed them to Hovermale to serve to waiting customers.

"I'd say I'm a pretty decent server because I've been complimented on how well I approach the people," Hovermale said. "I'm able to get really good reviews and really good tips even though it was my first time ever serving, and that gave me a lot of pride."

Back in the kitchen, the sounds of food preparation switched to running faucets and chatty students as dishes were washed. The culinary program offered students multiple classes covering restaurant management, catering and a variety of culinary skills.

"[The program has] only made positive impacts for me," junior Jack Steadham said. "It allows me to prove the work ethic I have."

Students studying the culinary arts spent almost their whole day at the CAA. According to Miller, the instructors, Justin Hoffman, Bob Brasard and Jon Dallen, approached teaching differently than normal high school instructors.

"If you make a mistake, they want you to fix it and really want you to figure out how to solve your own problem because that's how it is in the real world," Miller said. "It's all about getting through it and working to better yourself."

The environment at the CAA affected student on many levels. It not only taught them significant culinary skills, but also gave them something to look forward to every day.

"I'm most proud of making the public

happy with our food. That's really been something that drives me," Steadham said. "Cooking is basically my life now. It's the only thing I really put my heart into. It's what I wake up in the morning to do."

Since the first semester of 2000, the Bistro allowed students to cook and serve menus they created while running the restaurant themselves.

"When you see that you're making somebody's day by interacting with them or just cracking jokes with them, it really helps ease the stress and anxiousness of everyday life," Hovermale said. "I hate to say it, but it was a total opposite of what I thought it was going to be."

The culinary program has not only enhanced culinary skills and taught students how to run and manage a restaurant, it made them aware of what being passionate about something means.

"You have got to find your passion and a lot of that comes in the actual program," Miller said. "Even if you don't succeed the first time, if you just keep working at improving yourself and making yourself better, you're going to end up more successful."

STORY BY TATUM GOETTING

COME AGAIN?



A culinary student was a SkillsUSA competitor

"Last year I went to state for the culinary competition and ended up taking first place. I practiced for a few more months and ended up going to nationals and winning second in my age group. I've done several competitions to prepare. I'm still doing competitions this year. I feel like as long as I keep going toward my goal, which is owning a restaurant and a bakery with a coffee shop, I just need to keep acquiring skills. It's an industry where you're always learning. You're never going to stop learning and if you do stop learning, you're doing something wrong."

- JUNIOR REIS MILLER



1. Junior Josiah Carroll mixes caramelized apples to be put in an apple pie Nov. 30 at the Center for Academic Achievement. Carroll and his three teammates placed second in a pie baking contest against the other five Shawnee Mission schools, losing only to SM East. "I felt super confident in my team, and we did amazing," Carroll said. "We did everything we were supposed to, and our pie came out pretty beautiful!" Photo by HANNAH VASKINAKIS. 2. Laughing sophomore Max Malik adds jam to a cup of rice Nov. 30 in the Bistro kitchen. During classes, students do cooking labs and study foods. "Cooking is something I've always wanted to do and get good at," Malik said. "It's really cool to have the whole program teach me how to be a chef!" Photo by ANNA ROSSINI. 3. Junior Cheyanne Bolin feeds Junior Eli Gunter a piece of her cookie at a pie-baking contest Nov. 30 at the Center for Academic Achievement. The contest took place at the Broadmoor Bistro and each of the five teams had to bake one apple pie. "I couldn't have had a better team," Gunter said. Photo by HANNAH VASKINAKIS.



Junior Reis Miller leads jumbo with a classmate under the direction of Chef Jonathan Dallen Nov. 30 in the kitchen connected to Broadmoor Bistro. Instructors like Chef Dallen give advice on recipes, taste food and tell students how to improve it. "Instructors teach us a level of responsibility you can't get anywhere else," Miller said. "It's amazing everything they do for us." Photo by ANNA ROSSINI.

50 BACK IN THE DAY

The Broadmoor Technical Institute's culinary program has grown over the years

1988 Food production 1 and 2 were introduced as classes

1998 Food Production 1 and 2 course names changed to Food and Hospitality 1 and 2

2001 Broadmoor Bistros opens with 44 seats per night

2002 Broadmoor Bistro expands seating to 100 per night

2027 All Signature Programs, including Culinary Arts, move to the new CAA.

Total number of culinary classes offered: 11. Broadmoor Bistro expands seating to 200 per night



PHOTO BY SKYLAR BREGAN
ILLUSTRATION BY ETHAN SCHUBERT



neva bartelt

FIGHTING GRAVITY

Holding herself **10 feet above the room**, senior Neva Bartelt danced **gracefully and skillfully**, folding herself over and over in the silks hooked to the ceiling of her living room

As she pulled herself up, senior Neva Bartelt gripped her silks and coiled them around her legs. With every twist, she exhaled sharply.

She threw the silk over her hips and under her legs, then stretched out into the splits. Chin up, arms reaching out, fingers spread, Bartelt hit her final pose.

Aerial acrobatics became a part of Bartelt's life when she was 14. Before that, Bartelt began acting in plays when she was 10. Her love of performing led to dance which eventually introduced her to silks.

"I used to [perform] at Trilogy [Cultural Arts Center] and they started an [aerial] class and I saw it in a few shows and thought it was really cool," Bartelt said. "I wanted to try it, so I took the class and I really liked it. I caught on easy."

Since Bartelt had a background of dance, she already had a high endurance and physical strength. But silks work almost every muscle in the body which has helped her more with cheerleading.

"Silks have given me a ton of muscle that I didn't know I had and have kept me in shape," Bartelt said. "Silks is one of the harder ones just because I have to hold myself up the entire time and am constantly fighting gravity."

Before coming to Northwest, Bartelt attended Maranatha Christian Academy, a much smaller school with fewer extracurriculars. Silks were a bigger part of Bartelt's life until she got involved in cheerleading.

"The transition to cheer was just drifting away [from silks]. [Silks] used to be more of a thing when I didn't have as big of a school," Bartelt said. "[The silks] hang from my living room ceiling but

sometimes I forget I have them."

From doing silks for years, to almost not doing it at all, it was hard for Bartelt to make time or get motivated to be involved in even more hobbies.

"I slowly wasn't taking classes anymore," Bartelt said.

"In the summer I was super busy, so I never had time at all," Bartelt said. "When the school year started, I didn't get back into it."

When she's not working at her job, Bartelt is studying until she goes to sleep. And when most silk classes are late at night, it turns into a choice: school work or silks.

"When I look back, it was such a great part of my life and I miss it," Bartelt said. "It would be so easy for me to get back on it, but I'm just so busy with school."

Bartelt moved about eight feet above the floor, turning upside down, held only by fabric, dangling by her feet. The only protection was a 4-inch thick mat immediately under the silks.

"I've never been that scared because as long as you trust yourself and your strength, you'll be fine," Bartelt said. "The only danger is that you can get super tired, your grip loosens and then you [can lose] control."

She untwined the silks and slowly descended to the floor. She flipped her tousled brown hair back, revealing her beet red face. She put her hands on her hips, shoulders forward, trying to control her breathing. She smiled through her exhaustion.

"It's very rewarding, it requires a lot of strength and flexibility," Bartelt said. "But when I get the move, it's so fun."

STORY BY MOLLIE ELFRINK



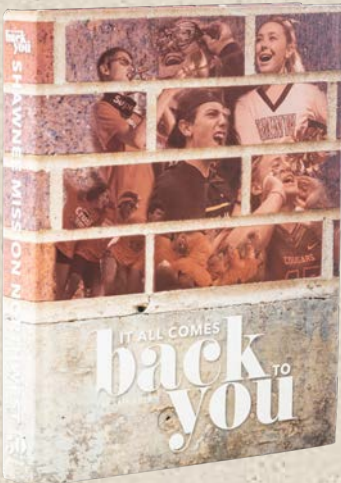
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As the gun goes off, juniors Amy Kowalczyk, Grace Goodpaster, Kara Stamat and Sydney Vanhorn along with seniors Abigail Winter and Riley Demos cross the starting line Sept. 2 on the JCCC athletic field. The girls start off together and gradually separate into smaller groups or singles. "My first thought when the gun goes off is normally how good training with my team will feel," Winter said. Photo by Alison Roeters

NO Excuses

Both boys' and girls' cross country teams made their way to the state meet, despite any and all roadblocks



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MAKE A run FOR IT

Following the long journey to the regional meet, the **cross country girls' qualified as a team for the state meet for the first time in two years**

Dressed in their orange and blue uniforms, the girls' cross country team huddled before beginning their Kenyon chant, led by senior Riley Demo. It began with everyone's hands straight out and wiggling in the circle and slowly moving upward as their screams increased in volume.

"Every time before a race, we do a Kenyon," senior Abby Winter said. "That's one of the best parts of running cross country."

After the Kenyon chant, the girls prayed. "I just try to think about my team and how much they all mean to me when I start the prayer," Winter said. With bowed heads and eyes closed, they listened to Winter's encouraging words. Winter asked that the girls have an amazing race, and that, no matter what the results, they would end with glowing smiles on their faces. She thanked God for the challenges throughout the season.

The girls then started loosening up. They jogged in place and stretched their muscles.

"At regionals, I was really shooting for a PR, so I was kind of getting in the mood for that," Demo said. "The races themselves were really fast and competitive, but fun."

Winter and Demo started to jump in place, shaking their arms and legs to loosen their muscles.

"[To do the best], stick to what you're comfortable with," Winter said. "Don't run too many miles at first — slowly build up. It's important to never give up during a run."

The gunshot sounded. BANG. The girls sprinted away.

"I think the team worked really hard to get to state," junior Gracie Goodpaster said. "We were really excited to qualify for the meet for the first time in two years."

Goodpaster suffered a stress fracture and was forced to cheer from the sidelines for her teammates.

"The whole time, I felt really good about [the race]," junior Kiara Stamati said. "I think all my teammates did, too."

The girls placed 2nd in the team standings. They were originally ranked 5th and had to get in the top 3 to qualify for the state meet as a team.

"The regional meet went really well for us," Winter said. "We ran at JCCC which is the same place we ran at the start of the season. Every person did better in comparison to the first time we ran."

In order to qualify for the state meet, the girls trained longer while also trying to relax a bit more. This helped them push to do harder workouts.

According to Stamati, the weather for the regional race could not have been better. The team's ranking allowed them to compete in the state meet for the first time in two years.

Demo was the only member of the team to place individually in the top 10.

"I got 7th and [set] a personal record which was amazing," Demo said. "It could not have gone better."

The team boarded the yellow school bus to get to Rim Rock Farm in Lawrence on the morning of Oct. 27. The weather was bitterly cold and foggy. The girls worked to keep their muscles warm enough to run. They took deep breaths and jogged up and down the grassy hills that surrounded Rim Rock Farm.

When the results were announced, the girls had placed 7th. Although disappointed with their performance in the final meet of the season, simply qualifying for the state meet represented a goal that the team had met. As an individual, Demo received a medal.

"I placed 20th, which made me feel pretty good afterward," Demo said. "We had a great season and we got back on our feet after last year."

STORY BY AYRIANNA SMITH & TATUM GOETTING

BACK FOR MORE

A runner shared her experience at the International Triathlon Championship.



"My mom got me into triathlons and she's incredible at them. She practically bred me to be a triathlete. We knew that the [world competition] was going to be in Australia the next year, so we were kind of joking that if we qualified we would go. But then, when we both miraculously did, it all got really serious. I took two weeks off school in Sept. and we were on our way. One week, we were in Gold Coast for the triathlon and the other we spent time doing some R and R in Sydney. The triathlon was an incredible experience. It was just amazing to meet people from all over the world. I became very close with a girl named Lucia from Mexico and we still talk. I'm so blessed and humbled to have been able to participate. I'm so grateful for my ability to swim, bike and run as well as have the experience."

- JUNIOR CATIE WOOD



Freshman Abby Pruente waits for her race on Coach Mike Rote's topes. Pruente's shoes Sept. 29 on the starting line of Bolshoi Golf Course. Pruente was one of few freshmen to race on varsity cross country. "When I run I feel myself getting physically and mentally stronger," Pruente said. "Cross country is such a mental sport and requires a positive mindset the entire time." PHOTO BY PARE BOKANAN



Along with junior's Sydney Vanhorn and Kiara Stamati, senior Riley Demo laughs before the girls' varsity race Sept. 1 at JCCC. "Cross country is a hard sport and it's not always easy to get yourself to run a ton of miles, but my team is motivated," Demo said. "They help me go out and have an amazing time." PHOTO BY JACOB ROBERTS

BACK IN THE DAY

The girls' cross country team started in 1976



Junior Becky Zimmer leads by a large margin as the races for the first time.



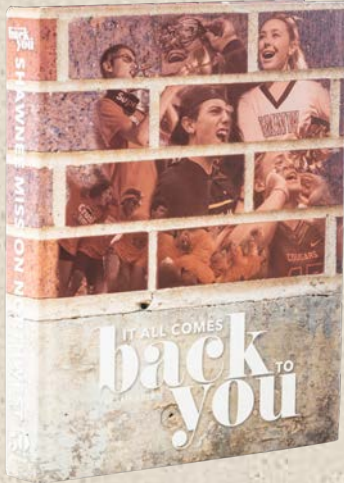
On the trail, junior Sydney Vanhorn keeps her pace as the races.

1976 was the first year in Kansas that girls had their own cross country team. The NW girls won all their dual meets, placed first in the invitational they participated in, took a first at league and topped the season off by winning the Kansas Girls Cross Country Classic which included 17 teams and a total of 79 runners from across the state.

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1. At the start line, junior's Gracie Goodpaster and Kiara Stamati embrace each other Sept. 1 at JCCC. Goodpaster hugged Stamati to calm her down before their first race together of the season. "All the girls encourage each other to do amazing," Goodpaster said. "Kiara and I are super close and whenever either of us is nervous before a race we talk to each other or try to make each other laugh to calm down." PHOTO BY ASHLEY ROBERTS 2. Before the race, freshman Alana Magstadt and sophomore Vanishia Murrupugh huddle up with their team Sept. 8 at CIOAC NW cross country meets as "Timmy" to get energized before they begin racing. "The worst part of a race, for me at least, is the nervous jitters at the starting line," Magstadt said. "The Kenyon always helps to relieve those nerves." PHOTO BY ASHLEY THOMPSON



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Warming up, sophomore Sam Steinlicht, junior Ryder Jarrett and seniors Spencer Kaleko, Noah Gruman, Caleb Masters and Jackson Burnett jog to the start line Sept. 1 at KCCC. This was the first meet of the year. "Warming up and stretching is important because it gets our muscles loose for the race and gets us mentally prepared," Masters said. *Photo by ANJAL ROBERTS*

On THE Run

The boys' cross team finished the regional meet in 2nd place and headed to the state meet with high hopes

The boys' cross country team stood among their opponents, then bent down, ready to take off, eyes on the course ahead.

BANG!

The blank flew from the barrel of the pistol followed by a wisp of smoke. As the stampede of runners bolted and cheers erupted from the enthusiastic crowd, the race began.

"When you are running a race as long as a 5k, you begin to get comfortable with being uncomfortable," senior Ben Harrell said. "As you keep pushing your body to the limit, you learn an awful lot about the power of your mind. In the middle of the race, when you are alone, [you need] to have a mantra in your head. Something positive and something that will drive you."

Senior Spencer Kaleko sped down the course, weaving between runners from competing teams.

"It's a mix of emotions when I race," Kaleko said. "There are times when I really doubt myself and I question why I run cross country. But there are other times when I smile through the pain [and] embrace the feeling."

Fatigue was evident on the faces of the boys as they recovered from the strain of the race and waited for the awards ceremony.

"I get especially pumped right at the finish line, when I gotta get that final sprint in," junior Lee Ball said. "That final sprint is when everything becomes interesting."

Once the meet ended, a mass of runners, spectators and parents waited at the awards stand, anxious to hear the results.

"I think [it] is the first time this season all of them have been healthy and able to run in the same race," coach Justin Stigge said. "They all worked really hard to be ready to run today and I think it showed."

As everyone settled on the grass, principal Lisa Gruman strolled behind a white table topped with awards for teams and individual competitors.

"In eighth place, from Shawnee Mission Northwest, [senior] Caleb Masters... In seventh place from Shawnee Mission Northwest, Ben Harrell," Gruman said.

Both Masters and Harrell rose and moved toward

the table. Kaleko waited expectantly.

"I was a little surprised. I expected to medal," Kaleko said. "I ended up getting 14th. With the addition of Mill Valley, it just didn't work out."

"In second place with 80 points, Shawnee Mission Northwest," Gruman said.

Claps and cheering resonated from the crowd as the team stepped up.

"I was not surprised. We [have] a group of guys that can consistently run good times and we were big competitors," Kaleko said. "Really, we were just duking it out with Mill Valley."

With the end of the awards ceremony runners and their parents returned to their team's tent, where a stockpile of food waited. Experienced and novice runners talked and laughed as they ate.

"I hope the younger kids end up like the seniors, they set a great example. They care so much about what they do," Stigge said. "I hope people realize that the reason both of our teams got second is because seniors have set a good example."

Story by JASON FUEHMELE

COME AGAIN?

Come rain or shine, the boys' cross country team had to deal with rough weather conditions year after year

"We had a practice this year where it rained super hard and we came back pretty soaked. At Lone Elm my sophomore year, the water in one part of the course was up to our ankles. I ended up almost getting stuck in the mud by trying to avoid it. By the end of the race, everyone's legs were completely muddy!"

— SENIOR SAM SPRINGER

"My sophomore year, there was this meet at Lone Elm, and it had rained a couple days before and up to that day there was literally a foot-and-a-half long puddle that we had to run through, it was up to mid-calf!"

— SENIOR SPENCER KALEKO

"We've dealt with a lot of heat. Heat is like an enemy in our sport. The first month of the season was very hot and that caused a lot of problems for us. Running in 90 degree weather is not fun for cross country!"

— COACH JUSTIN STIGGE



1. Sophomore Shane Mullen runs Sept. 1 on the KCCC field. The C-team joined the JV race due to warm temperatures predicted later in the day. "It definitely slows you down a lot as it takes much more energy to run in the heat," Mullen said. *Photo by ANJAL ROBERTS*

2. Senior Spencer Kaleko hugs his teammate Sept. 29 on the Redburn Golf Course. Kaleko won fourth place in the varsity race. "My team has brought out the best in me," Kaleko said. "Almost everything I do, running-wise, I'm thinking of the team and how we can all get better." *Photo by Peter Benavides*

3. After the varsity team told sophomore Sam Steinlicht that he looked like a water buffalo with his hair pointed down the middle, Steinlicht decided to demonstrate Sept. 1 at KCCC. "We're like brothers," Steinlicht said. "It's great being able to work hard with [the team] every day." *Photo by ANJAL ROBERTS*

4. At the starting line, sophomore Gabe Sierra and senior Connor Russell are seen at sideline Oct. 9 at ODAAC. The team formed a bond during the season. "We don't really hang out much [now]," Sierra said. "But when it comes to next season, it just feels like we're best friends again, even though we haven't seen each other in while." *Photo by EDRINA THOMPSON*

5. Junior Ryder Jarrett races on the KCCC course. Jarrett finished his 5K with a time of 18:05. "For the majority of the race, I get a song stuck in my head to distract myself from the idea that I am pushing my body to its absolute limit," Jarrett said. "A lot of the time it's 'Lose Yourself' by Eminem." *Photo by ANJAL ROBERTS*

50 BACK IN THE DAY

Coach Van Rose, who retired in 2018 after 49 years as NW's only cross country coach, led the team to 21 state championships in the following years:

1977	1995	2001
1982	1996	2002
1989	1997	2003
1990	1998	2004
1992	1999	2005
1994	2000	2006



1994 State Champions



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In the crowd, junior Taylor Matt cheers for her class at Not So Late Night in the Main Gym. The junior class theme was Santa Claus. "It was such an easy theme to do because who doesn't have a Santa hat?" Matt said. Photo by Amy Ryan

Christmas

ALL I WANT FOR IS THE SPIRIT STICK

The best way to spread holiday cheer was screaming loud for all to hear

"WE... ARE... NORTH... WEST... COUGARS..." As Not So Late Night began, the ritual competition between grades started. The Main Gym was packed with students ready to jump and scream, trying relentlessly to prove to the other grades and the spirit judges that they had more spirit.

The theme for each class was classic holiday movies. Freshmen came decked out in their best reindeer attire, sophomores sported Grinch outfits, juniors came dressed as Santa Claus and seniors rode the Polar Express.

In front of the freshman crowd, two students stood out: freshmen Ryan Borberg and Keith Locke. Borberg rocked a reindeer footie-pajamas while Locke wore velvet Santa bottoms and painted his nose with vibrant red lipstick.

"I was all fired up because it was our turn to prove we wanted the Spirit Stick," Locke said.

During the assembly, StuCo reps pulled multiple previously-sold raffle tickets out of a shoebox and the students who were chosen won a prize.

Students anxiously wriggled in their seats, hoping their names would be called.

"Mary Morstadt," King of Spirit Ryder Jarrett announced.

The freshman class jumped up and down while cupping their hands around their mouths as they chanted "Freshmen... Freshmen"

Morstadt was nowhere in sight. Everyone looked around, confused as to why she was not claiming the prize of a Raising Cane's gift basket.

"My phone got blown up with texts from people about my name being picked," Morstadt said. "I'm usually not a lucky person, so, of course, the one time I'm picked, I'm not there."

But Morstadt wasn't the only one. Spirit Club members called four names until finally, freshman Ally Prueno claimed the prize.

"Honestly, one of my friends could've gone up there and acted like they were me and taken the prize," Morstadt said.

Once the prizes were claimed, the games began.

Spirit Club representatives came to each grade level and picked a boy and a girl to participate in a friendly competition between grades. Students were instructed to lay stomach-down on scooters and push themselves across the gym floor with toilet plungers.

"I looked over and saw that the seniors were cheating, of course, but I kept pushing because it was so exhilarating to hear everyone cheer for me," freshman Piper Borgman said.

Bragging rights were the objective of the game. For the seniors, Mitch Hufker was the front-runner of the relay group. While Hufker was pushing his way across the court, students saw him use his feet to push himself faster.

"They are just salty that I put the team on my back to take the dub," Hufker said.

Before the relay began, Spirit Club representative Kaitlin Pauli specifically told the students not to use their feet.

"I didn't think they cheated, but they did have a football player, so I guess they had an advantage," sophomore Morgan Kastelan said.

Even though students thought seniors cheated, they pulled out a win with a coordinated dance routine and the win of the relay.

Spirit club representatives ran in from the southeast doors of the gym and teased each grade with the possibility that they had won Spirit Stick.

"And the winner is..."

Students started to stomp on the bleachers and kneel down, anxiously waiting for the results.

"The seniors"

Seniors rushed to the floor just to get a hand on the spirit stick. Then the group headed over to the freshman section, taunting the younger class with their fingers in the shape of an "L" lifted high.

"I feel like the upperclassmen always win the Spirit Stick, so it's nothing new," freshman Abby Ashlock said. "If they cheated, they cheated, pretty much everyone did."

STORY BY MADDI GRAFT

BACK IN THE DAY

The first Not So Late Night was in 2015

Not So Late Night was first held in 2015 to recognize the start of the winter sports season. It was inspired by Kansas University's Late Night at the Phog celebration.

1. In the stands, junior Jan Lara starts a chant. Lara often started the chants for the junior section. "My favorite part of the assembly is how you and your grade are all competing, and you don't even know people but you still sit with them and cheer for your class," Lara said. "We all go through stuff, it's high school, but let's have fun while we're at it." Photo by Shawnee Extension

2. Holding hands, seniors Sadie Lucier, Courtney Kastelan, Anna Schmidt, Gabby Chavez and Ashlyn Mills perform their senior dance at Not So Late Night. "The senior girls chose five senior boys to dance with them. 'The dance is super fun and the crowd always goes up,'" Schmidt. "The boys are hilarious [to dance with]." Photo by Amy Ryan



3. During their class skit, juniors Sophia Pope, Brianna Ibarra and Payton Smith open a present at Not So Late Night. "We were the only one to prepare a skit. 'We had two practices before the actual assembly and we tried to get as many people to be there as possible,' Ibarra said. "I thought it was really cool and I was excited to do it." Photo by Amy Ryan

4. Sophomore Elizabeth Kufner hits her pose at the end of the Dance Team's jazz routine. "I love performing for assemblies because the people you're performing for are right in your face, so you can really play it up," Kufner said. Photo by Amy Ryan

YOU'LL COME AROUND

Spirit judges shared their opinions on the results of the assembly

"I wish I could have given all my points to the freshmen but they wouldn't let me!"
- FRESHMEN JUDGE
HALEY HENDRICKS



"I enjoyed listening to the rap jams put together by the juniors."
- JUNIOR JUDGE
BROOKE MOORE



"I thought the juniors' outfits were sick, but seniors had the best performances!"
- SENIOR JUDGE
CHRISTIN LAMOURIE



"It was fun to see the junior skit."
- SENIOR JUDGE
CHRISTIN LAMOURIE



"I thought the juniors' outfits were sick, but seniors had the best performances!"
- SENIOR JUDGE
CHRISTIN LAMOURIE

"It was fun to see the junior skit."
- SENIOR JUDGE
CHRISTIN LAMOURIE

"I thought the juniors' outfits were sick, but seniors had the best performances!"
- SENIOR JUDGE
CHRISTIN LAMOURIE

"It was fun to see the junior skit."
- SENIOR JUDGE
CHRISTIN LAMOURIE



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PRACTICE MAKES
Perfect

With hard work and determination, the gymnastics team was able to grasp a third place finish at the state meet

Wearing a medal, freshman Kadenice Peel poses with some of her teammates Sept. 3 in the Main Gym. Peel finished in vault for the junior varsity team. "Winning an award feels really good and motivates me to keep working harder," Peel said. PHOTO: GABRIELLA HERRERA



// The Lair Shawnee Mission Northwest High School Shawnee, Kansas

Finding A BALANCE

Gymnasts gave their **blood, sweat and chalk** while tumbling at the state competition

All at once, girls balanced on the beam, built muscle at the bar and perfected flips on the floor. The warm-ups for state gymnastics were in full swing, with teams sprawled out across the gym, stretching and practicing. The team's biggest competition was SM South, and it didn't help that they were given a home-field advantage.

"We had a lot of drama with teams in the Shawnee Mission School District because we were scoring so well and I don't think most of the teams were expecting that," junior Isabel Dory said. "We haven't been as strong in the past, so I think us coming in and scoring so well surprised some of the teams."

In a chaotic frenzy, four teams began their first events simultaneously. There was no time to focus on how the other schools were doing when the gymnasts were cheering on their own team members. The first event for Northwest: beam.

"We had a lot of falls and wobbles and mistakes on the beam," Dory said. "It isn't the biggest deal, but when you start off the meet with falls, you know you have to do

really well on other events."

Despite their disappointment on beam, the team kept their spirits high and focused on the next event: floor.

"I keep positive by knowing that we can learn from the mistake," senior Celeste Gordon said. "As a team we needed to make sure to not lose sight of what was ahead and to not dwell too much on the mistake. Everyone makes mistakes, it's how we handle them that's important."

The team watched with wide eyes as sophomore Cierra Ladesich performed on her strongest event, bar. Minutes after Ladesich stuck the landing, judges flashed her scores, giving her and the team just a couple seconds to register them.

"They have a table with people who add up the scores. Right after you do an event they will flash your scores so you know what you got, but you don't know how you placed compared to other teams," Dory said.

Some girls competed in just one event, but Gordon competed in all four.

"During state I wanted to make sure I had fun. After competing for over ten years, it was a bittersweet moment,"

Gordon said. "I wanted to make sure I soaked in the experience as best as I could, as well as perform what I knew I was capable of. I was confident in my routines and ultimately wanted to have fun."

Though the girls can get their individual scores in just a few minutes, it took a lot longer to calculate the final results. Just shy of SM South, Northwest placed 4th out of the nine teams competing.

"We were all nervous because we knew it was going to be a close call whether we beat South or not," Dory said. "We were kind of sad because it was the seniors' last meet, but they all had strong performances, so it was a happy-sad feeling."

Regardless of the results at state, the gymnastics team considered their season successful.

"This season had a lot more good competition which benefited our team and made us work really hard in the gym and not goof around as much," Dory said. "We all contribute something to the team, whether it be good scores, positivity or leadership."

STORY BY KELSEY VOLKE

YOU'LL COME AROUND

Gymnasts find many opportunities to bond with each other

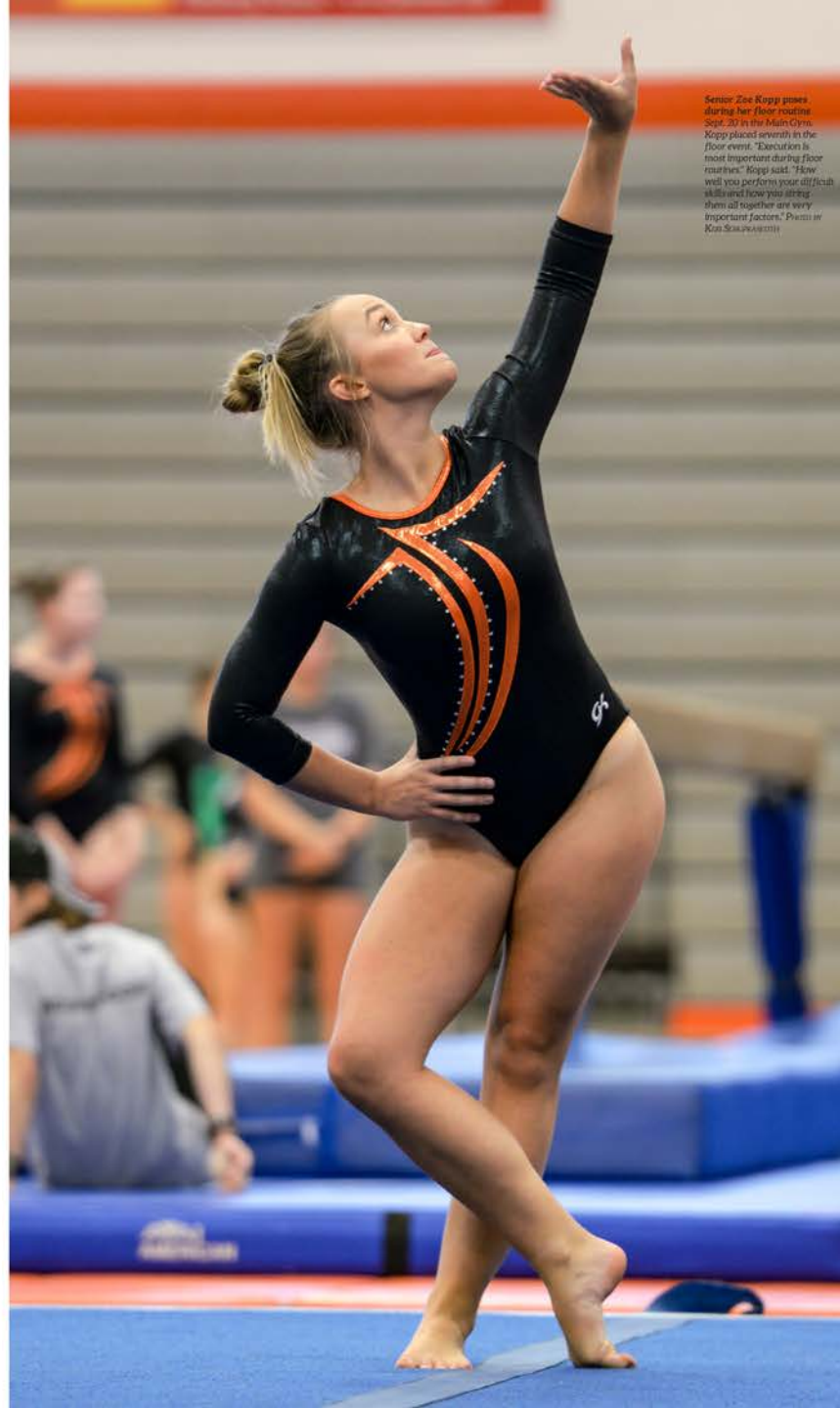
1. Before every meet, the girls participate in the coveted "O-G-CO-U-G-A-A-A-B-S" cheer to get everyone excited and help ease nerves.
2. When variety has a meet, junior varsity members attend and vice versa. Every girl is at every meet, regardless if they are participating or not.
3. With only four events and sometimes more than four schools, there can be some down time during the events. A new team tradition: bringing coloring books and coloring together during breaks.



1. Waiting for beam to begin, freshmen Megan Campbell and Eadence Peil laugh together in the bleachers Oct. 4 at the Mill Creek Learning Center. The amount of down time gymnasts have between events varies by meet. "The best part of gymnastics is getting the opportunity to hang out with the team every day," Peil said. "Everyone is so much fun and so supportive." PHOTO BY ERIKA THOMPSON



2. Sophomore Cierra Ladesich jumps between bars during her routine Sept. 15 in the 3rd Western match gym. Bars are set at one of 10.0, and points are deducted for mistakes. "I really love bars," Ladesich said. "It has always come so naturally for me, and the way my muscle structure and body are designed makes the event easier for me." PHOTO BY SONIA CLOVER



Senior Zoe Kopp poses during her floor routine Sept. 20 in the Main Gym. Kopp placed seventh in the floor event. "Execution is most important during floor routines," Kopp said. "How well you perform your difficult skills and how you string them all together are very important factors." PHOTO BY KIM SOKALAKIS

BACK IN THE DAY

Former gymnastics coach, Janice Baker, was inducted into the NMV Hall of Fame in 2019. She was hired in the fall of 1973 and coached until 2008, and again in 2014-2015. During that team, the team won seven State Championships along with 29 individual State Champions.

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3. On the balance beam, freshman Megan Campbell poses Oct. 4 at the Mill Creek Learning Center. This stance is called the "Bow and Arrow." "I try to focus on my breathing and how I move during my skills," Campbell said. PHOTO BY THOMAS DIZLER

4. Junior Audrey Johnson finishes her floor routine Oct. 4 at the Mill Creek Learning Center. Her performance was to the song "Slazy and Brazy." "I'm used to performing to cheer," Johnson said. "I just smile, be confident and have fun." PHOTO BY THOMAS DIZLER



With Mrs. Ledbetter, freshman Mary Morstadt discusses plans for Cougars United Nov. 14 in Room 11. Members in Cougars United attended the meeting to discuss the winner of the door decorating competition. "My favorite part was seeing all the doors decorated and how many people participated in it," Morstadt said. Photo by Shawnee Examiner

BACK FOR MORE

Cougars United ran the Thanksgiving door contest, in hopes to lift spirits



Many classrooms worked hard to make a perfect door, every door showing a unique representation of their spirit. Room 37 had blue and orange paws leading to their door. Rainbow hand turkeys cluttered the lockers, stretching from one end of the hall to another. Lights were strung around the door, making it look like some mini-concert. They even had fake trumpets decorating the window alongside some Thanksgiving themed stickers. Cougars United started this event to unify the student body, bringing everyone together to celebrate the famous holiday. Thanksgiving. Everyone was told to decorate an award-winning door for a prize at the end. Green Expo marker ink filled the board as results were being tallied, curious chatter filled the room like a flock of parrots. Social studies teacher Christin LaMourie stood out over the rest, including math teacher Eliza Ojeda and child development teacher Cindy Swanson, who won second and third place, respectively.



Junior Cate Cunningham sits in front of the room using an iPad Nov. 24 in Room 11. The Cougars United Club was going through photos of the Thanksgiving door decorating competition to decide on the winner. "Planning events and little fun competitions like the fall door decorations we did about a month ago is my favorite part of Cougars United," Cunningham said. Photo by Shawnee Examiner



1. Leaning on the table, junior Helen Castillo listens to juniors Cate Cunningham, Mercedes Mogondo and senior Yairez Juarez Nov. 24 in Room 11. Cunningham, Mogondo and Juarez were discussing with the class what to do for the winners of the door decorating competition. "We just talked about it and we thought it was a good way to bring the school together," Castillo said. "My favorite thing about Cougars United was that everyone participated and worked together for this." Photo by Shawnee Examiner 2. In Room 10, junior Mercedes Mogondo judges Thanksgiving themed doors Nov. 14. Cougars United decided to do a Thanksgiving door decorating competition between teachers who wanted to participate. "We wanted to do something that included the student body, so we decided to come up with something everyone could do," Mogondo said. "That [ended up] being the door decorating contest." Photo by Asher Post



BREAKING barriers

Diversity club, **Cougars United**, has helped the school focus on the **similarities of the student body** rather than the differences that at one point had **kept them apart** and divided them

Students piled into Room 10 for their meeting March 6 after school. Co-president Yairez Juarez began the meeting. "Cougars United is a group that promotes a united community that respects all races and cultures," sponsor Jamie Ledbetter said. As a part of their mission, the organization worked to provide exciting contests and activities for students. "Knowing that I'm able to make a difference every day through small actions makes me feel like I'm unstoppable," co-president Mercedes Mogondo said. "I'm able to continue to help others, do what's right and just get involved in the community." Mogondo joined Cougars United because of the meaning behind it, the culture and to get more involved in and out of school. "Cougars United members hope to break the barriers that people set," Juarez said. "We are here for one another as well as getting to know each other's background and roots and where we are from. We want to spread awareness

and learn how to be respectful of one another in spite of our differences." Cougars United is a club that promotes diversity between races and genders. It works to help bring the school together as well as educate students about different cultures. "Cougars United gives each and every one of us a voice," Juarez said. "In the club, we get to speak our minds without being afraid of judgment." When Juarez was asked to help run a diversity club, she leapt at the opportunity to bring Cougars United back. In the past, the organization had not gotten enough attention, so they weren't able to continue. "It started eight years ago," Juarez said. "They canceled Cougars United five or six years ago due to the lack of supervision and carelessness of the principals at that time. That's what Ledbetter said." Mogondo and Juarez both helped start Cougars United again. Mogondo was interested in any and every opportunity to make this

work, even if it meant taking baby steps towards success, while Juarez saw this as a new opportunity to make a difference. "Cougars United has been a place where I've made some of my best friends," Mogondo said. "It's also a place where I've gotten really involved through the community and in school. It's a place where new members and current ones feel safe to express who they are as a person and just be comfortable in their own skin." Cougars United worked to educate the student body on many cultures and appreciate each one. They informed students about everyone, working on shattering the stereotypes. "It honestly fills me with joy knowing that I'm leaving a footprint at Northwest," Juarez said. "I want to break the stereotypes that others put us in. It makes me happy knowing that people want to learn more about the cultures and our backgrounds."

STORY BY CHARITY SAUNDERS



// The Lair Shawnee Mission Northwest High School Shawnee, Kansas

a winning COMBINATION

Thirty-eight students signed up for a specialized program which combined **AP English** and **AP U.S. History** classes

The blue-white glow of the AirPlay projector served as the only light at the front of AP U.S. History (APUSH) teacher Rebecca Anthony's classroom. In large, plain text, the screen read "Chinese Exclusion Act, 1882."

A few students frantically scribbled notes in their spiral-bound notebooks, while others watched attentively as Anthony asked if anyone could draw connections between historic and current immigration laws.

Junior Angelina Ortega laughed and nudged junior Robin Berger.

"Our government would never," Ortega said. Berger shook her head and gave a sarcastic chuckle.

"Definitely not," Berger said.

Leaning against the corner of her desk, Anthony began describing the lives of a few railroad workers who were affected by these policies.

"My favorite part is probably the storytelling aspect," junior Jamie Hall said. "You learn how history and English converge, how they play off each other. There's an English aspect to history, history affects what writers write about, and the more perspectives you can get, the better."

Anthony, still discussing the impacts of the Chinese Exclusion Act, crossed her arms, pursed her lips and flipped to a slide filled with pictures of Chinese immigrants.

"I'm more of a hands-on person, so I don't like to sit back and listen to lectures, but when [Anthony] teaches, she brings it alive," Ortega said. "She tells stories that have to do with it and it gets you to remember. It's given me a new outlook on how I perceive other people's opinions. Like, I know, now, to sit back and listen instead of just jumping on them and not agreeing."

Three years ago, Anthony and AP English teacher Brett Mach approached Principal Lisa Gruman with

an idea: combine the two classes, APUSH and AP English 11, in order to provide a more congruent, well-rounded education for AP students.

Once Gruman approved the idea, Anthony and Mach immediately began working with counselors to sort out the logistics of fitting dozens of students into two, back-to-back classes that were only available during those two specific hours.

"We relied on the kindness of people in the office and people who do scheduling," Anthony said. "It is kind of difficult to schedule people who do both sections because the computer doesn't do it automatically, but everyone is super helpful and the school has always been supportive."

The students concurrently read pieces of American literature that corresponded with the time periods they studied in APUSH; both Mach and Anthony coordinated their lesson plans to overlap in a way that would benefit students in both classes.

"[In this program] a lot of the learning is more in-depth," junior Annalissa Houser said. "Since I'm reading 'A Raisin in the Sun' in English, I'm learning [the civil rights movement] in more of an empathetic way, where I feel like I can understand and connect with the history more, and I can put myself in that place a lot more than I could if I was just reading facts out of a textbook."

Transitioning from the Powerpoint presentation, Anthony projected a short documentary recounting the lives of people affected by the Dawes Act. The students watched silently, almost dejectedly, but absorbing the information nonetheless.

"What I've learned is just to be more aware of the people around me," junior Jady N Rucker said. "We've learned a lot about slavery and segregation and all those things. I think, just like thinking about that bold topic is, for someone, really meaningful."

STORY BY ZOE CHEN



On her computer, junior Sophia Tegg works on a presentation. Ant. 7 in Room 129, Tegg and her group presented the definition and context of the word "sharecropping." "[This project] was a base for what we were transitioning to learning about in the class," Tegg said. "We're reading 'Raisin in the Sun' which deals a lot with racism and segregation." PHOTO BY SERVAE BLOOM

COME AGAIN?



APUSH teacher Rebecca Anthony explained how this program started. "In junior English, you're studying American Literature," Anthony said. "And, of course, you're studying American history, so it made sense to put them together and coordinate rather than reading books out of chronological order. We love it. The students end up having really good discussions. We try to bring in current topics and events and things that are relevant but still tied to themes you see in literature and history. Having an intentional focus to do that helps. They produce a lot of really good work - they have a deeper understanding of a lot of the content because they're getting it from two different ways."



1. Junior Katie Gardiner works with her partner junior Zachary Harris Jun. 7 in Room 129. The AP English class often works collaboratively or participates in Socratic seminars. "The advantage of doing group work is being able to share your idea while also getting new insight from your classmates," Gardiner said. "It is beneficial to hear from someone who has a point of view than you." PHOTO BY SERVAE BLOOM 2. Junior Sophia Pope works on a project with junior Brennan McElroy. The project covered the history of segregation and how it affected Kansas City. "This project was interesting. Up until now, we hadn't learned how segregation directly affected the areas we live in today," Pope said. PHOTO BY SERVAE BLOOM



3. Pointing at the screen, AP English teacher Brett Mach introduces a vocabulary project to provide context for the book 'A Raisin in the Sun'. The goal of the project was to teach new words relevant to both the AP English and AP US History classes. "In addition to becoming better readers and writers, it's important to me that my students personally reflect on their own lives as we connect specific books and articles to those more universal human themes that English teachers like to talk about," Mach said. PHOTO BY SERVAE BLOOM 3. Junior Max Mickey plans his AP English project with junior Ethan Schreiber. Mickey and Schreiber's project covered the 14th and 15th Amendments to the Constitution. "Group work has helped me better understand certain subjects and learn to work better with others," Mickey said. PHOTO BY SERVAE BLOOM

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BACK IN THE DAY

In 1986, NW introduced its first Advanced Placement course: US History AP. Taught by Wendell Davidson, the class allowed students to take a more in-depth approach to learning about United States history and created a pathway for multiple other AP classes to be added to the course list for the 1987-88 school year.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY AMY RICH



// The Lair
Shawnee Mission
Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas

ONE IN 1597

Even though it's **scary to stand out**, our school wouldn't be the same **without the unique people** who are a part of it

At 7:34 a.m., I walked into the mall. Groups crowded into their usual spots, and it felt like I got lost in the mix. I was invisible. How could I stand out when there were nearly 1,600 people roaming the same halls as me?

Even with the posters lining the walls, "BE YOU," I still felt discouraged, unable to stand out. It was intimidating to not be a part of the crowd, to not be in the norm.

Easter said than done.

As I walked to the other side, I passed the Theatricals trying to cram onto the tiny bench outside of the Little Theatre. I thought how they could perform in front of the entire school with such confidence and focus.

I could never.

Passing mural after mural, my eyes studied the different shapes, the colors and the subtle textures. I read the names signed along the bottom. They would remain on that wall for years and years, forever remembered.

They left their mark.

I walked toward room 151, and ran into KUGR members on the way. I put my head down and dashed through

the journalism door, trying to avoid the cameras.

Please don't record me.

But what would KUGR capture if no one stood out? Who would be recognized at assemblies if none of us was willing to take the mic, take the spotlight, participate in the class competitions? Who would be on Homecoming court?

If no one took it upon themselves to go against the grain, our school wouldn't feel so special. What makes our school Northwest is the people that roam it. The people who signed their names on the murals, the people who went all out in their class skit and the people who play in front of their student section.

Is it worth the risk?

The risk is that I could be criticized, but the benefit would be getting recognized.

Yes.

We weren't made to be subtle or to blend in with the crowd.

So what was stopping me?

Myself.

It all came back to me.

Story by MOLLIE ELYSINK



// The Lair
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Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas

BACK IN THE DAY

Girls' golf started in 1976 and found immediate success

The first girls' golf team was in 1976 coached by Vince Southerland. The golf team placed fifth at League and fourth out of six at Regionals. The start of golf began along with the start of girls' tennis.



Lisa Mula (77) sets up the ball

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At practice, senior Lauren Kelley watches the golf ball after putting it towards the hole Oct. 10 at Tomahawk Golf Course. At regionals, Kelley parred her 18th hole, which she said was her biggest accomplishment of the season. "I knew it would be my last time playing at Northwest and I was happy to end it on a positive note," Kelley said. Photo by Hannah Van Aken

BACK FOR MORE

Senior Sidney Henkensiefken was the only player on the team to qualify for state



"I was a little disappointed because I thought that the team would make it to state this year, because we had some of our lowest scores that we had since 2008," Henkensiefken said. "Almost everyone had broken 100, so it was a little upsetting that not everyone made it." "This was Henkensiefken's third time qualifying for state. "Overall it was really fun. The weather for regionals and state was insane," Henkensiefken said. "Regionals got cancelled, then state was insane because we went down and conditions were awful because it was basically snowing on the course and no one could actually play." Henkensiefken finished with a 95.



Sophomore Julie Johnson swings her 7-iron at Tomahawk Golf Course Aug. 25. Seven irons are used for hitting the ball on the fairway out of the rough. "I chose my club because I know how far the ball is from the hole," Johnson said. "My favorite is the 7, not because it is so versatile and easy to hit a good shot with." Photo by Hannah Van Aken

TEE TIME

Despite losing half its members, including seniors, the girls' golf team experienced a sense of community

As she flipped her head to get the strands of blonde hair out of her face, golf team captain Sidney Henkensiefken stared at her target. She looked down at the small, white ball below her, making sure she was centered. With a powerful swing of the club, Henkensiefken sent the ball soaring above the bright green turf.

WE HAVE BEEN HELPING EACH OTHER WITH OUR STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESS AND MAKING ME HAVE A LOT OF PROGRESS"

— Freshman Sloan Munson

As the golf season began, Henkensiefken surveyed the seven other girls who made up the team, only half of the size of the team last year.

"I thought the team wasn't going to do well, and neither did anyone else," Henkensiefken said.

Between an unsuccessful recruiting attempt and the loss of several seniors, only five people from the previous season remained and only three newcomers joined the team.

On the brighter side, being on a smaller team had its advantages. "Last year, it was kind of a clique: seniors were with seniors and then there was rest of the team," Wiercinski said. "But this year, since

it was a smaller team, we were more of a community. We were all friends."

Although the season ended short of the girls' expectations, they agreed that they had succeeded in the friendships they developed.

"A strength we have is our bond," Henkensiefken said. In addition, the team faced the prospect of trying to welcome their third new coach in four years.

"Coaches all teach different things in different ways," senior Lizzie Weems said. "They all have different coaching styles. John Reiff let us do our own thing, Aaron Sayers was very hands on, but Bamberg focused on the short game, chipping and putting. It is very difficult to adapt."

Regardless of the disadvantages, a new member thought differently.

Freshman Sloan Munson tried out with an open mind and befriended the other girls on the team.

"Even though I have known Coach Bamberg for a month, we have been helping each other with our strengths and weaknesses," Munson said.

As a result, Munson improved rapidly. "He's strict, but in a good way," senior Haley Wiercinski said. "We used to do three holes and be done with practice, but now we are using the maximum amount of time and we get out of practice at 6."

Although the longer practices were taxing, the team saw them as ultimately beneficial.

"Practicing longer has made us better and has given us a better team environment, too," Wiercinski said.

The practices paid off, as evidenced by their performances in tournaments. Five varsity team members competed in each tournament. The top four scores were combined to create an overall team score. At the Eagle Bend tournament, the team, for the first time in 10 years, scored below a 400.

"We had been doing really well prior to the regional tournament," Weems said. "We were third in the league, and we were beating the teams we needed to beat easily, by like, 20 strokes."

At the regional tournament, the girls, except for Henkensiefken, fell victim to horrendous weather, the stress of two to three tournaments each week, and an unfamiliar course.

"The regional tournament was cancelled due to rain," Weems said. The tournament was rescheduled the following day in less-than-favorable conditions. It was cold and windy and the course was sopping wet. This increased traction and made it harder to hit the ball."

Only Henkensiefken qualified for the state tournament. There, Henkensiefken scored a 95, a personal best for her, but that was only enough to snag 40th place in the tournament.

"I had my own small victory," Henkensiefken said. "That was such a great way to end the season."

STORY BY SIDNEY SANCIBABE



Senior Sidney Henkensiefken walks onto the range while holding her golf club Aug. 25 at Tomahawk Golf Course. Henkensiefken got her best score at the state tournament and middle of Regionals. "My team did overwhelmingly well this season," Henkensiefken said. "I am just really proud of everyone." Photo by Hannah Van Aken



// The Lair
 Shawnee Mission
 Northwest High School
 Shawnee, Kansas



In addition to **AP and IB classes**, juniors Juan Gomez and Jonas Rowland made time for their internship at **KUMC Cancer Research Center**

While most biology students learned about the scientific research behind cancer, juniors Juan Gomez and Jonas Rowland directly participated in that research of two drugs: JG-1 and JG-2.

As an intern at the University of Kansas Medical Center, Gomez carefully studied a single cancer cell. He left after fifth hour each day to feed it. As part of his research, he worked to determine how efficient a variety of anti-cancer drugs are by testing to see their effects on head and neck cancer cells over a 72-hour period. By observing the proteins those cells produced, Gomez helped other researchers determine what mechanism the drugs target to achieve the desired results.

Both Gomez and Rowland were given the opportunity to intern at KUMC Cancer Research Center in the Molecular Biology/Biochemistry program.

Going into their junior year, both had planned on taking IB Diploma classes to prepare them for college. After failing to enroll in Intro to Biotechnology their sophomore year, pre-requisite for the IB Biotechnology class, they made plans to take it the next year. They spoke with the instructor, Lindsey Denke, who offered them a different option.

"They talked about how they wanted to do the biotech program, but since they were going to be juniors, they wanted to be able to go to the CAA," Denke said.

Denke suggested the two skip the intro class and instead accept an internship at the University of Kansas was offered by Biotechnology coordinator and teacher at the Center of Academic Achievement (CAA) Brenda Bott.

The two didn't know what to expect after receiving word that they had been selected for the program.

"I was basically thrown into a pool and expected to know how to swim," Gomez said. "We were already really excited and shocked to be at CAA."

When you go there, you see people preparing for the workforce. KU Med takes it to the next level."

With the help of their teachers and the KU Med biotech program, Gomez and Rowland not only discovered their love for biotechnology but also researched concepts that may affect the future.

"I know once I graduate and the internship is over, I want to help people in any way I can," Gomez said. "It feels good to help someone. I know it's high stakes, but it is a really great opportunity."

Rowland had always wanted to go into the medical field; however, the program persuaded him to explore the research side.

"It's a lot of fun, but there is a lot of tedious work and it all seems to be repetitive," Rowland said. "If something doesn't go right, you have to do it all over again, which is understandable, but still it makes some projects not as fun."

Because Gomez and Rowland left during fifth hour to go to KUMC every day, it created problems for each of them.

"One week I missed five days [at Northwest] to go down there and catch up on stuff I hadn't finished," Rowland said.

The program opened up doors and created new opportunities for both students.

"My parents were so proud of me, but now they just look at it as a daily routine," Rowland said.

Although they both loved science, the internship came with a price.

"I've lost bonds with some of my friends because I don't get to hang out as much anymore, which is sad, but it is understandable," Rowland said. "My friends ask me how the program is going and I always give the same answer because most times they won't understand what I'm talking about."

STORY BY MADLY GRAFF

BACK FOR MORE

Juan Gomez planned his days carefully to balance classes, internship and homework

7:40-11:50 a.m.	11:50 a.m.	12:25 p.m.	5:30 p.m.	6:00 p.m.	9 p.m.
He attended regular classes at Northwest	He left the Northwest campus and ate lunch before heading to KU Medical Center	He arrived at KU Medical Center and started working	He left KU Medical Center for the day	Juan got home and started on chores and ate dinner	After a day full of advanced classes and his internship, Juan started on his homework for the next day



1. Treating head and neck cancer cells. Junior Juan Gomez works on an experiment to see how effective different concentrations are at killing specific cancers Nov. 11 at KU Med Center. Gomez started the internship at KU Med. in September. "I have always had an affinity for science," Gomez said. "I also know that I want my future career to be one that is dedicated to helping others." Photo by Paula Moniz. **Junior Nicholas North plates E. coli genes** in order to observe certain characteristics and determine their phenotype Jan. 15 at the KU Medical Center. North was using blue-white screening with X-gal to determine the effect of LLNF on the protein function. "It's been very rewarding seeing all my work come together and actually be able to contribute to the lab and the rest of the world," North said. Photo by Asa Ryan. **3. Junior Jonas Rowland passes cell cultures.** Jan. 15 at the KU Medical Center. Passing cell cultures means to transfer some or all cells from a previous culture to fresh growth medium. Rowland is a Research Active Intern. "As an intern I do a little bit of everything," Rowland said. "It's a lot of freedom and responsibility which is nice." Photo by Asa Ryan



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GET YOUR HEAD IN THE game

The boys' varsity soccer team **succeeded in advancing to the quarterfinals** against the number one seeded team in their division

The last 10 seconds of the quarterfinals, the last 10 seconds of the season.

On the opposite end of the field, the cheerleaders counted the seconds: "10...9...8...7"

The Olathe East crowd pounded their feet on the bleachers, creating a wave of sound.

Those dressed in orange and black were silent, praying for the outcome they knew was already lost.

Senior Henry Fears eyed the goal as he took his last shot.

"EHHHHHHHHHH," the buzzer growled.

Honestly, I knew in those last five minutes of the game that we were going to lose," Fears said. "I mean it was 3-0. There was no way we were coming back. They were kind of just destroying each other all over the place. It was just a lot of sadness; I definitely cried that night."

The announcer came over the intercom. "And that's the game, folks. Your Olathe East Hawks: 3 and the Shawnee Mission Northwest Cougars: 0."

Players fell to their knees, banging on the ground, while the Hawks stormed the field. With that, the Cougars ended their run in the playoffs as Olathe East punched

their ticket to the Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) state tournament.

"I think we could have done a much better job defending," varsity soccer coach Todd Boren said. "We didn't defend well and, when we beat Olathe Northwest in the previous game, we did a really good job defending as a team."

Working as a team was a main focus.

"We have this saying for soccer: 'we want to be a unit together so we want to work as a team in everything we do,'" senior Tanner Anderson said. "We are working for each other and we have a commitment to the team to be there for them."

Throughout the year, that teamwork had been evident. According to Fears, he had developed friendships with his teammates due to the strong bonds that evolved from playing soccer together.

"It's not about yourself in soccer," Fears said. "It's about the entire team."

Although the Cougars lost their final game, the win against Olathe Northwest put them in the quarterfinals.

"It was an insane movement. We beat the number one team; it was something we wanted to do the entire season," Fears said.

"We had lost to them earlier in the season so it was just a super accomplishing feel."

The support of the fans definitely played a role in the win over the Olathe Northwest team.

"This year had to be the best year of fan support," Fears said.

The day after the win, the hallways of the school were filled with pride. Students were talking about the game and the fact that they were heading into the quarterfinals.

"For us, to go to the quarterfinals meant that we had accomplished a lot of our goals for the season," senior Henry Tomasic said. "The feeling of beating Olathe Northwest, winning the regional title, and knowing that we were moving on to the next round combined and made me feel fantastic that night."

After a hard fought match against the Hawks, the end result was not what the team hoped for. Players sulked to the bleachers to thank the fans for coming to the last game of the season.

"I wish we could have gone further," Fears said. "But it's been a spectacular four years and I'm glad we won districts."

STORY BY ALANNA MELLINGER

1. Sitting on the sidelines, senior Eli Hodson watches the final minutes of the game Oct. 30 at SHSAC. The Cougars lost 0-3 to the Hawks. "When the last minutes played out against Olathe East in the state quarterfinal, I felt like it was a bad dream," Hodson said. "It was hard for me to realize that I will never play another competitive soccer game in my life." Photo by Stuart Davidson



2. With their hands in the air, the Cougars celebrate winning the 5A Regional Championship Oct. 25. The Cougars finished their season with a win over the Ravens who were seeded first. "Knowing that Olathe Northwest was the number one seed made the win feel so much better for me," senior Henry Tomasic said. "I felt a sense of accomplishment and an overwhelming feeling of happiness." Photo by Paige Morgan



BACK IN THE DAY

During his time at NW, current soccer coach Todd Boren played on the team.

Soccer coach Todd Boren graduated from Northwest in 1988. He played on the boys' soccer team for three years.

"We actually played games on the field behind the west parking lot where we didn't have SHSAC," Boren said. "We got the soccer complex open our senior year and that was a really big deal that we thought that was really cool."

After Boren graduated, he attended college and got a job in Missouri. However, after he taught there for a year, there were multiple job openings at NW the

following year in 1998. He did not start coaching soccer until later.

"All three of us coaches went to NW so we're almost a bit more invested because we played here, we wore the uniform, we put the work in," Boren said. "We wore orange and black. We all went to school here. We all graduated from here, and so there's just there's a pride thing. And for all three of us, the program was very successful."



TODD BOREN
 CLASS OF '88



Up in the air, freshman Ryan Borberg heads the ball Oct. 30 at SHSAC. The JV boys' soccer team won, 2-3 against SHSAC West. "Beating JV as a freshman means a lot to me, but I can only get better from here," Borberg said. Photo by Evan Harrison

BACK FOR MORE

Seniors Tanner Anderson and Henry Fears played two varsity fall sports



For seniors Tanner Anderson and Henry Fears, they had more than one varsity fall sport on their minds as varsity soccer players and varsity football kickers.

"It took two or three practices for me to get used to kicking a football. Then he asked me to play in a game. My first game, I scored 5 points," Fears said. "I kinda knew what I was doing. It was natural from there."

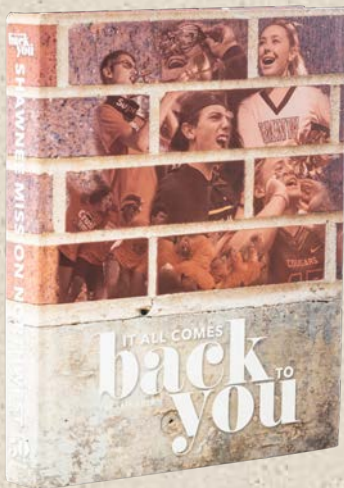
Football coaches look at soccer players because of their strong feet. "I wasn't really interested until this year came around because I really hadn't thought of it or been fully interested until now," Anderson said. "This year they didn't have a kicker, but I decided not to last year because they already had Megan Nugent."



3. Seniors Tanner Anderson and Henry Fears practice their kicks for varsity soccer. Photo by Paige Morgan **4. Senior Tanner Anderson** holds a football for senior Henry Fears as they practice kicking on the football field. Photo by Paige Morgan



Senior Tanner Anderson runs up to kick the ball Sept. 22 at Mill Valley High School. The Cougars lost 0-5 to the Jaguars. "I think about what I could do after a long game, and I move on the next day," Anderson said. Photo by Stuart Davidson



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BACK ON THE COURT

Two years after he retired, **70-year-old Ken Clow** returned as the junior varsity assistant coach after **31 years as varsity head coach** for girls' tennis

With the ball in her hand, senior Mabel Anstine looked toward her partner, senior Olivia Sloan, waiting for the match to begin. Serving to the other side of the court, Anstine looked to watch as the ball hit the out of bounds line, giving Blue Valley North the point.

From the sidelines, former girls' tennis coach, Ken Clow, looked around at the job he left two years ago.

"Around 1970, I started to teach," Clow said. "[A] few years later, I thought I would coach tennis."

After he retired in 2016, Clow returned as assistant coach, replacing Nancy Blackburn, whose medical concerns forced her to take a year off.

"I came back because they needed someone to step in and help coach," Clow said. "I knew what to do since I was a coach previously and I wasn't doing anything in the afternoons."

Blackburn's absence had effects on the players who formerly had her.

[They coach with] different personalities

and there's a very big difference," Sloan said. "Clow would tell you what you needed to hear, but Blackburn actually made you work a little harder because she's so energetic."

Clow had no plans to coach beyond this year. He quit coaching varsity tennis when he was 68 years old.

"I was getting worn out," Clow said. "I was just getting more tired."

His experience playing tennis led him to help young players improve. The tennis players took his advice because they knew how much knowledge he had of the game.

"He'll always gives us tips on what we should do or how we should change how we play," freshman Sammi Meeks said. "He is never vague about what we should do."

They listened to him as they stood in a circle, crowding around him.

Clow's coaching style was different from previous coaches because he did not yell or get onto the girls when they messed up.

"Every single time we did something wrong, he would tell us what we [had done]

and how we could improve," Meeks said. "If we needed any help, he would quietly and quickly pull us over to the side and tell us what we should do. He'd always try to make things fun."

As the girls' skills improved, Clow found inspiration.

"It motivates me to see how much I can improve the players' abilities," Clow said. "They can grow to be better [players] and make varsity."

With their skills improved, the girls moved to higher levels and worked harder to maintain their knowledge in the game.

"I think that when it gets more competitive, it affects your spirit, how to win graciously and learn how to lose and take something away from it," Anstine said. "I think that it has helped me develop teamwork because I only play doubles and you have to get used to working with a partner and being nice, but help them as well."

STORY BY McKENNA PARSONS



Senior Mabel Anstine and Olivia Sloan celebrating winning a point with their partner, senior Olivia Sloan. "He never makes me feel like I'm not doing it right," Sloan said. "I know that he's always there for me and I love him."

50
BACK IN THE DAY
 In 1979, the girls tennis team finished 6-4. Without making it to first, they still managed to place first and second in the singles competition and a first in doubles

NW	0	5	South
NW	4	1	North
NW	2	3	Ward
NW	4	1	Olathe
NW	2	3	West
NW	0	5	East
NW	4	1	Piper
NW	5	0	Gardner
NW	5	0	Ottawa
NW	5	0	Baldwin

1. During a match, senior Gabriela Herrera serves the ball Aug. 30 in the NW tennis courts. Players practiced serving against their opponents before matches during warm-ups. "When I'm serving, I try to focus on my breathing, watch the ball, and think about where I'm going to hit it," Herrera said. Photo by Seneca Brooker. 2. Senior Cate Steinacker reviews her scores with tennis coach Ken Clow Sept. 6 on the NW tennis courts. Steinacker played tennis when she was younger, but had joined the school team only sophomore year. "I play tennis because it is a very fun, welcoming, low-key environment," Steinacker said. "I made a very unique relationship with the people on the team that in hard to find outside of that environment." Photo by Nick Snyder



3. Reaching out, junior Emma Alexander steps to hit the ball Aug. 29 at CBAC. Alexander played this season on both a singles and a doubles player. "While I'm playing, I think about what the other player might do to throw me off my game and how to be prepared," Alexander said. Photo by Seneca Brooker. 4. Before the matches, coach Ken Clow talks with his players Sept. 6 in the NW tennis courts. Clow helped the players with technical skills and hand motions. "I help the girls get back on their feet and improve their skills that they didn't achieve during the game," Clow said. "[As a coach] you have to have patience and be able to communicate." Photo by Seneca Brooker

BACK FOR MORE
 Top doubles partners shared their experiences together



Seniors Mabel Anstine and Olivia Sloan doubles partners for two years

Juniors Claire Severance and Naeley Torline doubles partners for one year



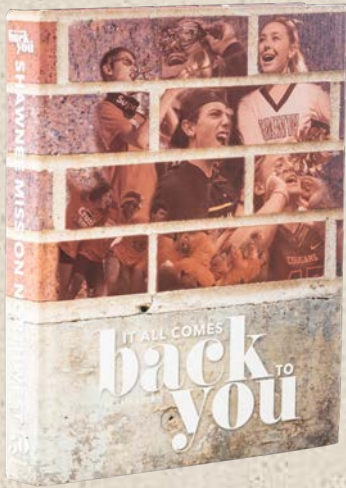
// **The Lair**
Shawnee Mission
Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas

Learning away, senior Ava Hauser, in the role of Ado Annie, constantly eyes the gun pointed at her lover. All Hakim, played by junior Zach Daley. In the musical "Oklahoma," Ado Annie's father, played by senior Christian Andersen, plans to shoot Hakim if he doesn't marry Annie. "Ado Annie and I aren't super alike, but I've been able to connect with her pretty easily," Hauser said. "I connect with her silly side without struggle, but not as much with the 'consistency with men' side." Photo by Samuel Brunsen.



GETTING TO THE
Point.

The Thespian troupe kept their shows on track and were **able to persevere** despite the many **challenges** that presented themselves



// The Lair
Shawnee Mission
Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas

THE show GOES on

In his absence, director Jason Coats left the fate of the fall play in the hands of his students

Before the start of their first dress rehearsal, the cast and crew of "Almost, Maine" sat on the edge of the stage and in the front rows of the Little Theatre and learned that their director, Jason Coats, would not be attending the rest of their rehearsals as they entered show week.

His mother had passed away on Monday of the week of dress rehearsal. This was completely unexpected, it blindsighted me," Coats said. "I was in no way emotionally prepared. I could not function as a leader, a role model or as a teacher. I could barely function as a human being."

Making their way through dress rehearsal week on their own, the students were given daily status updates about Coats, but as the show neared, they became more nervous about putting on a performance without a director present.

This had been Coats's first year teaching at Northwest, and neither he, nor his students, had expected him to have to take a leave of absence the week of his first production as the director.

"I couldn't be here. That was so weird

for me," Coats said. "I have never in my 16 years of teaching and directing, had to miss the tech week and shows."

Coats had been dealing with the knowledge of his mother's state of health throughout the duration of the rehearsal process, but he had not expected her death.

"Right at the beginning of the school year, my mother was diagnosed with stage four cancer," Coats said. "We believe it started in her lungs, but by the time we caught it, it had metastasized into her lymph nodes, bones and into her brain."

She was given the option to seek treatment, but opted for hospice care. The family believed they had nine months to a year, but that quickly turned to six months, then to three months, then into a matter of weeks. By the end of September, his mother had just a few days left.

"It was shocking to not be able to be here," Coats said. "But it meant that everybody had to collaborate to find those solutions rather than me being the person up at the front of the room telling people what to do, which to me is

not real teaching."

Students who had already been placed in leadership roles stepped up to and took on more responsibility in order to accomplish all the tasks that needed to be completed before opening night.

The run of this show was so different to begin with, due to having a new director," senior Shantae White said. "Because of [Coats's] absence, we had to work around complications and stick together as a group of students. After days of polishing their show, the cast was still one day out from opening night when they were told that Coats would be coming back to school to watch the final dress rehearsal."

He sat in the dark theater alongside his family as the cast and crew set up the show and prepared.

"To have those two hours to just escape to this mythical town of Almost, in another part of the country, was an immense relief," Coats said. "I was not sitting there as a teacher or director. I was sitting there as an audience member, experiencing the joy and magic of theatre around me."

STORY BY ETHAN SCHLEIBER



"I'VE BEEN ABLE TO TURN NORTHWEST INTO MY SAFE PLACE, MY HAPPY PLACE, A PLACE WHERE I KNOW I'M SURROUNDED BY FRIENDS, BY STUDENTS WHO WANT TO BE SUCCESSFUL WHO ARE GOING TO WORK REALLY HARD TO ACHIEVE THEIR GOALS."

-director Jason Coats

1. Nearing the end of their scene together in the fall play, senior Christian Anderson and junior Natalie Hale admire the hair painting Anderson's character Dave made for Hale's character, Rhonda. Sept. 24 in the Little Theatre. The heart represented Dave's heart that he gave to Rhonda. "To me [the heart] meant 'go for it,'" Anderson said. "You have to at least try [for love] and if it all blows up in your face, it's not all that bad because something better will come around if you go for it." Photo by SEBASTIAN EDERSON 2. Senior Colin Jones laughs with sophomore Jacob Parker in the fall play, "Almost, Maine." Jones plays the role Randy in the play. "I do theater because I enjoy the challenge and the process of getting there, of fine tuning and having my scene and performance, then seeing it all pay off when it's done well and the audience loves it," Jones says. "There's something really gratifying about that." Photo by PAPA BORISAKOV 3. Freshman Freddy Collette sits on stage with freshman Anna Holoway in the fall play "Almost, Maine" in the Little Theatre. Collette plays Pete in the prologue, interlogue, and epilogue. "When I'm on stage, I feel like I could be anyone I wanted to be, or anywhere I wanted to be," Collette said. Photo by PAPA BORISAKOV



BACK FOR MORE

Summer renovations complete

In an excerpt from the Almost, Maine program, the situation was explained. "Welcome to our newly renovated Little Theatre! At the beginning of the summer, the old seats, stage, and walls of the LT were torn out. Throughout the summer (and the first few weeks of school, traces of the old theater were replaced with new LED lighting, new floors on the stage, carpentry, paneling and seating for 113." "Almost, Maine" was the first production in the new facility.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ARDAGH ROBERTS

PHOTOGRAPH BY PAPA BORISAKOV



OKLAHOMA! on ice

Although snow days cancelled rehearsals and postponed the opening night, Oklahoma turned out OK

BACK TO THE BASICS

The Thespian award items to members who showed strong skill throughout a show

Silver Baton
(PR Orchestra)



Awarded to:
Nina Tiger

Ruby Slippers
(Dancing)



Awarded to:
McKenzie Parks



Gypsy Robe
(Acting)



Awarded to:
Devyn Trondson & Ava Hauser

Golden Hammer
(Tech)



Awarded to:
Sam Converse

Buzz, Buzz. Messages, from nervous theater students who eagerly awaited an announcement from director Jason Coates, flooded the Oklahoma! GroupMe. "Any news guys?" junior Gerin Rodriguez asked. "Nope, there's still no news," junior Ally Banks typed. "RIP," freshman Adam Sakati responded.

Because inclement weather had prevented the scheduled performance the previous night, actors like seniors Ava Hauser and Devyn Trondson wrote emails to district officials begging them not to cancel the show again. "I was really frustrated," Hauser said. "We'd put in a lot of work over the past three months and to know that all of that work was maybe not about to be shown, just because of the snow days, really frustrated me. I learned that you've gotta have faith. In times of stress and snow days, you just have to have confidence that everything is going to work out in the end."

Despite tension and worries, Trondson and others prepared for the best. "Everybody here is such a hard worker," junior Tre Mutava said. "I see so many dedicated actors just working in the hallways with their lines, just perfecting it on their own time. They've perfected themselves as an individual to make the whole group better, even after missing days."

Buzz, Buzz. This time it was Trondson. "Everyone please REVIEW! REVIEW! REVIEW!! We have gone 3 days without a full dress rehearsal - please come prepared so we can have an awesome show."

"We all had to buckle down at every chance we were given," Thespian Troupe

president Shantice White said. "Every little bit of time that we did have, we spent perfecting everything. We didn't have any downtime. We just ran the show as many times as possible. We have to depend on each other for everything. We can't do a scene without another person. It means a lot that each person cares so much, to do well for everyone."

Buzz, Buzz. "All right gamersquad, let's get this bread!" senior Ivan Noble typed. The students sent memes as a way to calm their nerves. Sophomore Jayce Lamb sent a photo of the state of Oklahoma captioned "starting bid \$29." "Too rich for my blood," senior Jacob Fry said. "Can't afford no more."

"[When things get stressful] we have to not reflect it on to each other," White said. "If you make it outward and push all of that stress onto other people, it just creates a bad environment. So we keep it in, we breathe, we focus."

Buzz, Buzz. Junior Fatemah Moor posted a screenshot of an announcement from Coates on Google Classroom. "THE SHOW **WILL** GO ON! Tonight's performance is a GO. The theatre will open at 5:00. Calls are the same as previously posted." Because they were unable to perform Thursday, two performances occurred Saturday, one at 1 p.m. and one at 7 p.m., as well as the regularly scheduled one on Friday night.

"We had to have a lot of crunch time," lights crew member Mabel Anstine said. "It really all came down to the wire, but it all came together."

STORY BY ZOE CERDA



During the song "The Farmer and the Cowman," Thespian Troupe president Shantice White, in white, talks to the ensemble who farmers and ranchers should get along. "Being the sort of old person of the town means that I know everyone and everything, so it was nice to be the one everyone looked to for guidance," White said. Photo by Alex Rose



4. Junior Jackson Tomlin lifts senior Ava Hauser in the air Feb. 5 in the Greg Parker Auditorium. Hauser played the role of Ado Annie. "Her lines are some of the absolute funniest in the show because she is so quirky and bubbly," Hauser said. "It makes you laugh to think that a person at this time period could be making such raunchy but bubbly and funny comments." Photo by Alex Rose. 5. Junior McKenzie Parks dances with the girls' ensemble to the song "Many a New Day" in the Greg Parker Auditorium. In addition to being a dancer in the ensemble, Parks also played Dream Laundry. "My favorite part of the show was definitely the high paced, fun and upbeat numbers with the whole company," Parks said. "I love dancing." Photo by Seneca Blosom



1. Performing on stage, junior Claire Severance smiles at senior Devyn Trondson Feb. 5 in the Greg Parker Auditorium. Severance played the role of Gertrude Cunningham, a bitty character with a unique laugh. "I loved playing Gertrude because her laugh was so obnoxious," Severance said. "I will never forget this role." Photo by Alex Rose. 2. Junior Josh Holloway and senior Devyn Trondson sing "Oh, What a Beautiful Morning." Holloway and Trondson played the main characters Curly and Laurey. "Devyn is such a talented person, and the energy she brings with her onstage is contagious to everyone else in the cast," Holloway said. "The cast was full of great people who put in the best work they could." Photo by Seneca Blosom. 3. Junior Jackson Tomlin performs in "Oklahoma!" Tomlin played Will Parker, the love interest of Ado Annie. "Even though I've been performing for about four years, there's always the pre-show jitters because going onto a stage in front of other people is a very vulnerable thing to do," Tomlin said. "Once I'm out there, it's like nothing else matters and it becomes effortless for me." Photo by Seneca Blosom



50 BACK IN THE DAY

Choir teacher Cassie Barion played the lead of Oklahoma! in 2003

In addition to being the first musical presented on the NW stage, "Oklahoma!" has been produced here three times. Choir director Cassie (Preemiss) Barion performed the lead role of Laurey in 2003. "The play is really special because the music will always stay the same but the way actors and actresses interpret their roles is always something different," Barion said.





// The Lair
Shawnee Mission
Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas

THE pit crew

For the Orchestra Pit playing in the school musical *Oklahoma!*, the live music **added to the overall production** by making the musical seem more alive

The house lights pointed directly at the audience, leaving the stage dark as the musicians shuffled into the auditorium. They carried a sparkling array of instruments to their seats and disappeared as soon as they sat down. The sound of papers flipping filled the pit under the stage as they found their music for the overture.

A spotlight followed orchestra director Jeffrey Bishop, who had donned a cowboy hat for the occasion, as he crossed in front of the stage. After facing the audience as they applauded, he turned to the orchestra and lifted his baton. The first strains of "Oklahoma" filled the auditorium.

Symphony Orchestra and Band combined to form the Pit Orchestra. Each student in the group auditioned to earn his or her seat.

Pit Orchestra member Sydney VanHorn played violin in the orchestra program for three years.

"Because Dr. Bishop has this burning passion for symphonic music, it makes Pit Orchestra more exciting to be a part of," VanHorn said.

Sophomore Peder Thomas was a flutist in the pit. In addition to

woodwinds, Pit Orchestra included horns, percussions and strings. There was also a backstage auxiliary choir, called Pit Choir, directed by Bishop.

"There was a camera on me with a monitor in the scene shop so that the Pit Choir could see me," Bishop said. "A microphone picked up their singing and it was mixed at the soundboard with that of the choir onstage."

Through this, dozens of people had the opportunity to work together and learn from each other.

"It's special to me because it's a time to connect," Thomas said. "There are a lot of talented people you get to meet."

Director Jason Coats worked with Bishop to provide off-stage practice time for the singers and Pit.

"Having the sound of a full orchestra adds a lot to the texture of the music," Coats said. "It adds more energy to the dance breaks."

Because the orchestra for "Oklahoma!" utilized the full pit area, the stage was smaller and the actors were farther from the audience.

Coats planned for the blocking of the musical with this in mind. The cast and crew, however, were forced to think

creatively to avoid falling off the stage during their performances.

Senior Miles Raney, usually a violin player in Orchestra, moved to the viola to fulfill a need to balance the orchestra. This gave him the opportunity to try something new and get involved in another part of the Pit.

"It wasn't that hard because I already play piano, so I'm used to changing clefs," Raney said.

Symphony Orchestra practiced once a week until they began rehearsing with the cast and crew, when they only had four full rehearsals. Rehearsing alone allowed them to become familiar with the music without having to deal with entrance and exit cues or stops to give instruction to actors.

The separation also allowed time for additional bonding among the musicians. As the opening night approached, the pit began practicing nearly every afternoon in the auditorium.

"Live music gives off a more human-like feeling," Raney said. "We do make mistakes. The cast makes mistakes, too. But it makes the performance feel real."

STORY BY CHARITY SALINDERS



4. Turning the page, senior Micayla Houser looks for the next song in her music book. Jan. 28 in the orchestra pit of the Greg Parker Auditorium. There were a total of 105 pages of music for the musical "Oklahoma!" Even though it gets cramped when we play our instruments, I love to be with my friends," Houser said. PHOTO BY SEBASTIAN EMERSON 5. Plucking his cello's strings, senior Christopher Findlay plays in the orchestra pit. Jan. 28 in the Greg Parker Auditorium. "The pit rehearsed with the actors for "Oklahoma!" My favorite part about being in the pit is the development of everyone involved," Findlay said. PHOTO BY SEBASTIAN EMERSON



BACK FOR MORE

Pit Orchestra celebrated closing night with pancakes and comedy

Pit Orchestra members had a tradition of eating a late night dinner at IHOP after the final performance of every musical.

At these dinners, the musicians discussed everything that had happened throughout the show week.

"We laughed about all of our mistakes and random stuff like this dog with blue hair that my aunt used to have," violinist Katelyn Martinez said. "Orchestra kids have a really close bond and these dinners help with that."



1. Focused intently on her music, senior Sydney Henkenstein works to learn a difficult passage in the score. Although Henkenstein is a senior, this was her first year playing in the orchestra pit. "Originally I wasn't planning on doing pit at all," Henkenstein said. "But then I realized what a good opportunity I would have to bond with some of my friends." PHOTO BY SEBASTIAN EMERSON 2. Orchestra director Dr. Jeffrey Bishop provides feedback to orchestra members during a break in the rehearsal. "Oklahoma!" was the first musical performed on the NW stage. "I think it's pretty cool to bring this [show] around full circle," Bishop said. "It was written in 1944 and to make a job out of inside, which is totally improper now. I had several conversations with my students that this is not okay." PHOTO BY SEBASTIAN EMERSON 3. Illuminated only by the reading light on his stand, junior Evan Borberg plays bass violin at a rehearsal Feb. 5 in the Greg Parker Auditorium. To be less noticeable, pit members generally wear black shirts during a performance. "I love big orchestras because there are so many different ways to get a point across," Borberg said. "Adding that to the singers and show on stage is really cool to be a part of." PHOTO BY SEBASTIAN EMERSON



At rehearsal, sophomore Jacob Lane rehearses the song "Oklahoma!" with the rest of the pit. Jan. 28 in the Greg Parker Auditorium. "The pit is a fun experience because you get to play a style of music that you don't see anywhere else," Lane said. "You get to play with a bunch of good friends and bandmates which is exciting and fun." PHOTO BY EMIL DOW



// The Lair
**Shawnee Mission
 Northwest High School
 Shawnee, Kansas**

bryan amen

THE SEARCH FOR EVERYTHING

After **leaving his life behind** in Mexico, senior Bryan Amen found new hope from his ELL classmates in spite of the **struggles he faced**

As he packed his bags, senior Bryan Amen tucked the pins his mom gave him, an iPod full of family pictures and music to remind him of home, safely in a corner of his suitcase. Fourteen-year-old Amen prepared to leave his mother, father and brother behind as he moved from Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, to Shawnee to live with his uncle for the next four years.

"The economic situation with my parents wasn't the best," Amen said. "Coming to America was supposed to be a great opportunity for me."

In spite of the opportunities that living in the United States would give Amen, leaving his parents was extremely difficult.

"That age is when you need [your parents] the most," Amen said. "I got nostalgic. I started missing my parents and life back home and my grades started going down. It was pretty sad for me for the first few months."

Moving away from his life in Mexico caused Amen to develop depression. He initially did not understand why his parents had wanted him to move away.

"I had to show my parents that the sacrifice they made for me was going to count for something," Amen said.

Since he came from another country, Amen was automatically enrolled in the English Language Learners Program (ELL).

"ELL provided me the safe space I needed," Amen said. "I was living with my aunt and uncle. It wasn't the same thing as my parents."

At home, he could not find the level of emotional support he counted on from his mother and father. Amen left his life in Mexico behind, including all of his friends.

When he began school, he felt completely alone.

"At first, I was thinking [my parents] abandoned me and that they didn't want me anymore," Amen said. "Then I realized they were doing this because they loved me and wanted better things for me. We don't see each other often. I know that's hard for both of us."

Amen had lived near the U.S. border so he knew English, but not enough to carry on conversations. Because El Paso was his birthplace as well as was just across the border, American culture was not completely new to him, but the students and teachers in the ELL program made it possible for him to feel at home here.

"The ELL group is a family. I got here every day with that joy of seeing my friends," Amen said. "At home, that's something I couldn't do often because my aunt and my uncle were usually working."

ELL made Amen feel like he had a safe space. He was able to embrace his Mexican culture with other students from all over the world.

"I couldn't find strength by myself," Amen said. "Everyone made me feel safe and comfortable. They helped me find strength."

Amen got involved in art through his classes. He spent most of his time after school in the ceramics room making sculptures that represented his heritage and culture.

"I feel like I have a piece of home with me whenever I'm able to include my culture in my art," Amen said.

American culture has had a significant impact on Amen. He finds American clothing styles quite different, but struggled as he misses the food his mom made more than anything. His life is complicated not only by the people and things he misses, but because of the way he has been treated. He has experienced racism and stereotyping because of the way he looks. One incident happened while crossing the border from visiting family with a patrol officer.

"He spoke to me in Spanish first. He ordered me to take off my glasses and hat. He told me I didn't look anything like my ID photo," Amen said. "He started talking to his partner in English about how they thought I was illegally crossing the border. He thought initially because of the color of my skin that I couldn't speak English."

The altercation came to an end when a middle-aged white man interrupted to defend Amen.

Amen also faces the issues that many immigrants deal with — not being Mexican enough when he is in Mexico or American enough when he is here.

"I'm the outcome of a collision between cultural differences," Amen said. "I'm not Mexican or American. Back in Mexico, they didn't understand me because I understood some of the American culture. When I got here, no one understood me because I was able to understand the Mexican culture."

Although coming to America did create unpleasant experiences, it also made him appreciate the community he has built around him during his time here.

"I was not emotionally or mentally prepared for the situations I went through when I came here," Amen said. "The American dream used to be about how successful someone was, but now, it's just about stability and being able to persevere through tough situations."

STORY BY TATUM GOETTING



PHOTO BY SCYLAB BRIGAN
 ILLUSTRATION BY ETHAN SCHUBERT



// **The Lair**
Shawnee Mission
Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas

Freshman Damare Smith and junior Ty Linderman check on senior Dale Talley after Talley fell on his ankle Jan. 8 in the S24 West Main Gym. Talley tripped over an Oklahe North's player's leg while dribbling across the court. "I fell on my knee and it bled all down my leg," Talley said. "I just had to fight through it no matter how much it hurt because the only thing that matters is winning." PHOTO BY ABIGAIL ROBERTS



Head IN THE Game

From
playlists to
post ups,
the girls'
and boys'
basketball
teams
worked
together to
create hype
and score
points



// The Lair
Shawnee Mission
Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas

BACK FOR MORE

A father-daughter relationship grew stronger as the basketball season

At the start of the season, the team had two new members. A transfer student, junior Kylie Dunn and a new junior varsity coach, Julius Dunn. Not only are they father and daughter, but they also have a coach-player relationship. "My brother played, and my dad coached my brother when he was little," coach Dunn said. "I was always in the gym as a little kid, and I started playing and loved it." "It's awesome because, you know, I can always talk to him if I'm ever having trouble," Kylie Dunn said. "We have a good relationship between basketball and home, and if we have a rough day at practice with each other, we can kind of cut it off at home and you know he's been coaching me for a long time so it's kind of just normal."



1. Sophomore Kennedy Taylor jumps to give NW possession of the ball on the tip-off. Jun. 11 in the SH East Main Gym, Taylor does the tip-off for the varsity girls' team. "With jumping, you have to time it just right," Taylor said. "If you jump too early or too late, you could lose the tip for your team." **Photo by Emma Tieszen** **2. On her knees, senior Rachel Seibold reacts to a foul** called on one of the varsity girls' games Feb. 1 in the SH South gym. Both teams fouled over ten times in the fourth quarter. "When my team fouled, I feel really frustrated, but we get to shoot free throws, so I'm excited," Seibold said. **Photo by Abigail Roberts** **3. Running over drills,** coach Tyler Stewart talks to the varsity girls at half time, Jun. 29 in the Main Gym. The Cougars beat the Clatsop South Vikings 42-40. "Sometimes we have to do a little more motivating than others during half time," Stewart said. "Sometimes it's K's and O's of what we need to do to score or get a stop." **Photo by Pariz Mosier**



NINE Straight

After losing the **first three games** of the season, the girls' basketball team recorded a **winning streak**

As players from both Leavenworth and Northwest raced down the court, senior Abby Winter stopped at the top of the key, searching for an open player. Senior Megan Hanson looked around for a quick second before setting a screen for Winter, allowing her add two more points to the Cougar lead before the buzzer rang, ending the third quarter.

As the final seconds ticked away, the Cougars coasted to another win, 51-40, over the Pioneers.

"We had a rough start," Hanson said. "We had a couple games that we lost in a row, and I think that really made us come together. We're on a big win streak right now."

After dropping their first three games, the team regrouped for a nine-game winning streak.

"We've all really bonded well," sophomore Kylie Dunn said. "I think the vibe on the team is really good."

Tradition played a big role in bringing the team together.

"Before a game, we will go to the locker room," Winter said. "We'll dance to the same songs over and over."

"SICKO MODE" by Travis Scott, "Crank That" by Soufja Boy and "God's Plan" by Drake were at the top of their playlist.

With the pre-game rituals and time spent working together, team members found it easier to work

together as the season progressed.

"All the girls have gotten a lot closer than at the beginning season," Winter said. "We didn't know many of the freshmen, but now they are really open with us and it's fun."

Memories of comebacks and wins helped the team cope with rough patches as the season progressed, like the tournament in Newton. There, the girls lost the first game by 1, but went on to win the next two games by a combined 60 points and placed 5th in the tournament.

"We went there for three days and we all got to just hang out," Winter said. "The first game we lost was kind of tough but just hanging out with my team was really good."

For many of the seniors, this season felt different from others, as they had to step into leadership positions on the team.

"We know that it's our last chance to achieve what we want," Hanson said. "There's a lot more on the line for us because it's our last time."

The seniors not only taught the girls how to stay competitive, but how to pick each other back up after losses.

"We all just talk to each other about staying together and giving good effort," Dunn said. "Even if it might not be our night, we can encourage others if it's theirs."

STORY BY McKenna Parsons



On her feet, freshman Ella Mackinnon celebrates her team scoring a basket Jan. 29 in the Main Gym. Mackinnon has played in three varsity games. "All the varsity players are so encouraging," Mackinnon said. "My first game I was nervous and they said it was going to be fun." **Photo by Pariz Mosier**



4. Senior D'Anna Collier-Williams charges to the basket. March 7 in Koch Arena at Wichita State University. The girls' team advanced to the state tournament but lost in the first game 27-90 against Derby. "When I lose, I feel like it's a lesson and that, in the next game, it's something I can do better," Williams said. **Photo by Piper Benjamin**

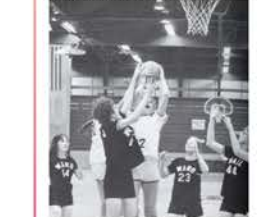


5. Freshman Sledge Grampasa focuses before attempting a free throw. Jan. 28 in the Main Gym. When I'm shooting a free throw, I focus and do my own routine," Grampasa said. **Photo by Thomas Ellzey**

6. Junior Mollie Elfrink goes for a layup. Jan. 28 in the Main Gym. The Cougars won 51-40. "[Basketball] is physically hard cause you're running a lot and getting pushed around," Elfrink said. "It's also hard mentally because it's so frustrating when the game isn't going your way." **Photo by Thomas Ellzey**

50 BACK IN THE DAY

Seven years after the school was built, the girls' basketball team was introduced to NW



The first NW girls' basketball team formed in 1976 with a total of 12 players. The girls only won a total of three games, beating Vinit, Schladle and Harmon. The Cougars lost to all Shawnee Mission, Schoola, Topoka and Washington. It was called the "toughest and newest sport that ever hit the NW gym."



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1. Before the start of the game, sophomores Jack Barnhart and Ty Black do their handshake Jan. 25 in the SM East main gym. During the announcement of the starting varsity lineup, each of the players have a unique handshake that they do with Barnhart. Each handshake has its own qualities. Barnhart said, "With Ty, we're all about thanking the guy upstairs." Photo by Alexia Thompson.

2. Junior Ty Linderman goes up for a lay up Jan. 25 at SM West. Linderman leads both the junior varsity and varsity teams, so he has gotten to know players on both teams well. "You have to trust your teammates," Linderman says. "Bonding with them is so much fun." Photo by Madison Rivara.



BACK TO THE BASICS

Seniors Evan Higgins, Luke Towler and Dale Talley, share why they picked their particular shoes



EVAN HIGGINS

"My shoes aren't pizazz; they aren't crazy, but they're LeBron's shoes and it makes them a whole lot better."



LUKE TOWLER

"I customized them to have Cougar orange in them, so it went with the team colors."



DALE TALLEY

"These are different. Nobody really has these shoes and they stand out. Everybody who sees them compliments me on them."



During the tip off, senior Luke Towler bottles a Leavenworth varsity player Jan. 25 in the Main Gym. Towler does the tip off every game. "I wait all day for our games, so when we are about to start, it's pretty exciting." Towler said. Photo by Alexia Thompson.

turning POINT

The boys' basketball team **battled back and forth** against SM North

The varsity boys' basketball players stormed the SM North Main Gym and began warming up for the second half. Score: 28-26.

"Momentum is extremely important because if you lose that fire you have in the first half, it could all be downhill from there," senior Dale Talley said. "The third and fourth quarters are what really matter."

After the referee blew his whistle, signaling the start of the second half, Talley dribbled the ball up the court. The ball was passed to freshman Damare Smith, and back to Talley, whose foot was out of bounds, causing a turnover.

"We have to look forward to the next possession and brush the last one off," Talley said. "You have to get back on defense to get the ball back and redeem yourself."

The Indians quickly racked up eight uncontested points.

"Our coaches try to get us to focus on defense during our games," senior Evan Higgins said. "All of our coaches looked at me to defend my tail off; I always go after it on the defensive side of basketball."

The Cougars dribbled the ball down the court. Senior Luke Towler caught a quick pass in the paint from Higgins. Towler drove in, jumped up for a lay up, but was smacked by an Indian on his way to the hoop.

"I usually get rebounds and shoot the ball when I'm open," Towler said. "As long as I'm making shots, the coaches let me keep shooting the ball."

At the free throw line, the referee bounce passed the ball to Towler as the NW student section, standing on tip-toes, raised their arms and wiggled their fingers in hope and anticipation.

"I love our crowd," Towler said. "It's the

best in the whole state. Scratch that, we have the best crowd in the whole nation."

Towler took three dribbles, then shot the ball.

Swish.

Three more dribbles and the ball was in the air.

Swish.

Score: 31-36.

"There are other players who never change anything up," Towler said. "I always do the same free throw routine so I don't mess myself up though."

The Cougars and the Indians rushed down the court and back several times on fast breaks, committing turnover after turnover without either team scoring.

Down 31-36, the Cougars knew they had to score again and maintain a strong defense if they wanted to win this game.

"When we play good defense, it leads to good offense," Towler said. "We try to clamp the other team up and it leads to us playing better."

Dribbling the ball frantically, Towler cut in and passed it to freshman Damare Smith, who took a wide open shot.

Clark.

Off the rim.

Higgins jumped for the putback and tossed the ball off of the backboard and into the bucket.

"We knew if we wanted to win this game, we had to keep moving the ball," Higgins said. "If we kept doing that, then at one point or another, somebody was going to be open to make a shot."

The Cougars and Indians rallied back and forth, drawing fouls, until the end of the third quarter.

Up 41-39, the Cougars needed to keep

their momentum in the 4th quarter to maintain their lead.

The Indians quickly brought the game back to a tie, 46-46, after hitting a three-pointer and a few foul shots.

Smith attempted a three-point shot, fell short, kicked the ball out to Luke Towler and reset the play. Towler passed the ball out to Higgins, who took a three-point shot.

Swish.

The Cougars had the lead, 49-46.

"We get the ball to the people who are hot," Towler said. "They can shoot if the rest of the team can't."

The Indians brought it right back to a 51-50 lead after another layup through the Cougar defense.

Talley brought the ball right back up the court, passed to sophomore Ty Blecha for a layup giving the Cougars a 52-51 lead.

"Our team is super young," Towler said.

"At the beginning of the year, we weren't playing very well, but as the season went on and we got to know each other a little better, we started playing better."

The Cougars maintained their lead, playing impenetrable defense as the last seconds of the fourth quarter ticked away.

"We knew North was a beatable team," Higgins said. "We played as well as we could and came home with the dub."

Going into this game, the Cougars' record, at only 1-6, was bleak. Beating the Indians helped give the team confidence going forward in the season.

"We knew we were on the right track after that game," Higgins said. "We knew that we needed to get another win under our belt, so we showed up at this game and got it done."

STORY BY MATTHEW BUSTAMANTE



3. Senior Dale Talley dribbles down the court, looking for someone to pass the ball to Jan. 25 in the Main Gym. The Cougars won 67-46 against the Leavenworth Pioneers. "This season, it doesn't matter who I pass (the ball) to because my whole squad is full of shooters," Talley said. Photo by Alexia Thompson.

4. Sophomore Ty Black passes the ball to freshman Damare Smith Jan. 8 in the SM West Main Gym. The Cougars lost 52-54 to the Olathe North Eagles after being tied for the majority of fourth quarter. "We watch (recordings) about the bad things and the good things we did in past games and we keep practicing to get better (after losses)," Black said. Photo by Alexia Thompson.

50 BACK IN THE DAY

The JV basketball team of 1978 had a record to be proud of

Blair Barnhardt, class of '78, fires a shot from the corner. The junior varsity team, coached by Ken O'Neil, won its last five games outscoring opponents by an average of 10 points a game and finishing the season 13-3.





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Junior Sara Gregor gives a thumbs up at Freshman Day Aug. 3. In the Main Gym, Gregor was a Link Crew leader and helped freshmen get to know the school. "I really like seeing the freshmen's face change from being terrified at the beginning of the day to laughing at the end," Gregor said. "Freshman Day shows all the incoming freshmen that high school isn't really as scary as they're made it out to be." Photos by STEVEA BLOOM

NOW AND evermore

In school, students shared where they felt like they have a home. People who care. A family. **Where they felt united**

I came into the Main Gym to help on Freshman Day. Link Crew members danced on the bleachers, waiting for freshmen to walk through the doors. In just a few minutes, the upperclassmen would introduce them to the place where they would spend the next four years of their lives.

"Link Crew was created to help the freshmen not feel so lonely and lost their first day," senior Courtney Kastelan said. "Juniors and seniors are put in groups with about 10 freshmen [each]. In that group, we bond and play games. It helps us become closer with our kids, so if they ever have any issues down the road, they feel safe to confide in us because we have that bond. It is an easy, but effective way to create unity throughout Northwest because it is closing that awkward four-year age gap between us."

Kastelan walked in on the first day of school with her neon orange Link Crew shirt letting all the freshmen know that she was someone they could talk to.

"Unity is important because it builds that family-like feeling," Kastelan said. "All the new freshmen don't know anyone, except their own class, and Link Crew helps them not feel so much like outcasts. We encourage them to join sports and clubs. Being a part of something is the best feeling in the world because, not only do you make a whole lot of friends, you are a part of the Northwest family."

Then I walked into the Aux. Gym and found Dance Team members linked arm-in-arm, practicing a dance routine. They high-kicked in unison. As they finished the routine, the dancers screamed and jumped all over each other.

"I'm so glad I have you guys," sophomore Hadley Patton said

breathlessly.

"Going into tryouts, I didn't really know any of the girls on the team," Patton said. "Being a part of it has definitely introduced me to people I don't feel like I would have gotten to know otherwise. After getting to know these girls, I always have someone to go to."

The dancers stepped back to their positions to run the routine again.

"I love pep rallies and assemblies," Patton said. "They always leave me feeling welcome. Everyone is just excited for the same thing and everyone is so supportive of each other."

After striking the final pose, the drill team scattered, searching for their water bottles.

"I think it's healthy to know that you have people who care about you and have your back," Patton said. "It just makes high school more enjoyable when you feel like you're a part of something, where you are welcome."

Moving into the mall, I looked up at the Chain of Life strung all along the north wall.

"It's important to have the chain of life," senior Katelyn Martinez said. "We have something tangible that shows our sense of community and how easily the loss of one person can affect the rest of us."

The name of every student and staff member had been joined in one long chain. Our time together wove us into one large community. One big family. Forever linked.

"Unity is very important," Martinez said. "I think everyone needs to know that they have a community within the school that will appreciate and care for them, no matter what."

STORY BY TATUM SCHUEMAN



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1. Senior Charles Brockmann pins his opponent Feb. 1 in the Main Gym. Off to the side of the mat, Coach Ross Whitmore advises Brockmann on what moves to do. "We have a pretty good relationship, and we joke around a lot," Brockmann said. "It's good to have that with a coach." Photo by Asa Pank 2. About to strike, freshman Rayden Pennewell grabs the arm of his opponent Jan. 9 in the Aux. Gym. Pennewell feels as though his team and coaches push him to be better, on and off the mat. "My team in pacts me by always being there and cheering me on in matches and practice," Pennewell said. "There's not just my team, they're my family." Photo by Peter Bokacian



WRESTLE LIKE A Girl

Increasing numbers of female wrestlers in recent years created a new atmosphere

For female wrestlers, the sport they compete in is a little out of the ordinary. In Kansas, as well as other states, the girls have their own division — but regardless, most still compete against boys.

Two years ago, KSHSAA created a division that had the potential to give girls increased opportunity to wrestle against other girls. Although it seems as if the goal of creating this division was to achieve separate programs for the two genders, there aren't enough girls present in many wrestling divisions for this to really be possible.

"Only some tournaments have [girls against girls]," senior Whitney Dugan said. "But I think it's really fun to compete against girls because it's new and they wrestle a little bit differently."

Dugan not only sticks to the regular training regimen as the boys do, she additionally attends a before-school weights program during zero hours in accompany to her traditional weights

class during the school day. Head Coach Howard Newcomb said the girls on the team participate in the same practice routines and work just as hard as the boys do.

"It is kind of hard on them at first, but then they start getting used to it," Newcomb said. "I try to not treat them too much different than the boys. As far as the work ethic and everything else that goes into wrestling, it's all the same."

Northwest has five female wrestlers — a number that may not seem like a lot, but has more than doubled since last year. The team includes Dugan, junior Shelby Mullen, sophomore Ashlyn Van Nieuwenhuysse and freshmen Amelle Te'o and Maddie Kitson.

In meets, the girls wrestle against boys that fit into the same weight division, giving them an equal opportunity to be victorious; this is reflected by Dugan's 4-6 season record and Van Nieuwenhuysse's 4-4 record.

Those looking in on the situation might be boggled as to why girls subject themselves to playing a sport that is predominantly occupied by boys. But for those participating, especially Dugan, who has been competing for years, it's second nature.

Girls have been in wrestling programs for years, but to this day, it's still a sport that is not popular among females and is riddled with stereotypes. Newcomb and Dugan, among others, hope that the program will continue to grow as the year's progress.

"Eventually, if we get a full girls' team, there may be separate practices where we need to slow down or speed up," Newcomb said. "The girls that we have in here this year have done a super job of being competitive and learning quickly."

STORY BY RORY DUGAN AND NICK LORRINO



COME AGAIN?

Senior Charles Brockmann found himself injured at the beginning of the season

"The injury made things harder because there's some stuff I can't do. But I just mostly try to forget about it and go through the thing I'm working on."



3. Coach Howard Newcomb yells to a wrestler Jan. 9 in the Aux. Gym. Newcomb has coached wrestling since 2007. "I love wrestling," Newcomb said. "My son wrestled, my daughter is my wrestling manager, my wife helps run our tournaments; it really is a family affair with us." Photo by Peter Bokacian 4. Freshman Cole Foreman pins his Clothe East opponent Feb. 1 in the Main Gym. In a dual, each wrestler only has one match versus a tournament, where they have multiple. "At duals I like being able to wrestle my best," Foreman said. "At tournaments I get tired out." Photo by Asa Pank



On the mat, freshman Amelle Te'o pins her opponent on the Kansas Girls State Championship Feb. 9 at McPherson High School. Te'o placed 3rd at the tournament. "I was planning on being a manager, but the coaches and Whitney [Dugan] pushed me to do it," Te'o said. "I never thought I'd win a match but I ended up coming in third [at state]." Photo by Asa Pank



5. Beside the mat, freshman Xavier Reyes cheers on a teammate Feb. 1 in the Main Gym. During a match, wrestlers yell out suggestions or possible moves. "I'm thinking about what they're doing wrong or right and just end up yelling out the next thing they need to do," Reyes said. Photo by Asa Pank 6. Freshman Cole Foreman attempts to escape his SM South opponent Feb. 1 in the Main Gym. Foreman finished his match with a win. "It felt very good," Foreman said. "It showed the hard work paid off and it helped me with my stamina." Photo by Asa Pank

50

BACK IN THE DAY

The 1973 wrestling team changed the game for future NW wrestlers

Coach Richard DeMoss led a team full of champions to the state tournament. They placed first in the Sunflower League Tournament and second in the regional tournament sending nine wrestlers, nicknamed the "Nimble Nine," to the state tournament. Pat Zahner went undefeated throughout the season and placed first at the state tournament. The team placed sixth overall.



"The Nimble Nine" Front Row: Dana Thindke (74), Terry Schoeder (75), Tony Schoeder (73), Ed Kriehberg (73), Mike Lewis (74) Back Row: Steve Myers (73), Jack Dunlap (73), Pat Zahner (73), Sam Jones (73)



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Rehearsing for the musical, junior Kaiti Rivers sings and performs the choreography to the song "Rained City" from "Oklahoma!" Jan. 29 in the Choir Room. To prepare for the show, rehearsals were held every night after school for two months. In addition to the practice done during class times, "It's easier to sing in class and focus on the music only," Rivers said. "In the musical, you have to focus on not only the music, but dancing, costumes, lines and a million other little things also." Photo by STEVE BLOOM



LEARNING OUT loud

IT ALL COMES DOWN TO...

19 Choir students choose their favorite concert of the year



Choir director Cassie Banion instructed her students on **more than music, technique and vocal health, she taught them confidence**

"1 and 2 and 3 and 4." Choir teacher Cassie Banion tapped her pencil on the podium and began the warm-up. "When she's tapping her pencil, she's just keeping tempo because every song has a skeleton," senior Dayton Raines said. "It just helps us keep pace when we are singing the song." "Do-re-mi-fa-so-la-ti-dooooo-ti-lat-so-mi..." the choir sang. After the warm-up, Banion played the grand piano at the front of the room as the class began to sing solfege. "We do a lot of solfege. It is a muscle-memory technique that makes it easier to sight read music," Banion said. "I hand them the song, they write in the solfege and then we read it. It's kind of like in your English class when you are reading a novel for the first time. You are discovering things about those characters or about that piece as you go." But solfege was not a task that students completed in private. "I'm just asking them to do it in front of a whole bunch of people, which is incredibly nerve-racking," Banion said. "It takes a lot of courage to be that vulnerable."

"Solfege is one of the most time-consuming, yet helpful, things ever," junior Ali Barnes said. "It makes it easier because when we write the correct notes on our music sheets, it helps us understand [it better]." According to Banion, music is, in general, a sensitive, personal thing, but singing exposes the person, their ability and their technique. "It's you," Banion said. "There is no hiding behind anyone else or an instrument or sheet music. It's just you in front of the world, and that is incredibly vulnerable and incredibly sensitive. I think it takes bravery to sing something you have never looked at before, to sing something in front of a bunch of people." During the class, Banion emphasized the importance of choir members being cautious and taking care of their voices. "Our bodies are our instruments," Banion said. "That is something that I think band and orchestra or pianists would find a hard concept to grasp. Things, like drinking water and going to sleep and not screaming at the football games, are crucial to what we do. I mean, you can't take your violin and throw it at the bleachers during the

football game. Right? You would clap or cheer. But cheering loudly, shouting, screaming, all of those things, are our equivalent of throwing your instrument on the ground and smashing it into a million pieces." The lessons Banion taught made choir meaningful beyond the music. "Choir teaches you so much more than just how to sing a song. You have to learn how to convey a message and give a performance to an audience," senior Hope LaMartina said. "You have to learn how to work with other people, how to blend." For Banion, being in choir when she was here as a student changed the direction of her life. "A Capella was where I found my wings and took off," Banion said. "Now, as a director, these kids are the reason I come. They are so fun to be with and their energy and their warmth and their kindness to one another, and to me, makes my whole day when they walk into my door."

STORY BY KAYLA NICOLE

1. Junior Adam White sings "Witness" from his binder. "Everyone wants to help everyone else be as good as we can on each song," White said. "We are quite productive in that class because we know we are going to have a lot of performances we need to work hard on." Photo by STEVE BLOOM. 2. Senior Miranda Gibson picks up sheet music off the Grand Piano Feb. 2 in the Choir Room while seniors Emily Jones and Georgia Holgate wait to get theirs. The A Cappella class received the piece "Witness" to sing for the state group contest. "If the [new] song is challenging, I know that I will do pretty well because I'm motivated to try harder," Gibson said. Photo by Annual Review. 3. Senior Dayton Raines warms up during choir class. Warm ups of ten include lip buzzing, diaphragm practice, scales and more. "It takes your voice about four hours to naturally wake up, so you have to warm up with easy things like buzzing and humming to ensure you don't damage your vocal cords singing all out right off the bat," Raines said. Photo by STEVE BLOOM



50 BACK IN THE DAY

The A Cappella choir traveled to Europe to represent Kansas in the 1989 French Bicentennial. The trip also included time in Germany, Paris, Switzerland and Liechtenstein. To raise money for the trip, students held a garage sale in September, raising \$2,000. They also recorded and sold a Christmas album. While students looked forward to the trip, the 1989 Lair noted that students felt that director Jack Ballard was something to look forward to every day.



On the risers, junior Sarah Sullivan made her music Feb. 5 in the Choir Room. The choir class prepared for the Regional Large Choir Contest. "I like the fact that choir creates a family for students," Sullivan said. "We learn to work together to create beautiful pieces of work." Photo by LAIR COOP



// The Lair Shawnee Mission Northwest High School Shawnee, Kansas

MAKE A Splash

The boys' swim team began with an **encouraging** medley relay that was a **team effort**

Carrying a saxophone, junior Scott Klein walked to the corner closest to the diving board.

"Please stand for the national anthem," the announcer said over a microphone.

Contestants, coaches and spectators all rose, right hands over their hearts. The strains of "The Star-Spangled Banner" filled the room with Klein on saxophone and sophomore Brian Harrell on trumpet.

As it came to a close, claps and cheers filled the room and the meet began.

The boys' swim team huddled at one end of the pool, shouting "One team, one dream, baby," to pump each other up for the meet against SM East.

Swimmers gathered around the starting block, jumping, slapping their chests and shaking out their arms to loosen their muscles.

"Mentally, it's better to be relaxed, but, physically, you want to get your body moving, keeping your muscles warm so that you have a lot of energy before you race," Klein said. "You don't want to go in really cold or anything, you want to stay loose but at the same time, you want to be fierce."

In preparation for the first race, the medley relay, the first swimmer from each team positioned himself in the water, grasping the bar.

"Swimmers, take your mark," the announcer said just before the electronic whistle and a flash of white light sent the swimmers into the pool. The time on the scoreboard counted down in hundredths of a second.

Nearly simultaneously, the swimmers pushed off the wall with their feet, propelling themselves forward. Water splashed out of the pool as they raced for the far end of the pool.

As Klein approached the far end, team members leaned in close to the water to yell encouragement and Klein headed back to the other end.

"Every day at practice [and meets], you and your teammates are having to push each other to swim as fast as possible, so it's really a team effort," senior Will VandenBos said.

As the first set of swimmers touched the edge of the pool, the next set, standing upon the starting blocks, dove into the water for the second part of the relay race.

"Quite often we start off with relays," Klein said. "It just gets the team excited at the very beginning of the meet. In the middle of the meet you have most of the individual races."

SM East edged out the boys in black and orange, with a time of 1:44.80, for the win in the medley relay.

Following it was the 200-yard freestyle, then the 200-yard individual medley, 50 yard freestyle and one meter dive.

VandenBos stressed the importance of teamwork. Swimmers perform individually but their points collectively determine the team's success.

In the last event of the meet, the 400-yard freestyle relay, the Cougars put VandenBos, Klein, freshman Alex Savinkov and senior Eric Gonzalez in the water.

The boys in black and orange won against SM East in the freestyle relay, with a time of 3:33.21.

At the end of the meet, the Lancers had accumulated 686 points leaving the Cougars behind with 416 points.

STORY BY JASON FRIEDHOLTER



Sophomore Cameron Solenberg takes a breath on the sixth lap of his 500-yard freestyle Jan. 24 in the NW pool. Solenberg finished fourth with a time of 6:39.00. "Our coaches help us along the way and our teammates all push each other to do better than what we thought was our best," Solenberg said. "When you hear [your teammates] cheer for you, it gives you the motivation to push a record fast as you can." PHOTO BY SHANE BLOOM

BACK TO THE BASICS

An inside look into senior Ben Harrell's swim bag



Swim Cap



Goggles



Headphones



A good book



1. Taking a breath, sophomore Alec Schmidt rises out of the water during his 300-yard butterfly Feb. 1 at Summit Trail Middle School. Schmidt placed 27th in the Sunflower League preliminary races with a time of 1:12.26. "Butterfly is fun, but it can be tiring," Schmidt said. "I still need to work on my kick so my arms won't be so tired, but my times have definitely improved." PHOTO BY SHANE BLOOM



3. Led by junior Scott Klein, varsity swimmers Wesley Shinn, Cameron Solenberg, Alex Darnell, and Brandon MacAuley cheer for senior Bryce DeBok in the 400 freestyle relay Jan. 17 at the 504 West pool. Swimmers often cheer for their teammates from the sides and gutters of the pool. "I like cheering on my teammates when I can because I know it makes a difference," Klein said. "In swimming, any slight adrenaline boost can take time off any race." PHOTO BY SHANE BLOOM

4. During his 100-yard breaststroke, senior Benjamin Harrell performs an open turn at the wall Dec. 15 in the NW pool. Harrell placed third at the district meet with a time of 1:07.95. "I specifically like breaststroke because when you are underwater, it is quiet and you're only focusing on the race at hand," Harrell said. "When you come up, it's all screams and cheers." PHOTO BY SHANE BLOOM

5. Going off the blocks, sophomore Brian Harrell dives into the pool Dec. 4 at Summit Trail Middle School. The Cougars swam against the Olathe North Eagles. "My teammates are always cheering me on and helping me improve," Harrell said. PHOTO BY ERIC DICK

50 BACK IN THE DAY

Five boys qualified for the state tournament in 1971: Larry Miller (72), Gary Arnold (73), Leonard Hersh (71), Dave Hersh (71) and Dave Hersh (72).



"You wonder sometimes why you went out for the team. I suppose the main reason is that you want to win. Swimming to me is a mental thing... It is a sport in which you have to conquer yourself before you can conquer your opponent. You also have to know what kind of warm-up you need before a meet; I feel I can beat the other team's breast strokes in the medley relay. I can beat him in the 500. I have found that when I hear a spectator yell at my opponent and tell him to whip it on me, that really makes me go!" - Dave Engels, 1971



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WANDS AT THE ready

Decked out in long, dark robes, with wands in hand, musicians from all orchestras finally performed the Annual NW Area Festival

Dressed in Harry Potter-themed attire, orchestra members gathered in the Main Gym for the area orchestra festival.

"This year's festival was crazy," senior Sidney Henkensiefken said. "It was a mess, but when it was over, I felt like we really came together and pulled it off nicely."

Orchestra director Jeffrey Bishop, dressed as Snape, made his way to the front and turned to face the bleachers, where every seat was filled. He waited for the crowd to quiet down before lifting his wand, as if it were a baton, to begin.

"Every year, when Area Festival begins, I get goosebumps," senior Sophia Rard said.

The concert had been rescheduled after school was canceled the day of the concert — twice. The musicians waited anxiously.

"I felt a little less prepared since it got rescheduled," senior Katelyn Martinez said. "Overall, I think it was fine."

The concert began with elementary and middle school orchestras playing. The high school musicians began to feel a bit nostalgic for the time when they were the ones sitting in the fold-out chairs scattered along the sides of the gym.

"Being able to see our progress has been a really good experience," Henkensiefken said. "I've grown so fond of these people and it feels so amazing to be able to put something together like this."

While Henkensiefken reflected on her memories, senior Nina Tiger looked forward to hearing her younger sister play.

"My sister is in sixth grade," Tiger said. "Seeing her play and knowing I was in her place just five or six years ago gives me a lot of hope for the future."

Orchestra members said that participation in the program had affected them in many ways.

"Orchestra has really shaped me into who I am today, both as a musician and as a person," Tiger said.

For this concert, students were given the opportunity to enter a costume contest for each level. A few students took it more seriously than others and the Tiger family won two of the titles this year.

"I won the high school portion in my disgusting Dobby costume," Tiger said. "But the best part was seeing my sister's hard work on her Hedwig costume payoff when she won the elementary school division. I was so happy."

All levels of the orchestra from 5th grade to the Chambers Orchestra, combined to play the 'Magic of Harry Potter' as the finale to a long night of music. The concert ended in thunderous applause.

STORY BY MAGGIE DOLINAR

COME AGAIN?

Senior Nina Tiger won the costume competition.

"It's the only concert now where we don't have to be formal, so you can have fun with it," Tiger said. "The wackier you are, the greater chance you have at winning the costume contest. It's fun to see what you can create."



1. Senior Nina Tiger, dressed as Dobby, smiles. **2. Junior Zak Gorsuch** at the area festival. **Photo by Anissa Roberts.**



3. Sophomore Wesley Simms raises his fists in the air after the announcement of the winner of the costume contest. Simms won as Harry from the Harry Potter movies and used drywall shims to make him seven feet and four inches tall. "My family and I worked so hard to make my costume and it paid off in the end," Simms said. "I loved seeing little kids' faces light up when I gave them a high five." **Photo by Anissa Roberts.**



4. Dressed as Moaning Myrtle, junior Sydney VanHorn plays violin while sitting on a toilet seat Jan. 31 in the 36th Gym. The toilet seat was provided by her parents and went through the dishwasher as well as a Clorox wipe down. "We did not have time to buy a new one, so we just used ours," VanHorn said. "We washed it that morning, so for the whole day my parents did not have their toilet seat." **Photo by Anissa Roberts.**



5. Attempting to stack three chairs at once, junior Chelsey Lee laughs as she hits the legs of the chairs against another stack. The Orchestra Leadership Team works together after performances to put away all the stands and chairs. "It's so cool to see how fast we can get a full orchestra setup (taken down)," Lee said. **Photo by Anissa Roberts.**

6. Dressed as Harry Potter, sophomore Cade Swanson plays the flute along with every level of band student. Schools from the NW area played songs from the movies. "When I was a little kid, I banned my head from on a coffee table and I have a scar (on my forehead)," Swanson said. "My parents make fun of me for it because I really like Harry Potter." **Photo by Anissa Roberts.**

7. Junior Chandler Krugjohn plays violin in a Mickey Mouse sweater. "I agree that Jan. 31 in the 36th Gym. Orchestra students dress up for the area festival theme to get a chance to win a prize for best costume. "Everyone who participated in the contest had great costumes," Krugjohn said. "I need to get way more creative." **Photo by Anissa Roberts.**



With his arms spread wide, orchestra director **Jeffrey Bishop** conducts the Synchro Orchestra during the concert. "This concert was a lot of fun for me," Bishop said. "The students here for this was that they had a chance to see a lot of different things together in the very last minutes." **Photo by Anissa Roberts.**



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ada heller

THE COLORS OF MY WINGS

Junior Ada Heller stumbled upon a passion for writing early in middle school and continued to pursue it in her high school career

After an excruciating seven-hour school day, junior Ada Heller threw her bag on the bed and plopped down in the desk chair in front of her computer.

"In middle school, I was accidentally put in a creative writing class," Heller said. "I didn't really have much of an interest before that."

Heller began writing poetry in 7th grade, as a part of the class. Heller said she was uncomfortable with public speaking, but, through poetry, she found her voice.

"I am a shy person, I don't talk that much, so poetry is the way that I let things out," Heller said. "It is a different way for me to talk."

Heller struggled with confidence throughout her life, but writing gave her a purpose. Heller's writing tended to focus on the people around her and her views on issues and life in general.

"Sometimes I write about people, and those are the poems that no one will ever read because they're just too personal," Heller said.

Although Heller started to feel more comfortable with writing, she didn't want to share her work, no matter how great the poem was.

"I'm not comfortable with people reading it because it's my feelings," Heller said. "Sometimes your feelings are just for you to know."

With the stress of school, soccer and volleyball, Heller found relief in writing poetry.

"Writing is fun, and sometimes it can be a major stress relief," Heller said. "It's why I love it so much. When you write, things just kinda fade away and you focus on the writing in front of you."

Over the years, Heller's writing has matured structurally, grammatically and thematically.

"When I was a freshman, my poems were mostly optimistic and uplooking on subjects," Heller said. "But now they're mostly about real life situations, real life topics. Sometimes people can look at them as depressing, but that's not the intention."

Her poems also dealt with symbolic and personal themes, one being butterflies.

"The butterflies represent me in a way," Heller said. "They look fragile, but on the inside, they're strong and beautiful."

Because of her private nature, Heller has only shared her work with a couple of people, mainly her parents and a few close friends.

"Poetry is personal," Heller said. "So I used to only share it with people I trusted, but after I published my book, I felt more comfortable."

When Heller was in middle school, her creative writing teacher was enthusiastic about her writing.

Together, they published Heller's first book, "The Colors of My Wings."

"I was excited about the book, considering how hidden my writing was," Heller said. "The book was an easier way for me to share my pieces with family and friends."

The theme of Heller's book was her view on the world and what she believes she needs to do.

"The theme is kind of about how I want to fix everything," Heller said. "There are so many bad things in this world. I want to be able to protect people from them."

In 2016, "Teen Ink Print Magazine" published Heller's poem, "It Started In High School Geometry."

"I really couldn't believe it," Heller said. "I was speechless, but at the same time I was like screaming on the inside."

Throughout the year, Heller wrote many stories and poems. She even competed in the 2018 NW Poetry Slam.

"I got really nervous going up," Heller said. "I'm pretty sure everyone knew I was nervous, but now I am not as nervous of people reading my work as I used to be. I hope some people might read it and connect with what I'm saying."

There is one person who has consistently encouraged Heller to continue writing and keep publishing her work.

"My mom is really the one who was pushing me to get going," Heller said. "She told me that if I kept going to these things, it would be easier and easier the next time I did one."

Heller was not sure what she was going to do in the future, but she hoped it included writing.

"I just wanna keep doing what I am doing," Heller said. "I love what I do and I don't want to ever lose it."

Heller has planned on going into the medical field, but she also wanted to continue her passion for poetry.

"I want everyone to know that if they want to write, they need to just do it and not hold back," Heller said. "I know it might be hard for you to put your feelings out there, but it feels so good when you do."

STORY BY MADDY GRAFF & TATUM SCHIERMAN



PHOTO BY SYLVEE BROWN
 ILLUSTRATION BY ESTHER SCHIERMAN



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NO PIN LEFT behind

Although teamwork may be at the heart of any sports team, the bowling team put an extra emphasis on working together in order to improve

The music mumbled in the background as the bowlers fell silent. Junior Dakota Stephens walked to the lane. Taking the 15-pound bowling ball in his hands, Stephens released the ball, letting it glide down the shiny wooden floor. The ball moved toward the gutter before curving away, almost magically, and slamming into the pins. Strike.

"The motto is 'Team first,'" Stephens said, emphasizing the idea of working together.

Although this approach to bowling is not new this year, coach Billy Dent made it the slogan to keep everybody's mind on it.

"Last year, we had Aialna [Burris], the top bowler in school history for the girls," Dent said. "The way to make it to state this year wasn't going to depend on any top scorer, but the team score."

And the bowlers said that this approach was helpful.

"We are bowling more as a team," junior Cheyanne Bolin said. "Last year went a little rough. There was a lot more drama. You need to bond to be successful."

Like every other "individual-team" sport (like gymnastics or wrestling), the team depends on the efforts and skills of its members to win. Team scores determine who wins and loses, not just individual ones.

Each team of six bowls three games (a series). The series score is determined by the combined scores of the top four bowlers. The lower two scores are dropped.

"Our series actually matter in winning the meet," Stephens said. "So it is a team sport, but it's also an individual sport to set records for yourself."

As a coach, Dent focused more on psychological methods than technique and ability.

"I can sometimes spot things in technique and help people out, but it's really more about getting inside the kids' heads and helping them deal with whatever is keeping them from being successful," Dent said.

When an athlete had a bad game, they tended to obsess over it. It got inside their head and they overthink everything, especially when they view their sport as an individual sport. But, according to Dent, when viewed as a team sport, the pressure is removed from individuals.

The varsity girls won most of their meets, including a 16-team invitational

tournament, proving the success of this mentality.

Both the girls' and boys' teams qualified for the state tournament. The girls' path to the tournament was highly decorated: district champions, runners-up in the Sunflower League and regional champions. The boys finished as the runner-up in the district as well as regional champions.

Both teams placed 5th in the state tournament. In

"It all comes down to one day," Dent said. "Anybody can win, it just depends on how we do that one day."

STORY BY SYDNEY SAKOUBARI

YOU'LL COME AROUND

Junior Dakota Stevens placed among the five highest series in NW history

Making his fellow bowlers proud, Dakota Stephens went down in the books because of his record high series.

"It just started as an interest, just bowling for fun, until it got serious," Stephens said.

After playing with his friend and

getting personal coaching, bowling became his passion.

"The best score I got was 276 game, and a 706 series," Stephens said.

His series got its place in the top 5 highest series since the opening of NW bowling in 2008.

"I knocked Ryan Gentry out of the record books," Stephens said. "I even bragged to him."



3. Senior Preston Wilson fist bumps senior Spencer Engilly Feb. 5 at Park Lanes. Wilson bowled a total of 673 for the series. "Spencer has been one of my best friends for the last three years," Wilson said. "I'm pretty tight with most of the varsity team, but I'd say Spencer and I are the closest." PHOTO BY NICK STEVENS

4. Senior Kyle Cunningham smiles after the varsity boys won the tournament Feb. 5 at Park Lanes. Cunningham scored a total of 481 points for his game. "We all just like to have fun with bowling and we are all competitive, but we do it in a fun way," Cunningham said. PHOTO BY SEBASTIAN ENDRIGO

5. Watching the score board, bowling coach Justin Peterson smiles as one of his players posts a strike. Peterson became the bowling supervisor in 2015 and later became the assistant coach. "One of the things I really like about being the assistant coach is that it's a different from most sports in that you get different types of athletes," Peterson said. PHOTO BY SEBASTIAN ENDRIGO

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BACK IN THE DAY

A new sport for both boys' and girls' joins the line-up

Bowling was introduced as a sport here in 2006. The first included 13 girls (left) and 16 boys (right). The coaches were math teachers Britt Haney and Randi Serres. In the regional tournament, both teams placed 6th of 11 teams.



2006 Girls Bowling Team 2006 Boys Bowling Team



// The Lair Shawnee Mission Northwest High School Shawnee, Kansas

PHOTO ILLUSTRATIONS BY ETHAN SCHREIBER AND CLARE MOORE
CONTENT GATHERED BY TATUM GOETTING

"I realized I was gay when I was about 13 or 14. I didn't talk to anyone about it until freshman year. I made some online friends during this time, which was interesting. It didn't really help me at all because it just gave me more anxiety, especially about my sexuality. They would make homophobic comments.

When I came out, my family didn't really make a big deal out of it. They just told me they loved me no matter what. My parents were very supportive. My dad came from a very traditional family, so, at first, I was holding back, but he was really nice about it.

I realized that everyone needs to support system. When I came out, I got a lot of anxiety off of me that I didn't know I had. It definitely has helped. I've gained a lot more confidence around people; I'm not trying to hide myself. I've grown up talking to a lot of people online from around the world that kind of diminished my confidence with people in real life because of the homophobic remarks they were saying. However, I know I can go to my mom for any kind of support, whether it's this topic or my sexuality or anxiety or school.

It's really nice to have someone to go to and just get everything off my chest. Everyone needs someone that will listen to them.

I know everyone's story is different, but I had a lot of self doubt. I've learned how to accept myself for who I am and that it's not an uncommon thing [to be gay]. In the last decade, the United States made progress in legalizing gay marriage and giving more rights to the LGBTQ+ community. Because of all of the progress, I think people have become more confident sharing their stories. People have to realize that everyone goes at their own pace. Assuming someone is straight should stop. If you're born heterosexual, you don't have to come out and you don't have a harder time trying to find someone else to confide in.

I think as a society we're progressing a lot. I mean, I think we're going to have kids that grow up thinking that even though every sexuality is different, we all bleed the same color; we're all the same.

— NATE PEARCE



"I was probably 13 or 14 when I realized I was bisexual. I had a friend who was questioning at the same time so we talked about it a little bit, but I was definitely trying to keep it to myself. For some reason, even though that I knew that [my friend] was gay, I didn't know how he would react if I said that I was bisexual. I kind of thought that I wasn't [bi] because I just couldn't be. Everyone else around me could have been, but not me.

When I came out to my mom, it was kind of an accident. We were in the car and we were teasing my brother because he just started a middle school. We asked if he had a boyfriend or girlfriend and he said no. Then my mom asked me if I had a boyfriend and I was like 'no.' So she asked if I had a girlfriend and I was like 'kind of.' Then I realized what I had said. I knew [my mom] would be okay with it so I didn't know why I was panicking. She just said something like 'oh okay.' I panicked a little because I didn't know how he reacted internally at first.

I think coming out has helped me see both sides of people's stories. When people found out that I was bi, I definitely lost a couple of friends. I thought to myself, 'I should have come out.' Because I was losing people and friendships over it. People didn't want to talk to me and I didn't know if it was worth it. Some were also just really uncomfortable with this topic and they didn't want to accept that some people are different. They sometimes try to accept it [it] but still don't really.

[Being gay] should just not be a taboo subject. I find myself avoiding the subject with the preschool classes that I teach, just out of

habit. I don't say anything about gay people in front of them, because I don't know how they'll react, or how anyone will react for that matter.

If we're going to try to make people more accepting, we need to bring it up more. Being gay is more common than people think. I don't know if I can change people's views or anything but I think just more openness about it would make people more comfortable with the subject.

The LGBTQ community also should just be more well known. It should be more normal to see two husbands or two wives. In spite of everything, though, [coming out] definitely was worth it. Even though I lost friends, I definitely gained a lot more friends. Freshman year, I was trying to come to terms with it. Once I did, I felt a lot better.

I don't know if I'd be alive if I hadn't come out. Toward the beginning, I was really depressed. [Struggling with my sexuality] was one of the things that was making me really unsure of myself. I always thought if I couldn't even accept myself, who'd be able to? But when I came out, I felt like I could be more myself even though nothing really changed. I felt more willing to be open; however, coming out is definitely harder than someone might think. It's not a big deal, but to the actual person, it could be a huge deal.

Going off of that, I think you shouldn't have to put a label on your sexuality. I don't think of myself as bisexual but I think there are a lot of people who try to put labels on stuff as fast as they can. I think they should maybe slow down and think about it. If you are gay, that's cool, and if you're not, then that's cool, too.

If I could talk to my middle school self about this, I would definitely say, 'it's not a big deal. You don't need to obsess about it. It'll be fine.'

— AMANDA AUGUSTINE

BACK IN THE DAY

An incident involving the Northwest Passage sparked controversy

In 1986, the Northwest Passage received a letter to the Editor from a person representing the gay and bisexual community at Northwest. After two months of discussion and talks with administration at the building and dinner level, the letter was published, causing an uproar. Northwest students began posting anti-gay signs on bathroom doors and on drinking fountains as well as harassing students they believed were gay in the halls and parking lot. Across the district, Northwest became known as Bi-Hi.

COMING OUT

Three students shared experiences of struggling with their sexuality and coming out to their loved ones

— LANCE TESCHENDORF

"Everything was really confusing for a while. Around seventh or eighth grade, I realized there was more to just being straight. I just knew something was off. For the most part, I feel like I just didn't want to admit [to being transgender]. But I started to notice discrepancies about how I felt about my own gender. I just didn't want to think that was me. I came out because I was sick of feeling like something was missing.

The first time I asked someone to call me by male pronouns, it just felt right. Since then, I've experienced acceptance from a lot of the people. I have gotten remarks and looks, but nothing on a large scale, which I'm very thankful for. But nothing has ever made me regret coming out.

Yeah, there are times when it's scary and you have to think about who you can't come out to because of the reaction you know they will have. The thing about coming out is you don't do it once, you do it 1,000 times over.

I feel like my process was really slow because freshman year was when I came out to just a small group of friends. I came out to the LGBTQ Club here at school and tried kind of coming out to my mom. Then, sophomore year, I really did come out to her. I came out to my sister and to more people around school. That's when I kind of chose my name. During my junior year, I wouldn't deny it, but I wasn't going to outright say it to any authority figure.

Before I became more comfortable, I knew I was unhappy with my body. I kept trying to become more feminine. I thought something must be wrong and that it must be that I was not feminine enough.

[After I came out], I felt an instant relief. I became a lot closer with my family; they became much more of a safe space to me. When I came out to my family as trans, it was such a big change in their minds. It's always going to be a little rough and there are always going to be issues. My mom is wonderful and is one of the most supportive people I have right now, but it was tough for a while. You have to give yourself a chance to figure everything out and it's terrifying. That was probably the one of the hardest things that I had to go through but it was so much better than living feeling that something's wrong. In knowing in the back of your head, that something will always feel off.

There's always gonna be someone who's going to support you and there's always going to be people who still love you. It's not going to be everyone, but the people who do will make your

life amazing. Most people live their lives without thinking that they could lose everything. Being transgender might keep me from getting a job and puts me at a higher risk of getting killed because of homophobia. You have to look at people around you and think 'Hey, other people aren't like me and that's okay.' It doesn't make them less of a person."





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Looking over bills being debated, seniors Juliana Kintner and Megan Formwalt discuss at Youth and Government in Topeka, Kansas Dec. 30. To participate in Youth and Government, students have to write and present a bill to the Youth and Government presiding officers including other high school students. "I proposed a bill about elected vote obscures business, getting representation rights have been a popular topic in politics lately and I believe accurate representation is important," Kintner said. Photo by Sam Crivens



1. In the Kansas Senate Chambers senior Sam Springer takes notes at the Youth and Government Conference. "A lot of what makes YAG great is that no matter what level of political interest or involvement you have," Springer said. "It can still be really insightful and engaging."
2. Juniors Natalie Hole and Sophia Fairchild prepare to present their bills. Fairchild's bill was heavily debated before being vetoed by Youth Governor Josh Marvine. "I've learned a lot from YAG," Fairchild said. "There's something about making yourself vulnerable that makes you feel stronger and better about yourself."
3. Presenting his bill, senior Noah Gruman speaks before the Kansas House Chambers at the Youth and Government Conference. The three-day long event allowed students interested in politics to discuss and debate issues and to propose legislation. "I wanted to pick something with education that was moderate enough to get passed, since the chamber was bipartisan," Gruman said. "The bill increased data privacy accountability for student data."
4. Looking over proposed bills, youth governor Josh Marvine sits at interim governor Jeff Colyer's desk. Marvine was elected Youth Governor at the 2017 conference and was able to go to Washington D.C. prior to the 2018 conference. "It was hard to veto bills because someone is always mad," Marvine said. "I vetoed one because I thought it was legitimately a bad bill." All Photos by Sam Crivens



VETOES & victories

Friendly arguments and heated discussions made for an eventful weekend at the Capitol

Taxes were discussed over toast, equality over eggs and every bit of politics pondered over pancakes. As the students at the annual Youth and Government (YAG) conference ate breakfast, they prepared for the day at the Capitol with light-hearted breakfast conversation, such as the reformulation of the entire Kansas tax bracket.

"People think that, because a lot of us can't vote, we shouldn't care or worry about government process and policy," junior Natalie Hole said. "It's nice to see that there are other people that are passionate about it. The even cooler part is seeing older people take our opinions more seriously and giving us opportunities like YAG to indulge in that."

Youth and Government gave students who were interested in politics the opportunity to experience it firsthand in the Kansas House and Senate chambers.

"It was very beneficial to see where and how our elected officials work," senior Megan Formwalt said. "It was also very helpful to be able to understand parliamentary procedure to see how legislation is passed at the state level."

Similar to real politics, the conference was led by a governor elected the year before. Although the conference took place in December, Gov. Josh Marvine spent months preparing for the event. With the help of the other presiding officers, Marvine was able to plan the conference and implement changes that would expand the conference.

"Being governor was a great experience all the way though. Campaigning last year, going to Washington and leading the program were all really unique opportunities I'm glad I got," Marvine said. "I'm especially proud of some of the changes my presiding officers and I were able to put into the program this year, like the media team and Supreme Court."

Prior to the conference, students were required to submit a bill they were passionate about. The bills were compiled into a packet and then discussed in the House and Senate.

"During YAG it was really fun to do some 'politicizing.' Politicking is basically going around and getting votes or support or speeches for whatever reason," junior Sophia Fairchild said. "It allows for dialogue and it's a little fun to run around and get people to

almost do your dirty work."

In order for a bill to move forward, it must be passed in the House and Senate Chambers and then be signed by the governor. Although many bills reached the governor's desk and were eventually signed, some were vetoed.

"My bill was about price controls of prescription drugs. The gist of it was to make sure that a company couldn't buy a drug from another company and hike up the price," Fairchild said. "Ultimately my bill was vetoed for a reason I still disagreed with: Josh was worried that my bill would cause companies to leave Kansas."

The bill was heavily debated in the Senate, but passed with the help of Fairchild's persuasive arguments. However, Marvine saw downsides to the bill.

"Even though YAG is just a simulation, I vetoed bills because I had to do my job," Marvine said. "It is hard to make people mad at you and is unfortunate when they take it personally, but it's part of the job."

Many people found the conference to be fulfilling, not in spite of the disagreements, but because of them. However, it created some animosity among the students.

"I was definitely annoyed that it got vetoed and that I didn't have enough time to pull the votes together," Fairchild said. "The veto became personal. Mutual friends became tools in a game."

Near the end of the conference, new presiding officers were elected. Governor Josh Marvine passed down the gavel to junior Sophia Mehnert, while Fairchild was elected President of the Senate.

"The governor's race was scary, but insanely rewarding," Mehnert said. "I discussed my plans and told a personal story during the elections. I felt vulnerable, but great."

Although there were many new additions to the conference, Mehnert wanted to expand even further.

"I have a lot of ideas for my time in office," Mehnert said. "I want to talk to more schools so that everyone can have a chance to participate in the program and experience giving speeches, passing bills and making connections."

STORY BY KELLEY VOLK

BACK FOR MORE

The process required to pass a bill can be tedious and time-consuming.

1. Committee

The night before the first trip to the Capital, bills and their respective authors are divided into committees based on the content of the bill. Once the bills are ranked in each committee, all the scores are compared and compiled into the dossier; the order in which the bills are debated.

2. Chambers The following day, the House and Senate bills are presented in their respective chambers. The author gives a speech, followed by a question and answer period. Amendments may be made to the bill and speeches of affirmation and negation are given. Then the bill is voted on.

3. Other Chambers If a House bill is passed, it is then sent over to the Senate where the previous procedure is repeated. If amendments are added and passed in the Senate, the bill is then sent back to the House for consideration.

4. Governor After a bill is passed in the House and Senate, it is presented to the youth Governor where it is either signed or vetoed. If it is signed, the bill has officially passed. If it is vetoed, the bill is sent back to the chambers giving House and Senate members a chance to over-ride the veto.



// The Lair Shawnee Mission Northwest High School Shawnee, Kansas

friendly COMPETITION

Debate partners **did not just focus on their arguments**, as they worked together during the semester, they built **strong friendships** along the way

Standing in front of a turquoise crate, the makeshift podium for the evening, junior Sophia Fairchild clicked the timer once to start it. Immediately, words began pouring from her mouth at monumental speed, almost unintelligible to the average listener.

But for Fairchild, this was normal. Spreading, or speed reading, was one of the many techniques that varsity debaters used to win their arguments.

"Varsity debate is about being quick, making technical moves and knowing the ins and outs of how arguments work," Fairchild said. "It's less about being a pretty speaker and more about understanding a topic and the way arguments interact with each other."

In this round, Fairchild and her partner, junior Sophia Mehner, disputed the United States government's restrictions on legal immigration, instead advocating for amnesty for victims of domestic violence.

"It's been really interesting for us because we're running a plan this year that is about women and domestic abuse and things that matter to us," Mehner said. "It's really great to have this topic on the perspectives that we are passionate about."

In their third year of debate, Fairchild and Mehner have grown closer, both in their partnership and in their friendship.

"Debate puts a lot of pressure on a friendship, in general, because it's really hard not to point out when we see each other make mistakes," Fairchild said. "[We try] to maintain a balance where we're having a healthy friendship but also improving."

The girls were not the only ones to have a closer connection this season. The other varsity debaters, senior Noah Gruman and sophomore Alex Marvine, often acted more like brothers than partners.

"It's kind of intimidating to compete against older students, but it's really nice to have a partner who I can rely on and learn from because there are, like, no arguments that he hasn't heard of," Marvine said. "We've debated things that I've never debated before and he has helped me in those rounds. I just end up learning a lot and that doesn't hurt."

While arguing their cases, the boys have also developed new inside jokes.

"The farm bill is an argument we bring up that would cause controversies with some congressional action on helping farms,"

Gruman said. "It becomes a joke because we end up talking about it a lot, and then researching it, which causes a lot of jokes."

Because of the significant stress and work load of debate, they also experienced hardships and struggles with their friendships, even outside of debate.

"I think that it can make a friendship really toxic if you judge the person based on their performance in the debate," Mehner said. "When we talk about debate outside of it, we strategize and sympathize with each other rather than trying to criticize or blame each other."

Throughout the season, not only have the partners learned more about each other, they learned about becoming better and stronger debaters.

"Every season, I look back at where we started and just think about how much we've grown and how much closer we've gotten," Fairchild said. "We've experienced a lot of emotional experiences together and great wins, so it's been a lot of highs and lows. I think we just bonded over what has happened to us in debate."

STORY BY MCKENNA PARSONS



Debate partners placed first nationally in 1978

BACK IN THE DAY

In 1978, debaters Doug Dodds and Matt Lawrence placed first at the National Forensics League tournament, the qualifier for nationals, where they placed first again. Meanwhile, debate partners Stacey Shinkle and Donna Hopson placed fourth in the state tournament.



1. Talking about strategy, seniors Noah Gruman and Zoe Credo compete in a practice round at debate work night Nov. 12 in Room 16. Gruman has worked with two debate partners throughout his season. "It is just different to work with two other people because they both have their own strengths and weaknesses," Gruman said. "It's difficult to switch mainly because I have to watch my responsibilities." Photo by: Devan Brown/Staff Writer 2. In an Executive Board meeting, juniors Sophia Mehner and Sophia Fairchild look to their coach, Kim King, for advice on an upcoming event Nov. 27 in Room 19. Mehner was secretary and Fairchild was vice president. "The best part about debate is the bonds you build with others that you wouldn't have necessarily built to outside of debate," Mehner said. Photo by: Devan Brown/Staff Writer



3. Getting advice from coaches, sophomore Alex Marvine and his partner in North Gruman placed first in the 3M tournament, qualifying them for the state tournament. "My goal for this season is to qualify for a national competition as well as do well at state," Marvine said. Photo by: Devan Brown/Staff Writer 4. As senior Patricia Byrum tells a story, freshman Sarah Ellison laughs during a debate work night Nov. 19. Debaters used work night to practice for upcoming competitions. "I joined debate because I've always been good at arguing and I'm a pretty quick thinker so I had a hunch I'd be good at it," Ellison said. Photo by: Devan Brown/Staff Writer



BACK FOR MORE

The Farm Bill sparked an inside joke between debaters

The Farm Bill disadvantage was an argument that said passing controversial immigration laws would cause arguments in Congress that would prevent the Farm Bill, which provided research and funding for agricultural programs, from being passed.

When teams argued the negative side, they would read the disadvantage against the affirmative's plan, so that the impacts of passing the plan seemed worse than the benefits.

Here is an excerpt of it: "The party is split between moderates who understand the humanitarian weight posed by the plight of those affected by the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program and believe that the GOP must ease its position on immigration." page 30 of Farm Bill disadvantage.

Delivering her argument, junior Sophia Fairchild competes against her fellow debaters in a practice debate round Nov. 12 in Room 16. Fairchild's topic was domestic violence-based refugees. "Our plan is to have Congress pass a law that would allow for those anyone and refugees to qualify for immigration to the U.S.," Fairchild said. "The actuality is a big part of our case even if it's not the best because I think it is a good policy." Photo by: Devan Brown/Staff Writer



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Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY AMIGAS ROBERTS

SILVER Lining

Although the smallest things could **break us down**,
things just as small could **lift us up**

Despite Motivational Monday videos and cheesy Instagram stories that told us it's going to be okay, sometimes life and details were overwhelming. Some days the rain seemed to pour instead of sprinkle and every little problem seemed like the end of the world. Through it all, principal Lisa Gruman greeted us with a smile when we walked in the door each day.

Let's face it, not every day was going to be the best of our lives, despite what business teacher Beth Johnstone hoped for us while she held the door for us. We all went through tough weeks and even tougher days. Sometimes, the smallest things had the power to ruin a day. Things as simple as an alarm clock that was too quiet, a lunch that never got packed, hair that didn't have time to be straightened. But things just as simple had the power to lift us up: a song played on the radio at just the right time, a surprise \$5 bill left in a pocket, a notification from that special someone.

Rain or snow meant we had to get out of bed a little earlier, get ready a little faster and drive a little slower. With my luck, I'd slip on the way in. I glance at the puddle next to my feet. One glimpse of my reflection and the look on my face makes me wonder if I'd rather fall in than jump around it.

We can't control what happens to us, but we can control how we react.

Obviously we can't control the weather, but it's so much more than that. Instead of letting the gloomy skies bring down my mood, I remind myself that this rain will help the flowers grow. So you didn't get the part you wanted, but at least you got that "good luck" text before you auditioned. Maybe you didn't make the team you wanted, but now you have more time to practice.

That advice, the "stay positive" message, is much easier to give than to get. We throw those two words around like confetti. The intention is bright, but it could end in a mess. Trying not to see the silver lining is a habit, but it's a habit that can be broken.

Reminding yourself that "someone always has it worse" is just another form of comparison and generally didn't help. While it may be true, it belittles our own problems and in turn, belittles our successes.

When you make an effort to be positive, the birds won't start chirping and no one will suddenly get up and dance for you. No, it's much more subtle than that. I forgot to pack my lunch, but secretary Colleen Lauer's cheery voice reminded me that there are other options, even one with a roll.

Although it's still raining when I walk out the doors, I see the sun start to peek through the clouds and, if I listen carefully, I might even hear a bird or two.

STORY BY KELSEY VOLJE



// The Lair
Shawnee Mission
Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas

LET'S GO international

As the three international students, **Anna Hofmeisterova**, **Jens Christiansen** and **Tanya Flyak** navigate their way through the halls, they make new memories they will cherish forever

JENS CHRISTIANSEN

Danish international exchange student Jens Christiansen's first day in an American high school put him in a sticky situation.

"I was sitting in my math class and opened my water bottle with soda in it," Christiansen said. "It sprayed everywhere, including on the people sitting closest to me."

As the soda exploded across his desk, his classmates turned and joined him in laughter.

"I was in Algebra 2. We just started the year and all of the sudden I heard this big crash," sophomore Tatum Schuerman said. "I looked down and soda was all over Jens and all over the floor. I didn't know what other reaction to have than to laugh."

The spilling of soda could have happened anywhere, anytime, but it happened at the place Christiansen did not expect: his first day of high school in America.

In the minutes that followed the incident, Christiansen formed his first opinions of the students here.

"This school is full of so many kind, welcoming people," Christiansen said. "I was shocked at how accepting everyone here is. They are much more open than the students at my old high school."

During the first few weeks, Christiansen came to know more students and teachers. They greeted with a smile in the morning or a "Hey, Jens" on his way to cross country practice to run his three miles for the day.

"My first week here was hard," Christiansen said. "I didn't know anybody. I knew that making friends was really important. To meet new people in sports was a great opportunity to get involved."

Although Christiansen wasn't thrilled when he learned his exchange program was sending him to Kansas, he has adapted and grown to appreciate the people here.

"To be honest, when I first heard I was coming to Kansas, I was a little disappointed," Christiansen said. "I didn't know a single bit about Kansas but being here, I have definitely changed my mind."

STORY BY KAYLA NICKLE



BACK IN THE DAY

The start of the foreign exchange program began a year after Northwest opened. The first international exchange students came to Northwest during 1970-71 school year. The Rotary Youth Exchange sponsored these students. Today, several organizations sponsor exchange students who attend NW.

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TANYA FLYAK

Coming from a school of just 400 students, Ukrainian international exchange student Tanya Flyak faced many adventures and obstacles.

"When I got an email from my exchange program, I started to cry of happiness, but then I saw that I was going to Kansas and I was really surprised," Flyak said. "When you live half of your life dreaming about the United States, you don't care what state you are in, even if it did include cows on a farm."

The transition was easier than she expected. The seven classes Flyak enrolled in were nothing compared to the 17 she took over the span of one week in Ukraine.

"Back home in the Ukraine, we have 400 people in my school. It's not just a high school, but elementary, middle and high together," Flyak said. "We have 11 seniors in my school, including me. So each one of us is kind of a big deal."

When enrolling here, Flyak was overwhelmed by the number of classes offered and surprised to hear they were all in the same building. Nonetheless, she was overjoyed.

"I was so happy to hear that there was a choir and it was in the same building," Flyak said. "In [the Ukraine], if you want to take choir or a special class, you have to go to another building and pay for it. Here, you just go to the room down the hall."

Flyak stood on the risers, rocking back and forth as she sang and stared at the auditorium that in front of her.

"We sang a song in Ukrainian, which is my language, called 'Carol of the Bells,'" Flyak said. "That was amazing because I didn't expect people to be so excited to try another language."

As Winter Break slowly approached, Flyak was surprised by how quickly her time in Kansas was passing. She talked about the memories she had made, as well as the impact she wanted to leave behind.

"I want people to have some moments we spent together — moments they felt truly happy. Those moments will never be forgotten," Flyak said. "We were in the car listening to music and there was one moment that was probably the second time that I felt like 'I'm here and I'm so happy.'"

STORY BY KAYLA NICKLE



ANNA HOFMEISTEROVA

From standing in Times Square to sitting at a baseball game in Chicago, from no makeup to new makeup, from attending Gymnazium Nád Kavalirou to Northwest, senior Anna Hofmeisterova took her exchange student experience one day at a time.

"The morning of my departure, driving on highway to the airport, we played the music as loud as possible," Hofmeisterova said. "I wasn't sad at all. I was more excited about what awaited me and the many adventures I was about to encounter."

Because she was the only student in her host family's house, Hofmeisterova and her host parent traveled extensively.

"A special part for me is traveling with my host mother," Hofmeisterova said. "We have met some cool people and I have experienced many things like standing in Times Square, NY, at 3 a.m.; dancing at a wedding between vineyards in California, or seeing my first baseball game at Wrigley Stadium in Chicago."

Hofmeisterova strolled into her International

Relations class. Coming from a school system where she took 13 classes, Hofmeisterova experienced a much lighter workload with a seven-period day. This gave her more freedom to choose classes she wanted.

"I like Northwest because of the variety of classes you can pick from," Hofmeisterova said. "You can really focus on things that are important to you and I think that is great!"

Hofmeisterova glanced at a tube of red lipstick that sat on her dresser — the object she says will always remind her of her host mother.

"Back home, I had a difficult relationship with my mother," Hofmeisterova said. "When I was growing up, all the girls started to wear makeup. I wanted to try it, but she would be like 'Oh my God, this is strange. You don't want to do that.' But, with my host mother, we went shopping and she let me pick something out. The first thing that popped in my head was makeup. I saw a different side to me which I didn't know before. Now I have this radiant red lipstick at home."

STORY BY KAYLA NICKLE





// **The Lair**
Shawnee Mission
Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas

PHOTO BY AMY ROSE
PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY EMILY SCHMIDT

austin patton

STAY WOKE

Senior Austin Patton has been **experimenting** with his **career in rap** throughout high school

As he sat in his friend, Paul Irvin's, bedroom turned studio, wearing an oversized windbreaker and hair pulled up in a small ponytail, senior Austin Patton worked on his upcoming single "Breaking Through."

"I definitely feel like I can express myself on a track. Whenever I'm feeling some weird way, I'll play one of my songs and vibe with it. That makes me feel good about myself, not the numbers," Patton said. "I like my song 'Breaking Through' because that's my only solo track. I chose breaking through because I wanted to talk about how I'm breaking through."

Patton created a name for himself on SoundCloud and other music platforms such as Spotify and Youtube using his 'rapper name' APtheG. Since his songs were made for his own enjoyment, his sudden social gain was an unexpected result.

"My music just popped up out of nowhere. I made one song, 'For the Team,' and then it kind blew up," Patton said. "It had 11k [streams] on Soundcloud and it got a lot of views."

That encouraged Patton to continue to write more songs. He uploaded four songs in 2018 and planned to continue to record. Most of his music pertained to teenagers. As a result, adults tended to be less-than-amused by his messages.

"My sister likes my music and so do a lot of my buddies, but I feel like some teachers maybe don't like it because of what I talk about,"

Patton said. "But that's my life."

Although Patton didn't let the negativity affect him mentally, he did choose to listen to the criticism. Knowing people's opinions allowed him to face issues head on and make his music better, whether it improved his lyrics or overall sound.

"I like compliments, they're cool, but I like the hate more," Patton said. "I like when people talk trash because then I know what I can fix to make myself even better."

That ability to take the criticism and build on it came from the future Patton saw for himself. He was dreaming of big things.

"My plan after high school is to move to California and make music with a producer that has already reached out to me," Patton said.

Currently, Patton says that people are reaching out to him because they want him to rap their material. Some of these people have thousands of followers on social media.

"Like, I'm just some kid chillin', making music in my buddy's bedroom," Patton said.

Rapper Post Malone is Patton's inspiration because of their similar background. He hopes to emulate Malone's success.

"Post Malone is a dope person," Patton said. "Look at where his life is now. He started from literally nothing and just moved to California with no money and now he's making millions, living life and doing whatever he wants."

"Just stay woke,"

STORY BY MOLLIE ELFRINK



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SPEAKING UP

Foreign journalists spoke about the issues they faced while **reporting current events**



The long, grey, kidney bean-shaped tables were placed in a circle around Room 151 Dec. 3 in first hour Editorial Leadership. Toward the front of the room sat international journalists Darvin Muric from Montenegro, Supaporn Elderege from Thailand, Karlois Vysniaoskas from Lithuania, Christelle Meledje from the Ivory Coast, Svetlana Abrams from Guyana and Lucia Mimimaga-Leon from Mexico. All of the journalists had one thing in common: nothing stopped them from publishing the truth.

"I loved being able to hear about

journalism from the perspective of people who don't have the same rights we have," sophomore Ella Kuffour said. Abrams mentioned that, in her country, she gets heckled for doing her job, which is reporting the truth about her government. Because of the dangers journalists go through in her country, she has to be escorted by policemen when she reports.

The journalists were at NW for the first four hours of the day. Seniors Abbie Roberts and Tatum Goetting as well as junior Annalissa Houser got the opportunity to show them around

the school before their conference which was open to all of the media at NW. The journalists had never been to an American school before and were excited to experience it. Afterwards, during the roundtable discussion in the Library, students were able to ask questions pertaining to freedom of the press.

"If we don't tell the stories, who will?" Abrams said. "It's important to do what you need to do for your country."

"What if all journalists stopped doing their job?" Vysniaoskas added.

The primary difference between all six journalist and journalists in the United States is freedom. The freedom of press and the freedom to report on whatever one feels passionate about is something some countries do not have. "Journalists in America have been under fire a lot in the past few years," Kuffour said. "When I heard stories of people who take police escorts to interviews or get shot for writing their opinion, I realized just how good we actually have it."

STORY BY TATUM GOETTING
PHOTOS BY SKYLAR BROGAN

SPOOKY SEASON

Foreign journalists spoke about the issues they faced while **reporting current events**

With a halo on top of her head and wings strapped to her back, senior Olivia Terryberry pranced down the dimly lit hallway as "Monster Mash" by Bobby Pickett played in the background. Accompanied by fellow CCC Exec members, seniors Megan McDonald and Meghan Clarey, Terryberry filled up tubs of candy and hung fake spider webs.

"I had things to set up in the third hallway downstairs for CCC. We set up for about an hour," Terryberry said. "We had to go get more materials and we tried to make it as cool as we could so the kids would enjoy it and have a good time."

The work didn't start just by setting up the night of the Carnival. StuCo began planning the annual Halloween Carnival months ahead, organizing where all the activities would be and what organization would be in charge of it.

"It's stressful because you don't want to let the little kids down," Sophomore Class Vice President Erin Albers said. "I want them to have the best possible time

they can have." Organizations such as band, journalism, KUGR and various smaller clubs were involved in the event. StuCo was in charge of all the behind the scenes. "I know it seems like a bunch of little stuff, but we have to order just over 300 cookies, check to make sure all the games have all the little pieces and we have to send invitations out to all the feeder schools and the private schools close by," Albers said. "It's a decent amount of planning, but it is super worth it in the end."

It wasn't everyday that students get to see their teachers after hours let alone with their children. Everyone from grandparents to toddlers enjoyed their night at NW halloween carnival.

"My favorite part was going through the maze with all the boxes," attendee Lilyanne Dent said. "I really liked trick or treating and getting Twix, those are my favorite."

STORY BY MAGGIE DOLNAR
PHOTO BY CARMELO ZAMUDIO



Senior Olivia Terryberry plays with a trick-or-treater at the Halloween Carnival Oct. 27 in the academic wing. Terryberry helped the kids participate in the ring toss at CCC's station. "It was really fun but a little stressful setting up," said Terryberry. "We underestimated how much time we had to set up and once the lights were off everything looked better." Photo by EODAN THOMPSON

icyymi

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT



Junior Ayyla Brown reaches to make contact with senior Hailey Coates Nov. 11 on the practice field. Juniors won the game after a tight battle out among two opposing players. "Even though it didn't end very well, the experience was really fun and I'll definitely do it next year," Brown said. Photo by EODAN THOMPSON

ROUGHING AROUND

Annual girls' powderpuff game got **more intense than expected**

Frustrated with how the game was going, junior Rylee Garrett sat down on the grass. She began to untie and take off her cleats. "I left the game early because things got out of hand and it wasn't fun anymore," Garrett said. "I think the game definitely could have gone better if we would have just stayed focused on having fun."

Immediately after the game was canceled, numerous versions of what happened during the event began to disperse.

"The game was very dramatic, a lot of girls were

complaining about being tackled," junior Shealynn Yazel said. "I'm not sure why they were expecting anything different in a powderpuff game."

A few errors were inevitably going to be made, since many of the girls had never played football before, but some alterations that occurred during the game couldn't have been guessed before hand.

"We didn't really know the plays and we couldn't figure out what we were doing," Yazel said. "Since not everyone could come to every practice, it made it hard to keep up."

A whistle was blown before second half commenced, declaring that the game was over since the girls gradually became more aggressive with each play that occurred.

"The game got pretty aggressive, it ended up in an exchange of hands being thrown," Yazel said. "The refs ended up ending the game shortly after."

Despite the fact that the full game did not happen, the juniors were titled as the winners of the game with an ending score of 14-13.

STORY BY MAGGIE DOLNAR

ROARING 20'S

Students recalled their **favorite parts** of the annual Mother/Son Father/Daughter dance

Dressed as a flapper, senior Juliana Kantner smiles with her father Nov. 11 in the Coletoria. Juniors and seniors dressed up in various decades at the annual MSFDD dance. "My dad wanted to do something meaningful and memorable together before I go off to college," Kantner said. "MSFDD was definitely a memory that I will cherish." Photo by EODAN THOMPSON



"It was funny seeing my dad get so excited about every song played and dancing like no one was watching."

- JUNIOR EMILY MOTSICK

"My favorite part was when we did the dance competition because it was fun to see my dad dancing around and having a good time."

- SENIOR HANNAH COATES

"It was really funny when we went out to eat before the dance. So we were all dressed up and everyone at the restaurant was giving us the funniest looks."

- SENIOR DAWSON MESH

"I really loved getting to spend time with my dad doing something special. Especially since I'm going to college soon, I'm glad we got to bond a little more."

- SENIOR JULIANNA KANTNER

"The dance was awesome because I had my mom right by my side. She's my best friend and it was so fun getting to dance with her because it was never an experience I'd never have otherwise."

- JUNIOR ALYSSA MURRAY



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TOYS, BOOKS AND GAMES:

"My favorite recess game was 'Knockout.' I loved this game because I became really good at it, and I was able to transition those skills to basketball at my old school."
 — FRESHMAN LUKE THOMAS



"I was absolutely obsessed with the Harry Potter series growing up. I used to stay up past my bedtime just to finish reading the books. I reread the movies and reread the books so many times that I am actually able to do an extremely good British accent and I used to think 'Hogwarts was real!'"
 — FRESHMAN ANIKA PAULETTE



"I really liked Hot wheels. I have always had an interest in cars, so since I couldn't have a real car, I'd have Hot Wheels."
 — JUNIOR NATHAN BAUM



"I loved board games like Candy Land because whenever we would go over to my grandparent's house we would always play those games as a family after we ate dinner."
 — SENIOR OLIVIA TERRYBERRY



ELECTRONICS AND MUSIC:

"The Black Eyed Peas were my favorite because you could really jam out to 'I Gotta Feeling as a kid!'"
 — JUAN PINEDA GOMEZ

"I loved having an iPod Touch. I was able to text on it. That was probably the first time I had something I could text on and it was fun to be in touch with my friends. Kik was for sure my favorite app."
 — JUNIOR KATIE GARDINER



"My favorite band was Naked Brothers Band because they were cute and I had a major crush on them."
 — SOPHOMORE ALI WINDOFFER



"My DSi was probably my favorite because I could take photos and play all my favorite games and make funny voice memos."
 — FRESHMAN KADENCE PEEL

"The Rascal Flatts, their song, 'Life is a Highway' is very catchy and was in Cars, a very good movie."
 — SENIOR ANDREW REID

"I loved Club Penguin. My brother showed me that game and it was really fun to get the Puffles. I miss that game."
 — SOPHOMORE ALECIA GOEBEL

"I loved Webkinz. I felt so cool having my own pets and home. I liked gambling to earn them money for the things they wanted."
 — SENIOR GRACE MILLER



"My favorite computer game was the Sims. My parents wouldn't let me play it, but my sister's friend had it so I'd play every time she came over."
 — SENIOR EMILY ARROCHA



MOVIES AND TV:

"Coraline. I loved the whole aspect of this movie. I watched criminal minds growing up so the scary part made me love it even more."
 — JUNIOR CLAIRE ANDERSON

"I loved watching Scooby Doo. I really loved dogs and mysteries, so it was two favorites in one."
 — FRESHMAN KAREN TUTTLE



"My favorite TV Show was Tom and Jerry because it was funny watching Tom struggle against Jerry every episode."
 — SENIOR DYLAN SANOBANE

"My favorite movie was Monsters, Inc. because I loved Sully! For one of my birthdays, I got a huge Sully stuffed animal and was so happy."
 — JUNIOR SARAH SULLIVAN



"I remember iCarly as a very funny tv show. I always enjoyed watching it because it made me laugh so much as a kid."
 — JUNIOR NURA GHASEMPOUR



"Ed, Edd, and Eddy because it was funny."
 — SOPHOMORE RUTH DEMEKE

THAT'S hot

Even though low-rise jeans, jelly sandals and Gucci tracksuits might have been all the craze then, the 2000s were a decade to remember for teens now

We were all born shortly after the turn of the millennium.

We are the '00s kids.

Our childhoods were filled with our favorite games, from Nintendogs to Super Mario, on our Nintendo DS.

We are the '00s kids. Our recesses were filled with tetherball competitions and endless games of four square. The weekends were busy with caring for our Webkinz and going on secret missions on Club Penguin, all while hogging the family PC. Occasionally, we would sneak onto YouTube to watch Jenna Marbles do crazy things with her dogs and Fred's adventures to the park and pools. We still know all the words to classics like "The Duck Song" and still giggle all the way through "The Mysterious Ticking Noise" episode of the Potter Puppet Pals. We watched our favorite singers' VEVO music videos countless times, as if they never got old.

We watched movies like Shrek on DVD, always fast-forwarding through the previews on the disc. We had to cover our ears whenever the THX Company logo would come on screen because we knew the deafening sound was coming.

Our time after school was occupied by snacking on Teddy Grahams and watching "iCarly," "Hannah Montana" and "Wizards of Waverly Place" while texting our friends on Kik.

Our CD collections featured artists like the Jonas Brothers, One Direction and Justin Bieber. Later, we finally got an MP3 player or an iPod Nano, giving us the freedom to listen to our own music with over-the-ear headphones on the long car rides to Grandma's house.

We are the '00s kids. We filled our evenings racing

the kids in our neighborhoods on our Razor scooters and playing almost every single "Just Dance" song on the Wii. We would finally agree to end the fun when our moms told us dinner was ready. We ate Spongebob-shaped Kraft Macaroni and Cheese with cut-up hot dogs and a glass of milk. After dinner, we either played Mario Kart on the DS or watch a classic Disney Channel Original movie.

Our trips to the mall included getting new clothes for our prized American Girl dolls as well as taking a trip to Justice to get the newest sparkly top, just like the one everyone else had. We might have stopped by Build-A-Bear Workshop just to snoop around and, if we were lucky, convince our parents to let us make a new bear and kiss the heart before we placed it inside—

We are the '00s kids. We learned how to make cakes and brownies in EasyBake ovens using just a lightbulb for heat. It only took 30 minutes to make a single cookie. We tried to memorize Ludacris's rap in Justin Bieber's song "Baby" and worried because Miley Stuart's secret of being a successful pop-star was always in jeopardy. Our only problems seemed to be whether Miley would choose Jake or Jesse, whether Santa would bring the latest PlayStation and how to find those small, rubber Barbie shoes we lost somewhere in our rooms.

Our childhoods were filled with technological advances like unveiling the new Smart Phones and the explosion of social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram.

We are the '00s kids, and this was our childhood.

STORY BY TATUM GOETTIG
 GRAPHICS BY ETHAN SCHREIBER

FOOD:

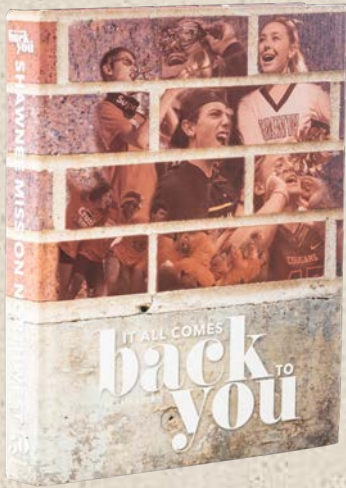
"Lunchables were such a big deal in elementary school, especially for field trips. If you got a lunchable it was a really big deal. The pizza one was probably the biggest deal."
 — SENIOR CELESTE GORDON



"Gogurts were always so good. I would like to put them in the freezer and eat them frozen."
 — SENIOR KERI SENGPARSEUTH

"At my grandma's house we always used to eat that Kids Cuisine stuff and I used to think it was so good but looking back, it's not."
 — FRESHMAN LAUREN MCFARLANE





// **The Lair**
*Shawnee Mission
Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas*



Hugging senior Mackenzie Matsch, senior Madison Williams celebrates the victory after finishing third in a third place with 100.17 at the KANSAS Game Day Sports Division Competition. This was the second time the team had competed in the division. "Everyone was happy and crying," Matsch said. "I never expected for us to place so well!"
—FRANK ABRAMS, REPORTER

Cheers

A third place finish at the state cheerleading competition gave the squad a **new reason to cheer**



// The Lair Shawnee Mission Northwest High School Shawnee, Kansas

At the second cheerleading state competition, the competition squad celebrated a...

THIRD PLACE win

2:30 p.m.

Walking through the doors of the Kansas Expocentre in Topeka, I didn't think we'd be staying past 8 p.m.

After months of preparation for cheerleading state in our seventh hour class, I still felt like we didn't have what it took to beat the Blue Valley and Olathe schools that had the funding for professional choreographers.

A couple of days before the competition, girls were getting sick left and right. The "glimpses of perfection" coach Renee Chambers claimed she saw were becoming more rare.

3:45 p.m.

We settled in to our space and raced around trying to get everyone's hair and makeup done. There never seems to be enough teasing combs, bottles of hairspray or bobby pins, no matter how much we bring. Being one of the sick, I downed my second room-temperature raspberry Emergen-C of the day.

4:31 p.m.

Walking over to the third set of warm-up mats, we realized we were missing a set of black poms. Quickly, junior varsity coach Denise Humphreys ran over to our bags and scrambled for poms. At the last second, she ran back with them in her hands.

As we watched the squad before us warm up, our nerves flared even more. The other teams seemed flawless.

4:50 p.m.

Lined up backstage, I squeezed junior Riley Brocker's hand and tried not to throw up. My heart was racing.

4:52 p.m.

Finally we stepped on the mats, I heard the first beat of our band dance music. My head flicked up, ponytail flipping, a smile plastered on my face. I was in my element. Our minute long performance went by in a flash. We ran off of the mats and Chambers and Humphreys told us we were amazing.

5:58 p.m.

Back at the third set of warm-up mats, sophomore Sydney Allen hit the stunt she'd worked on for weeks. Yet again, we scrambled around to get the right color poms in our hands. The performance process repeated itself for our fight song, almost identical to the previous one.

6:50 p.m.

Our last warm-up time. Our last performance, the cheer,

was our last chance to prove we could make it to the finals. For the first time in three days, I had to execute the tumbling sequence I had been too scared to do while sick. I flipped upside down and, somehow, I didn't land on my head.

After we performed, I went back to watch a couple of other teams and see if we might actually have a decent chance. I overheard from another team that one of the really competitive Blue Valley schools got a major deduction for going over the time limit.

7:30 p.m.

We headed back into the arena to wait for the 6A finalists to be announced. I clutched senior Brytni Smith's hand and lowered my head. My heart was pounding out of my chest. We heard an Olathe school called, a Blue Valley school and all the sudden we heard "Shawnee Mission..." None of us moved. Ten seconds later, we all looked at each other in shock as it set in that "Northwest" came after "Shawnee Mission." Everyone jumped up. We hugged everyone around us as tears filled our eyes.

8:45 p.m.

We lined up for the last time backstage, my hands were sweating as they gripped my poms and the letter "U" sign. My cold and flu medicine started to wear off and my throat was on fire. Our finals routine was a combination of the three preliminary routines. After the band dance, we moved to our cheer. Halfway through, my voice cracked and disappeared. For the rest of the cheer and the fight song, I lip synced the words and prayed the judges couldn't tell.

9:20 p.m.

We sat down in rows of four around the mats in the arena for the last time. We all held each other's hands. They announced sixth place and I squeezed the hands of the girls around me a little tighter.

"Olathe West"

We looked at each other in shock. We were certain we got sixth place.

"Fifth place... Olathe Northwest"

"Fourth place... Blue Valley High"

We made it. We were in the top three in the state. I'd never been so proud of my team.

"Third place... Shawnee Mission Northwest"

STORY BY ANNALESSA HOUSE

ADDITIONAL REPORTING BY KAYLA NICKLE

IT ALL COMES DOWN TO...

Twenty-eight members of the cheer squad picked their favorite bow of the season

BLACK BOW



2 votes

ORANGE BOW



3 votes

WHITE BOW



23 votes



Holding hands with her teammates, junior Annalessa House grips to steady during the words ceremony announcements Nov. 17 at the state cheer competition. Northwest took third place. "I was so shocked to see that everything we had done paid off," House said. "I didn't think we would ever place so high." PHOTO BY ANNALESSA HOUSE

BACK IN THE DAY

The number of girls on the varsity cheerleading squad has nearly quadrupled since 1976.



1976 Cheerleading Squad, 8 members:
Row 1: Dels Speed, Meg Kuhn, Tammie Clement. Row 2: Kelley Weaver, Robin Clement, Grace Jin, Donna Tabor, Catry Muellerberger.



2018 Fall Cheer Squad, 24 members:
All names listed on page 321.

50



1 Junior Brianna Baran cheers at the KSHSAA state cheer competition Nov. 17 at the Kansas Expocentre in Topeka. Last year the Northwest cheer squad placed eleventh in state, while this year they made finals and then placed third. "The state cheer competition [was probably one of the most amazing experiences I've ever had]," Baran said. "We worked really hard this year to get to finals and getting third was just way over what we even expected." PHOTO BY ANNALESSA HOUSE



// The Lair Shawnee Mission Northwest High School Shawnee, Kansas

COME AGAIN?

Even though they worked to prevent falls, the cheerleaders tried to laugh through the pain whenever a stunt went wrong

"There was one point where my base completely missed my foot, so they continued to throw me up, but they weren't holding on to me, and my foot kicked over my other base's head and I fell straight to the ground." **JUNIOR ALYSSA NETTIE**



"One time, we were doing a two-peract stunt, and I just fell completely opposite her and fell over her like a rainbow. I just sat on the ground and thought, 'It's good. It's fine. I feel great.'" **JUNIOR AUDREY JOHNSON**



"They put me up, and I was in front of the student section, so it was intimidating. I fell right on the track. They were all yelling things like 'choke, choke and fall again.' But I just got back up again." **-SOPHOMORE MADELYN**



1. Senior Temaya Burgin laughs while leading the Cougar Cheer before a game Dec. 21 in the Main Gym. The Cougar Cheer is a cheer that is performed at basketball games. "I love watching how excited the student section gets when we run out to do [the Cougar Cheer]," Burgin said. "It's crazy that such a small institution keeps the crowd so hype!" **PHOTO BY STEVE L. BOWMAN** **2. At the Bonfire assembly, senior Addilyn White** poses during the cheer performance Aug. 29 in the Main Gym. Bonfire was their first performance of the year. "It was really exciting to perform as a senior in front of the school," White said. "I had my best friends with me cheering so I had no nerves." **PHOTO BY ALANNE ROSEN**

Junior Bridgette Bendau gets assisted in a liberty by sophomore Madelyn Omanson Nov. 29 in the Main Gym. Bendau has been a flyer on the cheer squad for three years. "My favorite part about performing in assemblies is seeing the crowd's reaction to our stunts," Bendau said. **PHOTO BY ADRIAN ROSE**



Although their performance seemed effortless, cheer team flyers worked tirelessly to ensure a seamless performance, free of falls

fly SHE'S SO

The quiet thud of basketballs and shoes squeaking against the gym floor momentarily paused for a time out, giving the varsity cheerleaders a chance to step onto the court.

As the voices of students in the bleachers dwindled, co-captain Libby Johnson led the familiar cheers the cheerleaders had been rehearsing all season.

"Every performance has some sort of cheer, chant dance, a couple of single group stunts and a build stunt group," varsity coach Renee Chambers said. "One of the most rewarding moments in the season was seeing our team win and having the girls feel like they'd made an impact on the team."

Co-captain Temaya Burgin threw junior Alyssa Nettie into the air and braced herself for the catch they had practiced all season.

"Whenever I'm in the air, I honestly don't think about anything except for needing to stay up there," junior Bridgette Bendau said. "I know if I do my part and everyone else does their part, we will hit our stunt."

As she found her balance, planting her feet firmly on her teammates' hands, junior Audrey Johnson quickly scanned the wall above the bleachers, searching for her focal point.

"You try to look up so you don't fall down," Johnson said. "At games, I look at the senior posters, but, if we're in the mall, I look for the top of the bricks."

Johnson's group effortlessly hoisted her into the air. She kept a radiant smile beaming at the crowd throughout the stunt.

"Our coaches always tell us, 'if your cheeks don't hurt from smiling, you're not smiling

enough,'" sophomore Sydney Allen said.

Midway through her stunt, Nettie slipped, legs buckling, arms waving, and landed upright on the ground.

"Being a flyer is really stressful because if you fall, everyone thinks it's your fault," sophomore Madelyn Omanson said. "It's also really scary because from then on, every time you have to do a stunt, you associate that stunt with getting hurt, and it creates a mental block, and you have to work really hard to overcome that."

Nettie's group paused as she took a deep breath, straightened her torso, and prepared herself to be lifted again.

"[When I fall], I think about what all I can do better," Nettie said. "Sometimes I do get super discouraged, but, most of the time, it's just taking in the constructive criticism that other people are giving me and working to sort it out and make it the way I want it to be. It's really just a matter of wanting to be better."

Nettie, still smiling, lifted her arms once more to gain momentum as she was sent back into the air. This time, as she soared, encouraged by the cheers of the students in the bleachers, she raised her fist and held her pose.

"[Flying is] kind of spooky," Johnson said. "I'm afraid of heights, but I trust the people around me. You build that trust by getting to know people and doing it over and over and over again. [When you fall] you gotta get back up. You gotta do it again."

STORY BY ZOE CERDA



3. With pomps in the air, junior Brianna Barbra smiles at the junior section Nov. 25 in the Main Gym. The cheer team performed its state competition routine at Not So Late Night. "I loved that cheer got to show Northwest the hard work we put into the routine," Barbra said. "Just being able to have someone announce that we got third was really exciting." **PHOTO BY SEBASTIAN DAKSON** **4. With her team, junior Lauren Moore** cheers for the junior varsity cheerleaders after their performance for Not So Late Night. "I love seeing the JV and freshmen [senior] perform at all the assemblies," Moore said. "It is so fun to watch them showcase what they have worked on for so long." **PHOTO BY SEBASTIAN DAKSON**

BACK IN THE DAY

A special group of cheerleaders brought the spirit to wrestling meets



In the 1960s, the wrestleettes cheered specifically for the wrestlers. Their responsibilities included bringing candy, oranges and Gatorade to give to the wrestlers for quick energy. **Front Row:** Shana Larson, Kim Castle, Kelley Rinehart, Chrystal McElroy. **Back Row:** Pam Paele, Beth Taulber, Krista Olson, Chhoro Huhukawa



// The Lair
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 Shawnee, Kansas

THE TIME IS *now*



The 2018 midterm elections brought change in government and emphasized the importance of

Nov. 6, 2018, another election night – the Midterms. Students and teachers came to school wearing white, oval stickers with the words 'I Voted' stuck to their clothes, proving they had once again gone to the polls to vote the morning before school.

"People shouldn't care what or who you vote for," senior Ryan Gentry said. "As long as you're getting out and voting, you're doing your job as an American citizen."

Projected polls had been erratic throughout the month of October, so, there was no clear, presumed winner for the Congressional District 3 (Johnson County) Representative. Kansas governor, on the other hand, had been overwhelmingly in favor of Democratic nominee Laura Kelly, but no one could assume because American elections were never fully predictable – anything could happen.

In the end, Kansans elected Congressional District 3 Democratic candidate Sharice Davids as well as the Democratic candidate for governor, Laura Kelly. Davids made history as one of the first Native-American women to be elected to Congress along with Democrat Deb Haaland from New Mexico.

"The outcome of the elections [was] really surprising to me, but in a good way," senior Jaelyn Rogers said. "Just to have someone like me, a minority, who can see things from my point of view, is important. Also, it will affect the way life is for minorities [in the U.S.] and the LGBTQ+ community."

Through advertisements on social platforms, the media had been promoting early voting and voting on Election Day; however, this routine happened every two years with almost the same result: a younger generation that avoided the polls.

"The majority of voters now are middle-aged to older white, wealthy people," Rogers said. "So obviously, in the future, what we are voting on is not really going to affect them; it affects us: the kids and teenagers."

These stereotypes changed in this election. The voter turnout was record-breaking for a midterm election, from more women being voted into Congress to an increased voter turnout among younger generations.

"We saw a huge turnout of Gen Z and millennials, age 18 to, like, 29. It was up by a drastic percentage from the last election in 2016," senior Kelley Dungan said. "What's going on in politics today impacts our generation more than any other because this is the change that we're voting for, and these are the pieces of legislation that are going to impact us for years to come."

According to estimates from the United States Election Project, more than 47 percent of the voting-eligible population cast a ballot in the midterms. In comparison, just 41 percent of the population voted in the 2010 midterms and 36.7 percent voted in the 2014 midterms. The turnout this year was the highest it had been in just over 50 years.

"Young people are definitely the future of the world and it's really sad that we don't have a steady, high polling percentage," senior

voting to the new generation

Megan Formwalt said. "I feel like people that are younger should definitely have a voice in their government and shouldn't let everybody that's older than them just, kind of, decide what's happening in our country."

In President Donald Trump's first two years, a majority-Republican House and Senate made it easier to pass pro-Republican bills.

"I think kids are really frustrated with seeing older generations determine their future," junior Natalie Hole said. "I think we realized that we can't really rely on other people."

If one party is in control of the White House during the Midterms, the opposite party usually gains control of either the House or the Senate. The result of this election, in particular, was a divided government.

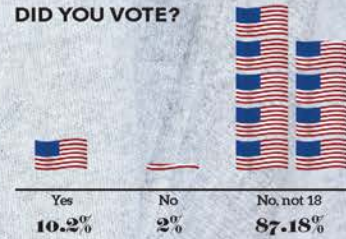
"All I can hope is that people do learn and do decide that it's time to work together to compromise," senior Julianna Kantner said. "It's time to be one as a nation."

According to Hole, the best way the younger generation can have a positive impact is to be more tolerant toward each other.

"This is the world we live in and this is what's going to impact your lives," Dungan said. "Even if you can't motivate yourself to become civically engaged, at least vote and educate yourself on the candidates and on the issues. With education comes a society that is progressive and ready for change."

STORY BY TATUM GOETTING

DID YOU VOTE?



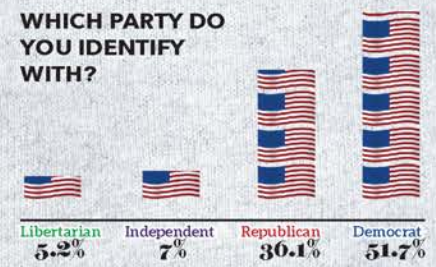
WHO DID/WOULD YOU VOTE FOR (HOUSE DISTRICT 3)



WHO DID/WOULD YOU VOTE FOR (KS GOVERNOR)



WHICH PARTY DO YOU IDENTIFY WITH?



BACK IN THE DAY

Kansas House Representative Tom Cox went to Northwest

District 17 Kansas House Representative Tom Cox was involved in Student Council, theater and video production.

Cox's interest in politics started during the Clinton election in 1996. Cox was in elementary school. During high school, he got involved in registering students to vote and, in 2016, ran for office.

"I was born and raised here in Shawnee and went to Benjamin Henry, Tim Lidge, Northwest, before I went to KU," Cox said. "I'm a fifth generation Kansan on three different sides of my family."

During his years on Student Council, he and friends talked to building administrators about

remodeling the boys' bathroom in the mall by the Main Gym.

"We didn't realize how satisfying it would feel until we did something like that," Cox said. "I tried to get involved in things where I could make the school better."

Cox was in high school during two presidential elections. The 2004 election was the first in which he was able to vote. The candidates were George W. Bush and John Kerry.

"I was really excited to cast my first ballot," Cox said. "I finally felt like a citizen. I finally had my voice, my one piece of paper."



TOM COX
 CLASS OF '04



// The Lair
*Shawnee Mission
 Northwest High School
 Shawnee, Kansas*

THE bigger PICTURE

*It's taken me a while to see it, but there's **more to high school than I expected** and more to the people around me than I knew*

I thought high school was going to be all about Homecoming queens, straight As and young love. This is going to be exactly like "The Breakfast Club," right?

I thought it'd be about having no responsibilities and searching for myself.

It didn't take me long to realize I wasn't living in an '80s rom-com. I tried to be optimistic, but it wasn't a fantasy or a daydream.

High school got real, long after midnight, when my head finally hit the pillow, after an hour of tennis practice, four hours of work and three hours of homework.

And it really felt like high school when I hit the snooze button one too many times or when I pressed submit just a little after 11:59 p.m.

It was when I couldn't stop the tears from falling, but couldn't explain why I was crying.

High school was when the score just wasn't high enough, whether it was for the ACT or for the sub-state soccer game.

High school didn't always feel like the best four years of my life.

Maybe these were the worst parts of my reality, but what about the people who wish it was their reality?

I complain about having to scrape ice off my car before school, but what about those who can't afford a coat? Or have to take the bus to school?

For some, high school is when you have to scrape ice off your car because it's where you live. I have a hard time imagining that, let alone living that.

Maybe missing breakfast is not the end of the world, but it's still enough to ruin a day. I forget that there are people in our school — people who walk the same halls, who take the same classes — for whom breakfast isn't an option.

Maybe I can't afford designer clothes or fancy cars, but I get by just fine with what I have. From the beginning of the day to the end, I take simple things for granted.

Maybe the things that mess up my days aren't all that bad. Not waking up to an alarm is inconvenient and sometimes embarrassing, but not life-threatening. I am lucky to have an alarm that works, a bed comfortable enough that I don't want to leave it, and a parent who cares enough to wake me up — eventually.

Everyone's reality is different. We live different lives, leading to different things. Maybe it's true: Life is what we make of it.

I don't know what everyone around me is going through or dealing with or experiencing. I do know that we can't always control the situations given to us, all the curveballs life throws at us. We can only control how we react and how we treat other people.

Story by Kelsey Your.

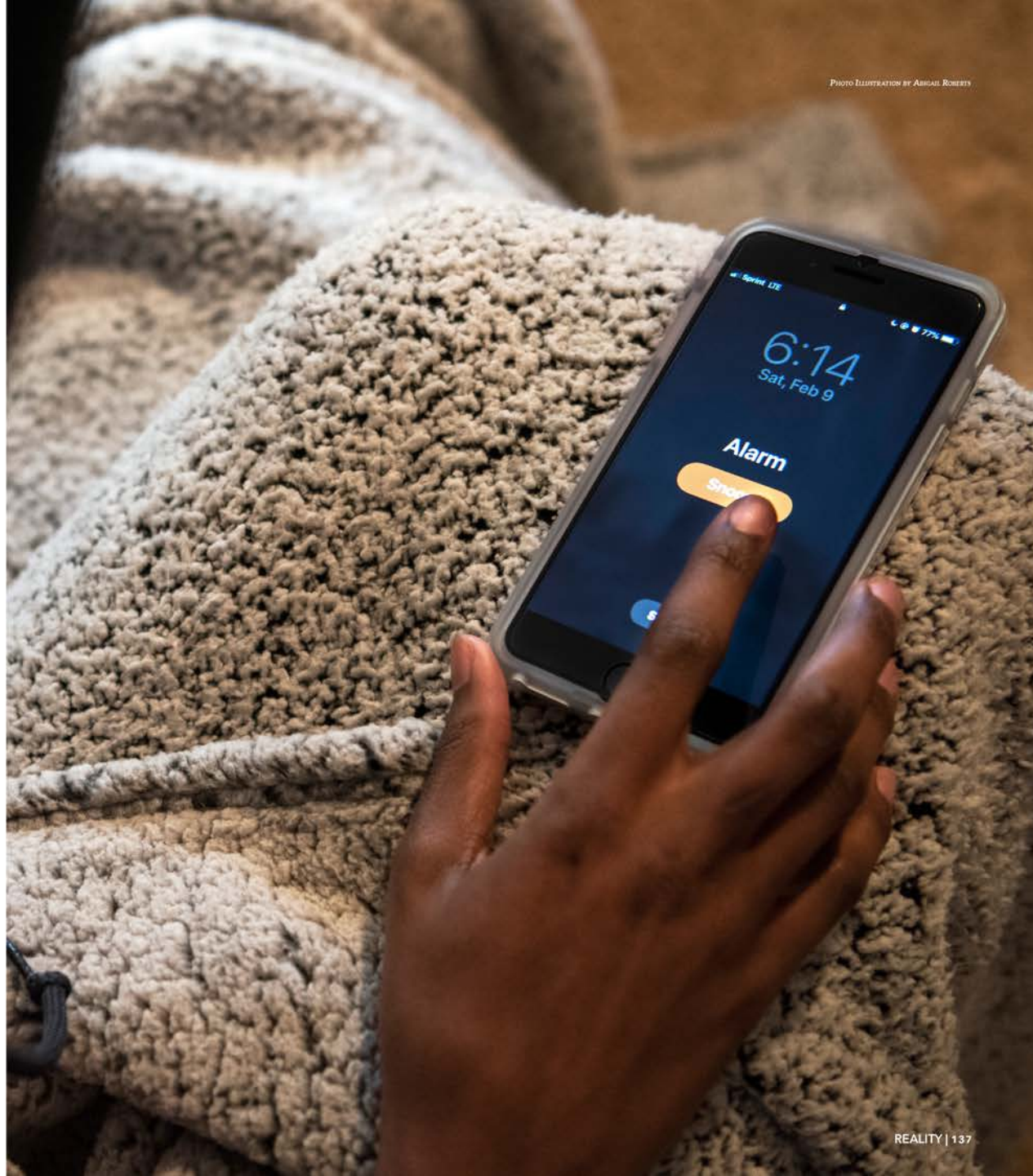


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ARIAN ROBERTS



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FINDING Home

Sometimes a story is just too hard to tell, to interpret. Sometimes a story has to be told by the person who lived it. These three stories of people who walk the halls with us tell of their journeys to find a place to call home

STORIES BY TATIAN SCHWARTZ

"I ran away from home," sophomore Alvin Horner-Luettel said. "My mom was doing multiple drugs and would slap me around. I hated seeing her like that. I loved her, but I couldn't take it any longer."

Running away started off as an adventure. It was fun and he felt free.

"After awhile, I started to miss my mom and my sister. I should've just told someone what was going on instead of running away."

Horner-Luettel stayed at a friend's house for a while and then at a cousin's home. A couple of months later, his little sister came to stay with there as well. That didn't last long.

"We had to leave because [my cousin's] boyfriend said that he would stop paying her bills as long as she had us," Luettel said. "She gave us to these real nice people, the Larsons."

"While I was at the Larsons, they told us we were only going to be staying there for the

weekend. Two years passed and we were still there."

At the gym with Melissa Larson, told a friend Horner-Luettel's story. He just smiled and said he would love to adopt them. He talked to his wife. She was all for it.

"We stayed at their house for a weekend and got to see what it was like living around their house. Then Aug. 1, last year, we moved in."

Alvin and his sister were adopted on Nov. 16. Horner-Luettel was on cloud nine, and yet...

"I miss the foster homes a bit. I had a brother named Max. He was just an awesome little kid and he's seven now. We would go fishing together and hang out, but now I don't see him much."

Horner-Luettel stays in contact with his birth mom. She and his adoptive mom are very

close. They go to lunch and she is invited to dinner pretty frequently.

"Throughout this experience I have met and created bonds with so many people," Horner-Luettel said. "Even when I moved houses, I always considered them my family. Through all of this, I got this huge amazing family."

Adoption has shown him not to take things like love for granted. It showed him the capacity some people have for love.

"They took us in and they treated us like their own. They give us unconditional love."



The first Luettel family photo after the adoption ceremony. From left to right: Alvin, Katie, Brent, Auburn, Campbell, and Jorise.

-ALVIN HORNER-LUETTEL



"Around the age of seven, conditions at my house were not great," junior Zach Harris said. He was removed from his home because of the abuse from his mother's boyfriend.

"I was both physically and verbally abused during that time, but there just wasn't enough legal action until there was a breaking point," Harris said. "My mom's boyfriend at the time hit me hard enough that I chipped my front tooth."

"Her boyfriend went to jail for child abuse, but for a month only," Harris said. "It was him, never my mom."

Harris was placed with his grandmother after the incident, but a year later his mother got custody.

"By some stroke of luck, my mom got me back," Harris said. "A couple months later, my mom vanished."

For Harris, it was an odd feeling getting his mother back, then her leaving again.

"It sucked, because she was still my mother," Harris said.

Harris had an attachment to his mother, but was a little untrusting because of the experience he had.

At the time, Harris was feeling



The Harris family gathers on the couch for some quality time with Sadie the cat. From left: Zach, Victor, Jennie, Jathia and Kyle.

"I was put into foster care when I was nine," Sophomore Aaliyah Lewis's story begins a little differently.

"I raised my siblings from the time I could walk. I was put into foster care when I was nine. It was crazy. It was me and my three younger siblings," Aaliyah Lewis said.

Lewis experienced multiple cases of child abuse – verbal, physical and mental.

"Since I was oldest, I got it the worst," she said. "It was really hard. I was the mom to my siblings. I protected them."

At school one day, Lewis and her siblings were pulled out of class. School officials asked questions and the children answered. Lewis said that she and her siblings had to invent stories about what was happening to them, but the teachers figured it out anyway.

Shortly after that, they were taken to meet their parents.

"My mom was crying in the car. She told us that some people [were] going to come and take us away and, if I was really good, we could come back soon."



The Lewis family poses in the Grinter's Sunflower farm. From the left to right: Mike, Alex, Jethy, Aaliyah, Anna, and Bailey.

Lewis was mad. In her mind, her life was going along as it was supposed to.

"My parents weren't doing anything wrong. There was nothing wrong with our family."

The next day, strangers picked up the children early from school and took them to what seemed to be a random house. Lewis refused to talk to anyone the whole night.

The next day, another stranger picked the children up and took them to their first foster home, where they stayed for several months. Each of the children was put into therapy.

"I didn't talk to the therapist. I thought talking meant something bad's gonna happen because that's what happened earlier."

At the age of nine, suffering from nightmares and trauma, Lewis came close to committing suicide.

"They put me into a mental hospital. That's where I stayed for almost two weeks, but then they put me back into the first foster home. We stayed there for less than six months and then, out of the blue, they were like 'we're going to move you.'"

They had only a couple of days to pack up all their stuff and move to a different foster home.

"We showed up at this person's house. They were two girls," Lewis said. "We were with them for almost two years and actually thought they were going to adopt us. Finally, I felt at home."

Just as abruptly as they were moved to this home, they were moved again.

"I stopped getting attached to a home because I knew we were just going to get moved again."

A bit later, the now 12-year-old Lewis was told that she had gotten lucky. She and her three siblings were being adopted.

"Nobody wants to adopt a 12-year-olds," Lewis

said. "Especially a 12-year-old with three younger siblings."

In March 2016, Lewis moved in with the family who would later become her family, but Lewis had trouble connecting with them. Lewis had formed bonds with other families, but ended up moving suddenly away from them.

"When we got adopted, in the back of my mind I always thought we would be leaving in like a year anyway because that was all I ever knew," Lewis said.

"After awhile, I realized that we were really staying there...and I was home."



-AALIYAH LEWIS



-ZACH HARRIS



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1. On her toes, sophomore Elizabeth Kuffner performs a pinette Jan. 16 in the Greg Parker Auditorium. Kuffner danced to "Gentle Fall" by Banks. "When you perform on stage, the theater is dark so you can't see your audience," Kuffner said. "When you hear them cheering, it definitely boosts your confidence and makes you perform better." Photo by Sebastian Emerson. 2. Senior Devyn Trandson sings Jan. 16 in the Greg Parker Auditorium. Trandson was one of 11 vocal performers. "I always say that the most vulnerable place for me is on stage, behind a microphone, without a costume or character to hide behind," Trandson said. "Vocal performance is much more intimate than theater, which is my comfort zone." Photo by Sebastian Emerson. 3. Junior Jackson Tomlin performs "Someone to Fall Back On" by Anis. Robert Brown. This year was Tomlin's first year to perform in the Talent Show. "Even though I perform all the time outside of school and am pretty familiar with the stage, there's always those pre-show nerves," Tomlin said. "Putting yourself in front of a bunch of people is nerve-racking for anyone, but once I get out there, it's like nothing else matters and I just perform for myself and do the best I can." Photo by Sebastian Emerson.

stage

Walking onto the stage proved nerve-racking for Talent Show performers, but performing for peers was easier than expected

The echo of sophomore Karie Pauli's heels clacking against the painted wooden stage reverberated throughout the auditorium. She stepped up to adjust the mic stand, took one step back and closed her eyes. She sighed. Slowly opening her eyes, she began to sing. "All along it was a fever, a cold, sweat hot-headed believer"

"I don't know, it was kind of nerve-racking," Pauli said. "But it was all of my friends in the audience, so it was more fun than scary."

Pauli placed her hands on her stomach, feeling the air go in and out of her diaphragm.

"Round and around and around and around we go Oh now, tell me now, tell me now, tell me now you know"

"All of the nerves just kind of melted away," Pauli said. "When you really get into the song, you kind of forget about everything else."

She lifted her hands from her stomach and grabbed the mic. She tilted her head as she sang the bridge.

"Ooh, ooh, ooh, the reason I hold on, Ooh, ooh, ooh, 'cause I need this hole gone"

"You hear everyone screaming and chanting. It's crazy," Pauli said. "It was just so alive in the auditorium."

In order to perform in the Talent Show Jan. 16, Pauli and the rest of the hopeful acts auditioned in front of a panel of judges.

"We started the auditions in December, the week before finals," senior Allieu Jagne said. "The judges were students from StuCo."

Those who tried out were graded on originality, skill, effort and stage presences on a scale from 1-10.

"A lot of the people who tried it out made it," Jagne said. "It's sad when you have to cut people. We had a lot of talent this year."

In the pitch-black auditorium, a dark silhouette appeared in the middle of the stage.

The spotlight hit senior Hannah Sullivan.

"I like your shoes!" an audience member shouted.

"After someone screamed that they liked my

shoes, all of that worry and nervousness I was building up backstage was just kind of was gone," Sullivan said.

Sullivan plugged in her ukulele and sat on the stool. She strummed a few chords to make sure it was in tune before nodding her head to let everyone know she was ready.

"There is a house built out of stone, Wooden floors, walls, and window sills"

"It's my senior year," Sullivan said. "I wanted to do something that I just really loved and the Talent Show was the perfect way to do that."

Sullivan played a succession of chords before beginning the second chorus of her song.

"When the gusts came around to blow me down, I held on as tightly as you held onto me"

"I wasn't really paying attention to the crowd. I just tuned out," Sullivan said. "I felt like I was alone on that stage, which was really nice."

"Until it disappeared. From me. From you And now, it's time to leave and turn to dust"

Sullivan sang her final note. The final chord slowly faded to silence.

"The song was about being in one place for so long, and then having to leave it all," Sullivan said. "I've grown up with the same people the last two or three years. Now, all of a sudden, I'm being uprooted to go to college. I guess this was kind of dedicated to a place I feel at home."

STORY BY TATUM SCHULMAN

Performing with freshman Jada's Horton, freshman Cierra Bickman danced to the song "Nostalgia" Jan. 16 in the Greg Parker Auditorium. Bickman has taken lessons at On the Move Dance Studio since she was seven. "I love dancing so much because I can really express myself through movement based on however I'm feeling and others enjoy it, too," Bickman said. Photo by Sebastian Emerson. On stage, junior Emma Fowler sings in front of the Talent Show audience. Fowler sang "Always Remember Us This Way" from A Star is Born. "What I love most about being on stage is the ability to tell people what I feel without stumbling, like I usually do," Fowler said. "I have trouble speaking verbally what I think but, with music, I can talk to people without stumbling and just tell a story." Photo by Sebastian Emerson.



Microphone in hand, junior Mercedes Magallon sings the cover of "Get Here" by Sam Smith during the Talent Show. Magallon sang while junior Emma Alexander played the piano. "It meant a lot for one of my good friends to be able to perform with me," Magallon said. "She made that time to help me practice and helped me perfect the song for our performance, so it was awesome to finally be able to perform." Photo by Sebastian Emerson.



// The Lair
Shawnee Mission
Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas

THE STUDENT BECOMES THE master

Students go to elementary schools around the area to **teach kids** and learn about **how to become a teacher**

BRYTNI SMITH

Senior Brytni Smith pushed the backdoors of the school wide open, heading to the parking lot. She arrived at Broken Arrow Elementary to teach first graders the lessons she had prepared in the Teacher Education class.

"You travel to another elementary school, but you don't just grade papers, or make copies," Smith said. "You actually teach the kids. Throughout the school year, we have to plan lessons and then stand in front of the class and teach them."

As she walked into classroom, the students were divided into two reading groups.

"Hi, Miss Brytni!"

"Miss Brytni!"
"Hi!"
Smith sat down at the desk with the students and began to read a story.

"I just love getting the opportunity to teach; I've always wanted to be a teacher," Smith said. "This class has made me want to teach more because now I know what I'm getting into and I love it."

Smith pointed to words on the page while the first graders attempted to sound them out.

"My favorite part is the 'a-ha moment,'" Smith said. "They finally understand what you're teaching them. It makes you feel accomplished."

After the students pronounced the sentence correctly, they looked at the picture above it.

"What do you see?" Smith asked.

"What are the characters doing?"
"How can you tell what the weather is, based on the clothes they are wearing?"
Smith explained that when the characters wear heavy coats, it's implied that it's winter.

"I want to help students grow, not only academically, but mentally and behaviorally," Smith said. "Like I want to see them grow as a person and mature into who they will become."

STORY BY TATUM SCHIERMAN

MCKENZIE PARKS

At Shawnee Elementary, junior McKenzie Parks danced with students while they sang a song in the middle of the class period.

"Hello neighbor, what do you say? It's going to be a happy day!" the students sang.

"I love working with younger kids because it feels like more fun and less like work," Parks said.

The song came to end and the students laughed and high-fived their partners as they got in line to wash their hands before snack time.

"I love snack time," Parks said. "I love sitting down with the kids and I like to talk to them about their days. The things they say are so funny to hear."

The pre-K children took their seats at the table and Parks passed out bags of Goldfish. As she sat down, students shouted her name.

"Miss McKenzie, Miss McKenzie? Knock knock?"
"Who's there?" Parks replied.
"Gold."
"Gold who?"
"Goldfish!"

ANNA TOMASSI

At Apache Elementary, junior Anna Tomassi talked to her fourth grade class about popular movies.

"Have any of you seen 'The Grinch' before?"
A majority of the students raised their hands, screamed and got excited for the lesson ahead.

"My favorite part about it is being able to connect with the elementary kids," Tomassi said. "I spend most of my time with high school students. So it is fun to be around younger kids."

A Google slide read "You're as cuddly as a cactus."

"Smile or metaphor?" Tomassi asked.

"Smile!" they shouted.

"I really try to make lessons that the kids would find interesting," Tomassi said. "If they aren't interested then they aren't gonna listen or learn."

As Tomassi walked back into the building, she waved at SRO Kenneth Lanning and returned to Room 230, to the rest of the Teacher Education class and Cindy Swanner, the teacher.

"I think it's an occupation right now that is especially in short supply," Swanner said. "I like teaching the class and giving the students an opportunity to be a teacher in the future."

BEEP.
Fourth hour ended.

STORY BY TATUM SCHIERMAN

"I love the kids. They are hilarious," Parks said. "Being able to interact with them and see them have a good time shows me I'm doing something right."

After snack time, the whole class sat down on the multi-colored alphabet mat. The teacher started to read a Thanksgiving book.

"I feel like as a teacher you can't teach the kids until you really know them," Parks said. "And I've really enjoyed getting to know these kids."

STORY BY TATUM SCHIERMAN

back to Northwest.

"I love teaching," Tomassi said. "When I teach, it just feels right. I know this is what I'm supposed to do."

"People don't really know that there are competitions for stuff like this," Parks said. "But I think 'why wouldn't there be?'"

They wrote a book for their category called "Girls Can Do Anything Boys Can Do."

"We wrote the book because we thought that it was a topic that really needed to be addressed for girls in elementary school," Parks said.

By getting the first prize, Parks and Tomassi qualified for the regional competition in Wichita.

"I don't think any girl should be in a situation where they feel they have to accept what people say," Tomassi said. "I hope they can stand up for themselves and say 'no, I am good enough.'"

BACK FOR MORE

Juniors McKenzie Parks and Anna Tomassi entered a competition at a conference the Teacher Education class went to

Parks and Tomassi jumped up and hugged when they found out they won first place in "Children's Literature Books" at a teacher education convention.

"I didn't really expect us to win," Tomassi said. "It was crazy."

They entered the category at a competition Nov. 7 at the MidAmerica Nazarene University in Olathe.

"People don't really know that there are competitions for stuff like this," Parks said. "But I think 'why wouldn't there be?'"

They wrote a book for their category called "Girls Can Do Anything Boys Can Do."

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"GIRLS CAN DO ANYTHING BOYS CAN DO" COVER



SUPERHERO PAGE



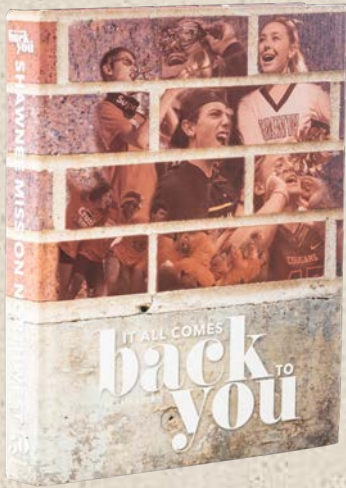
PRESIDENT PAGE



Junior McKenzie Parks listens to one of her Pre-K students Nov. 20 at Shawnee Elementary. The students were telling knock-knock jokes back-to-back during snack time. "I just love hearing what they have to say because it's funny to see them think things through," Parks said. PHOTO BY PAIGE MORISON



1 Over her student's shoulder, senior Brytni Smith helps with a math worksheet Dec. 6 at Broken Arrow Elementary. Smith worked with the students on finding different ways to solve their math problems. "The best part was after I showed him the trick, he instantly understood and got the rest of the problems right," Smith said. PHOTO BY ELSA THOMPSON
2 With her small group of students, junior Anna Tomassi reads a part of an article Dec. 30 at Apache Elementary. Tomassi used her own experiences as a student to help her when she is a teacher. "Sometimes you just have to take a deep breath and realize that you don't always understand teacher's either," Tomassi said. "It helps you understand why they might need a little extra help sometimes." PHOTO BY ELSA THOMPSON
3 Sitting and smiling, junior McKenzie Parks watches her pre-K class Nov. 24 at Shawnee Elementary. Parks took Teacher Ed to get hands-on experience before continuing to pursue teaching. "I know I had a passion for children," Parks said. "And so I thought what better way than to take a teaching class now in high school?" PHOTO BY PAIGE MORISON



// **The Lair**
*Shawnee Mission
Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas*



Hot OFF THE Press

Through deadlines and late work nights, the students in Rooms 151 and 153 worked to produce **fair and balanced** reporting to the student body

Newspaper co-design editor Erin Albers looks for inspiration Dec. 15 in Room 151. Designers look at other school newspapers as well as professional publications for interesting designs and layouts. "I look for color and coordination [in designs], how the colors flow," Albers said. "I like symmetry and something that catches my eye." Photo by AUSTIN ROBERTS



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 Shawnee, Kansas

FROM every ANGLE

Photographers proved that their job was more than snapping pictures by spending hours editing and going to games and events

"Who wants to shoot the Homecoming assembly?" yearbook photo editor Abigail Roberts said.

Freshman Erin Dory looked around and raised her hand before answering, "I can," Dory said as Roberts began to write her name on the board.

Dory walked into the Main Gym. Chanting students filled the bleachers. She wandered around looking for a spot until she heard "Freshmen, freshmen!"

She sat down, facing her section, and started to shoot photos of her classmates, who were decked out in togas to fit the Ancient Greece theme.

"You usually stand with your own grade and it's so hectic," Dory said. "It's fun to have a different viewpoint of what's going on."

Co-newspaper photo editor Erin Henton knelt on the green turf, anxiously waiting to capture the reaction of the 2018 Homecoming queen candidates Oct. 5 at SM North District Stadium.

"I get to capture emotional moments

that people can cherish forever," Henton said. "It is a great feeling to be right up near the action as the names are announced and the story unfolds."

Henton walked into the journalism computer lab and sat at the desktop computer with her "OG Erin" name tag below the screen. Various to-do lists hung along the sides of the screen. She sighed in frustration as she put in the SD card.

"I hate going through photos and seeing ones I thought would be really good, but don't turn out as I hoped, and I end up not being able to use them," Henton said.

Co-newspaper photo editor Keri Sengraseuth wandered onto the field at the Shawnee Mission Activity Center (SMAAC), bundled up for the freezing 90 minutes ahead. She roamed past the student section and to the other side of the field as she prepared to shoot the soccer match against SM West.

"It was fun because I usually don't get to shoot from the opposite side of

our student section and, when I do, the opposing student section is there chanting for their team," Sengraseuth said. "I tend to feel very awkward when I'm in that position, but I was all alone this game."

Sengraseuth found herself giggling and mumbling to herself, alone on the sidelines. Looking up from her camera, she saw a SM West player staring at her, with a concerned face, wondering why she was laughing and who she was talking to.

"He probably thought I was going crazy," Sengraseuth said. "I just will never forget how confused he looked."

Most people think photojournalism is just about taking pictures of different sports and events, but, to some of the photographers, it's more than that. "I consider photography an art," Sengraseuth said. "Being a photographer has been one of the best opportunities I've ever had."

STORY BY MAGGIE DOUGHER



1. Junior Skylia Brogan and senior Abigail Roberts test a new setting on a Nikon D630 camera Jan. 9 in Room 151. Brogan and Roberts were practicing creating a photo with two or more photo layers on top of each other. "It's so much fun to see all of the amazing things these cameras can do," Roberts said. "I've been doing this for four years now and still discover new things every day." PHOTO BY THOMAS DIZDAR 2. Looking through the viewfinder, freshman Erin Dory practices taking pictures Aug. 25 at the Tall Oaks Conference Center. Journalism students participated in a two-day long workshop to learn the basics. "Tall Oaks" was the first time we really got to practice what we'd learned," Dory said. "It was fun to be there for a whole weekend learning more about our cameras." PHOTO BY PAPA BOKALAY 3. Sophomore Pulge Morgan for mints her SD card during 7th hour Digital Photo Media class Jan. 18 in Room 151. Formatting an SD card clears it to make room for more photos to be taken. "I really want to pursue photography in the future and I thought this would be a great class for me to learn more about it to see if it's really the thing for me," Morgan said. PHOTO BY ELAN HARTMAN



Junior Abby Ryan goes through football photos Dec. 8 in the back room of Room 151. As a photo editor, she must look at all of the photos submitted to find the best ones for the various yearbook spreads. "I have to have to go through every photo, which is a lot, and it can be so time-consuming," Ryan said. "Even though it takes forever, it ends up being worth it so the spreads can look as good as possible." PHOTO BY ABIGAIL ROBERTS



4. Juniors Nick Styers and Sebastian Emerson take photos from the bowling lane gutters Jan. 25 at Park Lane. Photographers are allowed to sit on the gutters in order to get different angles only during practice. "It's really nice to be able to get at different angle than from just the sidelines," Styers said. PHOTO BY DEANNA THOMPSON

BACK FOR MORE

In order to expand her portfolio, senior Abigail Roberts had a "messy" photo shoot with students from Northwest. For this shoot the subjects were decorated with paint and glitter

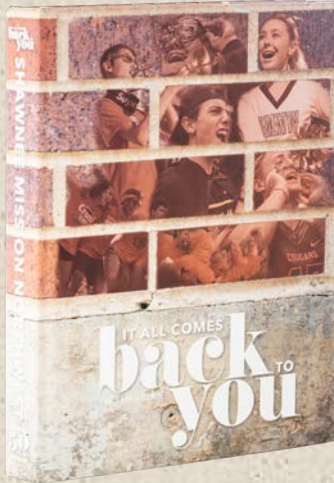


HANNA SMITH

MIRANDA GIBSON

SOFIA OLIVERA

ALIEU JAGNE



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BACK FOR MORE
How to send a letter to the editor

"To send a letter to the editor, you see who the writer is by checking the table of contents. You then write a letter to the editors after you see who is writing the story. From there, you can email the writer or any of the editors and send them a comment or problem you have with one of the stories. From there, we will review it and get back to you. If it's relevant enough, we can respond in an issue [of the newspaper], but usually we just respond with an email, or we'll have you come down to [Room] 151 and we'll meet with you and we'll talk to you."

-CO-COPY EDITOR CATE TAGGART



1. With her laptop open, freshman Roxanna Rodriguez and Stella Grist work on their stories for the newspaper. Both Rodriguez and Grist joined the newspaper staff second semester as first-year writers. "I chose to join newspaper second semester instead of next year because I love writing and just wanted to get into it as soon as possible," Grist said. Photo by Kari Szewczukowski.

2. Newspaper co-editor-in-chief Annalissa Houser works with the staff to determine which stories are ready for publication. Stories that are done are marked with a dark blue dot. "[Newspaper] brainstorm for story ideas in class and then we assign them after that," Houser said. Photo by Kari Szewczukowski.

3. Working to meet the next deadline, co-copy editors Cate Taggart and Shoni Meyers edit stories for issue 5. Taggart and Meyers are the copy editors for the newspaper. "I decided to be a copy editor because it involves working closely with the writers and discovering how more interactive with the staff," Taggart said. Photo by Kari Szewczukowski.

4. Web editor Kate Lawrence holds her head in frustration as she and sophomore Rory Dungan look over stories before they are posted. "The hardest thing about newspaper is getting everything done in, like, three weeks," Lawrence said. "As an online editor I also assign stories for our staff writers to publish to our online website, as well as edit them before they are posted." Photo by Kari Szewczukowski.



Junior Nick Lorenz works on his newspaper story. Junior Nick Lorenz is a writer on the newspaper staff. "The process of writing a story takes a lot of work and time," Lorenz said. "First, I find an angle, find a person and interview them. Then I write the interview and pick out all of the good stuff to get me started on an intro to the story." Photo by Kari Szewczukowski.

THE MORE you know

Interviewing is a crucial step for journalism students while writing about a person who has impacted Northwest

Sophomore Ella Kuffour sat across the table from director Jason Coats. Kuffour tucked her feet under her chair and laid her iPhone on the table to record every word Coats said. As Coats began to answer Kuffour's first question, she picked up a bright pink pen and scribbled notes rapidly in a spiral notebook.

For newspaper students, interviewing was a crucial part of obtaining information for any story, but particularly for a personality profile. In an interview, the writer asked questions to learn about the person being interviewed - who this person was and what made them tick.

"I tell students that when they finish interviewing a person for a profile, they need to feel like they have walked around a bit in that person's head," adviser Susan Massy said. "The interviewer should feel they have gotten to know a lot about a particular slice of the subject's life."

Sophomore Rory Dungan plopped down on a couch in the library. After making herself comfortable, Dungan asked senior Kirryn Killingsworth how Spirit Club had managed to bring Bonfire back.

"[Interviewing] is a really good way to get to know someone, especially if you've never met them or don't know anything about them beforehand," Dungan said. "I find that when I interview people, it goes deeper than the surface."

Dungan, nodding in response to everything Killingsworth said, turned away from the list of questions on her computer and asked Killingsworth an impromptu question.

"What struggles did Spirit Club face while bringing back Bonfire?" Dungan asked.

Killingsworth had no problems answering the questions Dungan posed.

"Talking about Spirit Club was something I knew, so it was easier to give accurate and true responses because I knew a lot about it and I was comfortable with it," Killingsworth said.

Interviewing may be the best way for a reporter to get information, but the skill is not one that comes easily to every student in journalism.

"What is your name and how do you spell it?" freshman Anika Paulette timidly asked her interviewee.

"I'm still pretty stiff around new people," Paulette said. "It's hard to ask follow ups and all that [because] I'm afraid of bothering them."

But some journalism students found that interviewing can seem like a regular conversation they might have with a family member or friends.

"When people are interviewing, they get really focused on fishing for quotes and trying to get the most readable quote out of someone," Kuffour said. "Those come more naturally when you just have a conversation like you would with any other person."

Kuffour, laughing at a joke Coates made before continuing to listen for the answers that would add to her story.

"It's a lot of responsibility to be able to capture the entirety of someone's essence," Kuffour said. "People anxiously await distribution day and when they see this big picture of them and the whole story and they want it to be an accurate representation of themselves. It's my responsibility to make that happen."

STORY BY MCKENNA PARSONS



5. Typing on his laptop, senior Jake Ditto records freshman Alex Barfield phone number one. In Room 151, the newspaper staff gained new writers at the start of second semester. "They have the same type of stories everyone else has, and they have the same responsibilities [even though they are brand new to staff]," Ditto said. Photo by Alex Barfield.

6. Junior Ryke Garrett works on designing a newspaper spread. In Room 151, Garrett, who had been a photographer, became the design co-editor for "The Northwest Passage" along with sophomore Erin Albers. "Getting to work with Erin all year has been a lot of fun," Garrett said. Photo by Alex Barfield.

50 BACK IN DAY

Volume 1 of The Northwest Passage was laid out by hand and printed on a copy machine

The newspaper was named by student vote, before the mascot had even been determined. The mascot had been narrowed down to Cougars and, playing off of the Northwest theme, the Mounties (Canadian Mounted Police). Because the mascot of the other Shawnee Mission high schools was a person (Indians, Lancers, Raiders, Vikings), students assumed the mascot would be the Mounties. With this in mind, they chose The Northwest Passage over The Frowler by 75 votes.

The name was suggested by juniors Leslie Carlton and Dan Fairbanks who explained their reasons in the first issue of the Passage. "I had just finished a history assignment which mentioned the Northwest Passage," Fairbanks said. "Carlton thought the name had historical validity."



Carlton, Fairbanks Suggest Winning Name



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Checking senior ad designs, co-editor-in-chief Wairimu Mbogori sits at a computer Dec. 11 in the journalism computer lab of Room 151 with co-editor-in-chief Tatum Goetting. Senior tributes are from parents to seniors that include pictures of that senior and a note from their family. "Having experience as both a writer and designer" helps because I'm able to see both sides," Mbogori said. "I know the struggles that writers and designers have to go through, so it's easier for me to see where people are coming from." PHOTO BY DAVID HORTON

1. Pointing at a computer screen, junior Skylar Brogan and senior Abigail Roberts choose photos for yearbook spreads. Brogan and Roberts were two of the yearbook photo editors. "Choosing photos can require a lot of communication, so we make sure both of us agree on what looks the best," Brogan said. PHOTO BY DAVID HORTON 2. Sketching out a design, junior Ethan Schreiber plans the set up a yearbook spread. He created a drawing of how each design was to look before creating it on the computer. "You never put your shoes on before your socks, and I never start designing before I sketch it out," Schreiber said. PHOTO BY ARIANNA BURNETT 3. Reading through quotes for the people section, seniors Elizabeth Weems and Tierney White choose their favorites. Weems and White organized the picture days and led the reference section. "There are a lot of moving parts and pieces we have to put together," Weems said. "There aren't a lot of rules, so we are creative." PHOTO BY ARIANNA BURNETT



BACK IN
THE DAY

Journalism adviser Susan Massey has been overseeing NW publications for almost four decades. She has seen all of the changes of how print media ran during these times

"Desktop publishing was a brand new thing in 1989. So we were not ready to use desktop publishing. I don't think we had computers until 1986. Everything that was going to be on the page was drawn on a QuadPack. It was four sheets of carbonless paper, so you pushed really hard as you drew. You had to make sure your lines were really straight, and exactly where they were supposed to be. You also had to draw where you wanted each photo and you had to label it on the QuadPack as well as put a sticker on the back of every photo so that the printer knew where they went on the page. We didn't have digital photography. Every photographer had to develop their own negatives and print every photo that would appear in the book."

- JOURNALISM ADVISER SUSAN MASSEY

50

late NIGHTS

On a Tuesday night work night, editors scramble to put the final touches on the second deadline spreads, but still find time to enjoy the night with their peers

"Thank you, next!" The students sang the Ariana Grande song in the back of Room 151. Like most Tuesday work nights, the yearbook editors were the last ones out.

Co-editor-in-chief Wairimu Mbogori swayed from side-to-side while designing the senior ads.

"I feel like when we have work nights, music always needs to be playing," Mbogori said. "It keeps the mood light and helps the time go by."

Strung up on the ceiling, Christmas lights framed the back wall where random yearbook inside jokes were pinned. Design editor Ethan Schreiber opened up his laptop and began working on the Midterm elections spread.

"I spend day after day in the back of 151, or sneakily pulling out my laptop in the middle of Calc to work on my spreads," Schreiber said. "I have a lot to do, and only a few short months to do it. We're in here trying to fit an entire school year into just 400 pages."

"One taught me to love, one taught me patience, and one taught me pain, now, I'm so amazing," everyone sang.

Computer screens lit up the faces of co-photo-editors Abigail Roberts, Skylar Brogan and Abby Ryan while they discussed the captions that still needed to be finished for the second deadline spreads.

"It's stressful to sit here and edit for hours while my backpack is full of homework," Roberts said. "It's just waiting for me to get started on, but I won't get to it 'til late at night."

Post-it notes that read "Good angels wear plaid" and "Remember: Julie the racoon" hung from the bottom of computer 18, while assistant adviser Wes Mikel made final edits to the Dance Team spread.

"I find that when you can tap into something that teenagers are interested in and passionate about, you get more enthusiasm and effort than you find in most adults," Mikel said. "And that inspires me to continue to live with enthusiasm."

"Spend more time with my friends. I ain't worried 'bout nothin,'" the students continued to sing.

Editing captions and color correcting photos on the boys' cross country spread, Brogan eyed the clock, wondering how long she would stay.

"It's a lot of work, and really time-consuming to go through editing photos and creating captions, and all that needs to be done for the deadline," Brogan said. "Sometimes on late nights, I would rather get my stuff done and be able to go home and sleep."

Mbogori poked co-editor-in-chief Tatum

Goetting on the shoulder to ask her a question. Goetting pulled out her headphones and faced Mbogori.

"What?" she asked. "Do you like the first name in all caps or not?"

Goetting glanced at Mbogori's computer screen.

"I'm not sure, ask Wes," Goetting replied. "Wes is the guy we ask whenever we don't know what to do," Mbogori said. "He usually gives sarcastic answers but sometimes they're good."

"Thank you, next. Thank you, next I'm so grateful for my ex."

Co-copy editor Mollie Elfrink swung open the door to the back room.

"Hey, Abby, I need you to take a mug tomorrow, after school," she said.

Both Ryan and Roberts turned their heads to Elfrink and then looked back at each other.

"Not it!" both said simultaneously.

"Abby, I'm going to be shooting boys' basketball," Roberts said.

"Well, I have to shoot wrestling," Ryan said.

"There's always so much to do during work nights and I feel like I'm never going to go home," Ryan said. "I'll get excited thinking I'm almost done and could leave soon, but then I remember there's another cutout to do or a spread to be color-corrected. Even when I complete everything on my to-do list, there's always something I can do to help improve the book. Sometimes I feel like I live in 151 and will never leave."

Ryan tapped the right arrow on the computer rapidly. Teacher Education photos flashed across the screen and then suddenly they stopped.

"This one could work," she said.

"Maybe, try it on the spread," Roberts said.

"During worknights, I usually tend to be looking at the same thing for what seems like hours," Ryan said. "Being able to have another person there with you to give a new perspective is refreshing."

"God forbid something happens, least this song is a smash."

As Goetting unplugged the Christmas lights at 9:45 p.m., the editors packed their laptops and discussed what had to happen before the next Tuesday work night. Everyone nodded their heads in agreement.

"At the end of the deadlines, not everything is perfect," Goetting said. "But you kind of just have to move on and prepare for the next one."

"Thank you, next."

STORY BY TATUM SCHUERMAN

BACK TO
THE BASICS

Co-copy editors Kelsey Volk and Mollie Elfrink revealed the contents of their drawers

KELSEY VOLK



"So featured on my drawer are the two loves of my life: Timothee Chalmet and Barack Obama. Everytime I see them, they just make my day a little bit brighter."



MOLLIE ELFRINK



"I put photos of me and my friends on my drawer because they are my faves and they make my day better. The inspirational quotes are to remind me to stay positive!"





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On the sidelines, senior Dawson Mesh films the varsity football game for KUGR Oct. 30 at SN West. Mesh also runs his own videography account on Instagram where he has posted highlights of the season. "Getting to see the action right up close and teaching yourself how to do something [is the best]," Mesh said. Photo by Erin Hanson

behind THE scenes

KUGR members spent hours planning, filming and editing to put out monthly and weekly shows

Associate producer Josh Marvine ran around the Plaza for hours wearing a red cape, underwear with American flags and eagles on them over his black tights, and a white T-shirt on which he had hastily drawn two lightning bolts and the letters PP (Person Protector). His goal: to stop the jaywalking epidemic. The looks from strangers didn't faze him as he focused on his segment for the October Hero Show.

"[KUGR] is great," Marvine said. "I love basically every aspect of it, from the late nights in an editing bay to the frantic weekends where you're trying to film everything, running around dressed like an idiot on the Plaza, just to get a good shot."

Everything started with a brainstorming session. Members chose a three- to four-person group and fresh ideas for sketches or "real projects," such as profiles. These were then pitched to the class. Some ideas were inspired by professionals.

"There's this Youtube channel called 'Corridor Digital,'" executive producer Cameron Shelby said. "All of us really love their videos. They're basically a professional version of what we do... with a bigger budget."

Class members gave constructive criticism to the groups to make sure their ideas fit the theme and time slot. KUGR adviser Billy Dent's input was the final step in the approval process.

"We have to make a character list and provide people who are going to be playing those parts. We also have to provide a location and, if it's a skit, we have to write [a script]," senior Kaitlin Pauli said. "You also have to list the different shots and angles and describe whether you want a tight shot or a wide shot."

Members worked around the schedules of those appearing in their projects. After members filmed and downloaded their footage, they started to edit.

According to Dent, creating each minute of edited footage took about one hour. If a lot of extra footage had been shot, editing time piled up.

"First cuts can take a couple hours to edit, but Cameron [Shelby] and I spend days editing them," executive producer Sam Converse said.

First cuts, also known as rough drafts, were due a week before the show aired. A day before the show, final cuts were due. At this point, Shelby and Converse went through the projects to make sure they were ready to air.

In addition to the monthly show which aired during TCB, KUGR created "Cougar Roundup," a weekly news show presented in the cafeteria during all three lunches. The show arose from a curricular need to give students an opportunity to produce more content and to gain experience in creating news content.

Last year, KUGR produced "Game Day," a video brief focused on school sports. Beginning in September, "Cougar Round Up" replaced "Game Day." The new show continued to offer sports content in a segment called "The Ocho." "What's Up," a second segment, covered school events and the third segment, "Spotlight," turned the show's attention to profiles.

"I like the seminar show because it shows me what is happening around the school," freshman Olivia Sanders said. "I can also see my friends on it which makes it more fun."

STORY BY TEAGAN VANBLANKOM

1 During a speed dating game, senior Keni Sengprasouth laughs with her partner, junior Justin D'Silva Jan. 7 in Room 153. The speed dating game was to get to know staff members better. "When I started high school, I took the beginning video production class," Sengprasouth said. "I stayed in KUGR because it had become my second home." Photo by SHELBA BROSNAW

2 Holding the roll call list, senior Cameron Shelby laughs at a classmate's roll-question response at the head of Room 153 standing in front of the projector. As an executive producer, Shelby runs the KUGR class with senior Josh Marvine and helps the other students create projects for the shows. "Being in charge of a program I've wanted to be a part of since I first saw the seminar show is a dream come true," Shelby said. Photo by SHELBA BROSNAW

BACK IN THE DAY

KUGR was not the first journalism class to work on broadcast journalism



Before KUGR was an organization, the newspaper staff worked on video projects in the form of a slide shows. The show was 50 minutes long and had one showing in the morning and one at night.



3 Junior Anna Tomassini jokes with a classmate in Room 153. "It's always such a good feeling when you tell the class your idea for a video and everyone tells you how cool it will be," Tomassini said. "Sometimes your idea needs a little bit of help and people are there to support you." Photo by SHELBA BROSNAW
4 Explaining a new concept, senior Sam Converse introduces a lesson Jan. 8. Converse is the executive producer along with Sam Springer for fourth hour. "When it comes to lesson plans, I think of things that people in the program want to learn," Converse said. "As executive producer, I try to find creative ways to teach and assign fun projects." Photo by Keni Sengprasouth

BACK FOR MORE

Terms used in filming & editing

B-ROLL:

Extra footage used to enrich a video story. Most often refers to footage used as a cut away alternative to a talking head

GIMBAL:

A device that permits a camera to move freely in any direction or suspends it so that it will remain level when its support is tipped

RULE OF THIRDS:

A basic guideline for photo composition. It stems from the theory that the human eye naturally gravitates to intersection points that occur when an image is split into thirds.

VIEWFINDER:

A device on a camera for showing the area of the subject to be included in the picture.



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MERRY AND bright

Justin Stigge's AP Physics students brought holiday spirit to two boys in the annual Adopt-A-Tot program with the help of a few balloons

Red and green streamers intertwined with strings of white fairy-lights brought a distinctly festive tone to Room 225.

Junior Hanna Smith opened a package of brightly colored balloons and began to fill one. Juniors Naeley Torline and Brogan McKenzie each grabbed a balloon and attempted to inflate them, while other students laughed at the struggle.

"The little ones won't fill," Torline said.

"Let me try," junior Jamie Hall said. "I bet I can fill one."

Tossing the package of smaller balloons aside, students rapidly filled balloons from the other packages while others organized the colossal arrangement of soda, chips and cupcakes that littered the back counter.

Throughout the building, the scene was the same.

"Adopt-a-Tot is one of the best days of the year," StuCo sponsor Sarah Dent said. "The kids that go to Growing Futures, the tots, are our neighbors; they're the kids we baby sit for, they're the kids we see in the grocery store, they're the kids we see playing

on the playground. They're our neighbors. The money goes to people who truly are in need and are in need of a hand."

When the children arrived, a burst of cheers and claps erupted from the eager StuCo members who waited for them wearing Santa hats and warm smiles.

"[When the tots first walked through the door,] it was one of my favorite moments," junior Eliza Kidder said. "They were really excited to see Santa and to just be there for the party. Their eyes just lit up."

Two small boys, Jayden Williams and Damarian Colby, stepped through the doorway cautiously eyeing the festive decorations and the students.

Immediately, Colby looked around at the roomful of smiling faces and began to grin.

Williams, mesmerized by the rainbow scattering of balloons, lunged for a large, yellow one and, placing it between his knees, screamed, "Pop it!"

"It's the little things that make them happy," Kidder said. "We spent the entire time playing with balloons and we didn't even plan

on that, but the two little boys had so much fun playing with them and popping them."

Hall, laughing, picked up two more balloons. Junior Evan Borberg joined them.

"Damarian, come here," Borberg said. "Let's pop this balloon before they pop theirs."

Colby shrieked with laughter and jumped excitedly toward Borberg. Watching him peacefully, his mom smiled at the room filled with teenagers who had surrounded the boys and mouthed a tearful "thank you!"

"As a mom, knowing that you want every holiday with your kids to be so special, I can't imagine being in a place where I might have to look at my kids and say, 'we don't have enough,'" Dent said. "[Adopt-a-Tot] is an opportunity for us to take a step back from all the blessings that we have and to be able to give back to people. You don't always get those opportunities in life. So, every year, I cry about this stinking event because it's just so sweet. It's so special. There's just nothing like it."

STORY BY ZOE CERDA



Holding her tot, senior Alex Walsh talks to Santa while he visits Dec. 7 in Room 117. Walsh was the Student Council member assigned to Kyle, one of the children. She helped the class who "adopted" Kyle during fourth hour. "My favorite part about being with [Kyle] was that he was very energetic," Walsh said. "It was my first time doing this with StuCo and I was a little worried, but he was so sweet and made the whole experience fun." PHOTO BY ANSAL ROBERTS

During Adopt-a-Tot, junior Jonas Rowland helps his class tot, David, decorate a gingerbread house with frosting Dec. 7 in Room 204. The IB Biology class brought gingerbread houses to decorate with their tot. "My experience with David was really good, and we had a fun time," Rowland said. "With the gingerbread house, the rest of the class was really engaged and I think [David] liked decorating it." PHOTO BY SYLVA BROGAN



1. Holding a cupcake, tot Sean laughs while staying close to his mother and father Dec. 7 in Room 227. Sean giggled when Santa and his elf, senior Jacob Shreve, visiting his classroom. PHOTO BY ANSAL ROBERTS 2. Junior Tre' Mutava flat bumps tot Jameir during Adopt-a-Tot in the Choir room. The Adopt-a-Tot program assists families during the holidays. "I loved just getting to see how much our tot loved his toys," Mutava said. "We connected over playing, and I also just loved seeing his mom smile as big as she did knowing that he will have a fun and merry Christmas." PHOTO BY THOMAS DEZART 3. Dressed as an elf, senior Jacob Shreve smiles with Santa in Room 115. Student Council approached Shreve and asked him to take on the role of the elf who goes from class to class to visit the tots. "I was super excited to take on a different role in this event and to meet a lot of those kids in need and their families," Shreve said. "I knew this was a moment these kids and families would remember for a long time." PHOTO BY HANNAH VAN AUKEN



IT ALL COMES DOWN TO...

Of the 80 4th
hour classes, 53
(approximately 66
percent) sponsored
families

Foreign Language: 5
Math: 7
Science: 6
English: 12
Teacher Ed: 11
Special Ed: 7
Music/Arts: 2
Physical Education: 3

Each class raised about \$200 to fund the basket of household staples and small gifts for the family.



// The Lair Shawnee Mission Northwest High School Shawnee, Kansas

CUTTING IT close

Labs for
International
Baccalaureate (IB)
Biology required
students to **dissect**
cow hearts, sheep
hearts and kidneys

International Baccalaureate (IB) Biology students promptly walked into their sixth hour, awaiting instructions for their dissection lab that day.

Brewer approached the students' lab tables, one by one, giving them airtight bags that contained colorless sheep kidneys. Students got out their homework assignments from nights before, on which they had labeled the different parts of the kidney to use as a guide.

"I thought that the dissection labs we did were so cool," senior Sammy Weians said. "Applying what we had learned about real organs was really helpful."

After Brewer handed out the last kidney, the students put on blue latex gloves and were instructed to slice their bags open. They placed the kidneys in a metal tray with a light blue sheet underneath and pins for marking parts.

"I wasn't ever nervous about dissecting because I just thought it was so interesting," Weians said. "I focused on trying to find the different parts of the organs we had been learning about all year."

Dissection began with a lateral cut into the organ.

Seniors Megan Hanson and Kelley Dungan watched senior Megan Goetz bisect the kidney with a small knife. She used one hand to hold the kidney steady and the other to slice it open. Hanson and Dungan watched closely, taking notes and checking the lab packet so they could correctly label the parts.

"When I saw the inside of the kidney, it was almost surprising," Hanson said. "When you open up the organ and see the complexity of such a small part of the body, it really puts into perspective how cool the body is."

IB Biology was a two-year course. It allowed students to investigate the living world at different levels, using multiple approaches and techniques.

"I decided to take IB Bio because I'm really interested in the medical field, especially biology and how the body works," Weians said. "I thought it would be interesting to take a two-year course that goes really in-depth."

Dissection tools were scattered around each dark, black lab table as the groups carefully worked to complete the lab.

After the lab, the students were instructed to film a summative video with their lab groups. They had to show and explain the different parts and functions to demonstrate they fully understood the material.

"Right here we have the medulla, which contains both the renal column and the renal pyramid," Dungan said.

While Dungan spoke about the kidney, Hanson recorded the video and Goetz pointed at the parts that Dungan was referring to.

"I think the dissection definitely helps us understand the material better," Hanson said. "Getting to explore the different parts and how they connect and work together in real life rather than just pictures is tremendously effective."

Hanson turned off the recording and the group began to pack up the lab equipment. Students chatter filled the room, talking about the dissection and class.

"I really enjoy all the dissections we do because it puts the model we've been studying for so long in a real-life context. The thing we all hate about dissecting is the smell. The formaldehyde the organs are stored in is very pungent," Goetz said. "Besides that part of it, I really enjoy all the dissections we do because it puts the model we've been studying for so long in a real-life context."

STORY BY TATUM GOETTING
ADDITIONAL REPORTING BY CHARITY SAUNDERS



Seniors Megan Goetz, Megan Hanson and Kelley Dungan work together to finish their lab for their International Baccalaureate (IB) Biology class Feb. 22 in Room 204. This class goes in-depth two-year program that helps students learn about living organisms. "I enjoy being able to see these organs up close," Hanson said. "The kidney is different because it's much less obvious in how it functions than others." Photo by ALEXA ROBERTS

1. Senior Henry Tomasic speaks to IB Biology teacher Debra Brewer. Jan. 30. In Room 204.

Brewer was the reason Tomasic took IB Biology. "Brewer is one of my favorite teachers," Tomasic said. "She has a way of making an uninteresting topic sound fascinating." Photo by ALEXA ROBERTS

2. Biology teacher Debra Brewer shows seniors Riley Dengo, Caden Cadoggo and Dayton Raines which parts to point out in their video recording.

Feb. 22 in Room 204. After dissecting and pinning the kidney, the students recorded themselves pointing to and explaining what each part does. "Teaching this class forces me to teach in a way that requires kids to be in charge of their education and makes me take a step back," Brewer said. Photo by ALEXA ROBERTS

3. Pointing to a labeled chart of a kidney, senior Murphy Houser tells seniors Adelaide Marika and Nicholas Sobory which parts are which.

IB Biology students dissect a sheep's kidney along with other organs over the course of the year. "I just love the environment of the class and the people who are in there with me," Houser said. "Over the past years, we've really gotten to know each other and we all just want each other to succeed." Photo by ALEXA ROBERTS



4. Pointing to a part of the kidney, senior Megan Goetz inspects the sheep kidney she dissected with seniors Megan Hanson and Kelley Dungan. There is only one IB Biology class offered and is taught by Debra Brewer. "Biology has always been the one subject that I'm truly engaged in and constantly want to learn more about," Goetz said. "Being in IB Bio with a teacher like Brewer who knows the ins and outs of almost every aspect of biology motivates me." Photo by ALEXA ROBERTS

5. Working together, seniors Riley Dengo, Caden Cadoggo and Dayton Raines pin the various parts of the sheep kidney. The class worked in groups of three to dissect and name the parts of a kidney. "The best part about working together is that we're all super into the dissection process," Raines said. "We all have a lot of fun but also get the technical stuff done." Photo by ALEXA ROBERTS

BACK TO THE BASICS

Science teacher Debra Brewer's tortoise, Maxwell, tours the room during class.



Room 204's class pets consisted of several types of fish and a tortoise named Maxwell. Maxwell, who has muddy brown, dark green, yellow and beige decorations on his shell, is 14 years old, about 142 years old in tortoise years. He has lived here since he was 4.

Maxwell was like family to the IB students, even if he did chew on shoes.

He had his own corner, complete with a kiddie pool and a desktop light.

"I think he just kind of ties the family together, you know?" senior Kelley Dungan said. "A family's not a family without a fun pet."



// The Lair
Shawnee Mission
Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas

icyymi

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

CONTENT BY TATUM SCHUERMAN
GRAPHICS BY ETHAN SCHREIBER

BACK FOR MORE

Students picked out their go-to item on Cappuccino Days.



AIRPODS

A popular gift during the winter season, Apple AirPods, students and some administrators, began wearing them around school.

OUT OF 92 RESPONSES

Did you get AirPods over Winter Break?



Working as a cashier, senior Libby Johnson collects money from students for Cappuccino Day Nov. 30 in the Mall. CCC was able to raise around \$2,000 for the second quarter Cappuccino Day. "My favorite part is counting up the money at the end of the day and knowing that it's going to a family within our NW family who's going to get a good use out of it," Johnson said. Photo by SEBASTIAN ENDOGIR

IN JUST A FEW HOURS

Cougar Community Commitment exec board members sell cookies and coffee in order to raise money for a local family.

Santa Claus is coming to town! Ba Ba! Santa Claus is coming to town, Santa Claus is coming to town! www.nwcc.com

Cougar Community Commitment (CCC) students sang while students walked in the school. Senior Megan Hanson put on her Santa hat and danced to the music while asking students if they wanted cookies, a cappuccino, hot chocolate, half and half or lemonade. Each for only one dollar.

"Cappuccino Day is put on by CCC and it's a chance for us to raise money by selling cookies and drinks at school," Hanson said.

The money CCC raised Nov. 30th went to an area family whose house had been destroyed by fire. "We choose a family or organization to donate the money to beforehand," Hanson said. "It's based on who we think is in need or who has reached out to us. We try to keep it in the NW family so that the money that is getting raised can benefit our school."

Rudolph the red nosed reindeer, had a very shiny nose! And if you ever saw it, you would even say it glows! As students got in line to give CCC exec board members the orders from their classes, senior Meghan Clarey stood up to help make more hot chocolate.

"I love that Cappuccino Day has a direct impact on our NW community," Clarey said. "It is such a cool thing to be apart of because, regardless of the stress and constant running around, at the end of the day we know we got to help a family at Northwest."

During 5th hour, exec board members went to

classrooms with trays full of cookies trying to get some last-minute donations for the family whose house burnt down.

"It feels amazing," Hanson said. "We get to help people in our community, people we know and love."

Santa baby, I want a yacht and really that's not a lot. Been an angel all year. Santa baby, so hurry down the chimney tonight.

"Hey guys! Last chance, does anybody want some cookies?" senior Carlos Jaime asked a 5th hour class. "One dollar for three and \$10 means everyone in your class gets one."

Students raised their dollars high in the air and walked up to grab their cookies. Their eyes wandered, trying to find a cookie that they wanted to eat.

"Thank you guys. You all have helped so much today!" Johnson said.

"Cappuccino Day means different things to different people," Jaime said. "For some people, it means just getting coffee once a quarter and, for others, it means that they can start rebuilding their house."

CCC exec board members turned off the speakers, folded up the tables and told each other they did great work today.

"I get this warm feeling at the end of the day," Clarey said. "It's hard to describe the feeling, because I get so many of them. I feel excited that we did it and warm inside knowing someone is being helped by us just selling cookies. Selling this stuff for a few hours can turn into something big for someone and that is just amazing."

GAIL THOMPSON

Junior Zach Dulny wrote and directed the play "Gail" and then shared it with the school.

Sitting on the edge of the stage, senior Shantice White listened intently as junior Zach Dulny described his grandmother's mannerisms to her. The rest of the cast stood behind her, silently going through their lines in their heads. White nodded her head and started from the top of the show again, adjusting her movements and facial expressions to match those of Dulny's grandmother.

"My grandma, Gail, died of cancer," Dulny said. "Her husband Jim, my grandpa, has never been the same since."

The play was about true love faced with tragedy. Inspired by his grandma's death, this play, according to Dulny, was his favorite of the three plays he has written and directed.

"It feels really rewarding to have my writing go to good use," Dulny said. "And I'm also glad that it went to a good subject that has meaning to me."

The show was held in the Little Theatre. Admission was free, but donations were accepted/welcomed donations.

"Seeing the donations come in because of my work makes me feel like I can do something that people like," Dulny said.

Working under Dulny's direction was a new experience for the cast.

"He had a very different method of getting us into character and pushing us into the mentality of our [characters]," White said.

Being a part of an original work gave students opportunities that don't come with more well-known productions.

"I felt very honored to be apart of an original play where I got to develop a character from scratch," junior Claire Severance said.

"Being a part of this show was like nothing else," White said. "It wasn't just a normal script that I was given. I was telling the story of someone's life. I was purely living and breathing them."

Sharing his grandmother's story was very important to Dulny.

"No one likes to talk about cancer," Dulny said. "When you talk about it, you get hushed. I didn't like that. I was glad to write about it."

As the play ended students, teachers and parents applauded the work of Dulny.

"I am so glad that I was able to share my grandmother and grandfather's story."

BACK FOR MORE

Cast and crew members of "Gail" rated the overall production out of 5 stars.

5	★★★★★	Zach Dulny
4.5	★★★★☆	Shantice White
4	★★★★	Jackson Tomlin
3	★★★	Ethan Schreiber
3.5	★★★☆☆	Claire Severance
4	★★★★	Emma Ottinger
4.5	★★★★☆	Ally Banks
3.5	★★★☆☆	Jacob Parker
3.5	★★★☆☆	Olivia Williamson
3.5	★★★☆☆	Gerrin Rodriguez
3	★★★	Fatemeh Moor
4.5	★★★★☆	Matthew Kucharczyk

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

From water bottles to phone cases to pins to laptops, students all around the school find ways to differentiate their personal items from those of their friends.



TATUM SCHUERMAN'S WATER BOTTLE
ALIEU JAGNE'S PHONE CASE AND POP SOCKET
TATUM GOETTIG'S CROSS BODY BAG

FINALS WEEK

Students shared their thoughts about first semester exams.

"I was really worried about my finals. I just wanted to keep the grades I had and get through the week. I was so relieved when finals were over. I know I only have a few months until graduation. It can only go uphill from here."

— SENIOR EMILY ARROCHA

"I get pretty nervous before finals. But I try to stay positive and keep a good mindset because when I don't that is when I struggle. It was real motivation to have winter break after finals. I worked really hard only because I knew that I would be able to get a break after all of it."

— SOPHOMORE LAUREN SANDERS

"It was kinda weird when I think about it. It was my last finals since I have IB testing next semester. It felt so great to be done, but it's so weird. I'm done."

— SENIOR MABEL ANSTINE

"It was my first final in high school. They were more difficult here. They challenged me, while in middle school it didn't. I kept trying to tell myself that I was not going to fail. I prepared so much and my teachers helped me so much I couldn't just fail."

— FRESHMAN MARY MORSTADT

"I felt confident going into finals because of how much the teachers and upperclassmen helped me," freshman Zoe Johnson said. "Cocoa and Cram really helped me. I would tell any future freshman to go. The tests were much longer in high school than in middle school. I feel like the teachers in high school do a lot better of a job helping us understand what is going to be on the finals."

— FRESHMAN ZOIE JOHNSON

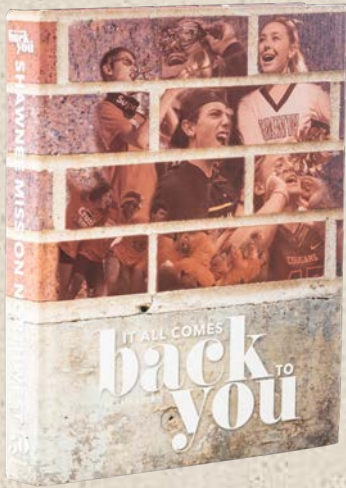


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ABBY RUAN

IT'S A Lot

Sometimes the **most notable part** of the school day was **before we even walked in**

It was just a parking lot.

But it's where I got the worst road rage. I'd never seen so many people be cut off in such a short amount of time. If an aunt or grandma or someone new tried to brave the parking lot, they'd be welcomed with 15 cars trying to squeeze into two exit lanes. There were two ways I could get out of the parking lot safely: I could either sprint out to my car the second the 2:40 bell rang or wait around for 20 minutes, hoping that the traffic would die down by the time I went outside.

But hey, it's really just a parking lot, not necessarily good or bad. Just nothing.

The front of the lot was supposed to be the senior lot, but it was pretty much accessible to whoever got there first. If you got to school really early, you could even snag a pull through spot, undoubtedly the best kind of parking spot.

It's where, naturally, we all sat in our cars before school started, avoiding going in, finishing the song, saying "I'll go in in three minutes." We didn't want to be late to school, but sometimes we didn't want to be early.

On Thursdays, the trash cans in the parking lot were littered with cups from Starbucks, Dunkin' Donuts, QuikTrip, you name it. Just because we had a little more time to sleep didn't mean we didn't need

coffee. On those days, after our morning coffee fix, we joined our friends in their cars, choosing to catch up there, instead of inside, because we knew we couldn't leave the mall until 8:40.

Sitting in the parking lot, you could tell a lot about the people around you. Did the person next to you park badly? Was their car covered in dents or bumper stickers? Did they have anything hanging from the rearview mirror? A glance through a car window was like a tiny peek into someone's life. Sometimes the people who had it together the most were the people with messy cars.

Sometimes we found ourselves in the parking lot when school wasn't in session. In fact, there were many early Saturdays where it was hard to find a spot, the question was who was filling them up. The answer: journalism students, basketball players, ACT takers and theatre kids, to name a few.

Sure, it's just a parking lot. But it's where we started the day, whether it be with coffee, a pep talk or an early morning jam session. We walked through the parking lot unsure of where the day would take us, but no matter what, one thing stayed consistent: we knew we had to walk through it again at the end of the day.

STORY BY KELLEY VOLK





// The Lair
Shawnee Mission
Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas



Sophomore Rachel Allison puts the final touches on her clay pony Feb. 22 in Room A. All of the students got to choose what object they wanted to recreate in clay. Allison chose a stuffed horse. "The horse was my childhood stuffed animal that I always took with me," Allison said. "I thought I should use that in my school work." Photo by Elisha Thompson

NEW media

Ceramics students **worked and reworked their pottery**, trying to create the **perfect piece**

The low, quiet humming of the pottery wheels served as the only noise in Room A. Students gently guided lumps of wet clay into small bowls, vases and various other items. Senior Hailey Hashbarger, wearing a scarlet, clay-splattered apron, smoothed her fingers over the edge of her bowl, putting the finishing touches on her piece.

"When I finish a project, I sit there and I look at it and I'm like, 'am I really done?'" Hashbarger said. "I always wanna add more designs to it or put more detail into it. When I look at a project and it's finally done, I think 'I'm proud of this' or 'I know exactly where I wanna put this in my room when it's done.' It's really cool to look at a project and know that you just created it."

Frustrated, junior Sydney Sanders sighed and lifted her foot off the pedal. The pottery wheel slowly came to a stop. "I think I'm gonna have to start over," Sanders said.

The mound of taupe-colored clay

rested dejectedly on the center of the wheel.

"It'll be fine," sophomore Hayley Rider said.

Sanders placed her foot on the pedal, and started to try again.

"Well, before I got into this class, I knew next to nothing about ceramics," Rider said. "I think a lot of art kids at this school are like that. We're not used to working in 3-D. There's a lot of experimentation when it comes to ceramics. You kind of get in there and you get your hands dirty. You're seeing what you can do with all new media."

On the opposite side of the room, senior Audrey Nelson squinted at the messy clay jar that lay on the counter before her. She pressed her hand gingerly against it, smoothing out the fingerprint pattern that polka-dotted the surface.

"The hardest part about working with a piece is probably the beginning," Nelson said. "At the beginning, if it

looks really bad, you feel like it's not gonna look good in the end. But once you get through that, once you focus on the details, make sure you've got everything right, it's fine. Just keep going, keep trying. It will look good, you just have to put time into it."

Steadily molding his half-completed bowl, senior Tristan McCreight carefully worked his hands across the entirety of it, pressing the smudges away, one by one. As he rubbed his hands upward, the bowl rapidly evened out. He smiled, and lifted his foot off the pedal.

"I want to be a tattoo artist when I get older, so art is kind of like a staple point for my life right now," Hashbarger said. "If you put your heart into your work, you make something that you are proud of. That's a really big confidence boost. If you're struggling to get through something, just work on it as hard as you can, put your heart into it, and it'll turn out the way that you want."

STORY BY ZOE CERDA

BACK FOR MORE

Knowledge of tools and how to use them gave students more creative options

Wheel - used for shaping the clay

Ribs - used to smooth the clay

Needle tools - used to scratch and add texture. Also used to cut away unnecessary parts when clay is on the wheel



1 Senior Jonathan Ramos grabs clay out of the scrap bag to dry it out Feb. 25 in Room A. The texture of the clay is important in the ability to form objects. "If the clay is too wet, you can't really work with it and, if it's too dry, you can't really work with it either," Ramos said. Photo by Elisha Thompson

2 Presenting a new assignment to the class, long-term substitute teacher Stephanie Kates explains how to create a pot. The class used the Cal building method to create their pots. "I love how, with a really simple technique, the students can build something really large," Kates said. "It's surprising to them how strong and tall a pot they can build just by rolling the same coils they rolled when they were in kindergarten." Photo by Alisha Roberts



3 Sydney Sanders loosens the slab roller Feb. 22 in Room A. Sanders used a slab roller to flatten out pieces of clay to lay on her clay shoe. "I like using the slab roller because it makes all of my pieces of clay the same size," Sanders said. "I chose to use my foot because I felt like it would be a challenge for me." Photo by Alisha Roberts



4 Senior Tristan McCreight presses a needle tool into a ball of clay Feb. 26 in Ceramics class. McCreight is currently working on two projects, a vase using tall hands and a cup using the pottery wheel. "My favorite part of Ceramics is using the turning wheels to shape bowls and cups," McCreight said. Photo by Hailey Rider

5 Freshman Will Martin begins to mold his clay Feb. 26 in his ceramics class. The class was making amphoras, which are a type of vase that were used by the Romans. "I really like transferring the idea for a piece of art into reality," Martin said. Photo by Hailey Rider

6 Junior Audrey Nelson is pinching the clay, freshman Malachi Paige adds more layers to create a replica of her Air Jordans Feb. 22 in Room A. One of the assignments for the ceramics one class was to recreate their own shoe. "I really like making stuff honestly," Paige said. "Last year, I took wood classes and I thought (ceramics) would be better." Photo by Alisha Roberts



// The Lair
Shawnee Mission
Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas

REPRESENTATION matters

The Black Student Union hosted an assembly for Black History month, featuring guest speaker David Mohammed

The lights in the Greg Parker Auditorium faded out as junior Merceline Mogondo found her place on a stool on center stage and junior Tre' Mutava placed his fingers lightly on the grand piano. Mutava's fingers began to dance across the keys and Mogondo's voice rose.

"One day, when the glory comes, it'll be ours. It'll be ours. One day when the war is won, we will be sure. We'll be sure. Oh-oh-oh Glory."

Students hooted and hollered for Mogondo. She cracked a smile, turned away from the mic and giggled while Mutava began the first verse.

"Hands to the heaven no man, no weapon / Formed against / Yes, glory is destined," Mutava rapped. "Everyday women and men become legends / The movement is a rhythm to us / Freedom is like religion to us / Justice is just a position in us, justice for all just ain't specific enough / That's why Rosa sat on the bus / That's why we walk through Ferguson with our hands up / When it go down we woman and man up / They say, 'Stay down', and we stand up / King pointed to the mountain top and we ran up."

"One day, when the glory comes it'll be ours. It'll be ours. One day when the war is won we will be sure. We'll be sure. Oh-oh-oh Glory."

Mogondo's voice faded out with the music as she pulled the mic away from her lips.

Mutava and Mogondo, ushered by claps and cheers from peers and teachers, stepped off the stage. Guest speaker David Mohammed walked on.

"I am tired of celebrating Black History Month," Mohammed said.

Students turned to each other, mouths gaping, in utter shock.

"Did he really just say that?" someone whispered.

"What does he mean?" someone else asked.

Mohammed grinned and began to explain himself.

"My annoyance with the celebration of Black History Month has nothing to do with the relevance of [its] existence," Mohammed said. "The focus given to this month is often superficial and glossed over and is just another thing to simply check off. Black history simply becomes another thing looked at as something outside of the normal history curriculum."

The Black Student Union organized the entire assembly in order to celebrate Black History month. They wanted to bring more recognition and acknowledgement of different cultures and ethnicities to Northwest.

"Representation matters," Mohammed said. "When I speak of representation, I don't just mean by putting more people of color into spaces of prominence. Simply placing people of color in the room does nothing more than make for a really nice Instagram picture. I mean that if we're going to truly have a society that reflects the reality of our diversity we have to consistently represent the full story of this country and that is a story that cannot be confined to the shortest month of the year."

A few students shifted uncomfortably in their seats, not quite sure how to react to the speech or even the event itself. Others openly displayed their disapproval and disagreement. However, many students sat completely still, contemplating the speech.

"This assembly was important to me because when I came out, I knew more

than I did when I came in," sophomore Esther Bella said. "As much as it's hard to talk about these types of issues, ones that are happening today, it is a necessity for advancing our social standards and everything else in our world today."

Senior Yairee Juarez, holding her iPhone up to record the event and laughing at one of Mohammed's jokes, suddenly grew serious.

"We have to stop making the stories of minorities detours in our journey and, instead, make them essential landmarks," Mohammed said. "Let's stop pretending that we don't need each other's cultural contributions. America is great because of our diversity."

As he spoke, students in the front row shouted their approval, nodding vigorously and nudging their friends to call attention to the statement.

"Our lives are more rich with each other than without," Mohammed said. "So let's stop pretending that we can separate and be happy."

Students throughout the auditorium snapped in response.

"So yes I'm tired of celebrating Black History Month because every day is Black history. Every day is Latino history. Asian American history. Every day is Indigenous Peoples history. Every day is LGBTQ+ history and every day is White history."

Mohammed shut his laptop, grabbed his water bottle from the edge of the podium and leaned into the mic.

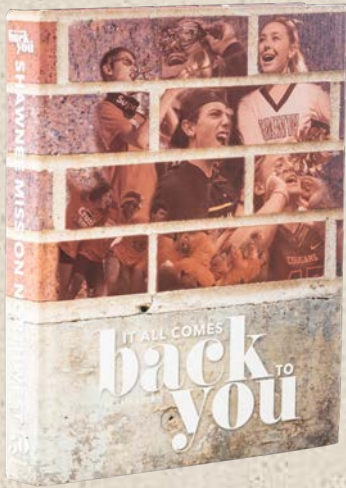
"Let's make sure that everybody has a seat at the table," Mohammed said. "Representation matters."

STORY BY TATUM SCHUERMAN
& ZOE CERDA

Playing the piano, junior Tre' Mutava performs a duet of "Glory" by Common and John Legend with Merceline Mogondo March 1 in the Greg Parker Auditorium. The song is based on the 1965 walk in Selma, Alabama. "Glory" is such a powerful song talking about the difficulties black people had throughout history," Mutava said. "But, in the end, [they] fought for the win." Photo by Nicholas Strain



1. Smiling at the audience, David Mohammed speaks to students at the Black History assembly. Mohammed was the main speaker for the assembly. "I want to compliment the entire school, student body and staff on even having this activity," Mohammed said. "I took a personal day from my job of teaching at East to come over to another high school in my own district to be doing something that should be done in every high school and the entire country." Photo by Nicholas Strain. 2. Reading his script, senior Eryon Watson introduces the main speaker, David Mohammed. "I wanted to open the eyes of our peers and unite Northwest," Watson said. "Also, I wanted to encourage the black community and other ethnic groups." Photo by Nicholas Strain. 3. Junior Merceline Mogondo sings at the Black History month assembly which was held twice to allow all students to attend. Mogondo was the coordinator and creator of the Black History assembly. "What inspired me was knowing how important this was for our school," Mogondo said. "It was something that was to be educational and basically spread awareness. I felt the need to honor our ancestors for all the things they have done to make all the things possible for us today." Photo by Pura Borkman



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Linking arms with senior Dawson Mesh, senior Caroline Sanders smiles after being crowned first runner-up WPA Queen Feb. 24 in the 74th year. Sanders was nominated by the French Club. "Hearing my name being called and watching as my peers, friends, and family stood up to cheer was an experience that really only happens once in a lifetime," Sanders said. Photo by SETH BROWN

OFF TO AN *Icy* START

Even though the annual WPA dance was postponed due to the **unruly weather**, Student Council was able to reschedule and **plan in the short time given**



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In the front row, sophomores Isabella Moffett, Sophia Root, Grace Rippee and Kendall Toomey wait for the announcement of the Spirit Stick winner Feb. 14 in the Main Gym. Spirit Club arranges all the assemblies, and Rippee is the new vice president of the club. "I love the energy that surrounds you the moment you walk into the gym," Rippee said. "You can't tell if what you are hearing is the drum beat or your heart beat because they sync up." Photo by Patrick Mousavi

YOU'LL
 COME
 AROUND

Each day of WPA spirit week had a specific dress code for the day
 Monday—PJ Day
 Tuesday—Twin Day
 Wednesday—Grouchy Day
 Thursday—Assembly Outfits



1. In the band section, seniors Olivia Moore and Welina Miao go to play their flutes Feb. 14 in the Main Gym. Every class gets a Spirit Judge during assemblies to determine which class has the most spirit, but for this year's WPA assembly, the band received a judge as well. "We were super excited that we finally got a Spirit Judge, so we just wanted to go all out and try our hardest," Moore said. Photo by Elexa Thawenow
 2. In a gold mask, senior Justin Cloughley plays his trumpet. Band members participated in the theme by wearing gold clothes, masks, and face paint. "We made our own [Spirit Stick] because we really thought that we should have worn," Cloughley said. Photo by Elexa Thawenow
 3. Freshman Keith Locke holds the front of the Spirit Stick. The Spirit Club told the students not to storm the court when the winner was announced. "It was exciting for [the freshmen], but no upperclassmen wanted us to win," Locke said. Photo by Elexa Thawenow



IN THE NAME OF spirit

The freshmen won the Spirit Stick at this year's WPA assembly and people were shocked

"And the home of the... Chiefs!" It was the line that got the sophomores disqualified from winning the Spirit Stick. Although students from every class added the sound of cymbals between each pause in the song, the sophomores paid the price. "The sophomores didn't do anything to get disqualified," sophomore Landyn Luttrell said. "There were rumors going around that we changed the national anthem, which was false."

The sophomores were disqualified for showing disrespect to the national anthem and, although the juniors were covered head-to-toe in pink, shooting the confetti cannon ended up getting them eliminated as well.

"We were the most hype and started chants," junior Jan Lara said. "Our section was pink and had balloons. All the classes and teachers said we should've won." The freshman cheer team's performance was followed by the junior varsity team who moved onto the mat while chanting to begin their routine. Cheers erupted from the freshmen as fellow freshman Olivia Sanders completed a tumbling pass. Varsity performed afterward, and then the mats were rolled up.

"WE ARE NORTH WEST... COUGARS!" Each class tried to shout louder than the others in hopes of winning the Spirit Stick.

The crowd quieted as the varsity dance team members took their places in the middle of the floor. The upbeat, hip-hop performance had everyone on their feet. They walked off with sass and cheers filled the gym.

"If I had to give the Spirit Stick to another grade, I would've given it to the juniors or the band," Luttrell said. "The juniors, like us, came up with good chants and hollers and they honestly have the most spirit in the school. The band really showed out though."

The Kansas Debate Coach of the Year Award was presented to Ken King and wrestling

presented the girls' district championship trophy to principal Lisa Gruman.

"In my opinion, the band was as spirited during the assembly as anyone else, if not more," band member Josh Zumalt said. "On top of that, we put more time and effort into decorating our bleachers and preparing for the assembly."

Especially this past assembly, everybody was trying to get that Spirit Stick and I was kind of disappointed that the freshmen won," WPA King Dale Talley said.

Spirit Club members ran baseline to baseline, the Spirit Stick hoisted over their heads. Each class yelled louder as the group passed by their section. They returned to the center and students started a drum roll as they waited for the announcement.

"FRESHMAN!" Although storming the court after a Spirit Stick win was against the rules, the freshmen still did it.

"We might not have been the loudest, but we, for sure, tried our hardest," freshman StuCo representative Kyra Gottfried said. "We didn't make the decision, the judges did, and I think they made the right choice."

As the crowd quieted and the freshmen were herded back into the bleachers, dance team members lined up to create an aisle for king and queen nominees to walk.

"Hannah Coates," Spirit Club member Kirryn Killingsworth announced. "Nominated by Spanish National Honors Society" Couple after couple walked through the arbor after each king candidate presented a rose to each queen candidate.

"Alex Walsh and Dawson Mesh," Spirit Club member Maggie Dewsbury said.

Students were dismissed to their classes, thinking more about the freshmen winning the Spirit Stick than the assembly itself.

STORY BY TEAGAN VANBLARCUM



Playing a bucket as a drum, senior Zac McCone performs with drum line using buckets, trash cans and metal chairs in replacement of drums. "When performing I just think about the music I'm playing and try to relax and have the most fun I possibly can," McCone said. Photo by Elexa Thawenow

50
 BACK IN THE DAY

In 1973, WPA was called "Queen of Coats"

Girls wore pantsuits as opposed to today's formal gowns. Music was provided by the Stage Band. Senior athletes, the only group to vote, selected Katy Arnett, the first Queen of Courts to be named. Students from both Wyandotte H.S. and Northwest attended the Homecoming dance after the Wyandotte- Northwest game. The first Queen of Courts was Katy Arnett.



Katy Arnett, First NW Queen of Courts



// The Lair Shawnee Mission Northwest High School Shawnee, Kansas

KEEP ON refreshing

SMSD canceled school and the WPA dance due to severe winter weather conditions

BACK IN THE DANCE



In 2011, Hope Wooten walked down the court with her 11-year-old younger brother A.J.

When I first learned that I was going to be on the court, my first thought was "All right, he'll be walking me since my dad's not here," Hope said. Her father, Lt. Col. Chris Wooten, had been stationed in Afghanistan for a year.

A.J. was just as proud as any of the other guys on the court.

"He loves getting dressed up," Hope said. "He likes to be the center of attention, but once he is, he's just a little boy."

The bleachers rapidly filled with students decked out in jerseys for the WPA varsity home basketball game.

Students wigged their fingers in the air, sending out waves of good luck to the Cougars. As the game went on, students and faculty members leaned forward in the bleachers, shouting encouragement to the players.

In the midst of the game, flakes of snow began to fall from the sky. That's when rumors began to spread around the gymnasium about school being canceled and the dance getting rescheduled.

Some students sighed in relief while others were highly disappointed.

"The dance being rescheduled was a bit of a hassle but we are all super flexible and hard working," stuco representative Alyssa Murray said.

Students constantly refreshed the SMSD twitter page for updates on the dance throughout the game.

The chances of the dance getting rescheduled were high, considering the district was thinking about canceling school Friday the 15th.

The buzzer for half-time went off and the WPA court candidates walked into the gym. Students cheered loudly as the names of the candidates for king and queen were announced. The girls and boys on court waited anxiously to hear the results.

"And your 2019 WPA queen is... Rachel Seibold."

"And your 2019 WPA King is... Dale Talley." "I told you they were a power couple," senior Cameron Shelby said.

As the excitement dialed down from the crowning, the court began to take pictures outside of the gym and the basketball team came back onto court ready to win. Meanwhile, students still refreshed the SMSD twitter page, hoping to get some news about the weather conditions.

DING
Students' phones were going off all throughout the gym.

"All schools and offices @theSMSD will be

closed on Feb. 15. Only essential SMSD personnel need to report to work Feb. 15. The current forecast of up to 6 inches of snow during the day tomorrow could..."

"No school tomorrow," junior Jan Lara shouted to the student body.

The Twitter post was screenshoted and posted to every classes GroupMe.

With five minutes left in the game and still no update about the dance, Shawnee Mission East still had the lead.

The buzzer went off. SM East had won the game. Students were upset over the loss but still ecstatic over the fact that they didn't have to stay up late doing homework.

As Friday came along students were wondering if they were ever going to get some enlightenment about the dance.

Students waited all day checking Twitter for the updated information.

DING
@SMNWOffice tweeted.

"The WPA Dance has been moved to Saturday, February 23 from 8-11 PM. Due to the possibility of additional snow arriving on Saturday evening."

Freshman StuCo Representative Sophia Brewer and other members of StuCo decorated the lunch room for the dance.

"I was sad because StuCo worked really hard putting decorations up super quickly with school being cancelled the Friday before," Brewer said. "I felt super bad for everyone having to reschedule appointments and reservations."

The night of the dance was a icy and rainy experience. Students arrived at the dance opening their car doors and carefully avoiding the mountains of snow in the parking lot.

"I was parked right next to one of the snow banks," junior Zach Dulny said. "I slipped out of my car and I yeeted over it."

The night went on with blaring music and full out dancing by everyone.

"I think everything worked out the best it could, given the poor weather," Murray said.

STORY BY MADEY GRAFT



Senior Jacob Shreve spins junior Peyton Aarni at the WPA dance Feb. 23 in the Cafeteria. Shreve's favorite dance move is spinning his partner. "My favorite part of dances is when we finally reach that point where we don't care how good or bad we are at dancing and we just have fun and let loose," Shreve said. PHOTO BY CAMERON ZAKEN

1. With his arm in the air, senior Peyton Carder dances Feb. 23 in the Cafeteria. Carder went to WPA with his friend, senior Chris Rong. "We were always dancing," Carder said. "When [Rong] made a move, I would make a move too." PHOTO BY EMMA THOMPSON
2. At WPA, senior Luke Towler dances in the middle of the crowd. During dances, students often form a circle around one person dancing in the middle. "I was just dancing with my friends so it was easy to have a good time," Towler said. PHOTO BY EMMA THOMPSON
3. In the middle of a conga line, seniors Alex Walsh and Tyler Fisher laugh. Senior Dawson Mesh started the conga line during one of the songs at WPA. "The conga line was fun and everyone joined in on it," Walsh said. PHOTO BY EMMA THOMPSON



BACK FOR MORE

Rescheduling the dance created big problems even for those just attending it. Dinner reservations, nail appointments, hair and makeup plans all had to be rescheduled. Since it was raining, some even had to change their picture locations. For junior Emma Gude changing dinner plans was not an easy thing to do.

"We had to reschedule our dinner plans for J-Bar," Gude said. "Because of that, we had to eat later and ended up arriving halfway through [the dance]."





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GET WITH THE times

Today's trends are mostly just **reinvented and repurposed** styles from another era

CONTENT GATHERED BY ALBY JAMES AND MOLLY ELLIOTT

NOT PICTURED:

Khakis: In colonial days, khakis were mostly worn by soldiers and explorers. Years later, they made their way into everyday fashion. They can either be dressed up or dressed down. They are now a quintessential part in many men's closets.

Quarter zips: Quarter zips, bringing together the simplicity of a sweatshirt and the versatility of a jacket. They are another item that can be used for casual look or a more dressed-up outfit.

Joggers: Designed to keep athletes warm while working out, joggers have been seen nearly everywhere. From their humble origins to being one of the most popular pants, joggers have taken over men and women's fashion. They didn't fully rise to extreme popularity until 2014. Their primary goal is not for exercise, although they do serve that purpose well, but to show off the expensive style of shoes typically worn with them.

STRIPES

Stripes are one of the oldest cloth patterns in history. They began as a way to signify lower classes, such as prisoners' clothing.

However, as it worked its way into fashion, the pattern had become a timeless style and has become widely used in the last two decades.

FANNY PACK

Originally called the 'bumbag,' the popular handbag, the modern fanny pack, was created in 1962. It was originally used for skiers and in the '80s and '90s for convenience but made its comeback started in the late 2010s. It is now worn on the hips or across the chest as a fashion statement.

JACKETS

Jean jackets were first created to be used by manual laborers, keeping them warm, and protecting them from inclement weather.

Windbreakers (originally known as windcheaters) were designed to protect outdoor enthusiasts from wind and rain. Much has changed and these jackets are now more fashion than function.

Since their introduction, jean jackets and windbreakers have been seen on many famous celebrities. While the use of the jacket has changed, its popularity as a fashion statement certainly has.

RIPPED JEANS

Ripped jeans have tears or rips, often on the knees but possibly in other locations.

They were popular in the late 1980s during the hard rock/heavy metal era and in the 1990s and 2000s during the grunge era. Punk culture also have been known to be fans of fabrics with various blemishes.

Today they are a staple of any wardrobe.

TERMINOLOGY

"Stan" - an overanalysis or obsessive fan of a particular celebrity.
"Bet" - Sure, okay
"Lit" - When something is very fun
"Book" - Shocked or surprising
"Tea" - Gossip or personal information belonging to someone else

"Skibzibzibz" - Results of one's keyboard being violently smashed when one is too excited, shocked or amused
"Wig" - Something exciting or crazy that I would make your wig fly off

MUSIC

(The most popular songs of 2018 according to Billboard Top 100)
"God's Plan" - Drake
"Perfect" - Ed Sheeran
"Meant to Be" - Bebe Rexha & Florida Georgia Line

TECHNOLOGY

Air Pods - Wireless earbuds
Nintendo Switch - Gaming console
Apple Watch - Smart watch
Venmo/Cash App - Mobile payment services
Bloomerang - Video creation app
VSCO - Photo editing/Social Media

KENDRA SCOTT

The popular, hexagon-shaped necklace made by the brand Kendra Scott has been a staple jewelry piece since 2017. It comes in a variety of colors and sizes and although the brand has different pieces, the original necklace remains the most popular and affordable.

NOT PICTURED:

Hoops: In the '60s and '70s, this trend was considered an African accessory, but expanded into more cultures and became widely-accepted. They seem to be timeless after decades of popularity. Hoops can be worn with any outfit and are typically worn to add edge to any street style.

Flannels: Before becoming a staple in most everyone's wardrobe, flannels were originally used to keep warm by Europeans during the colder months. Since then flannels have transformed into a casual shirt that can go with almost any outfit. Their resurgence in popular culture came in the '90s after popular grunge bands used them as a symbol for their music. They are now a classic item that isn't going away anytime soon.

Adidas Shoes/Yeezys: With a history dating all the way back to the early 1900s, the Adidas company has made its name in the world of fashion. Yeezy's, a highly collectible and expensive shoe, represent a collaboration between Kanye West and the Adidas Corporation.

TEDDY COAT

Even though popularized in 2018, the 'teddy coat' has been around since post-war Britain to keep motorists warm. It popped up as a fashion statement in the '60s made popular the original Rolling Stone himself, Mick Jagger, and was seen on the Christian Dior runway in 2019. Nearly as comfortable as your favorite blanket, the teddy coat is generally worn with jeans and a tight sweater or t-shirt.

AIR FORCE 1's

Created by NIKE, this lifestyle shoe has thick soles and a leather upper. Since they were first made in 1982 as a basketball shoe, they have since turned into a casual fashion statement.

The shoes are also versatile and can be worn with a bodycon dress or for a casual look, jeans and a sweater.

MOM JEANS

Originally a derogatory slang term describing high-waisted women's jeans, 'mom jeans' were brought back as a fashion trend in the late '00s. They were first made popular in the late '80s and early '90s and were commonly worn by middle-aged women.

Today's mom jeans are generally ankle-length with narrow ankles as opposed to skinny jeans that hug the legs all the way to the ankle.

Highly versatile, they can be worn with a crop top, t-shirt or fitted sweater, plus a belt and sneakers.





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Freshman Isiah DeLaughter displays one of the team's robot's 2019 goals to the elementary students Feb. 28 at Shawnee Elementary School. The robot must be able to pick up a ball and then place it in a specific place on the field. "I taught the kids how fun and hands-on robotics is," Rutherford said. "It was really exciting to see how [the kids] seemed very interested in joining in the future." Photo by Susan Hovavazian



1. Freshman Alyssa Rutherford explains the goals for this year's robot to the kids of Shawnee Elementary School Feb. 28. The robot must be able to pick up a ball and then place it in a specific place on the field. "I taught the kids how fun and hands-on robotics is," Rutherford said. "It was really exciting to see how [the kids] seemed very interested in joining in the future." Photo by Susan Hovavazian



Out SNOWED

Robotics students struggle to get their robot finished in time for competitions after six snow days force the cancellation of work time

The clanging and clattering of odd bits and pieces of metal echoed throughout Room C. Robotics team members rushed around the room, trying to make up for the work days they were forced to cancel due to snow days.

The robotics team is allotted six weeks to create a robot that can perform a predetermined task in competition.

"At the competition this year, we have a big plate that has a hole in the middle," senior Will VandenBos said. "We have to pick it up and put it on the side of a building. Then we have to take some balls and put them in a bunch of storage containers."

Two days each week, the robotics team worked from 3-9 p.m., and on Saturdays they worked for at least 10 hours. Some team members worked even longer hours.

"The time frame is the hardest because robotics takes up, like, all my time," junior Angelina Ortega said. "I spend about 35-40 hours a week at school working on the robot."

The team lost time to work on their robot after six snow days forced the team to lose access to the building and their robot.

"The school cut us off. We were going to work till midnight, but, because of weather, we had to stop six hours early," Ortega said. "We also have meetings on Saturdays and we weren't allowed to be at the school because of snow."

"The snow days were extremely prohibitive and not only delayed assembly of the robot, but also forced the team to take steps to speed up the process, which could lower performance in competition," junior Brogan McKenzie said.

The decrease in building time almost resulted in the team's failure to finish the robot.

"It was pretty stressful not having the robot done," McKenzie said. "But we knew what needed to get done, so we knew it was going to be okay."

The team attended a regional competitions around the country including Little Rock, Arkansas, and Kansas City, Missouri.

"The most stressful thing about competitions is not having any control over how the match plays out," McKenzie said. "Since I'm not a member of the drive team, I can only help with mechanical tasks. I feel like whatever happens is out of my hands."

Late one night, robotics team members sighed in relief knowing they had finished their robot. Members cleaned up their stations and waved goodbye to each other as they left the school on their last Tuesday work night.

"I've always been interested in the mechanics behind how certain objects worked and because of robotics I get to learn that," Ortega said. "Robotics has really opened doors for me. It has showed me what I want to do in the future and has given me something that I truly love doing."

STORY BY TATUM SCHERMAN



4. Freshmen Alyssa Rutherford and Isaac Seidner joke with each other Feb. 28 at Shawnee Elementary School during a presentation for the Robotics program. Robotics is a hands-on activity that encompasses problem-solving skills and teamwork to create a working, final product. "Everyone on the team is very encouraging, accepting and willing to help if someone has a question about what they are doing," Rutherford said. Photo by Susan Hovavazian

BACK TO THE BASICS



The NW team robot, Zaxxon, takes off in the FIRST Robotics competition March 7 in Kansas City, Missouri. The team finished with a record of five wins and seven losses. The 1962 on the robot's red apron is the identifying number for the team.



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RAIN, RAIN go away

Despite the canceled practices and rescheduled tournaments, the boys' golf team persevered through rain or shine

Golfers stood around at the Deer Creek Golf Course, patiently waiting to find out where they would begin the dual meet between SM South and SM Northwest. The sky above remained overcast, a bland gray.

BOOM!
 Thunder sounded after a bolt of lightning struck the ground close to the golf course.

"Our group at the 8th tee box did not see the lightning," freshman Michael Owens said. "We just heard thunder and rain [and] noticed it about 30 minutes into getting there. One of the coaches told us we had to leave. I didn't even get to tee off."

Officials raced to golf carts and sped throughout the golf course to get players off the course due to immediate safety concerns. The rain started to cascade and pound against the tops of their hats.

Players crowded under a balcony as they waited for their coaches to return, hoping to learn the status of the game. The rain spilled through cracks in the wooden floor above them.

"[Rain] doesn't make it impossible to play, but it makes it tougher because your equipment gets wet," senior Joe Bultman said. "It just makes [the ball] go less far and the water makes the ball come off the club differently than you expect it to."

Officials raced back, dropping off groups of golfers and their gear, and dashed back to the course to pick up more golfers. Rumors spread that the game had been called for weather and rescheduled the next Wednesday, April 3. Golfers spilled out of the inner building where the coaches met to tell their teammates the news.

Umbrellas sprouted as golfers walked to their vehicles with their equipment. In an instant, the course became

deserted as the storm continued to brew. Some players, however, missed out on their very first tournament.

"It was disappointing, especially for the guys," Owens said. "This would have been their [first] tourney."

When the golfers returned to Deer Creek April 3, the weather from the previous week had dissipated and the sun shone on the entire golf course.

Owens, among other players, stood at the hole 10 tee box, making conversation with opponents while waiting to tee off. He stepped up to the tee holding a four hybrid club in his right hand, and a golf ball in the other. He placed the ball on the tee.

WHOOOSH!
 The ball flew and settled next to a creek. He waited for his opponents to tee off. Their shots sailed over the creek, past the bridge and onto the other side of the course. Owens stepped toward the ball, his club hovering in the air as he prepared to swing.

WHAM!
 His ball soared over the bridge and toward the other side of the course. Again he waited for the others to take their next shots before walking toward the ball yet again and preparing for another swing.

WHACK!
 Owens' ball landed in a deep hole next to a stream. He carefully stepped around the hole and tilted his club for the perfect shot.

tap.
 The ball jumped back up to the course, closer to the hole. The other players praised his shot.

"It feels great to be back after having [the game] canceled," Owens said. "I think we have a really solid team, so I think we can go places this year."

STORY BY JASON EVERMEIER

BACK IN THE DAY

1972 golfer brought home the trophies

Two years after the building opened, the boys' golf team won the district title as well as the Sunflower League title. Chris Mostmann, 17, competed in the state tournament and brought home the championship trophy.



Freshman Adam Ramirez watches as the ball rolls into the hole at Lake Olathe. "Being a freshman, I was welcomed to the team," Ramirez said. "Everyday I look forward to improving." Photo by Steven HANSEN/STAFF



On the tee box, freshman Ryan Hanson hits hole 1 at Toriihawk Hills Golf Course. Thursday was the first time the team had a chance to play since the rain canceled the game. "I know I will be more confident moving forward," Hanson said. Photo by HANSEN/STAFF

BACK FOR MORE

Joe Bultman, one of the most prominent players on the golf team, was one of the only seniors on the team. The awards he's received include the Kenneth Smith award, 6A Player of the Year award, and KCGA Boys' Player of the Year award.



"Well, I got the opportunity [to play] because I reached out to coaches and encouraged them to follow me. After that, my play pretty much dictated where I would go. I love everything about Wichita State and it's been cool going on some visits and already getting to bond with the team."

—SENIOR JOE BULTMAN



1. Teeing off, sophomore Adam Ramirez hits a wedge off hole 6 April 1 at Toriihawk Hills Golf Course. Hole 6 gives the golfer a chance to practice their short game. "Hole 6 is a fairly easy par 3, especially because my short game is my biggest strength," Ramirez said. Photo by HANSEN/STAFF
 2. In the rough, freshman Ryan Hanson hits his second shot on hole 1 at Toriihawk Hills Golf Course. Hanson usually prefers to hit in the fairway in between the tee and the green. Photo by HANSEN/STAFF



PHOTO BY SEBASTIAN EMERSON
ILLUSTRATION BY ETHAN SCHNEIDER



chris ramsey

IN TUNE

Walking onto the stage of Greg Parker Auditorium at the Talent Show, freshman Chris Ramsey took a deep breath. He approached the piano, no sheet music in hand. He'd never seen the sheet music. He pulled out the black, shiny bench from underneath the piano and launched into the opening chords of "Infinity War" from "Avengers: Infinity War."

Although Ramsey could read sheet music, he did not need to. He could listen to a song and then play it.

Starting out with lower notes in the bass clef, Ramsey began the song, softly. It soon picked up pace, quarter note after quarter note resulting in stronger notes.

"I already figured out the 'Avengers' theme on piano so I just thought about playing it for the Talent Show," Ramsey said. For me, it's pretty easy. Once you know what key the song is in, it's just a lot of patterns because a lot of songs are similar in their core."

Playing songs by ear is different than being able to memorize different songs and notes. Playing by ear is essentially the ability to reproduce a piece of music without seeing it in any type of sheet music.

As Ramsey grew more interested in music, he started taking lessons to write his own compositions.

"Usually when I try to write a composition, I try doing a specific form or music theory," Ramsey said. "It's basically like a homework assignment. My teacher would tell me everything that was wrong with my composition and I just knew what to fix. I would always fix it in my own way, my teacher would just guide me."

Powerful notes echoed throughout the auditorium. Ramsey's five right fingers were in constant motion and his left thumb and pinky repeatedly struck G in two different octaves.

Although Ramsey learned to compose music on paper, he naturally heard music in his head. Those notes didn't need to be written down, they seemed to go directly to his fingers.

"You first get an idea, right?" Ramsey said. "Then you play around with it and make the changes you think you should make. This could be making the sounds of the keys louder or softer. Sometimes I play it in different keys or I play it backwards."

As his fingers continuously moved from key to key, Ramsey's head was angled down, intently moving left to right, following his

fingers rapidly playing triplets.

Today he no longer takes piano lessons or works to learn newer material, composing music has become his passion.

"Sometimes it's just kind of hard to come up with an idea," Ramsey said. "When you're playing new pieces, you kind of start to get new ideas, because in your mind, you just keep playing different versions in your head until something else pops out. If you're not playing any new pieces, it can get hard to come up with new ideas."

Ramsey competed in the Creating Original Music Project (COMP) at the University of Missouri, winning the 2018 middle school fine art division.

"Even though I have been performing in front of people for a while, I still get nervous," Ramsey said. "I don't think that ever will go away no matter how much I practice. My teachers have said that even the best performers always get nervous, but then you grow as a musician and you get better."

His hands raced across the keyboard simultaneously hitting repetitive, individual treble notes with the right hand and bass notes with the left as his eyes focused only on the keys.

"I guess once you've performed enough times, you get a little bit less nervous," Ramsey said. "But then what's more important is that, if I've played enough times, no matter how nervous you get, it just ends up coming naturally."

Eyes still glued to the keys, Ramsey began to slow down, to play more softly.

When writing a composition, Ramsey first played the melody of a song he would be relatively familiar with. He would play it with his lowest and highest fingers while, in between the chords, he would play triplets. Then he might do something similar, and then continue making small changes.

"Whenever I play things I know really well, time always seems to fly by," Ramsey said. "I could be thinking about anything and soon enough I'm done with the song."

He finished the performance with an emphatic chord.

"You can improve on everything," Ramsey said. "You can always play things faster, be better at reading the keys and seeing patterns. I think getting a taste for things has broadened my musical perspective."

His hands floated above the keys for a moment before he stood to face the crowd.

STORY BY TATUM GOETTING



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Shawnee, Kansas

american DREAM

As the **first** generation in their families to grow up in this country, two students and a teacher reflect on discrimination and maintaining their culture in America

STORIES BY MOLLIE ELFRINE

ACCEPTANCE

Junior Merceline Mogondo: Parents from Kenya

As she pushed her front door open and threw her backpack on her living room couch, she let out a sigh of relief. Junior Merceline Mogondo was finally home from a long day at school. As she walked farther into the house, she was greeted by her mom who was in the kitchen making samosas, a traditional Kenyan dish.

"It's so pretty [in Kenya]," Mogondo said. "There is so much you can do. I love how diverse it is. People always think that Africa, in general, is just poverty and we don't have money or food until someone goes there and sees how pretty it actually is. Then they'll know the truth. There's poverty all over the world, but everyone just focuses it on Kenya."

Mogondo moved to America at the age of seven. Her parents thought the success that she could have here would be better than her chances in Kenya.

"My parents brought me over here to have a better education," Mogondo said. "If I was in Kenya, I don't know what I would be doing after high school because it's so hard and people don't have a lot of money. They brought me here for a purpose."

IT'S HARD TO GROW UP IN AN ENGLISH SOCIETY NOT KNOWING HOW TO SPEAK ENGLISH.

— Junior Merceline Mogondo

America's economy and job opportunity is what tempts many immigrants to move. But having a different culture, way of life or even a different skin color can bring people face-to-face with challenges they have not encountered before.

"I feel like people who come from other countries are usually discriminated against," Mogondo said. "[People] stereotype them or they get bullied just because they are from another country or come from a house where they don't speak English or have a different skin color."

She faced many of these hardships at a young age in elementary school. At first, Mogondo didn't speak English; instead she spoke her native tongue, Swahili.

"I used to get bullied. I hope that now, people who come here at a young age don't experience that," Mogondo said. "It was painful for me, just seeing people treat me a certain way because of where I was born. You have to learn how to speak English and how to be American just for people to accept you."



FREE TO BE

Senior Mina Rulis: Mother from Japan

Senior Mina Rulis grew up in America but comes home to a house filled with Japanese culture, courtesy of her mom, a Japanese immigrant. "My house has a lot of Japanese artwork and tapestries, but we celebrate the traditional New Year's. We eat mochi together," Rulis said. "We also have a bucket at the front of our house where you put your shoes so you don't track dirt around the house. I've been learning Japanese since I was young."

I'm not fluent like my mom or anything, but I think it was a really good experience for me to learn about the language and the culture that my mom came from."

Rulis was pushed to do her best in school and have the same work ethic of those in Japan. She has also been raised to have major respect for others, especially her elders. "Japan has this really strong importance placed upon politeness and being respectful of other people before you put your own needs first," Rulis said. "There's a really constrictive system on

how you're supposed to go through life. So, you know, you strive for good education, you strive for good job, you strive for a simple family life. That's what's expected of you in society."

Not only was Japan strict about school, it could also be strict about social norms and breaking them. Rulis noticed this was not much of a problem here.

"The worst is just how constrictive it is," Rulis said. "There's so much pressure to behave a certain way. You can't go outside the lines, you can't defy societal stereotypes or expectations, or else you face alienation from everyone. So, things like homosexuality, to even simple stuff, like going outside of fashion norms, gender norms, things like that, it's still really hard to do that in Japan. I think there's still some progress that has to be made there."

Rulis thought there was room for improvement in both countries and gave credit to being a first generation American for that realization. She was grateful for both experiences in Japan and the United States.

"I think having an understanding of a culture that's very different from the United States has allowed me to be a bit more open minded when it comes to understanding the expectations or ways that people can behave in different parts of the world," Rulis said. "I know a lot of times, you hear about the strict testing environments and the really constrictive societal expectations and people think that's horrible. But when you hear about it, you kind of understand why or how those things impact the society, you become a bit more open minded about accepting other people and their cultures. That's important."

ASSUMPTIONS

Teacher Daniah Hammouda: Father from Kuwait and mother from Palestine

In the midst of a war-torn country, English teacher Daniah Hammouda's father had an easy decision to make: stay in Kuwait where the unemployment rate was growing or move to the United States.

"He wanted to move here for economic opportunity, which is the same reason for a lot of people, for the 'American dream,'" Hammouda said. "He had to leave, he had no other country to turn to, they were suffering."

As a first generation American, Hammouda has been exposed to more cultures than most. She has been pushed to view life from different perspectives and to walk in other people's shoes.

"My parents would always tell me that we have the upper hand as people who have roots in another country but also have deep roots in this country. We take what we want: the beautiful parts of both cultures," Hammouda said. "Having my parents from somewhere else has given me a better view of the world globally and it makes me more empathetic to not only what's going on here, but what is also happening in other countries."

Although Hammouda was born in America, her family brought over many traditions and ideals. She has been influenced by both Middle Eastern and American culture.

"Middle Eastern culture is more focused

on the collective. Here, there is an emphasis on individualism, [while] over there, there is a focus on family life and being together and staying together," Hammouda said. "There is also a lot of emphasis on food and being generous with food and treating guests well. Over there, they are less open to people from other cultures; here, there is more of a culture of open-mindedness. That's what I love about America, that idea of accepting people from other cultures."

For the most part, Hammouda has been accepted in this country, but she has come face-to-face with racism because of her Middle Eastern heritage.

"When people first see me, they automatically think that I wasn't born here, that's the assumption," Hammouda said. "They assume that I'm going to have an accent as well and when they hear me talk perfect English, they get thrown off. I have had comments made to me and my family along the lines of 'go back to your country.' People make assumptions that we don't belong here, even though my dad has never really felt like he belongs anywhere but here."



IT ALL COMES DOWN TO... This school opened with only one student of color. Today, many cultures comprise our student body.





// The Lair
 Shawnee Mission
 Northwest High School
 Shawnee, Kansas



Sophomore Julie Carson takes a breath during her 200 yard butterfly April 5 at Summit Trail Middle School. Carson finished with a time of 2:25.06. "I love butterfly because only a select few people actually want to do it, and it makes me feel strong and free to be able to hang out of the water." Carson said. Photo by Sarah Blosser

ON THE block

The girls' swim team encouraged each other through rigorous practices and healthy routines to prepare them for the first meet of the season

Cheering from the stands, the crowd grew louder by the second as girls dove off the blocks. With every stroke, fellow teammates shouted words of encouragement for the first swim meet of the long season ahead. "Go! Go! Go!" swimmers chanted.

It all began on the day of tryouts. With towels wrapped around them, swim caps and goggles in hand, the swimmers, new and old, gathered in a circle for their daily prayer and warm up. "Walking into tryouts, I knew I wasn't going to be perfect," freshman Sarah Ellison said. "I just wanted to showcase that I have the technique and work ethic of a swimmer." With challenging warm-ups and strict routines, the coaches timed and observed everything. From the moment the girls dove into the water until they pulled themselves out again, the coaches carefully watched their small, black stopwatch. "Every day is different because

we'll be at a different point of training, and it depends on the time of the season," assistant coach Sarah Moles said. "Coach Ryan [Lee] is creative with his sets. Their sets are timed, the rests are timed and everything is on an interval." From training six days a week to practicing two sessions every day over Spring Break, the girls' swim team often found themselves resting whenever and wherever they could. "I fell asleep on the kitchen floor while I was making dinner after practice," Ellison said. "I was making pizza and, after I put it in the oven, I was getting something out of the lower shelves. My arms were killing me. I had a couple minutes before the timer went off, so I figured I might as well sleep." In between practices, the girls had to maintain a healthy diet and get enough rest in order to be successful. "We tell them 'everything matters,'" Moles said. "Getting good rest matters, eating right matters,

working out in the weight room or working out on dry land matters. All these things come together for them to be able to perform at 100 percent." Gasping for air before diving back underwater, senior Olivia Terryberry practiced her technique and stamina with her new routines for the day. "Our coaches try to drill it into us that every time we're in the pool, it's just like a race. It's an opportunity for us to get faster and get a better time," Terryberry said. "We work on having the same mindset every time we step into the pool room: I need to improve myself and get a better time for my team."

"Take your mark," the announcer said. The buzzer beeped. Swimmers immediately dove off the starting block and into the water. "Go! Go! Go!"

During the 200-free relay, junior Skylar Brogan's arm arched back and dipped into the water as she inched

ahead of the competition. Jumping up and down at the edge of the pool, junior Bailey Cavin warmed her muscles up to get ready to take her mark in the 200-free relay. She stepped up to the block, placed her arms and hands in front of her and when Brogan's hand touched the wall, Cavin dove off the block. She flew above Brogan and began the next 50 yards. Brogan jumped out of the water, her fellow teammates greeted her with words of encouragement. Seconds after, Brogan joined in the cheers to motivate her teammate to finish the relay strong. "It's the mentality of the environment," sophomore Julie Johnson said. "At practice, it's a little more relaxed, and it's not as much pressure to go fast. When you're on the blocks at a meet, you get [self] conscious because it's not like practice. You have to be ready to go the distance and do it at 100 percent."



1. At the end of the pool, Jansie Cattie Wood cheers on her teammate March 20 at SM North. Wood is one of the two team captains. "In the middle of challenging races there's nothing more encouraging than looking up and seeing teammates at the end of the lane cheering me on," Wood said. "We always make it a priority to be there for each other at meets." Photo by Evan Dorey 2. Freshman Sarah Ellison swims backstroke April 1 at Chisholm Trail Middle School. Ellison swims butterfly as well as backstroke. "I love the feeling of being on a team," Ellison said. "I love how supportive all of the other girls are and how motivational the environment is." Photo by Evan Dorey



BACK IN THE DAY

The first style of swim suits were a lot different from the ones they wear now



While swimmers need to be fast and have stamina when swimming the design of the swimsuit is key. From the first year NW started a swim team the suits have been fitted to have less weight against the water. From 50 years ago to this day swimsuits were both fitted to each girl and has improved over the years.

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3. Junior Skylar Brogan hugs and congratulates sophomore Katelyn Dahl on qualifying for state in the 200 yard backstroke April 5 at Summit Trail Middle School. Both Brogan and Dahl swam the 200 yard backstroke. "When you swim the same event as one of your teammates, you learn their times and you know when they've had a great race," Brogan said. "I was really happy to be able to share that moment with her." Photo by Sackey Habsztra 4. Freshman Emma Ayers high fives senior Olivia Terryberry after their 200 yard medley relay race April 5 at Summit Trail Middle School. The 6 medley relay finished with a time of 2:13.45. "Staying positive and working hard helps me set a good example for my team even though I'm only a freshman," Ayers said. "Support can mean a lot." Photo by Sarah Blosser



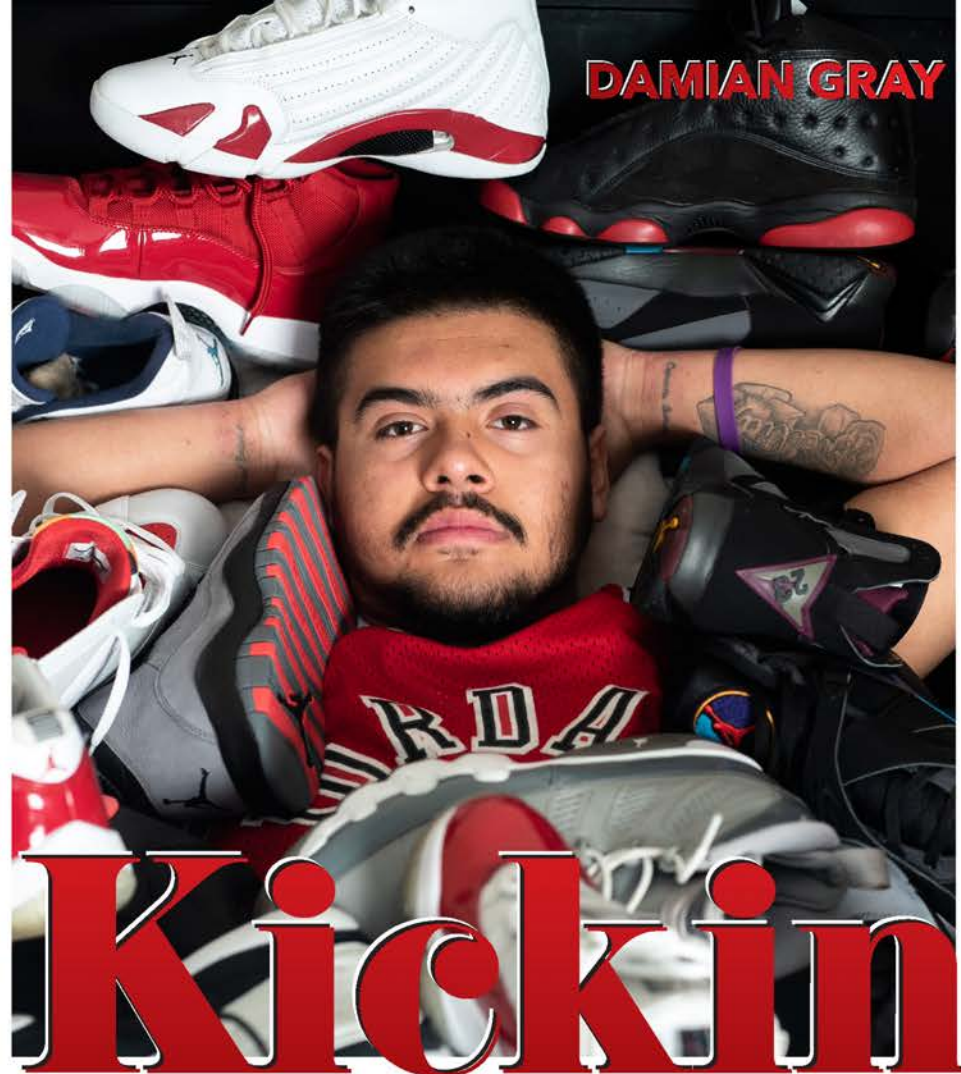
BACK FOR MORE

The results from the Girls' swim meet on March 20, at SMN

- Junior Bailey Cavin: first place in 50 and 100 freestyle
- Sophomore Katelyn Dahl: first place in 100 backstroke and second place in 50 backstroke
- Sophomore Julie Johnson: first place in 100 breaststroke and second place in 50 breaststroke
- Junior Cattie Wood: second in 50 butterfly and third place in 100 butterfly
- 200-free relay: 1st place (Juliana Kanter, Skylar Brogan, Bailey Cavin, Julie Johnson)



// **The Lair**
Shawnee Mission
Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas



Two juniors **spent time and money** pursuing their hobby of **collecting, protecting and loving sneakers**

As junior Damian Gray walked through the hall, sporting his Jordan Bred 11s, his friends and fellow classmates showered him with compliments. Finding the perfect pair of shoes to go with an outfit was a difficult task when there were more than five dozen to choose from.

"I started collecting back in seventh grade, but I didn't start getting a lot of shoes until eighth grade," Gray said. "Now my collection is at about 65 pairs."

Of those 65 pairs, Gray's Jordan Bred are not only his favorites, but the pair he most recently acquired. The price on these ranges from \$375-\$400, but Gray paid \$345 from StockX, an online

purveyor of high end collectible sneakers. StockX guarantees the authenticity of the items they sell.

Getting a particular pair of shoes isn't always the easiest. Sometimes Gray can find them online, sometimes they are out of stock or maybe available but in the wrong size. Gray had been eyeing these shoes for a couple months. Finally, they were in stock with his shoe size. Gray, realizing he was short on money, decided to sell his Jordan 6 "sport blue" after considerable deliberation. He found them from his collection and cleaned them up to try to get a better price.

"Mainly I post them on the social media I feel more people will view," Gray said. "But I was in a

little bit of a rush, so I started texting a couple of my friends to try to get a quick sell."

Gray wasn't the only one with an impressive collection. Junior Franco Torres had been filling his shelves for years. Torres treated his shoes almost like another family member; he tried to prevent them from becoming worn and ruined.

"My family knows my love for these shoes, so they know to try and not step on them and mess with them," Torres said. "I've put so much time and money into my shoes, almost \$1,500. I treat them with the best care I can. Whether that's putting the deersers in to make the toe stay firm or cleaning them, I will take no shortcuts."



Gray sat on his bedroom floor, mixing soap and a variety of chemicals into a bowl of warm water that would be used to clean his shoes. He carefully removed them and located the smudge. Carefully, he wiped at the black mark and scrubbed. This time, Gray was lucky and the mark disappeared quickly.

"I've cleaned hundreds of pairs of my shoes, friends' shoes, family members' shoes - it doesn't matter to me," Gray said. "But cleaning mine makes me feel different because they are my property."

Although they shared the same interest, Torres and Gray started collecting shoes for different

reasons. Gray was fascinated by the design, while Torres was all about the hunt and the profit.

"The hustle about it made me want to keep going," Torres said. "[I enjoy] buying a pair, new or old, cleaning them up to make them look good, and then selling them again for maybe \$50 more than I got them for."

Gray planned to turn his hobby into a business. "I decided to keep on collecting because I saw a video on YouTube that you can make money by doing shoe reviews. I am still in the process of trying to do it, but that just made me want to keep going," Gray said. "I also want to start my own shoe business or have my own store."

Once every two months, the boys pack up as much of their collections as possible and head to downtown Kansas City, Mo., for sneaker-con. Here, they try to buy or trade the sneakers they have for a pair they have had their eyes on, or a pair that will make a big impact on their progress.

"Mostly, I sell or trade to my friends," Torres said. "If someone really wants a [specific] pair, I'll make a deal with them, like, if they buy these two pairs, I get an expensive pair they don't want. When we go to big shoe conventions, I will only go for what I feel is smart."

STORY BY MICHAEL SEE
 PHOTO ILLUSTRATIONS BY NICHOLAS STYERS



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Freshman Daniela Chacon prepares to kick the ball March 22 at Trailridge Middle School. The Cougars lost to the Mustangs 0-3. "The best feeling is to score a goal," Chacon said. "Even when we fall we always have fun." Photo by Chase Moore

BACK IN THE DAY

Girls' soccer has not always been a sport.

Girls' soccer wasn't introduced until 1989 and the 1990 roster did not include a single returning senior. The team was mostly freshmen and did not have any established captains. Head coach Chuck Steadwood instead relied on sophomore goalkeeper Andi Taylor and junior forward Brooke Emery to be on the top of their game in order to be role models for the rest of the team.

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1. Freshman Dejanai Jackson turns and sprints for the ball April 2 on the OHSAA soccer field. Jackson was the only freshman to begin the season starting on varsity. "I feel powerful when I'm on the field, and I get all my emotions out when I play," Jackson said. "It doesn't matter if I'm happy or mad, it all comes out on the field." Photo by Chase Moore
2. With the ball at her feet, senior Megan Goetz dribbles it up the field March 22 at SHAC. The Cougars lost to the Mustangs 0-2. "When we lose it's always a let down because we all feel like our hard work should culminate into a win," Goetz said. "With such a strong senior presence it's very easy to pick ourselves up and identify what is wrong." Photo by Sawyer Hildebrand
3. Junior Sophia Pope kicks the ball away from an Olathe North player March 27 at SHAC. The Cougars lost to the Eagles 0-1. "During a game there's nothing else I'm thinking about other than where the ball is and what plays I should run," Pope said. "It's the best feeling when I do a move or a fake and the crowd starts screaming." Photo by Chase Moore



4. After a break down of the game, sophomore Olivia Lovelle yells "COUGARS!" March 27 at SHAC. The Cougars lost 0-2 against the Del Norte Bulldogs. "My favorite part about the team is how well we all get along and bond easily," Lovelle said. Photo by Dylan Monroe

COME AGAIN?

The varsity roster included two freshmen and a sophomore with a torn ACL.



SOPHOMORE
LAUREN SANDERS



FRESHMAN
SOFIA HUGHES

ON edge

The girl's varsity soccer game March 27 against Olathe North was a game full of close calls and conflict

Students in the bleachers stood as freshman Dejanai Jackson rapidly dribbled the ball down the field toward Olathe North's goal.

Rise and sit, rise and sit. The crowd followed this pattern as the disappointment from miss after miss followed everyone's excitement over nearly-scored goal after nearly-scored goal. Several times, the ball either flew over the top, hit the goal post or went slightly to the right.

"We were all a bit nervous going into the game because we changed up our formation just a couple of days ago, and with the game getting moved up due to weather, we hadn't had that much time to practice in it," senior Megan Goetz said. "It worked out really well though, and even though we haven't had our best showing yet as a team, we are slowly becoming a more cohesive unit and it's really good to see progress in just the three games."

Unlucky. It was the only word to describe the game. Fast breakaways led to misses time and time again.

"I thought we played better as a team and kept our composure on the ball," junior Sophia Pope said. "Even though we weren't able to put any in the back of the net, I was happy to see us getting more shots off."

The team had two pre-game rituals: eating dinner together as a team the day before and saying a prayer right before the game started.

"When we pray, we say we hope everyone stays safe and that we have the strength to play a great game," sophomore Tatum Schuerman said. "In the prayer circle, I feel so close

with my teammates and I know that they will have my back when things get hard in the game. It is a great representation of what it's like to be on the girls' soccer team."

During the match, assistant coach Drew Perkins became irritated after an Olathe North player hit the ball with her hand, yet there was no call. Perkins yelled at the referee.

"I was just confused by how he didn't see it," Perkins said. "So I got on him and he gave me a yellow card. Just another day at the soccer fields, I guess."

The ball went from baseline to baseline with fast breakaways as time in the second half ticked away. Rise and sit, rise and sit: cheers and sighs, cheers and sighs. Attempt after attempt from excitement to disappointment. Fifteen minutes turned into ten, which turned into five with no luck. As time ran out, both teams got more intense and aggressive. Ten seconds left on the clock and another miss. The back and forth battles ended in a NW defeat of 1-0.

"After the game, there were a lot of emotions coming from my teammates," Pope said. "Starting off our season 0-3 really puts us in a hole, but all of us have seen improvement since the beginning of the season. We're starting to play better together and hopefully we will continue to work out the mistakes. I hope that we let the losses drive us, not discourage us, and that throughout the season, we will become stronger as a team."

STORY BY TEAGAN VANBLARCUM



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JUST GOT served

The boys' tennis team **shared how tennis is not just about playing, it's about the people**

Freshman Andrew Braun bounced a neon yellow tennis ball on the green concrete. He picked it up, placed it high in the air and pulled his arm back. He took a deep breath, threw the ball up and with one quick downward motion hit the ball with his racket. It flew right over the net.

"I joined the tennis team because I have been playing since I was like six years old," Braun said. "It is like any other sport you play as a kid, it just kind of grows on you and becomes part of you so you continue to do it when you grow up."

Braun and the rest of the boys' tennis team played their first matches on March 21, against the Blue Valley North Mustangs.

"Honestly, my first game was good," Braun said. "I didn't feel any kind of pressure. It all came very naturally to me."

On March 28, against Olathe North, seniors Henry Tomasic and Mason Darpel stood in the athletic stance position, waiting for their opponents to serve the ball.

"Being in the middle of a set, when I'm

waiting to return a serve, my mind goes blank and I'm in my zone," Tomasic said. "It's incredible, when you rely on your instincts to play and every moment feels automatic."

When the ball was served over the net, Darpel yelled "Back! Back! Back!". Tomasic shuffled to the right, threw his arm back and then swung to perfectly hit the ball in the center of the racket.

"We tend to use one-word communication like 'up, back, net, mine' to tell the other person where we're going or where they need to be," Tomasic said. "But, once you play with a guy enough you don't need lots of that. You can predict each other's movements."

Being on the tennis team has taught the players more than just how to play tennis.

"Being on the tennis team has taught me leadership skills on and off the court," Darpel said. "Even though it is not much of a team sport, I still have learned how to support each individual's game and skills."

Playing tennis was an outlet for many members on the team.

"Tennis is a huge outlet for me and that is because it needs all of your attention," Braun said. "That means I am not focused on whatever it was I was stressing about before."

"It's something that lets me express some emotions," Tomasic said. "It's cool to notice how my emotions translate into my play and how it positively affects the match."

Tomasic and Darpel finished the game strong and ended up winning their match.

"When you win a match you get some congratulations from your teammates, coaches, and fans, but I like to internalize my feelings and use them as motivation for my next match," Tomasic said.

Some might see tennis as an individual sport, but players feel differently.

"They're a fun group of guys," Tomasic said. "Even though tennis is an individual sport, you can feel the support of the team in every point you play. There is nothing better than having that support."

STORY BY TATUM SCHUERMAN



1 Senior Mason Darpel in action during a tennis match March 21 on the NW tennis court. Darpel lost 30-40 to his opponent. "What I really like about tennis is how no matter if I'm losing I always try my best," said Darpel. "I always stay in focus to get my opportunity." PHOTO BY CUNASO ZAMUDIO **2 Freshman Andrew Braun** returns a serve April 2 on the NW tennis courts. The Cougar lost the match to the Lawrence Free Base, Firebirds 6-7. "When I am playing tennis I'm feeling really competitive," Braun said. "Your opponent could make a really nice shot to end one point, but the next point you have to top your opponent's shot." PHOTO BY NICKOLAS STREAS

BACK IN THE DAY

In 1969, tennis teams didn't use rackets made with carbon fiber composites they used rackets made out of wood. The wood rackets had smaller racket heads and weighed more. By the year 1990, wooden rackets became obsolete. Instead, students used the new and improved tennis rackets.



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Senior Mason Darpel dives for the ball March 27 on the NW tennis courts. Darpel won the set 6-3. "What I really like about tennis is how no matter if I'm losing, I always try my best," Darpel said. "I always stay in focus to get my opportunity." PHOTO BY THOMAS DELZERT



3 Junior Will Crafton jumps up to return the ball March 2 on the NW tennis courts. Crafton and his doubles partner junior Justin D'Silva ended their match with a tiebreaker of 8-6. "It was the second tiebreaker of the week," Crafton said. "It felt so good to finally win during such a long match too." PHOTO BY NICKOLAS STREAS **4 In the air,** senior William Braun hits the ball March 21 on the NW tennis court. Braun played singles and won the set 7-5. "I love going all out at meets," Braun said. "I just get so into it, all I can think about is hitting the ball over the net." PHOTO BY THOMAS DELZERT

BACK FOR MORE

Tennis terms

Love - zero points

Match - The overall contest, usually decided by the best two-out-of-three sets.

Set - A scoring unit awarded to a player who or team that has won, (a) six or more games and has a two-game lead, or (b) six games and the tie break game when played at six-all

Stroke - The act of striking the ball with the racquet

Volley - During play, a stroke made by hitting the ball before it has touched the ground

Rally - A series of good hits made successfully by players. Also, the practice procedure in which players hit the ball back and forth to each other



// The Lair
Shawnee Mission
Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas



RUN FOR THEIR money

GAME
Assassins

EQUIPMENT

Suggested: water gun or squirt bottle. Umbrella, for use as a shield

COST

\$5 to enter. No additional costs for equipment if participants still had water guns from their childhood.

COORDINATOR

Senior Henry Fears

OBJECTIVE

Spray water at the target – the person randomly assigned in each participant by the coordinator.

METHOD OF PLAY

Those who are sprayed are out. Those who avoided being sprayed by round deadline lived to see another day. Each player had to assassinate at least one target by the round deadline to avoid being eliminated. The last person standing won \$600, a pool of money made up of the \$5 entry fees.

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

120

Senior Elijah Hodson's phone lit up with a text from senior Katie Brockmann.

"Hey if ur still trying to get Hannah I know she goes to young life on wed nights. I think it starts at 8 but olivia usually picks her up a little bit before then. If u decide to wait outside her house or something for her to walk out when olivia is picking her up. I would park up the street and around the corner or have someone else drive u because she knows ur car. If u get her, u owe me."

Hodson smirked, grabbed his keys and headed to senior Hannah Coates' house, hoping to spray her with water to eliminate her from the schoolwide game of Assassins.

"I was excited to get the text from Katie," Hodson said. "I thought to myself that this was my chance to get Hannah and that Katie and I set her up."

Brockmann hit the back arrow, leaving her chat with Hodson. She scrolled through her texts messages until she stopped at Hannah Coates. Brockmann began to type.

"He should be here soon."
As Coates walked out her front door, she held a water gun in her hand. The hood of her gray parka was up. Her head tilted toward the ground.

When Coates opened senior Olivia Terryberry's car door, Hodson stumbled out from the bushes beside the garage and sprinted towards Coates. Coates turned and began to run, but Hodson caught up with her.

He sprayed Coates, dead on.
"I got you!" he triumphantly shouted.

Coates took off her hood. Except it wasn't Hannah Coates, it was Andrea Coates—her mom.

"My mom is my partner in crime," Coates said. "I don't think I would be as far as I am in this competition if it wasn't for her."

Hodson shook his head back and forth while looking at the ground. Suddenly his head shot up, and his eyes got wide as he heard movement, somewhere. The back door of Terryberry's car slammed shut. The real Coates ran toward Hodson and shot him with her water gun. Hodson spun around quickly, drew his weapon and shot Coates.

"I got you," Coates said. "Pose and let me take a picture of you for the Twitter page."

"No, we shot each other at the same time," Hodson said. "I'm not out."

Coates and her mom looked at each other in disbelief. "We were just shocked," Coates said. "I mean his back was turned to me when I hit him, so there was no way we shot each other at the same time."

"I was nervous that I would get eliminated," Hodson said. "To be that close to winning and then getting out would suck, but I'm grateful that Henry told us we were both still in [the game]."

Hodson walked back to his car and fled the scene. Coates turned to her friends and family members, still in shock after what occurred in her driveway that night.

"I was super upset about not getting him out, even though I thought I did," Coates said. "But Henry said he couldn't do anything since he wasn't there to see it. He did believe me, though, and gave me a free kill. But the idea that it could be him winning the whole thing sucks, since I did get him out."

Coates shut the front door on her way back inside and thought about that night.

"I've learned that my mom is super intense," Coates said. "And that I need to record my kills [with my phone] from now on."

Lesson learned.
STORY BY TATUM SCHUERMAN

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SYLVIA BLOOMAN

COME AGAIN?

The first five people who got killed shared their takes on their run in Assassins (Start time: 12:01 a.m.)



NATALIE HOLE
time in game: 12 hrs. 19 min.
"Considering how many hours I made it, I thought I gave it my best effort. But I would say that it wasn't my best performance. I was disappointed but I can't say that I wasn't surprised. I was even more sad that one of my friends got me out, too."



EVAN BORBERG
time in game: 14 hrs. 45 min.
"I did quite poorly. I would not like to reflect on my performance because I'm very upset."



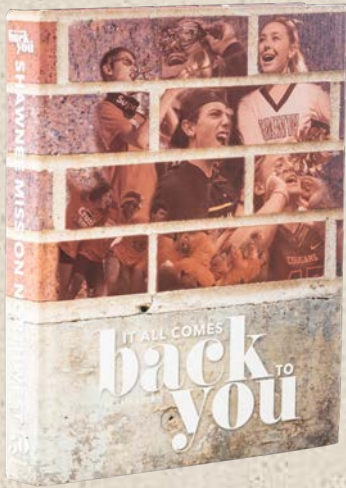
CATE CUNNINGHAM
time in game: 15 hrs. 6 min.
"I did pretty great. I wasn't the first person out and that was my goal. I'm glad my friend [Mason Ferguson] got me instead of someone I didn't know. I had fun so it doesn't matter."



ELIZA KIDDER
time in game: 16 hrs. 2 min.
"I was excited that it was my first time playing and then I got out the first day. It was such a bummer. I thought I would do better."



KAYLI KINSELLA
time in game: 16 hrs. 6 min.
"I set the bar pretty high. No, I was a little disappointed because I wanted to get killed, but I guess I don't have to worry about people coming to my house and getting me out at random times."



// **The Lair**
*Shawnee Mission
 Northwest High School
 Shawnee, Kansas*



Running FOR Home

With a long season ahead of them, the softball and baseball teams set their goals early and practiced hard to achieve them

At the March 21 varsity baseball game, senior Jacob McClain hits the ball at Bishop-Magee. The Cougars beat the Shags 12-1. "It felt nice to have a big number on the scoreboard after dropping our first game," McClain said. "I'm proud of the team for being able to forget about the first game, fight hard, and get the win in the end." Photo by Evan Dwyer



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COME AGAIN?

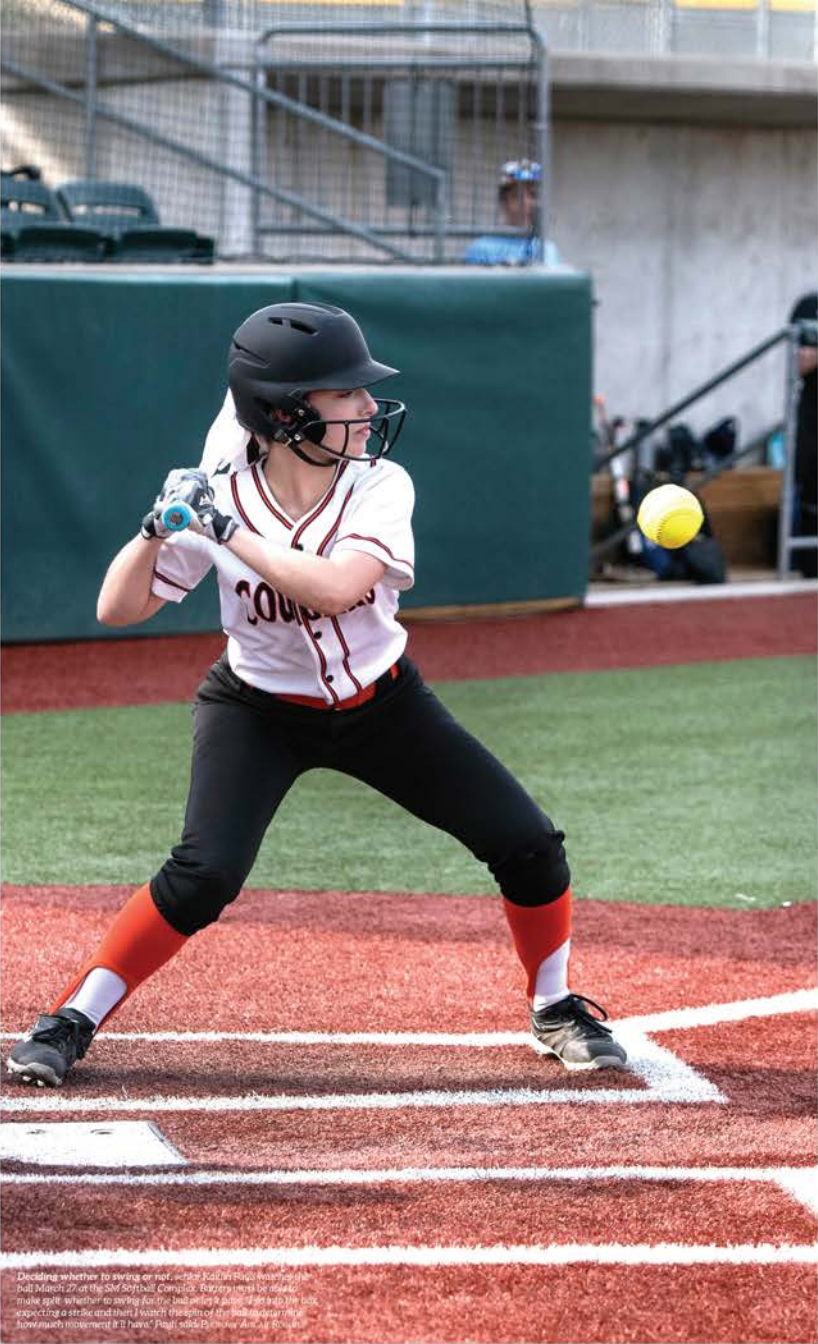
Behind-the-scenes, managers helped coaches and team members

Whether it was tying players' shoes, filling up water bottles or getting towels to wipe away sweat, managers worked nearly as hard as the players. Junior Katie Gardiner knew this all too well. "This is my first year managing," Gardiner said. "Both my freshman and sophomore years, I was playing varsity, but last season I injured my back and was not able to play this season."

Gardiner, who wanted to remain close with the team, decided to become a manager. She remained part of the team, even without an number on her back.



1. Senior Megan Formwalt throws the ball March 27 at SM Softball Complex. The players warm up by catching and throwing balls before the start of the game. "[We practice] some ground balls before the game to adjust to different types of fields," Formwalt said. "The ball will have a different bounce on a dirt field than a turf field so the reps help us prepare us for that in the game." Photo by Erika Brown. **2. Surrounding junior Emma Gude**, the softball team slaps her helmet March 27 at the SM Softball Complex. To celebrate Gude hitting a home run, the team waited for her at home base and celebrated in her foot at the base. The feeling of having all your teammates at home plate cheering you on is like none other," Gude said. "It's so energizing and it really boosts your confidence." Photo by Erika Brown.



Deciding whether to swing or not, junior Kathryn Brown swings the bat March 27 at the SM Softball Complex. Brown must be able to make split-second decisions when it comes to swinging the bat, especially when expecting a strike and then it turns out to be a ball. "It's a tough decision to make," Brown said. "I have a lot of practice swinging the bat." Photo by Erika Brown.

No mercy

In the first game of the season, the softball team left Lawrence in the dust with a 6-1 win and moved on to ravage SM East in an 18-1 mercy game

Although the first week of tryouts brought rain, cold and even snow, the girls still walked onto the field wearing only sweatshirts and sliding pants. They toughed it out, put on their game faces and played to impress.

Once the team had been selected, the girls resolved to put in the mandatory three hours of practice daily, regardless of the weather.

"Practice always seems to be uplifting," junior Brooklyn Cowan said. "We're always talking and laughing and encouraging each other. I know if I have a rough day, practice will lift me up."

To force the players to strengthen different skills, the coaches followed no specific pattern in their schedule for the drills, and the players had no idea what was in store for each practice.

"We always start with a 20-30 minute warm-up that consists of stretching, running, armbands, throwing, and sprints," captain Megan Formwalt said. "From there, it depends on what the coaches have scheduled for the day."

Each day, practices focused on team effort and prepared them for the next game. The girls came to school wearing their clean jerseys March 26 for their first game of the season.

The first game was important because it's the starting line of the season and it sets the expectation for the team.

"On the field, we had a lot of energy," pitcher Jennaka Bullman said. "Everyone was up on the fence and talking when

we were in the field. Off the field, we are all really close and supportive of each other."

The game ended 6-1 and the Cougars had won the game.

"The atmosphere is always a lot lighter and more fun after a win," Formwalt said. "We usually blast music on our speaker and dance."

Taking home their first win of the season put all players into high spirits.

"I'm going into games with a more dominant and disciplined mindset this year," Bullman said.

The second game was called citing the mercy rule and the girls took home an 18-1 rout of the Lancers.

With many practices to come, players were determined to make this the best year yet.

"This year, I took on a new position," Cowan said. "I've been all over the place on the field, but I'm a catcher now. It's been fun learning and improving a little bit more every day."

Freshman Anne Borberg experienced the beginning of the season from a different perspective. Although it was not uncommon for a freshman to be on the varsity team, she was the only freshman to make the cut this year.

"It was a little nerve-racking at first but they made it so fun that I honestly couldn't be more comfortable," Borberg said.

STORY BY MADDY GRAFF



3. Cutting low, junior Jennaka Bullman cuts a low ball March 27 at the SM Softball Complex. Bullman pitches and plays first base. I think being able to hit and pitch is actually better because I already know the umpire's strike zone when I get up to bat," Bullman said. Photo by Erika Brown. **4. High-fiving senior Megan Formwalt**, senior Erika Paul celebrates the varsity team's win March 27 at the SM Softball Complex. The Cougars won a mercy game against the Lancers 18-1. "It was awesome that we were able to play our game consistently," Paul said. "I also loved the energy of our team." Photo by Erika Brown.

50 BACK IN THE DAY
 The 1974 softball uniforms

With numbers made from duct tape and haphazardly placed on the on girls' sleeveless jerseys, the 1974 uniforms were a far cry from the polished uniforms of today. Girls tied their jerseys with hair ties as both a fashion statement and to make them more fitted.



Beth Hahlen (75) Elaine Dollins (74)



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hit OR miss

Varsity took the win on their home opener at 3&2 and set a path for the season

BACK IN THE DAY ⁵⁰ Uniforms from the very beginning to now

In 1990, the Boys' baseball were the KSHSAA state champions in class 6A. There were only two other times that the team were state champions and that was in 1991 and 1993.



Under a gloomy sky, parents and students filled the stands at 3&2 Baseball Complex carrying blankets and umbrellas. They eagerly awaited the first pitch of the first home game.

"The weather cooperated with us for the most part, but when the sprinkles were coming down, we started to get worried," sophomore Justin Mitchell said. "But we were able to finish out the game. It was a great way to start the season."

After a loss in the first game, this one left the players and fans with a positive preview of the rest of the season. Two games later, the team had started a winning streak.

"I think this season will play out really well," junior Evan Borberg said. "This team has much more chemistry than the past year which plays a main factor in a winning team."

With more age diversity than in the last few years, the varsity roster featured multiple sophomores and a freshman.

"I think this is a great opportunity that we have here," sophomore Duke Henke said. "It's definitely making us better players overall and we are all getting good experiences for our futures."

Fast forward to a few days after the home opener. The team, parents and students all found themselves back at

3&2 with the same goal as before: to walk away from the game with another win on their record.

The game started off strong with four runs scored in the first inning and another run in the second. The game became sluggish for the next few innings, as neither team scored.

The seventh inning eventually began. Fans cheered as Henke sprinted along the base path to third and dove to the plate as the ball was thrown. It shot over the third baseman, as he jumped for the ball. The crowd leaped to their feet and cheered for Henke. He sealed the deal on a win as he ran over home plate.

"I was really excited, especially since so many people came out to support us at this game," Henke said. "It meant a lot."

Excitement lingered in the air as the team gathered their things from the dugout. Soon the stands cleared, parents and fans wandered to their cars. The team paraded their way to the parking lot and piled onto the bus to begin the celebration.

"I feel so confident in this season because I know I can trust everyone that goes out there with me," Borberg said. "We're all doing our absolute best."

STORY BY MAGGIE DOLNAR



From the pitcher's mound, junior Jordan Linderer pitches the ball March 21 at Bishop Miege. Linderer's pitches get toward the batter at 80 mph. "My main focus while pitching is to try and keep the hitters off balance," Linderer said. The goal is for outliners to win, and we work together for this," says my Edin Dyer



1. Before the game, seniors Lucas Bick, Mark Adamiak, and Evan Higgins talk in the outfield March 26 at 3&2 Baseball Complex. The Cougars beat the Indians 4-0. "Most of the players coming into this year had been playing with each other for years beforehand, so that made bonding with them easier," Adamiak said. Photo by STEVEN HONDAHMAN
 2. Junior Evan Borberg runs to first base after hitting the ball April 6 at 3&2 Baseball Complex. Borberg catches, bats, and plays third base. "I always think about the situation on the field, but otherwise I try not to think or all and just let my instincts take over," Borberg said. Photo by STEVEN HONDAHMAN



3. Before the game, junior Darius Freeman practices catching March 26 at the 3&2 Baseball Complex. Freeman plays second base. "I am involved in every play whether that's backing up the pitcher, going for a ground ball, a double play, or being a cut-off man for the outfield," Freeman said. "The most important thing involved with all of this is quick hands, quick feet, and a good reaction time." Photo by STEVEN HONDAHMAN
 4. At the JV game, sophomore Landyn Luttrell dives back to first base March 27. The Cougars beat the Lamora 5-3. "At games, I ask myself what I can do to help us win and what I can do to help my team," Luttrell said. "Whatever that is, I play my best to do it." Photo by Edin Dyer

BACK TO THE BASICS

What's in sophomore Ty Blecha's baseball bag?

- Compression Sleeve
- Broken/New Bat
- Gloves
- Helmet
- Batting Gloves
- Sunglasses
- Cleats
- Sunscreen
- Eye Black





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HAD IT IN THE can

Amid **cutthroat competition** between social studies teachers Matthew Wolfe and Rebecca Anthony, StuCo raised over 11,000 cans for the **Johnson County Christmas Bureau**



1. **Sophomore Erin Albers counts the cans** Rebecca Anthony's class turned in for the Canned Food Drive Oct. 31. The first place winner for the large classes was Debra Brewer's Bio 1. In the medium classes, Amy Walker's AP Psych class won. In the small classes, Johnny Winston's IB Chem class took the 1st spot. "I love feeling that I'm helping out so many families in my community," Albers said. "It's good to give back to those who need it the most." Photo by Sebastian Dierksen



BACK FOR MORE

Senior Bryce DeBok created hype posters which Matthew Wolfe forwarded to his class



In retaliation, Anthony's class made posters, too, and hung them in her room.



Are you going to stand for this nonsense?

Stacks of brightly colored cans and boxes, piled high on several carts and palettes, flashed by the doorways of third hall classrooms. Seniors Dawson Mesh and Alex Walsh peeked into social studies teacher Matthew Wolfe's fifth hour class, each holding a white T-shirt that contained the words "Can Wars" in bold orange letters.

"Anyone want a T-shirt? They're only \$10 and they're really cool," Mesh said. "And all the money we raise goes directly to the Johnson County Christmas Bureau. Plus, you get 2000 points for your class."

For two weeks, students brought various canned, boxed and packaged foods to their fifth hour classes, along with spare change and dollar bills. StuCo members recorded the donations from each class and awarded points. Besides, of course, bragging rights, the classes competed for a pizza or ice cream party, with the knowledge they had assisted community members.

"This year, we set new goals: we [collected] 11,000 cans, which exceeded our goal by like 1,000 cans," junior Alyssa Murray said. "Something we always have to overcome is getting students to participate because sometimes it can feel kind of lame. By stepping up and being an example as Student Council leaders, we can encourage our peers to participate, too."

Back in Wolfe's classroom, motivation ran high as he ran through his annual shtick to encourage his AP Micro class to take out their donations.

Directly behind Wolfe, a poster, bearing a photo of him holding a championship belt, quietly declared his assurance in his class and their cause.

"I was blown away by my [students] — we raised over 2,000 cans in my class alone,"

Wolfe said. "They went above and beyond. When we started, the goal was 1,000 cans and \$300. We shattered that."

Down the hall, standing in front of a marker-splotted white board detailing an intricate battle plan, social studies teacher Rebecca Anthony rallied her class to bring in more cans.

"Wolfe and I tried to amp up the competition aspect because that's what, for better or for worse, motivates people," Anthony said. "But our end goal was really just to donate a lot of cans. It is good to do things for other people, and it's just heartwarming to see students spend money they probably worked hard for and come in with \$50 worth of cans."

At the front of her classroom, a pyramid of boxed macaroni sat waiting for StuCo members to count and collect. The rest of the class's donations lay sprawled along the counter, stretching from the front of the room to the back.

"It's good to get students involved in something where you're helping people you don't know, just because it's the right thing to do," Anthony said. "It's important that students realize that there's a bigger world out there besides just [them]."

Two weeks later, after a surprising turn of events, science teacher Johnny Winston and his fifth hour students enjoyed a break from that day's lesson as they feasted on pizza, courtesy of StuCo.

"I didn't win this year," Wolfe said. "However, we're still pretty doggone proud with what we did to assist the community. It really shouldn't be about winning or losing, it should be about the fact that we're trying to help people. So, I didn't lose, the community won."

STORY BY ZOE CERDA



Sorting in the middle of the Art hallway, junior class president Kate Woodhouse (top) and junior Payton Rowland (top right) are counting cans. Class points are recorded for class points immediately after being collected. "All of the numbers, points, and calculations have to be correct because it's a competition and people get pretty serious about it," Wood said. "We were to give them the credit they deserve." Photo by Sebastian Dierksen



2. **Sophomore Elizabeth Kufjan pushes a cart of cans** Oct. 31 in the basement. Student Council members collected cans from classes and brought them to the basement to be sorted. "Putting away cans was kind of crazy because we had so many boxes and the pile just got bigger each day," Kufjan said. Photo by Sebastian Dierksen
3. **Freshman Michael Owens plays catch** with sophomore Brady King Oct. 31 in the basement. Students brought in canned foods and money to donate as a part of the Canned Food Drive. "Having the NW community as a whole come together to raise all the money and food that we donated was heartwarming," Owens said. Photo by Sebastian Dierksen
4. **Sophomore Brady King finishes bringing boxes from room 11** to sophomore Erin Albers Nov. 1 in the third hallway. King helped with counting and boxing the cans for the Canned Food Drive. "Knowing that the time I put in would truly benefit our community and people in need was the best," King said. Photo by Sebastian Dierksen



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Senior Lance Teschendorf laughs. Anna Schmidt and other poetry club members (clockwise from top left) Teschendorf said, "I love how we're about people and their experiences." Teschendorf said, "I think we're the most genuine and authentic poetry club around." Teschendorf said, "I love how we're about people and their experiences." Teschendorf said, "I think we're the most genuine and authentic poetry club around."

BACK IN DAY

The Poetry Club formed in 2011. Laura Alsmann and Paige Cook founded the club which was sponsored by Video Production teacher Lindsay Kline. This organization later started Poetry Slam.

1. Senior Zoe Cerda smiles while pointing at an imaginary book Feb. 6 at Panera Bread. Cerda told about her personal experiences with immigration. "It's hard seeing someone you care for go through all of the unfair processes of immigration," Cerda said. "My grandfather, for example, had to wait a really long time to get citizenship which put a lot of emotional stress on everyone around him."

2. Senior Emma Ottinger works on her poem during a club meeting. Ottinger was coming up with ideas for a poem about immigration. "We're writing about these topics because they're relevant in America today," Ottinger said. "We're spreading awareness with art that really seems to affect people." Poem by Aser Bay.

At a Poetry Club meeting, Chris Winko, class of 2023 performs a poem on March 9, 2022.

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FINDING THEIR voices

The Louder than a Bomb poetry team **uses inspiration from their lives and others'** to write a group poem to perform in competitions in the Kansas City area

Keys in hand, backpack slung over one shoulder, senior Henry Hales scrambled into the outside seat of a back corner booth at Panera Bread. "Sorry, sorry," Hales said. "I know I'm late."

In frustration, Anna Schmidt clicked random keys on her laptop and groaned.

"Don't worry about it," Schmidt said. "I can't even get my VPN to connect."

Senior Jake Brundrett frantically slammed the backpack key before running his right hand through his hair. He sighed, looking at the half-empty Google doc.

Poetry is important because it's a means of disrupting national narratives about important events," Louder than a Bomb (LTAB) sponsor Julianne London said. "Poetry is a peaceful way of calling into question that which we have come to accept so easily."

The 2019 LTAB team was composed of Hales, Schmidt and Brundrett plus seniors Zoe Cerda, Emma Ottinger and Lance Teschendorf. The group spent early mornings and late afternoons writing poetry inspired by their lives and the lives of others.

Poetry offers students an avenue to participate in conversations about issues that directly affect them. Namely: national issues or issues of social justice," London said. "It gives them a sense of empowerment, a sense of belonging and community."

The team competed against schools in the Kansas City area for a spot in the national competition.

"LTAB is an enlightening experience," Brundrett said. "You see people from different areas, different backgrounds, listening to each other. It's eye-opening to see people's emotions and experiences and how that affects them."

In the back booth, the four voices became more disappointed and upset. In bolded italics, Schmidt typed the line "I want a lip stain in 40 colors. One for each shade of melanin that Neutrogena forgot about. Enough to cover the shades of... white girls who pretend to be who they aren't for likes on Instagram," and the poem began.

"There's definitely a vulnerability to [poetry]," Brundrett said. "But I think, with my personality, if someone doesn't accept the things I say or doesn't understand the experience that I have or the lack of experience that I have, whatever."

"You know, I'm writing just to write. I'm doing what makes me feel good."

In their first competition of the year, Cerda, Schmidt and Ottinger, flaunting their matching denim jackets and burgundy lipstick, stepped toward the mic. Cerda inhaled deeply, signalling the start of the poem.

"If I had 80 cents on the dollar for every time someone touched me in the hallways, I could buy every single must-have makeup product out there and maybe even some self-confidence, too," Ottinger said.

"My best friend, who used to tease me for being 'too much of a girl' now carries a pocket-size mace on her keychain, walks quickly on her way to med school, head down, praying for safety. This must be what it means to be a woman," Schmidt said.

"We use a lot of personal experiences in our poems," Cerda said. "Poetry doesn't do anything unless you can make your audience feel something, unless you can be so open and honest and vulnerable with them that you force them to empathize and identify with your experiences."

STORY BY TATUM SCHUBMAN

YOU'LL COME AROUND

The top six rules for being a part of Louder than a Bomb

1. Teams are comprised of 4-6 poets.
2. No more than four poets on stage or on mic at any time during the slam.
3. Team members must be between 13-19 years old (Caveat: turn 20 before day of LTA-BKC Finals).
4. Participants must be physically present and checked in with the host manager at least 30 minutes before the slam begins. Lateness to a scheduled bout time may result in disqualification for the participation.
5. Each bout will have four rounds and each team will be required to perform at least one group piece - constructed and performed as duets, trios, or quartets - per bout. Each performing member of a group piece must have participated in the writing of the group piece.
6. Each poem must be under three minutes, thirty seconds in length. Scores will be penalized for going over the time limit. Penalties will begin after a 10-second grace period at which time a 5-point deduction for every 30 seconds over time will be assessed.

Reading their group poem, seniors Anna Schmidt, Zoe Cerda and Emma Ottinger compete at the Louder Than a Bomb competition Feb. 25 at Rockhurst University. The poem was about the importance of feminism in America. "Everyone in [Poetry Club] this year was amazing because we are all really talented and we all have a huge passion for poetry," Cerda said. PHOTO BY PETER BOKMAN



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KINDNESS WEEK

How do you spread kindness on a regular basis?

MCKENZIE PARKS

I like to smile at people in the hallway.

CADE SWANSON

I am trying to not be as sarcastic, as some people have pointed out me to be. Aehm.

MASON DARPEL

Singing loud for all to hear

What's an act of kindness that inspired you?

CALVIN HOWARD

Dr. Gruman saying good morning to every single person that walks through the doors in the morning.

ZOE KOPP

I have been feeling sick lately, and Ederia Thompson has messaged me privately just to check up on me and that meant a lot.

HANNAH SULLIVAN

Jack Burton paid me for assassins <3

What does it take to be kind?

EDERIA THOMPSON

One thing. Selflessness

JUAN PINEDA GOMEZ

Empathy. Being able to naturally put yourself in others' shoes to understand how they feel.

ANNA LISSA HOUSER

It takes someone comfortable enough with themselves to express kindness. Learning to realize that someone else's compliment isn't a blow against you.

KEEP THE BEAT

The Advanced Repertory, Repertory and Tech Theatre classes produced **"Band Geeks"** April 5-6

The loser.
The wallflower.
The jock.
The geeks.

Those were the characters they played, but that wasn't who they were.

Under the direction of senior Lily Havranek, 17 students from various theater classes were cast into the student led production of "Band Geeks". Havranek was challenged by theater teacher Jason Coats to broaden the students' acting skills and break them out of their "typecasts", or the characters that closely match their real life personalities.

On Jan. 16 at 9:13 p.m., 17 students learned who they were going to be for the next 11 weeks.

Junior Jackson Tomlin, always the dancer, always the bold and brash supporting male, found his name sitting at the top of the cast list on Google Classroom. He was now "Elliot", the awkward, clumsy captain of the marching band.

"Throughout my NW career, I usually get cast as supporting roles that are more for comic relief. I get more leads in outside productions," Tomlin said. "I was definitely surprised when the cast list came out because [getting a lead at school] normally doesn't happen for me."

Senior Christian Anderson found his name next to "Jake", the former

star football player, forced to join the marching band. This wasn't the paternal, refined role he was used to being cast in.

Starring alongside Tomlin, the joyful, enthusiastic junior Claire Severance was cast as "Laura", Elliot's quiet, reserved crush.

Each was pushed to become a person completely unlike previous roles and even more unlike their own personalities.

"My character is 100 percent different than what I usually play," Tomlin said. "Even though he's still kind of the funny character, he is also a geek. I have to quote a bunch of Star Wars and Fantastic Four movies as the character. I don't know much about that stuff."

Once the light hit the stage, they weren't themselves.

Anderson was no longer the old soul.

Severance was not the bubbly girl.

Tomlin wasn't the dancer. They weren't the just students.

They were band geeks.

STORY BY ETHAN SCHREIBER



Smiling at each other, juniors McKenzie Parks and Gerri Rodriguez. Brundrett choreographed the Spring play "Band Geeks" Mar. 4 in the Greg Parker Auditorium. Parks plays Felicia and Rodriguez plays Toby. "I got really excited when I found out that I was going to get to choreograph," Parks said. "It's such a new experience for me and everyone to being really supportive with all the dances I teach them." PHOTO BY ERIK HANSEN



Art NHS President Mila Pulls pipes a Henna art design on a cookie Jan. 25 in the Mall. Henna is a type of temporary body art created by staining skin with Henna dye. "Everyone was really enthusiastic about getting to share parts of their own culture with the student body. It was great to be able to learn more about certain aspects of other people's cultural identities," Pulls said. PHOTO BY SEBASTIAN EMERSON

LISTEN TO THE POEM

The annual NW Poetry Slam occurred

Senior Jake Brundrett read his poem at the Poetry Slam April 5 in the Library. Brundrett's poem was a letter to his future wife. "My imagination was the articles and videos of older couples that are so sweet and perfect. I just hope I'm lucky enough to meet someone like that," Brundrett said. PHOTO BY KIM SPENCER/STAFF



Senior Jake Brundrett stepped onto the temporary stage in the middle of the library. He carried a piece of paper in his shaking hands. "It was so bittersweet when I stepped on the stage for the final time,"

Brundrett said. "I love the fluttery feeling I get when I present. There were some sad feelings because I knew it would be my last; however, I was proud to see what Northwest poetry has become. It was a flood of emotions."

The annual poetry slam gave students the ability to share their stories with teachers and peers. Carrying a microphone, junior Ally Banks sashayed onto the stage. "Knock-knock," Banks joked.

"I agreed to be emcee because I love the poetry slam," Banks said. "I wanted the poetry slam to have a fun and welcoming environment because the poets need to feel comfortable and the crowd needs to have a good time."

DODGEBALL

Four teams **battled it out** in the annual dodgeball tournament

"Dodge! Duck! Dive!" Student Council representative Michael Lammers shouted. The tournament began with a round-robin between the four teams: The Cap Removers, Sniper Guys, Boing Boys and Stewzie Boys. With only 24 people playing, the annual dodgeball tournament had one of the lowest turnouts of the past few years.

Because there were so few people, after the round-robin competition was completed, and rankings were determined, the top teams battled each other.

"I think the turnout was a little disappointing," senior Tyler Fisher said.

"There were only four teams and usually there are 10 or 12. The new format of the tournament helped with the number of games being played."

The final game, between Sniper Guys and Stewzie Boys, ended as sophomore Brady King, a player for the Sniper Guys, was hit with a ball at the last second, resulting in a win for the Stewzie Boys.

"I think the competition was great and the refs did a good job with some close calls," King said. "It could've gone either way, but overall it was heated and intense and both teams gave it their all. I'd love to see a rematch."

At the dodgeball tournament, senior Luke Towler slams the ball at the other team March 2 in the Main Gym. Towler's team, "The Stewzie Boys," won the tournament, beating the "Sniper Guys" in the final round. "My friends and I just decided we should make a team and we know we could win," Towler said. "It felt really good to win, and we were all excited." PHOTO BY ABBY FROST



icyymi
IN CASE YOU MISSED IT



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Shawnee, Kansas

With his hands in the air, sophomore Philip Vesta keeps from the take off line on March 22 at Blue Valley. Vesta placed eleventh in the long jump. "I love long jump because you don't have to worry about the people next to you," Vesta said. "It's just you and how far you can jump." Photo by RILEY BROCK



JUST KEEP *Running*

Due to **passion, dedication and sheer willpower**, the track and field teams were **right on track**



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MAKING Progress

The track team **worked** through difficult practices, seeking **development** and **success**

The frigid, mid-February wind swirled around juniors Sydney VanHorn, Amy Kowalczewski and Gracie Goodpaster and seniors Sammy Weians and Riley Demo as they ran down 67th Street, surrounded by the leftover snowbanks from the previous week's storm.

VanHorn, sporting a thick sweatshirt and fuzzy earmuffs, exhaled deeply. Her breath crystallized in the air, forming a vapor cloud.

As they rounded the corner, the girls told jokes to distract themselves from the cold and pass the time.

"I joined track because I liked the distance girls I was running with," VanHorn said. "We always talk about our days and about whatever is going on in our lives, and, if we have any tea, we share it. This season has been rough, so we've been having to grow closer together and really just help each other through our struggles."

After 30 minutes of running, the girls looped back into the NW parking lot, exhausted, but ready to do the whole thing again the next day.

"Mondays and Wednesdays tend to be our hard days," coach Johnny Winston said. "Those days, we tend to be on the track, running very hard and very long, and it is a struggle for the athletes. Their bodies can generally handle it, it is their mind that tells them 'this is too hard.' So we have to work them through that."

The team practiced four times each week, rain or shine, snow or

no snow, constantly working to shave a few seconds off their time, to last a few more meters. Despite this, they maintained an inclusive environment, where progress was valued over everything else.

"We are a no-cut sport, so anyone really can run track," Winston said. "Every week, provided that you have come to practice, that you have done what you're supposed to do and that you try hard, you compete in the meet. I have seen a lot of people overcome a lot of obstacles to be able to compete. Anyone that works hard, over the long course of the season, gets better."

At the JV meet, sitting on the grass patch in the center of the track, freshman Max Garay, surrounded by a group of boys, cheered for teammates as they sprinted the 100-meter dash. The gentle sunshine of early spring warmed the ground and illuminated the boys' outlines. Garay glanced at sophomore Cade Swanson, smirking at an inside joke.

"Track is a really positive environment," Garay said. "We're always making random jokes and telling stories to make the meets more enjoyable. When I joined track, I didn't really know that many people, but everyone instantly welcomed me into their groups. After about a week of being on the team, I finally understood what people meant when they said 'track is for everyone.'"

STORY BY ZOE CERDA



1. Sophomore Kaiden Horton sprints the 100-meter race March 26 at Olathe North. Horton does sprints and long jumps at a part of both track and field. "I do sprints because I don't have enough training for long distance," Horton said. Photo by Kasei Sawasawetwiri

2. Junior Kenyon Thompson sprints the 100-meter race March 26 at Olathe North. Thompson finished with a time of 15.9. "My favorite thing about doing sprints is just putting myself to get better each time I run," Thompson said. "Everyone is so supportive and such a great atmosphere to push you to get better." Photo by Kasei Sawasawetwiri



Peggy Rose (74) heads down the straightaway.

BACK IN THE DAY

Track was introduced as a girls' sport in 1973.

The team consisted of 22 girls and finished fourth in the district and two girls qualified for the state tournament.



Crossing the finish line, freshman Christopher Ramsey looks toward his competitors March 22 at Edin Valley. Ramsey ran the 100-meter race in 13.31 seconds. "If track is about one thing, it's about pushing yourself and knowing that you're good but wanting to be great," Ramsey said. Photo by RILEY RUCKEN



3. Senior Tamara Martin runs with a baton in her hand for the 4x100 relay race March 26 on the Olathe North track. Martin's 4x100 relay team placed second. "My favorite thing about sprints is the wind blowing through your hair," Martin said. "I enjoy it because it's really relaxing." Photo by Kasei Sawasawetwiri

4. Seniors Isaac Freeman, Luke Aikens, and Kenyon Thompson compete against each other in the 100-meter dash March 26 at Olathe North. Freeman finished with a time of 13.9 seconds. "It's easy to enjoy track and field because of the atmosphere," Freeman said. "I think it's really fun because I get to hang out with my friends." Photo by Kasei Sawasawetwiri

IT ALL COMES DOWN TO...

Weather affects runners greatly, both in performance and comfort. Here's a list of the weather from the week of their first meet.

- Sunday, March 31: Cloudy, high of 46
- Monday, April 1: Partly cloudy, high of 55
- Tuesday, April 2: Sunny, high of 58
- Wednesday, April 3: Mostly cloudy, high of 64
- Thursday, April 4: Rainy, high of 60
- Friday, April 5: Partly cloudy, high of 47
- Saturday, April 6: Rainy, high of 72



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1. Clearing the bar, sophomore Brandon Berlin competes on March 22 at Blue Valley. Berlin's personal record is a height of 8 feet and 6 inches. "I have a lot of fun with the people on the team, and doing the event itself," Berlin said. Photo by Raulz Becerra. **2. On his toes, junior Marques Cook** releases the shot put April 1 at SM South. Cook placed 13th with a new personal record of 42.5 feet. "[While I throw] I try to focus on my left arm and getting it up and around," Cook said. "I also try to focus landing on my toe so I can turn my hips and get my leg power into it." Photo by Eran Homon. **3. Freshman Kira Cacioppo** approaches the end of the runway at Olathe North track on Mar. 26. Cacioppo wanted to try pole vault after talking to Coach Peters about her gymnastics background. "My favorite thing about pole vault is getting to practice outside," Cacioppo said. "Everyone is very encouraging which makes pole vaulting so fun." Photo by Razi Senigakuram.

Sophomore **Aashlyah Lewis** vaults over the bar. Her coach at the Shawnee girls track, Lewis participated in the JV relay and had a personal record of 7 ft. "I'm naturally a shy person, and this looked like a sport that was fun," Lewis said. "After I participate in each meet I gain an idea of what I need to improve on this season to win my personal record." Photo by Razi Senigakuram.



field

TAKE THE

Field is mostly an **independent sport**, but the friendships make it a community for the members

The sun beat down on members of the track and field team as the sprinters ran along the red-ish brown rubber track; hurdlers set up their hurdles, and the jumpers, javelin, pole vault and the shotput members gathered on the field.

Field, a diverse sport made up of nine different events, included boys' sprints/hurdles, girls' sprints/hurdles, pole vault, discus/shot put, javelin, distance, long jump, triple jump, high jump and short sprints, all unique in their own sense.

The personal improvement aspect of Field caught varsity javelin thrower Adam White's eye. It wasn't only a physical sport, Field is a mental sport as well. Over the three years he had been on the team, he had to learn to not over-analyze things, relax and trust his instinct.

"It sparked my interest," White said. "Watching people throwing and trying to nose into it sounded appealing."

Field events required an independent athlete, one who could work to improve on one's own. However, the field athletes supported each other and celebrated other's victories.

"Seeing a kid reach a goal, push themselves out of their comfort zone, or smile after they did something they didn't think they could do, makes it worth it," pole vault coach Eric Peters said.

Varsity javelin thrower Rylee Garrett began throwing javelin because her twin brother convinced her to, but she stayed in javelin because she had built genuine relationships with people outside her normal friend group.

"It's really fun; everyone is always laughing," Garrett said. "If you're not, you're not in the right event."

While other sports require athletes to keep their main focus on beating another team, track members say the biggest competitor in Field is yourself. Members fought to improve and surpass their own personal records. It was a constant strive to leap forward and watch themselves improve.

"After beating your personal record, there's an intense feeling of excitement, like all your work paid off," White said.

JV vaulter Sydney Allen had been in Field for two years so far, both of which she had participated in pole

vault. She was on JV for both years. She joined because she wanted to do a sport to keep in shape.

"The biggest challenge was not getting upset when you don't meet your goals," Allen said. "But you keep practicing and you'll get better."

While practices were meant for members to improve and progress on their personal goals, for some, meets were more relaxing. The only difference was there were more people (and less time to warm up and practice).

"Meets are fun because practices are where everyone's working hard," White said. "At meets, you get to relax and let it all go."

In Field, there were no limits to how many of the nine events you can participate in. The first event you chose didn't have to be the event you had to stick with; you could try new things throughout your time in Field. If someone didn't like the event they were in, they simply chose a new one.

"We're all here for the same reason: to have fun," White said. "It brings everyone closer together and makes us a community."

STORY BY CHARITY SAUNDERS



On her final step, junior **Rylee Garrett** goes to release the javelin April 2 at SM South. Garrett placed fifth with a throw distance of 107.01 feet. "I try to focus on having the perfect amount of aggressiveness and control on my approach," Garrett said. "I've been working to beat the school record which is just about 11 feet over my PR." Photo by Eran Homon.

COME AGAIN?



Tuesday, March 19, sophomore Garrett Goetz was being shown how to throw a Javelin by his friend, junior Isaac Tuitt. Tuitt had said he was going to throw it at him, so Goetz tried to dodge, getting hit in the left groin. Students around Goetz at the time were terrified, they didn't expect anything like that to happen.

"When I saw him lying on the ground it was obvious that he had been hit," White said. "And the thought of that was a huge shock to me."

Goetz ended up in the hospital for five hours, and out of school for one day. Tuitt was removed from the team.

"I think it's an overall good experience," Goetz said. "I'm still throwing Jav and I have a cool story to tell."

PHOTO BY SEBASTIAN EMERSON



kansas city SONGBIRDS a capella

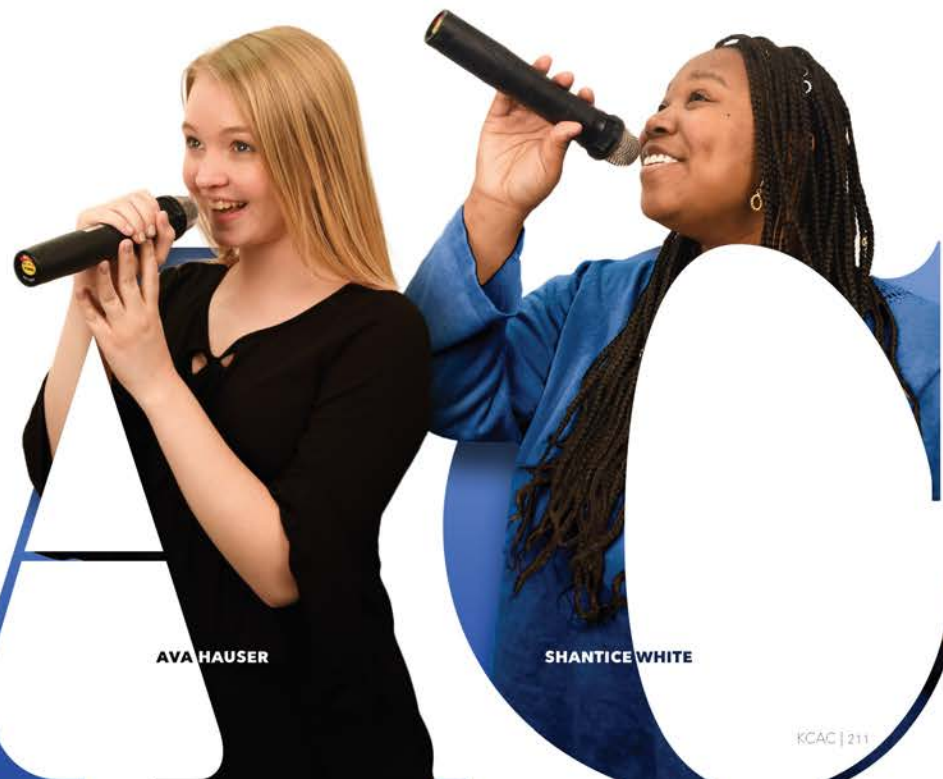
Some performers don't need their instruments, **just their voices**

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Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas



DEVYN TRONDSON

JACKSON TOMLIN



AVA HAUSER

SHANTICE WHITE

Performers in sparkling blue costumes gathered on the side of the stage as they anticipated for the quarter-final results. This year was the time to claim first place and head to the semi-finals, and that's what one local a capella group, Soundproof, did.

KC A Cappella is the company that sponsors the group Soundproof. This well-known a capella group was comprised of highly talented high school performers in the metro area. This group performs at annual competitions in pursuit of a national award.

"It's a rush when competing, it's other groups watching and learning from other groups, too," senior Ava Hauser said. "Just having that moment on stage when I hold my mic and look out into the audience and I think about how lucky am I that I get to do something so cool like this."

Four NW students auditioned and were invited to join Soundproof: Hauser, seniors Devyn Trondson and Shantice White and junior Jackson Tomlin. These four members have all worked with area theater companies as well as in NW productions, like "Oklahoma." But performing with KC A Cappella was very different, both in the type of music attempted and in the way the performers interacted because they sing unaccompanied versions of popular songs and perform sets with themes rather than a show. Think "Pitch Perfect."

"It's very different because everyone there cares," Tomlin said. "Everyone had to audition. If you made it in, like, you made it, and you want to be there."

Not only were the competitions fun, but they were also rewarding. Not with prize money or scholarships, but with exposure and connections.

"People will know you, a capella associations and groups around the country will know you if you have that high ranking," Hauser said. "It means that experience this can get you gigs and brings on a lot of cool opportunities, like in LA and stuff."

For the past two years, Soundproof sang their way to second at quarterfinals, but did not qualify for semi-finals. But in February, they placed first and qualified for the semifinals March 23 in Ohio.

"It's kind of a blur because it was this amazing moment and just like screaming and tears," Hauser said. "I remember standing next to Jackson Tomlin and Sam Wise and squeezing their hands. As soon as they announced the second place group, we kind of had a feeling that we were about to win. I was squinting my eyes and really squeezing tight. We did it."

Not only did they win first place as a group, but junior Jackson Tomlin won an individual award for most outstanding choreography. Because the group had hired their own choreographers in the past, they had not qualified in the past. This was the first time a member had won that award.

"Since I am experienced in choreography and dance, our director asked me to choreograph it," Tomlin said. "To be honest, I made that my top priority for a long time. I put so many hours into that and it really paid off. I feel like with that award, it really like made me realize how much I loved it. So we only have rehearsals once a week, but it's like my favorite part of the week."

Soundproof not only competed but produced their own albums and songs. In 2018, the group uploaded a music video onto YouTube which garnered nearly 6,000 views.

STORY BY MOLLY ELFRINK



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ABBY FOGAN

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Shawnee, Kansas*



WE'RE STILL *Here*

*50 years went by and we
have seen a lot of **history,**
innovations and people,
this rich history was part
of the many things that
made up Northwest*



"The Mall" represented a new architectural approach to a high school as a gathering place for students. While technology and academic philosophies have changed over the years, the Mall has remained the central corridor of Northwest.
Photo illustration by AJAY KHAN

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BORN TO innovate

With an emphasis on giving power to students, the youngest SM high school opened with educational ideas ahead of its time

In 1969, a new Shawnee Mission school was established as one of the most technologically advanced, student-driven and unique schools in the nation.

"[Northwest] was built as the high school that was going to be different from the other schools," Merlin Ludwig, NW's first principal, said. "They wanted a progressive program. We worked with the central office staff to get the things we needed and to implement the 'Student First' program."

The innovative Student First program allowed students to be heavily involved in the decisions made for the school. They had the opportunity to participate in interviewing potential teachers, to create their own student government and to be a voice in the faculty advisory program.

"We enforced the Student First program and I really enjoyed that because students were so much easier to deal with when they had some voice in the school," Ludwig said. "They formed their own student government. They would have representatives that would attend the staff meetings and make suggestions of things they'd like to see."

Students also were given the unique opportunity to not only choose their classes, but also their teachers and which hour they would like to have each class. Because Northwest was the only school driven by students, other schools began to criticize its principles.

"We worked hard on our educational program," Ludwig said. "We tried to do things differently than the other high schools. Of course, they didn't like us because it was so popular. They were still doing the same things they were always doing."

The plans for the new school were not based on issues with space in the already-existing ones; the features of the building gave maximum flexibility to classrooms, library use and space for students to interact. The school attracted students from other schools who wanted to experience a new environment. The staff at the new school was exceptionally young, with the average age of members hovering at 27. As a result, faculty members were open to change and new ideas. The building opened as a three-year high school. In 1986, freshman moved from the junior highs to the high school and Northwest became a four-year school.

The beginning of the students' career at Northwest wasn't what they had anticipated. In September 1969, the new building had not been completed due to a labor strike. With the strike affecting the construction of

Arrowhead Stadium as well, workers from the NW project were offered higher pay to make sure Arrowhead was completed. With no building ready for classes, students attended classes at Trailridge Junior High (which wouldn't become Trailridge Middle School until 1986).

"It was kind of unusual. We had to get there early and be out by noon so the junior high kids could function in the afternoon," Ludwig said. "It was a little inconvenient, but we did it all well."

Many things have changed since Northwest was built 50 years ago. From the opening of the building through the 1987, a smoking lounge was available to students during lunch breaks and between classes. Teachers smoked on the loading dock. The library was much larger, occupying the full length of the academic wing and was sunken 12 feet below the rest of the building, fully accessible by stairways.

Because Northwest was introducing so many different concepts that the other schools had not even heard of, it became well-known as an innovative school.

"We had a different philosophy about the school," Ludwig said. "We tried to avoid having too many students stay after school for things because most of the kids were working. It was just really successful. We had visitors come to our school to see how we did things. We had 7,000 visitors during the three years I worked there."

It wasn't just student philosophy that the NW administration and faculty experimented with. The school boasted a new smörgåsbord of technology, hosted in the school's media center.

"In the media center, they had consoles where you could sit and watch programs that were piped in from the technical center," Ludwig said. "If someone wanted to watch it or a teacher wanted to make a production and have other students watch it in the media center, they could."

Northwest was created as a diverse and unique environment. Because of the strong staff, Student First Program and advanced technology, many employees had trouble with leaving the school.

"I think the staff made it a special place to be, different from other places I had worked before," former librarian Nancy Gordon said. "The staff was caring and involved with the kids. The leadership there let you try things that may not have been the way things were typically done in education at that time."

STORY BY RORY DUNNAN & KATE LAWRENCE



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Northwest High School
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SIGN OF THE times

In the last 50 years, Northwest has taken part in many of the **hundreds of trends** that have swept the nation since 1969, **here are just a few**, including some that you might even know

TERMINOLOGY

1970s

"Can you dig it?" – Do you understand?
 "Dream On" – Term to bring someone back to Earth
 "Sick" – To describe something odd or unusual. Not necessarily a person or object of distaste, but something suspect or intriguing.
 "Bogus" – Dang it! To be annoyed with something, i.e. (You fall down) "Bogus!"
 "Catch My Drift" – Do you get what I mean?

1990s

"Talk to the hand" – Another way of saying "I don't want to hear what you are saying"
 "Let's Dip" – To leave
 "All that and a bag of chips" – I'm the best and then some
 "Dope" – Cool, great
 "Shady" – Being unaware of something

2018s

"Stan" – an overzealous or obsessive fan of a particular celebrity.
 "Let's get this bread" – Let's win or let's succeed
 "Bet" – Sure, okay
 "Lit" – When something is very fun.
 "Shook" – Shocked or surprising
 "Tea" – Gossip or personal information belonging to someone else
 "Skksksksk" – Results of one's keyboard being violently smashed when one is too shocked or amused
 "Wig" – Something exciting or crazy just happened that would make your wig fly off

1980s

"Zeek" – A major geek
 "Yello" – Hello
 "What's crackalackin?" – What's goin on. What's happening. Rhetorical greeting.
 "To the curb" – Expression used when something is disapproved of ex: "did you see what she is wearing? that outfit is 'to the curb'"
 "Joanie" – A boring, not-so-hip girl. From the 70s and 80s show 'Happy Days', specifically, Joanie Cunningham (Erin Moran), the unhip girl of the 50s.

2000s

"BRB AFK" – Be right back, away from keyboard
 "Wicked" – A lot or very
 "As if" – Yeah right
 "Cool Beans" – Express approval or delight
 "Peace Out" – Bye

CLOTHING

1970s

Women:
 Darkwash Bellbottoms
 Warm-Toned Shirts
 Yellow, Orange
 Mini Skirts
 Pantyhose
 Floral Prints
 Platform Boots
Men:
 Bellbottoms
 Boots
 Cut-Off Shorts
 Flannels
 Overalls
 Asics Sneakers
 Plaid Pants

1980s

Women:
 Turtle-necks
 Patterned Sweaters
 Light Wash jeans
 Loafers
Men:
 Acid Wash Jeans
 Denim Shirts
 Converse

1990s

Women:
 Tank Tops/Spaghetti Straps
 Abercrombie & Fitch
 Ruched Shirts
 Hollister
 Low Rise Jeans
Men:
 Abercrombie & Fitch
 Hollister
 Jinko Jeans
 Baggy Tan Cargo Shorts

2018

Women:
 Teddy Coat
 Mom Jeans
 Striped Pants
 Air Force 1s
 Oversized Sweaters
 Fanny Packs
 Hoops
Men:
 Flannel
 Joggers
 Air Force 1s
 Adidas
 Shoes
 Pants
 Jean Jackets
 Vests
 Khakis
 Quarter zips

TECHNOLOGY

Each generation comes along with new innovations in technology, **some of them stick** and **some fizzle out**, but here are some of the most popular tech creations of each decade

1970s Email

1980s Nintendo Gameboy

1990s Mobile Phone

2000s Youtube

2018 Airpods

MUSIC

Here are the **top three songs** from five different years between 1969 and 2018 according to Billboard Music

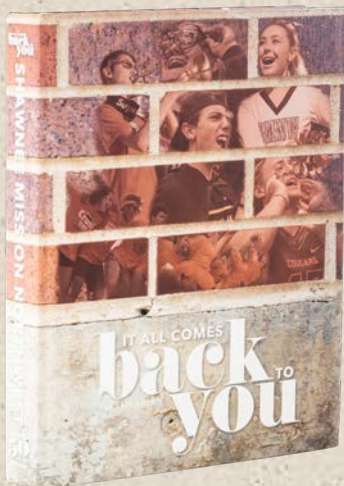
1969 "Sugar Sugar" - The Archies "Aquarius - Let The Sunshine In" - The Fifth Dimension "I Can't Get Next to You" - The Temptations

1980 "Call Me" - Blondie "Another Brick in the Wall" - Pink Floyd "Magic" - Olivia Newton-John

1997 "Candle in the Wind" - Elton John "Foolish Games" - Jewel "I'll be Missing You" - Puff Daddy

2010 "Tik Tok" - Ke\$ha "Need You Now" - Lady Antebellum "Hey Soul Sister" - Train

2018 "God's Plan" - Drake "Perfect" - Ed Sheeran "Meant to Be" - Bebe Rexha & Florida Georgia Line



THAT happened HERE

These are the stories from the past 50 years, were we tell what has changed, **crazy school stories** and talk about students that attended Northwest and **where they are now**

SMOKING LOUNGE

Smoking among minors has become far less common than it was nearly 35 years ago. In the 1970s, smoking cigarettes and chewing tobacco was a social norm for many teens.

Kansas only had one law that restricted smoking among minors, but it only stated that minors were prohibited from purchasing tobacco. This did little to stop teens from getting their hands on it and created problems for public high schools.

Like vaping, smoking in school bathrooms was a significant problem for students. Non-smoking students complained about the smoke clouds and smell from the bathrooms and smokers complained about not having a permitted smoking area.

Thus the smoking lounge was born. The smoking area is something we should have. If the kids do smoke, they need a place to do so. If they aren't given a place to smoke, they are apt to smoke where others don't want them to, former teacher Mary King said in "The Northwest Passage."

In 1977, the fight for a student smoking lounge succeeded with the administration approving it on an experimental basis. Northwest was the first in the district to obtain this privilege. SM South also brought the case to the advisory board but was denied. The lounge, located next to the building beside the west-side circle drive, was to remain available to students if they kept it clean and

continued to attend classes on time. "I think the smoking lounge is an excellent idea because it keeps the smoke out of the building and it provides a smoke-free environment. It also gives students a good place to smoke by themselves," student Brett Zinger said in the same article.

Although students were supportive of the smoking lounge, some faculty members were not. "People do abuse [the privilege] a lot, they don't use the trash cans and there's trash, pop cans and cigarette butts everywhere. We didn't clean [the smoking lounge] every day, but we have to start now because it can become such a problem. The [smoking lounge] shouldn't even be out there as far as I'm concerned."

I know there aren't that many 18-year-olds here," former teacher Chuck Shoemaker said in an 1986 issue of "The Northwest Passage."

Students did not hold up their end of the deal and 10 years later, smoking was banned on campus due to litter and the occurrence of underage smoking in the area. The area was also an easy place to buy and sell drugs which led to the placement of an undercover police officer in the school around 1991. The student, Tom Collins, attended school during the day and spent time in the smoking lounge between periods. Approximately 12 students received warrants at the conclusion of the investigation. *STORY BY MOLLY ELFRINK*



As a result of community pressure and the failure of students to keep the area clean, the smoking lounge was closed at the beginning of the '86-87 school year. Students who chose to smoke were forced to find new areas off-campus. These students chose the Goode Estates neighborhood sign just across 47th Street from the campus. Eventually, Goode Estates residents banned students from being on this property during school hours due to the litter left behind.



KRISTIN WILLITS

Do you know who Kristin Willits was? No? Maybe your mom remembers her from fashion career class or as a Spirit Club representative? Still no?

She was a member of the drill team, varsity gymnastics and Homecoming court of 1988. Still no?

Okay, she's the wife of Kevin Richardson. ... The Backstreet Boy? I mean, you've heard of The Backstreet Boys, right?

Willits (now Richardson) graduated with the class of '88. After graduating she became an actress and starred in movies like "Wingman, Inc.," "Anderson's Cross," "Harpies," "Jarhead," and "Man on the Moon." She also appeared on the TV show, "Lost."

Richardson met her husband at Disneyland when she was a Rockette. They married on June 17, 2000 and had their first child Mason on Feb 12, 2004. Their second child, Maxwell, was born in July 2013.

Willits was a NW student like many of us. Wonder if any of us will end up marrying Shawn Mendes? (Fingers crossed.)

STORY BY TATUM SCHUEMANN

PHILL KLINE

The Bee Gees dominated every radio station. Northwest celebrated its ninth birthday and former Kansas Attorney General Phill Kline (78) graduated high school.

"It was one of the most enjoyable times of my life," Kline said. "I was involved in a lot of different activities: track and field, cross country, wrestling, soccer and baseball. Some of my best friends were people I went to high school

with."

In the early 2000s, Kline made headlines for his political success and specifically his achievements for pro-life policies.

"The people and teachers I interacted with encouraged questions and an attitude towards learning," Kline said. "Secondly, they supported the belief that there is a right to make the wrong decisions and to seek out and do what is right,

even if there's a cost to it – in that fashion, you maintain who you are created to be and supposed to be."

Kline, who is now the assistant professor of law for Liberty University, says he attributes much of his success to his NW teachers and coaches.

"It comes down to people dedicating themselves to helping young men and women grow in integrity toward who they are called

STREAKER

It was mid-morning. Third block classes had just begun. Through the hallways, the outlines of two boys became visible.

"Two gentlemen," one from the football team and the other from the basketball team, streaked through the crowded mall area at 9 a.m., former social studies teacher Ron Poplau said. "Unfortunately, their getaway car was late and they were caught by school officials."

These boys were neither the first nor the last.

Despite preventative efforts by teachers and administrators Northwest was plagued by the streaking in the 70s. Streakers stripped down to only a ski mask and tennis shoes before running as fast as they could through a public area. The last incident of streaking occurred in the early 2000s at a football game. The streaker was tackled by then athletic director Jeremy Boldra. The crowd cheered.

STORY BY ZOE CERDA



1



2

1. An archway of swords is made for Queen Marcia Dahl (78), escorted by Phill Kline (78).

2. Letterman Phill Kline (78) runs with intense concentration. As a student, Kline was involved in several sports and was on the staff of "The Northwest Passage," the student newspaper.



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 Northwest High School
 Shawnee, Kansas

WENDALL Mohling

When Northwest was founded in 1969, 20 acres of land were purchased to build a district warehouse and maintenance headquarters. However, changes in these plans left the extra land dormant for the next three years. In 1972, a committee of community members presented a plan to the Board of Education to use the area as an outdoor laboratory.

Science teacher Wendall Mohling and his students worked on planning and developing the greenhouse throughout the 1972-73 school year. They faced challenges along the way, since the land had been a dump site for the construction of Northwest. Their first job was hauling out concrete and other building materials to create a blank canvas. Then, they let Mother Nature take over the land. Mohling and his students documented this initial growth. Their efforts resulted in the first Student Naturalist class the following school year, taught by Mohling. A firm believer in the importance of

inquiry-based instruction, Mohling was widely quoted as saying, "Science is not reading science, science is doing science."

Mohling continued to advocate for science education throughout his 30-year teaching career. He received the Outstanding Biology Teacher Award from Kansas from the National Association of Biology Teachers in 1977. He was the very first educator to receive the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching when the award was created in 1983. He became the NSTA High School Division Director from 1998-1999 and its president in 1992. Mohling served as the Associate Executive Director of Membership, Conventions, and Professional Programs from 1993 until his death in 2004.

Mohling died in Aug. 2004 from complications of a stroke. The NSTA posted this statement about him: "A dedicated science educator. A leader of his professional association.

A mentor to his colleagues. An ardent environmentalist who not only cherished the planted he lived on, but also had an endless curiosity about the universe."

His wife Carol went on to create the Wendell G. Mohling Foundation in Mohling's memory. Every year, the foundation gives a \$700 scholarship to one science teacher in Kansas. The money is to be used to attend an NSTA regional or national conference. The winning teacher also receives a year-long KATS membership, which provides opportunities for professional development at the state level.

"What Wendell gave us we will always have," Barbara Morgan said of him shortly after his death. "He saw life as all teachers should seek — with curiosity and love. He was kind, selfless and inspirational. He connected with everyone, and with the natural world."

STORY BY ELIZABETH KUFFOUR

“SPACE PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO DREAM. IT IS A REMINDER THAT DREAMS CAN BECOME GOALS AND GOALS CAN BECOME REALITY.”

—Wendall Mohling

Environmental education teacher and Teacher in Space candidate Wendall Mohling watches the launch of Challenger along with his students

January 28, 1986. The shuttle exploded less than two minutes after take-off killing all seven astronauts aboard, the moment this shot was taken.

Mohling's passion for aerospace education brought him national attention in 1985 when he was selected as the Kansas state finalist in the NASA Teaching in Space Program — joining fellow science teachers Christa McAuliffe and Barbara Morgan in training. He later became a NASA Space Ambassador.

Mohling, along with 113 other finalists, flew to Cape Canaveral, Florida, to observe the launch site for January 28. The flight was delayed several times and the Shawnee Mission School District asked Mohling to return to his class.

Mohling and his students watched the launch from the library where one of the few televisions in the school at that time was located.

Initial cheers turned to shock as the group witnessed the explosion.

"We just assumed everything would go smoothly with the flight," a class member said.

In spite of his profound sadness, Mohling told "The Dallas Morning News" "We were called upon to alter our lesson plans, but we ended up teaching more important lessons to our students about science and life."



Achieving goals such as teacher in Space Finalist, advanced degrees, and national involvement and recognition in science education would not have been even a dream without the power of one being so trained within himself as a result of the Northwest experience. Photo by Christa Votaw Hirschmann

YEARS



// The Lair
 Shawnee Mission
 Northwest High School
 Shawnee, Kansas

LIFE Changing

In the past and present, students missed the teachers who retired, moved to other schools, these are the stories of those teachers from then and now

GREG PARKER

Working for 17 years in the Drama and English department, Gregory Parker was a well-known figure in Northwest's history. As one of the first drama teachers at Northwest, but theater took up only part of his time.

Parker taught English classes and co-taught Radio/TV with Susan Massy. Judy Tuckness worked beside him on main stage productions. "He was very energetic, very talented. He was a small man, but had this very deep

train voice you can tell that he had been trained vocally," Tuckness said.

In fact, Parker did the announcing for most NW events and became known as the Voice of Northwest.

The first show Parker produced was "Oklahoma!" Parker several different types of productions.

He did a musical every year, and then he would pick a comedy and a drama, so it was a variety of shows," Tuckness said.

One show Parker produced was "The Odd Couple," which originally cast two men in the lead roles. Parker put his own spin on it. Every other night, he would change the cast replacing the males leads with two women. These unique changes allowed Parker to communicate more with his students so they would understand his viewpoint on the play.

"When you're a director, you get to know a lot of the students," Tuckness said. "Students have good memories of their experiences on stage."

After a 1999 renovation, the auditorium was renamed in Parker's honor and lined with his achievements.

In his honor, teachers present the annual Parker Award to the teacher who has worked closely with students through extracurricular organizations to produce excellence. STORY BY MCKENNA PARSONS



Greg Parker, director, tells the "Our Town" cast to "break a leg." "Our Town" was presented without a set because the point of the play is to reduce life to the simplest level," Parker said.

FRAN KOENIGSDORF

Fran Koenigsdorf has taught here for 22 years. Her teaching assignments have included Latin, AP English 11 and English 12 and Writers' Workshop and sponsored the now defunct Penpoint Magazine as well as the Gay Straight Alliance.

Koenigsdorf announced that she would retire at the end of 2018-19 school year to spend time with loved ones. But she plans to come back sometimes.

"When I retire, I am going to do whatever I want," Koenigsdorf said. "I will still come and substitute at Northwest but I will spend a lot of time with my grandchildren."

Looking back on her 22 years in the building, Koenigsdorf laughs. "One of my favorite memories would have to be when a snake fell through the ceiling one day on a girl as she was sitting in the classroom, and she was screaming and I was screaming and we were terrified," Koenigsdorf said.

By creating memories like this with students, leaving is difficult for Koenigsdorf.

"Is it hard? It's really, really hard because it's almost like being a senior," Koenigsdorf said. "Because as you do different things, you keep thinking, oh, this is the last time I'm doing this. This is the last time that you teach this book or this is the last time that I will give this test or this is the last time that I'll have a Spring Break. You know that type of thing is hard."

Koenigsdorf knows that she is going to miss teaching. "I will miss the other teachers and I will miss my students. I will miss teaching the books that I loved like 'The Great Gatsby' and 'In Cold Blood,' Koenigsdorf said.

Koenigsdorf hoped that her students would remember her and her love for her work.

"I hope my students realized how much I loved what I was doing and that they will have fond memories of my classes," Koenigsdorf said. "Also, I hope that it brings a smile to their faces whenever they remember me."

STORY BY TATUM SCHUERMAN



English teacher Fran Koenigsdorf asks if students want to purchase "And Every Word is True." As a distributor, she was able to offer a discounted price to her students. "Thanks for shopping!" she told them. Photo by Thomas Lutzner

RON POPLAU

"The deer of good becomes good," the life motto of former NW teacher Ron Poplau.

Poplau, founder of CCC, retired four years ago after teaching at NW for 46 years. His goal was to get students out of the classroom and make them functional members of the community.

"There is more to education than desks and textbooks, as the community itself has become the 'classroom,'" Poplau wrote. "Consequently, in my classes, students present themselves for roll and then depart on a pre-arranged lesson in the community."

Cougars Community Commitment (CCC) was not expected to survive past its first year in 1992. Twenty-seven years later, four classes of CCC are offered each semester and available to juniors and seniors.

"He knew that what many students in his school were missing was the opportunity to see the real world - a world that included people who had real needs, not just unfulfilled wants; a world where parents worried about paying the

rent and buying groceries; where homes had no fans in the hot Kansas summer and often no heat in the bitter cold winter."

CCC students do a variety of things for the community, such as tutoring younger students in ten different schools, visit the elderly in retirement homes, clean yards or deliver food.

"They must complete what they have chosen to do or it simply will not get done. It's as simple as that," Poplau wrote.

Poplau won numerous awards for his generous work. These include the USD 512 Employee of the year in 1990 and 1995, Shawnee Citizen of the Year in 1994 and Kansas Teacher of the Year in 2006.

Even after Poplau's retirement, his legacy lives on.

"The only way you can do that is to help other people. It's no secret. That's true happiness, that's success. The best things in life are not things," Poplau said. "The best things in life are people. Remember that."

STORY BY TENDAY VAN BLARCOM



Sociology teacher Ron Poplau listens with his class to their guest speaker The guest teacher, Jennifer Schmidt, told her story to the class. Poplau invited many guest speakers in to his classroom over the year including convicts, KKK members, community service coordinators and volunteers, military personnel and others. Each brought a unique point of view to his students.

JANINE DEINES

Breakfast was served on the day of Janine Deines' IB English final.

For years, Deines flipped pancakes on the last Interactive Oral Presentation day as a way of showing her appreciation for the students' hard work.

"I've never had to grow up. I've always been in high school," Deines said. "That's what I will miss the most."

After 33 years at Northwest and total 40 years as an educator, Deines is retiring. Her career started at a middle school in Topeka, but not long after that she returned to the Shawnee Mission area because she graduated from SM West.

"In the summer of '86, Shawnee Mission decided to go to four-year high schools, so all teachers who taught 7th grade and above got to put in their preference of where they wanted to go," Deines said. "I came here and have been happy ever since."

Over the years, Deines taught many classes based around English: AP English, ELL, regular English, and eventually, IB English, which came to Shawnee Mission in 2007. Although she has taught a variety of classes, one thing remained consistent: Northwest was her favorite place to teach.

Deines' discussion-based teaching style and interesting activities resonated with her students and stayed with them long after they left the class.

"She really taught me and the rest of my classmates how to analyze literature unconventionally and that is really impactful for learning when you go to college," senior Kelley Dungan said. "She clearly cares about her students and I know that sounds like a platitude, but she loves everyone and cares about everyone's well-being. I knew that her door would always be open for me if I ever needed anything."

While Deines enjoyed her time at Northwest, she's ready to experience life outside high school and spend quality time with her family.

"I want to do other things," Deines said. "I've loved every moment of it. But, for example, I live in Olathe and they have a program that matches you with a homeless teen. You serve as the mentor for the teen. That is really important."

Deines' legacy was defined by different things for different people, but her message to Northwest was simple: do what you love and proofread your papers.

STORY BY KELLEY VOLK



Placing pancakes on a plate, English teacher Janine Deines prepared breakfast for her IB English students Dec. 31 in room 34. Deines made pancakes before the class' first semester final. "I like being able to ease the stress for at least some of my students," Deines said. "I do this every year, for my IB English students, it's really fun." Photo by Stanley Hildebrandson

CINDY ALEXANDER



Recording the office trips that day, Nurse Cindy Alexander cheerleader. Alexander's office filled with many students. Photo by JAMES MAZZA

As students walked past the nurse's office in the mall, they caught glimpses of "Star Wars" posters and themed figurines.

School nurse, Cindy Alexander, sat at her desk answering emails and phone calls from parents, guardians and co-workers.

The 2018-2019 school year was Alexander's last year as a school nurse at NW. She has worked here for 14 years, helping students who have stomach aches, headaches and heart aches and lending contact solution when they need it.

STORY BY TATUM GOETTING



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national NEWS

M.V.Pat

Dec. 31, 2017 21-year-old Patrick Mahomes started his first game with the Kansas City, Chiefs against the Denver Broncos, away. Many fans wondered why Mahomes was playing in place of Alex Smith, the starting quarterback all season.

In the first quarter of the game, Mahomes threw a 35-yard touchdown pass to Kareem Hunt. Chiefs fans went wild watching the rookie throw such a precise pass into the endzone. The chiefs won 27-24.

After his impressive play in the 2017 season Mahomes started every game in the 2018 season. The chiefs first game on Sep. 9 against the Los Angeles Chargers was a win for the Chiefs and set the tone for the rest of the season.

During the 2018 season Mahomes was on fire with 50 touchdown passes and 5,097 passing yards.

STORY BY TATUM SCHIERMAN



Rain falls as AFC quarterback Patrick Mahomes throws during the NFL Pro Bowl at Camping World Stadium in Orlando on Sunday, January 27, 2019. (Stephen M. Dowell/Orlando Sentinel/TNS)

KAVANAUGH

President Donald Trump announced Brett Kavanaugh as his pick for the Supreme Court July 9. Kavanaugh was nominated to replace retiring judge Anthony Kennedy.

In September, Kavanaugh underwent four days of confirmation hearings that consisted of questions from senators and the public as well as witness testimonies. Less than two weeks later, Christine Blasey Ford went public with sexual assault allegations against Kavanaugh.

Kavanaugh denied the allegations, but within the month of September, two more women, Julie Swetnick and Deborah Ramirez, came forward with allegations against Kavanaugh.

Kavanaugh and Ford appeared before the Senate Judiciary Committee Sept. 27. Ford claimed that she was 100 percent certain Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her, while Kavanaugh saw the accusation as a political hit. The day after the hearing, it was still unclear as to how some of the senators would vote.

"We have become so desensitized that the confirmation of Supreme Court nominee accused by multiple sources of sexual assault can be viewed as a partisan issue rather than a moral one," senior Josh Marvine said.

Despite the controversy, the Senate voted 51-49 to advance Kavanaugh's nomination. Kavanaugh was confirmed to the Supreme Court with a 50-48 vote on Oct. 6 and was sworn in two days later.

STORY BY KELSEY VOLK



Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh testifies on the first day of his confirmation hearings before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Capitol Hill Sept. 4, 2018 in Washington, D.C. (Olivier Douliery/Abaca Press/TNS)

JONAS BROTHERS



March 1, 2019 - New York, New York, United States - (L-R) Nick Jonas, Joe Jonas and Kevin Jonas of The Jonas Brothers leave a studio in Midtown Manhattan in New York City (Credit Image: © Jo Robins/Ace Pictures via ZUMA Press)

Hang up your old TigerBeat posters and dust off your CDs: the Jonas Brothers are back!

The trio, made up of Kevin Jonas, Joe Jonas and Nick Jonas, released their first song in nearly 6 years Feb. 28. The song, Sucker, is about being in love.

The band originally split in 2013. Nick and Joe went on to have separate careers while Kevin started a family.

"I wasn't really that surprised since most of them stayed in the music business with Nick's solo career and Joe with DNCE," senior Abby Piercy said. "I figured it was just a matter of time before they got back together."

After the band announced their return via social media, fans started reposting the single's cover on Instagram stories. As part of the promotion of the song, the trio appeared on The Late Late Show with James Corden for four consecutive nights, where they revealed many secrets about the band.

The reunion wasn't planned. The Jonas Brothers were originally working on a documentary when they realized that they wanted to make music together again.

STORY BY KELSEY VOLK

MAC MILLER



Malcom Miller. Photo Credit: Brock Stowell

Malcolm James McCormick (Mac Miller) died Sep. 7, 2018 in Studio City, CA, at the age of 26, due to an accidental drug overdose.

Miller was an American rapper, singer, and record producer who was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Miller began his career in the city's hip hop scene in 2007, at the age of fifteen. Miller's first album, *But My Mackin Ain't Easy*, was released in 2007 and his most popular album, *Swimming*, was released in 2018.

At the 2012 mtvU Woodie awards, Miller won twice in the Woodie of the year and performing Woodie categories. He was also nominated for Best World stage category at the 2012 MTV Europe Music Awards and was nominated for Best Rap Album at the 2019 Grammys.

After Miller died, students Snapchat stories were filled with videos of them crying while listening to his music or black screens with little white letters reading "R.I.P to one of the greats #MacMiller".

"I felt really lost when Mac Miller died," sophomore Maxwell Malik said. "He has always been a huge inspiration of mine. I started listening to his music when I was young and I always wanted to be just like him. So when he died, it felt like I lost a part of myself."

STORY BY TATUM SCHIERMAN

CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES



A forensic team investigates the site of a home where remains were found on Nov. 13, 2018 from the Camp fire in Paradise, Calif. (Carolyn Cole/Los Angeles Times/TNS)

The Camp Fire burned more than 152,000 acres of land in northern CA. The death toll continued to rise as did the number of people unaccounted for.

"I feel absolutely terrible for the residents of Southern California that have been affected by the wildfires," senior Sammy Welians said. "I cannot even imagine what it would be like to completely lose your home and everything else to a fire like that."

The fire has destroyed many residences and well as commercial structures. First responders worked to strengthen and improve control lines around the fire's perimeter.

"The fact that the first responders run to the problem instead of away is admirable," Welians said. "Not only do I wish to help the civilians affected by the fires, I would like to help the first responders in some way or show them how heroic I believe they are for saving people and homes."

In southern CA, the Woolsey fire in Los Angeles and Ventura has burned almost 97,000 acres of land resulting in the lives of three people.

Together, the Camp Fire and the Woolsey Fire have taken 84 lives as of Nov. 21.

"When I think about it, I wonder what I can do to help the people that have been affected," Welians said. "I also begin to wonder why the fires have been so prevalent in recent years and what can be done to fix it."

STORY BY TATUM GOETTIG



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national NEWS

STAN LEE

Stanley Martin Lieber (Stan Lee) died Nov. 12, 2018 in Manhattan, New York, at the age of 95, due to congestive heart failure.

Lee was an American comic book writer, editor, publisher and producer. His biggest creations were for Marvel Comics. His first series for Marvel Comics was when he co-created the Fantastic Four in the early '60s. The Fantastic Four was successful. It opened up Lee's career and allowed him to create more characters for Marvel Comics such as the Incredible Hulk and Spiderman.

Scrolling through Instagram feeds, students were flooded with pictures of Lee and multiple Marvel actors all

saying the same thing: It's a sad, sad day. Rest in Power Uncle Stan.

When Marvel Comics made the movie *The Trail of the Incredible Hulk*, Lee was given a little cameo in the movie. He was a juror. Since his first cameo, he starred in 58 more Marvel movies such as: *Spider-Man 2* (2004), *Iron Man* (2008), *Thor* (2011), *Ant-Man* (2015), and his last cameo was in the *Captain Marvel* (2019).

"The thing I am going to miss about the Marvel movies is seeing Stan Lee's cameos," sophomore Matt Steinmetz said. "It just won't be the same movie without him."

STORY BY TATUM SCHUEBMAN



Stan Lee attends the world premiere of "Avengers: Infinity War" on April 23, 2018 in Los Angeles, Calif. (Lionel Hahn/Abaca Press/TNS)

HURRICANE FLORENCE & MICHAEL



The rubble in Mexico Beach, two days after a Category 4 Hurricane Michael devastated the small coastal town just outside Panama City, Fla., on Friday, Oct. 12, 2018. The Bay County, Fla., supervisor of elections said he accepted ballots via email for the midterm elections, due to displacement from Hurricane Michael. (Pedro Portal/Miami Herald/THS)

Hurricane Florence struck the United States Aug. 31 in the Carolina region of the United States.

Florence was a Category 4 hurricane and dropped a total of 35.93 inches of rain becoming the wettest in the Carolinas.

Oct. 10, another hurricane made landfall in the southern region. Hurricane Michael destroyed multiple communities.

Hurricanes Michael and Florence resulted in many casualties. Both storms affected the same areas of the United States which meant many citizens were essentially hit twice. Florence resulted in mostly large amounts of destructive flooding in the areas affected while Michael resulted in catastrophic winds and damage rather than flooding. Although they were different, both had impacts.

"My reaction to the hurricane was sorrow for all the lives lost, injured, and the destruction to everything," junior Jenni Johnson said. "They caused poverty, loss and depression in the lives and homes the hurricanes impacted."

STORY BY TATUM SCHUEBMAN

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

The longest government shutdown in United States history began Dec. 22, 2018. It started over debate about the border wall. Republican President Donald Trump could not agree with Congress on an appropriations bill to fund the operations of the federal government for the 2019 fiscal year.

"I think the shutdown lasted so long because there wasn't a plan behind it," sophomore Sydney Allen said. "I think it was a little bit of a rash decision."

The shutdown stemmed from an impasse over Trump's demand for \$5.7 billion in federal funds for a U.S.-Mexico border wall.

"I don't think a wall is necessary. There are other ways to restrict immigration," Allen said. "I'm not sure what was accomplished during the government shutdown, but I know it hurt families that rely on income from jobs in the government."

STORY BY TATUM SCHUEBMAN



A sign announcing closure of the National Archives due to a partial government shutdown is displayed on December 24, 2018, in Washington, D.C. (Olivier Douliery/Abaca Press/TNS)



Isaac Larian, president and CEO of MGA Entertainment, the owner of "Little Tikes" brand, is rounding up investors to save Toys 'R Us which is facing closure. (Myung J. Chun / Los Angeles Times/THS)

PLAY ON

In June of 2018, generations of customers had to say goodbye to Geoffrey the giraffe and sing "I don't want to grow up, I'm a Toys 'R Us kid" as they browsed the shelves one last time.

After filing for bankruptcy in September of 2017, the Toys 'R Us was hopeful that Christmas sales would help turn their fate around. This was not the case as they filed for bankruptcy in March of 2018 and closed stores in June.

At the time of closure, Toys 'R Us had 735

stores in the United States. Multiple factors contributed to the closing of the chain, but a prominent reason was the inability for Toys 'R Us to compete with big-box retailers like Walmart and Amazon.

"I remember being really excited to go pick out Legos with my sister whenever saved up enough birthday money," junior Sara Gregor said. "It doesn't feel like kids play with toys the same way we did, but I was really sad when Toys 'R Us closed."

Toys 'R Us left

their customers and supporters with this message:

"Thanks to each of you who shared your amazing journey to (and through) parenthood with us, and to every grandparent, aunt, uncle, brother and sister who's built a couch-cushion rocket ship, made up a hero adventure, or invented something goofy. Promise us just this one thing: Don't ever grow up. Play on!"

STORY BY KELSEY VOUG

THANK U, NEXT

With her high pony and high notes, Ariana Grande is taking the world by storm. With her most recent album *Thank U, Next* at number one on Billboard top 200 list with the biggest streaming week ever for a pop album, she has quickly become one of the most well known musicians of this era.

With headphones in and phones in hand, students scroll through Spotify and Apple music searching for the newest Ariana Grande song. Under latest release was the single *7 Rings*. Students pressed the title and the pink album cover came up.

"Yeah, breakfast at Tiffany's and bottles of bubbles/ Girls with tattoos who like getting in trouble/ Lashes and diamonds, ATM machines/ Buy myself all of my favorite things (Yeah)"

7 Rings was number one on Billboard hot 100 list and was number one on

Official Trending Chart.

Grande has had four number one albums, such as: *Thank U, Next*, *Sweetener*, *My Everything* and *Yours Truly*. Grande ties Taylor Swift for the second-most number ones among women, trailing Lady Gaga.

Grande released her album *Sweetener* in Aug. of 2018 and six months later she released *Thank U, Next* after she broke off her engagement with Pete Davidson. After the engagement broke Grande came out strong with a new single to show the world.

"I think she is an amazing singer and such a strong person," senior Katie Brockmann said. "She's so motivated and driven. She is a great role model when it comes to her dedication with her work."

STORY BY TATUM SCHUEBMAN



Ariana Grande attends the Heavenly Bodies: Fashion and the Catholic Imagination Costume Institute Gala 2018 on Monday, May 7, 2018 at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, N.Y. (Laura Thompson/New York Daily News/THS)

FACULTY & STAFF



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During the homecoming parade, coach Todd Boren cheers from the boys' deck. (Paul Galt: 3 for 6th street. It took the boys on hand. 6 12 hours to build the float. "The homecoming day parade is just about having fun," Boren said. "Going to practice and taking about it and the food is just about exciting and a good friendly competition." Photo by Paul Galt.)



Ramsha Akhtar – Community Site | 1 year at NW
Cindy Alexander – School Nurse | 14 Years at NW
Jennifer Ancell – AP Chem 2, Honors Chem | 4.5 Years at NW
Stacie Anderson – Intermediate Algebra II, Study Skills | 14 Years at NW
Rebecca Anthony – AP US History, IB HOA, HL1 | 12 Years at NW
Cassie Banion – Women's, Men's, Chamber, A Capella, and Women's Speech Choir, Voice Techniques | 2 Years at NW
Jessica Barger – IB Math HL2, Calc AB | 13 Years at NW
Greg Berg – US History, World Regional Studies | 4 years at NW
Jan Berg – Advanced Digital Design, Digital Design Studio, Financial Literature, Accounting | 19 years at NW
Jeffrey Bishop – Chambers, Camerata and Symphony Orchestra | 21 years at NW
Doug Bjorklund – Paraprofessional | 3 years at NW
Jay Black – Permanent Substitute | 2 years at NW
Nancy Blackburn – ELL, ELA, Global Issues 1, US History, American Government | 10 years at NW
Debbie Boren – AP ELA 12 | 19 years at NW
Todd Boren – IB Data HL 1 & 2, AP Econ | 21 years at NW
Debra Brewer – Honors Biology, IB HL Biology | 15 years at NW
Karen Burkhardt – Job Coach | 4 years at NW
Renee Chambers – IB Math SL, Algebra 3 | 3 years at NW
Michelle Charland – Attendance Clerk | 4 years at NW
Rebecca Cheatham – Global Issues, Geometry Study Skills | 19 years at NW
Jason Coats – Drama, ELA 4, Pop Theatre, Advanced Pop Theatre, Actors Studio, Tech Theatre | 1 year at NW
Chris Conner – Paraprofessional | 3 years at NW
Janis Converse – Paraprofessional | 12 years at NW
Janine Deines – IB English 11, ELA ELL, Theory of Knowledge | 33 years at NW
Lindsey Demke – Honors 6, AP Biology, Introduction to Bio Tech | 8 years at NW
Billy Dent – Video 6, Advanced Video Production, IB Film Studies | 15 years at NW
Sarah Dent – CCC, StuCo, International Relations | 14 years at NW
Kuniko Derigne – Japanese L 2, 3 & 4 | 18 years at NW
Bryson Dunbar – Paraprofessional | 3 years at NW
Jennifer Fontaine – Counselor | 3 years at NW
Stefanie Forbes – World Regional Studies, US History, Psychology | 23 years at NW
Sarah Frederickson – Nutrition, Focus on Foods, Advanced Foods | 5 years at NW
Anthony Galindo – ELA, Video Production | 4 years at NW
Joe Gehrer – Latin 1, 2, 3, 4 and Study Skills | 26 years at NW
Jeff Gilenwater – Building Manager | 4 years at NW
Latonya Gillis – ELA 1, ELA 2, Study Skills, Virtual Lab | 1 year at NW
Lindsay Glasser – School Psychologist | 1 year at NW
Elisabeth Goscha – Physical Science CT, Consumer Math CT | 5 years at NW
Marybeth Green – Counselor | 20 years at NW
Lisa Gruman – Principal | 19 years at NW
Carmilla Hales – Paraprofessional | 14 years at NW
Daniyah Hammouda – ELA 1, ELA 3, ELA ELL, ELA CT | 1 year at NW



JEFFREY Bishop

With the heavy cello pressed against his knee, orchestra director Jeffrey Bishop sat plucking the strings one by one. Before Bishop became an orchestra teacher, his passion was band. But when he started a job at a new school and was told he was going to be teaching orchestra, his love for the orchestra began.

"When I was a freshman in high school, I knew that I wanted to be the world's best band director and when I was in graduate school, the Wichita State University strings director, Jacques Dylan, saw me conducting the bands," Bishop said. "She called me a rabid director and I needed to be in her office tomorrow morning at eight o'clock and she literally was not going to take no for an answer."

While practicing in his composition class at Northwest Missouri State University, Bishop was told he wouldn't make it, but what his teacher didn't know was that Bishop never let someone determine his future for him.

"When I was first taking composition lessons in my third year as an undergraduate, I had a composition teacher tell me 'Jeffrey, you're just not going to amount to anything as a composer' and all I remember was I stood up and thanked him and then walked out," Bishop said.

Bishop never forgot that moment.

"Five years here, I had three pieces published, I wrote up a press release, and I sent it to him. I did this for about six or seven years," Bishop said. "Finally, I get a postcard from him and all it said was 'Okay, I get it.'"

Although he has a successful career as a composer, Bishop discovered that he enjoyed composing music for student orchestras.

"My real passion is writing music for kids," Bishop said. "I get paid to [compose music] for all-state orchestras around the country."

Although teaching and composing could both be complicated at times, Bishop summed up his perspective of teaching in one word: family.

"Bishop knows just how important it is to make people into better human beings, not just help you learn some new subject," senior Noah Gruman said.

"At the end of the day, I think they all know that I just want them to be successful," Bishop said. "I think that's what every teacher wants."

If senior Nina Tiger had a chance to say one thing to Bishop, this is what she would want to say.

"Thank you for believing in me. It really put me in a better place."

STORY BY KAYLA NICKLE



PHOTO BY NICOLAS STYER

Susan Hartman – Personal & Social Counselor | 24 years at NW
 Haley Hendricks – Geometry, Algebra 1, Algebra 2 team, Algebra 1 CT | 1 year at NW
 Kelsi Horner – Drill Team, Economics I, World Regional Studies | 5 years at NW
 Cheryl Hosenman – Athletic Director, Secretary | 21 years at NW
 Darlene Howard – Paraprofessional | 23 years at NW
 David Hunt – Ceramics, Painting, Introduction to Studio Art | 20 years at NW
 Debbie Jenkins – Science, Math, Cadet Teaching, Career Exploration, English Individual Goals, Interpersonal Skills | 13 years at NW
 Jack Johnson – Associate Principal | 12 years at NW
 Beth Johnstone – Introduction to Business, Marketing, Accounting | 5 years at NW
 Alicia Jones – Spanish 3, Modern World History | 11 years at NW
 Kathy Kaleko – Paraprofessional | 1 year at NW
 Ken King – Novice Debate, Advanced Debate, Speech, Writers' Workshop, Study Skills | 6 years at NW
 Fran Koenigsdorf – ELA 3, ELA 4 | 21 years at NW
 Christin Lamourie – AP Government, Government | 14 years at NW



FACULTY

What's the most shocking trend you have seen while teaching?



"Ingesting Tide Pods."

STEFANIE FORBES



"Education being delivered the same way it was 50 years ago."

EDDIE LYDAY

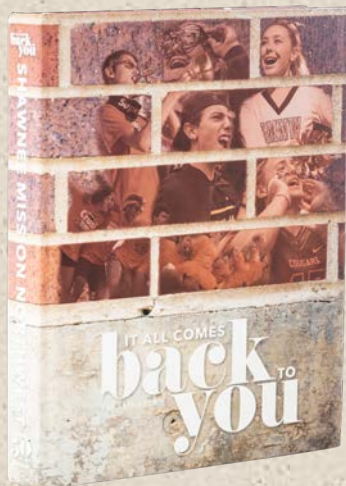


"The use of electronic cigarettes."

CONNIE SPRINGFIELD



Stacie Laney – Nurse Assistant | 19 years at NW
 Colleen Lauer – Secretary | 12 years at NW
 Jamie Ledbetter – Algebra 1, ELA 1 & 2, Study Skills | 13 years at NW
 Julianne London – Honors ELA, ELA 2, Study Skills/ISP | 5 years at NW
 Sara Love – Study Skills, Recovery Room, Intro to Studio Art, ISP, Biology, Virtual Class | 2 years at NW
 Haley Lukes – Honors Regional Studies, ISP | 15 years at NW
 Eddie Lyday – Associate Principal | 22 years at NW
 Brett Mach – AP English, ELA 2 CT | 5 years at NW
 Erica Marquez – Spanish Interpreter | 2 years at NW
 Karin Maserthin – German 1, 2 & 4, IB German 3 | 20 years at NW
 Susan Massey – Editorial Leadership, 21st Century Journalism, Digital News Media, Digital Yearbook Production, Digital Photo Media, Study Skills | 40 years at NW
 Natalie Meier – Paraprofessional | 2 years at NW
 Shari Merritt – Paraprofessional | 2 years at NW
 David Mesh – Counselor | 4 years at NW
 Marcia Miller – Paraprofessional | 2 years at NW
 Morgan Moberg – ELA 2, ELA 3, ELA 3 CT | 6 years at NW
 Sarah Moles – Exploring Medical Science, Biology 1, Anatomy | 11 years at NW
 Brooke Moore – US History, US History CT, Sociology | 4 years at NW
 Vonda Morris – SEEK | 2 years at NW
 Lisa Morstadt – Health | 20 years at NW
 Doug Murphy – French 2, Spanish 3, IB Spanish 4 | 10 years at NW
 Domenic Mussat – Team Algebra 1, Algebra 2 | 1 year at NW
 Jennifer Myers – Jewelry, ISP, Study Skills, ELA 3, IPS | 3 years at NW
 Susan Nagel – Algebra 2, Intro to Programming, Computer Science | 11 years at NW
 Vicky Nelson – Food Service | 13 years at NW
 Howard Newcomb – Computer Aided Design, Woodworking | 36 years at NW
 Kiera O'Boyle – IV Drill Team, Leadership, FFA, Financial Literacy, Apparel, Financial Literacy CT | 6 years at NW
 Elissa Ojeda – Algebra 1, Honors Algebra 2, Intermediate Algebra | 2 years at NW
 Melissa Osborn – Social Worker | 15 years at NW
 Ben Palut – IB English 12, Honors ELA | 10 years at NW
 Aimee Patrick – American Government CT, Biology 1 CT, Study Skills | 13 years at NW
 Donna Pedersen – Intro to Engineering, Principal of Engineering, College Algebra Trigonometry | 15 years at NW
 Justin Peterson – Team Physical Science, Physical Science CT | 5 years at NW
 Mike Pisci – Physical Science, Environmental Education | 1 & 2 | 22 years at NW
 Delona Potter – Educational Aide | 12 years at NW



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Shawnee Mission
Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas

ERICA Marquez

As interpreter Ericka Marquez slammed the English-to-Spanish dictionary closed, the echo reverberated throughout the room adjoining the attendance office. Various notes and reminders decorated the bulletin board behind her desk.

"I've been here for almost two years," Marquez said. "I help with the enrollment process, so parents can have all of the resources that we provide. I make sure that the curriculum are translated correctly and accurately. It's important for students to know that they are validated and they are important. Communication is the most important thing."

Students filed past her doorway, on their way to their respective classes, most of them stuck in their own little world.

"I was a student here," Marquez said. "I know how we all go on about our daily lives. Being on the other side, I have come to realize that maybe my problems aren't as big as others. It's hard for a native Spanish speaker to be thrown into a class with all with all English speakers. They come from like a completely different country. It's a completely different culture. You're lost in translation."

Marquez, working on achieving a nursing degree, has also studied to become a Spanish medical interpreter. Because of her experiences with language, Marquez decided to continue, specifically in the education field.

"I played soccer on my college team and I was told that we couldn't speak Spanish," Marquez said. "Things like that happen all the time. I would like to play a part in making a change. I would like to make sure that Spanish speakers know that they are heard and comfortable. We're listening. I promise. You're not forgotten."

Watching the students parade past her office windows, Marquez smiled at several she recognized.

"It's important for us to be the front line, to even just have daily interactions with students," Marquez said. "It's nice to see like a smiling face that lets them know they're not alone. It's important for us to be like open and willing to help."

STORY BY TATUM SCHIRMER & ZOE CERDA



Photo by Nicholas Strick

Jamie Prosser – Attendance | 20 years at NW
Cecilia Raab – Paraprofessional | 1 year at NW
Leslie Randall – French 1, 2, 3, 4, IB French 5, Virtual Lab | 38 years at NW
Jonathan Riley – Paraprofessional | 1 year at NW
Stacy Robins – Biology 1, Environmental Education 1, Zoology | 14 years at NW
Machella Rogers – Paraprofessional | 20 years at NW
Rich Rogers – Counselor | 1 year at NW

Kathryn Rollins – Paraprofessional | 1 year at NW
Mike Rose – Integrated Algebra/Geometry, Geometry CT | 10 years at NW
Sara Schandler – Intro Legal Studies, American Government | 21 years at NW
Lara Schesser – Study Skills, ELA 1 CT, ELA 4 CT | 6 years at NW
Rebecca Schultz – US History CT, World Regional Studies CT | 10 years at NW
Ashley Shargo – Study Skills, Integrated Algebra, ELA 2 CT | 2 years at NW
Adam Shibley – Forensic Science 1, Biology 1 CT | 3 years at NW



Connie Springfield – Associate Principal | 11 years at NW
Bob Stewart – IB Physics SL 2, Physical Science Physics 1 | 21 years at NW
Kathy Stewart – ELA 1, ELA CT, Honors ELA 2, Study Skills | 9 years at NW
Justin Stige – AP Physics 1, Physics 1, Virtual Lab | 14 years at NW
Meghan Stigge – Librarian | 14 years at NW

Ashley Strasser – Geometry, Algebra 1 | 12 years at NW
Anthony Subenzauch – US History CT, World Regional Studies | 14 years at NW
Cindy Swanner – Advanced Foods, Child Development, Teacher Education | 18 years at NW
Ryan Swift – Physical Science CT, Physical Science ELL, Chemistry 1 | 11 years at NW
Melissa Terryberry – Jewelry/Sculpture, Introduction to Studio Art, Drawing | 14 years at NW

Kathleen Thomas – Global Issues 1 & 2, Meteorology, Biology | 12 years at NW
Mira Thomas – Integrated Algebra/Geometry ELL, College Algebra Trigonometry, Algebra 2, Math Extensions | 7 years at NW
Misty Verzen – Science, Math, Social Science, ELA, Computers | 19 years at NW
Amy Walker – IB Psychology SL, HL 6, HL 2, AP Psychology, Psychology | 18 years at NW
Marci Weitz – Honors ELA 2, ELA 4, ELA 4 CT | 14 years at NW

Dean White – Financial Literacy | 19 years at NW
Johanny Winston – Chemistry 1, Honors Chemistry 1, IB Chemistry SL 1, TOK | 8 years at NW
Jennifer Wordehoff – Spanish 1 & 2 | 4 years at NW
Tony Ybarra – Integrated Algebra/Geometry, Geometry, ELA 4 | 1 year at NW
Shella Young – ELA 1, ELA 2 ELL, ELA 2 CT | 12 years at NW

What is one song you still listen to from your teenage years?



"Any
broadway
musical
soundtrack."

JULIANNE LONDON



"Sweet Child Of
Mine" by Guns
and Roses."

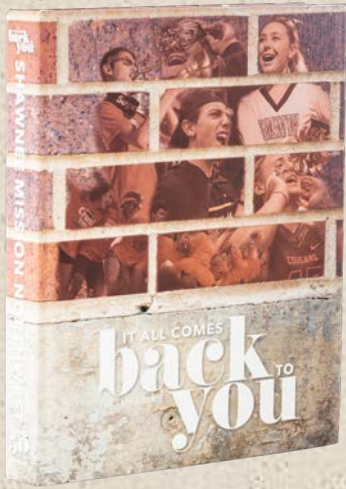
ALICIA JONES



"Any Elton John
or Remember
the Titans
soundtrack!"

DONNA PEDERSEN

Shawnee Mission Northwest High School & Staff



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 Shawnee Mission
 Northwest High School
 Shawnee, Kansas

FRESHMEN



“It was so much fun getting to work with everyone outside of school. It was a way for us to bond because we were all working toward something we knew would be fun for us.”
 — NATALIE PETERSON

Smiling at the crowd, freshman Natalie Peterson holds a “class of 2022” sign at the Homecoming parade Oct. 5. The theme of the freshmen float was toga. “We had to brainstorm a lot of ideas before we landed on what we wanted the float to look like,” Peterson said. “After that, we divided up who was going to make what. We weren’t really sure what the final product would be.” Photo by Pulge Morgan



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Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas

HENRY Kniggendorf

Freshman Henry Kniggendorf sat at his patio table working intently. He cut wires, molded clay, and even sewed, but not for an art class. Kniggendorf moved his supplies out of the way to focus on the most important part of the project: the dead mouse.

"One day I just came home and I felt like I needed to do something fun, so I did some Googling and came across taxidermy," Kniggendorf said.

A little over a year and a half ago, Kniggendorf began his uncommon hobby by watching a Youtube tutorial. The only thing left to do was take a trip to the hardware store and the pet store to gather his supplies.

"I get frozen mice from the pet store that are already dead, then I thaw them a little bit and skin them," Kniggendorf said. "Then I fill the skin with borax in order to sanitize it and I have potting foam that I carve into the shape of the body. Then I get a piece of clay to make the head, beads for the eyes. I stuff it and sew it back up. Next, I let it sit for about two days to dry out, and then it's done."

The process was tedious and took a while to perfect, but it didn't stop Kniggendorf from trying new animals and techniques.

"I'm still learning. I had to figure out how to do the tail," Kniggendorf said. "It always fell off, so within the past month I learned how to get it to stay. I pull the skin of the tail off, kind of like taking the paper wrapping off of a straw."

Although he didn't know anyone else with the same hobby, Kniggendorf was not the only one who enjoyed the final product.

"There's one in Mrs. Demke's room named Nicholas Cage," Kniggendorf said. "I made a joke that I would taxidermy a mouse for her, and then I just did it. She loves it, she even ordered a poster of Nicholas Cage."

To Kniggendorf, taxidermy wasn't just the stuffing of dead animals, it was art.

"The only thing I do is band, so I started taxidermy, too. It's good to have a lot of hobbies. It's a form of art," Kniggendorf said. "You get to keep it, and it's not messy — if you do it right."

STORY BY KELSEY VOLK



Mia Abadie
 Ian Adams
 Triston Adkins
 Levi Aguirre
 Jonathan Aklilu
 Robert Alonso Chavez
 Esha Amin



Naomi Anderson
 Zacharie Anderson
 Sequoia Araiz
 Cairo Araujo
 Jesus Arita-Chacon
 Laken Arnold
 Martha Arvanitakis



Biruk Asbe
 Abbygail Ashlock
 Christophe Augustine
 Katie Ault
 Emma Ayers
 Colin Bachtle
 Harmony Bailey



Jackson Baldwin
 Tabitha Baptist
 Daniel Barnes
 Leslie Barnett
 Alexis Barnhart
 Lincoln Bartelt
 Maxwell Barth



Thomas Batrez
 Brooke Bazzel
 Samuel Beardslee
 Taron Bell
 Ty Bell
 Maria Berardo
 Luke Berberick



Connor Berlin
 Mankirt Bhatthal
 Zane Bick
 Adrina Bischoff
 Cianna Blakeman
 Yeretzy Blanco Martinez
 Anna Bledsoe



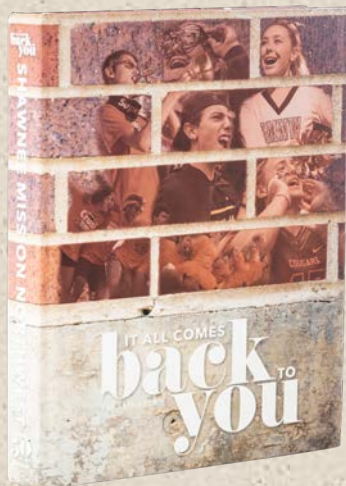
Lucas Bohndorf
 Anne Borberg
 Ryan Borberg
 Piper Borgman
 Emma Borsella
 Lauren Boyce
 Nigel Braswell



Andrew Braun
 Sophia Brewer
 Jazmin Brice
 Devin Brooks
 Darius Brown
 Darryl Brown
 Shi'ayr Brown



Brooke Brummer
 Paige Brummer
 Tyrek Buckingham
 Tate Burns
 Kathryn Bustamante
 Abigail Butler
 Kira Cacioppo



What did you want to be when you were younger?



KIERA MCDONALD



ADRIENNE JOHNSON

"When I was a kid, I wanted to be an engineer. When I came to NW, I joined Project Lead the Way so I could fulfill this dream of mine."



LUKE THOMAS

"I had always wanted to be a cook, but I just microwave everything so it didn't work out."



CLAIRE MOORE

WHAT SUPER POWER DO YOU WANT?



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Lillian Calvin
Harley Camacho Torres
Megan Campbell
Luis Camunoz
A'nia Carter
Ashton Casares
Jason Case



Autumn Cerdá
Margaret Chapin
Kevin Chavez-Hernandez
Cameron Christy
Sandra Clarke
Brooke Claussen
Nicholas Cohen



James Cole
Freddy Collette
Emilia Consiglio
Mya Conway
Benjamin Coppenbarger
Lilly Cox
Grace Cramblett



Elijah Criss-Greene
Alyssa Cunningham
Hanna Dang
Logan Davis
Zora Dawson
Isaiah Delaughter
Randy Delfin-Cobos



Angel Delgadillo
William Delzeit
Damarria Dillard
Clifford Dodds
Katelyn Doering
Erin Dory
Maximus Dory



Brittney Doyle
Emily Dungan
Matthew Dunn
Roberto Duran
Javier Duran Arguilar
Michael Durbin
Morgan Ediger



Gage Ellis
Sarah Ellison
Sydney Elpers
Ethan Emmett
Logan Ennes
Jack Ensley
John-Patrick Ervin



Jasmen Eskridge
Anthony Estrada
Joan Estrella
Kael Farkes
Erika Joy Felix
Luke Figueroa
Adam Flickinger



Abigail Flickner
Carlos Flores
Sierra Flores
Matthew Ford
Cole Foresman
Luke Fornwalt
Gwen Fowler



Megan Freeman
Nathaniel Freiner
Navels Gallegos
Donovan Ganapini
William Garay
Sarahy Garcia
Nicholas Gardiner



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Shawnee, Kansas



SARAH
Ellison

Freshman Sarah Ellison has been learning multiple languages throughout her life. She started with English and maneuvered her way to sign language.

"I started learning sign language one year, because I was really bored," Ellison said. "I discovered that I really enjoyed it, so I moved on to a couple others."

Ellison spoke five other languages: Hungarian, Italian, French, Chinese and some Hindi.

"I think I've always had a great appreciation for learning," Ellison said. "But I think that learning a language is one of the most valuable things you can do with your time in general."

Ellison started learning by herself. She watched YouTube videos and used online dictionaries to

translate words.

"I believe I was 11 when I started working on my next language, which was Hungarian," Ellison said. "I felt like I had a firm grasp on sign language. So I figured out Hungarian would be an interesting thing to try, especially because it's not very common."

Ellison's interest in learning Hungarian came from inspiration and admiration of an actress who also spoke the language.

"Language in and of itself fascinates me to no end because it's literally our voices making sounds and our brains registering them to have meaning," Ellison said. "I just think that every single language that I've learned has enriched my view of culture and enrich my view of the world as a whole, essentially."

Knowing multiple languages, however, could get confusing at times.

"Italian and French are very similar so I get those two confused some times," Ellison said. "There have been a couple interesting moments

where I've spoken Hungarian when I thought I was answering an English, which was confusing."

Another way Ellison has been able to learn the number of languages she knows is through putting on captions while watching foreign films.

"I think invoking more of the listening aspect into it helps a great deal," Ellison said. "I like switching back and forth a lot because it confuses people and it's fun to do that sometimes."

Ellison has always had a passion for learning and improving herself through her passions.

"I think it's just the more you work at it and the more you can integrate a language into your life while simultaneously using the other ones, [the more easily you can] switch back and forth pretty quickly," Ellison said. "I really just enjoy learning and being intellectually stimulated. I think I gained a great deal of satisfaction not only from learning something and feeling like I have a firm grasp on it, but also from being able to talk to other people and take a new perspective."

STORY BY TATUM GOETTING

Michael Garner
 Akorede Gbadebo
 Gerardo Giron-Garza
 Cooper Gobin
 Sandra Gomez-Regalado
 Alexander Gonzalez
 Jennifer Gonzalez



Pedro Gonzalez Marroquin
 Colin Goodrich
 John Gosse
 Kyra Gottfried
 Madison Graff
 Saige Grampsas
 Nathan Greer



FRESHMEN



Katrina Grey
 Logan Grey
 Anisah Grigger
 Stella Crist
 Bryan Guama
 Juan Guizado Fernandez
 Tyler Gundelfinger

Ulises Gutierrez
 Gabriella Haddadi
 Ronnie Hall
 Pierce Hanshaw
 Ryan Hanson
 Drayden Harris
 Grace Harris

Tamara Harris-Webster
 Addison Harrop
 Gage Hartman
 Logan Harvey
 Adora Heitman
 Michael Helzel
 Trinity Her

Maria Hernandez
 Luis Hernandez Contreras
 Valerie Herrera
 Casey Hess
 Samara Hickman
 Beatrice Hodges
 Madison Hoffman

Ahren Hohe
 Samuel Holguin
 Nathaniel Hollman
 Anna Holloway
 Autumn Horn
 Janessa Horner
 Brian Horta Munoz

Jaedis Horton
 Colby Hovermale
 Evangelina Hrenchir
 Ethan Hugeback
 Chaniya Hughes
 Sofia Hughes
 Zyair Hughes

Tyger Husband
 Aaron Jackson
 Andrew Jaime
 Alan Jaimes
 Pedro Jaimes Aguilar
 Gabel Jeppesen
 Adrienne Johnson



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Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas

What is your
biggest goal for
highschool?



MICHAEL OWENS

"Become StuCo
president my
senior year."



MEGAN CAMPBELL

"Staying
positive and
have a clear
path to
college."



YERETZKY BLANCO

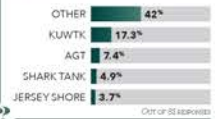
"Ughhh,
don't let me
fail a class."



KEITH LOCKE

"A state
championship in
football."

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE
REALITY TV SHOW?



Quiaunna Johnson
Tyler Johnson
Zoie Johnson
Thomas Johnston
Alex Juarez
Ja'keyla Kane
Dasionna Kelly



Ketra Kelly
Jacob Kendrick
Vivian Kieffer
Mjerai Kim
Morgan Kindle
Thea King
Kairi Kinney



Madelyn Kitson
Gwynivere Kloebien
Henry Kniggendorf
Jiro Ko
Brandon Kouri
Grant Koziol
Matthew Kucharczyk



Nathen Lackner
Amelia Lamb
Rachel Lammers
Patricia Lammert
Rese Lamons
Carissa Lange
Elias Laurent



Bruce Lawrence
Gabriel Lehman
Sarah Leming
Elvin Lin
Oscar Linares Lopez
Keith Locke
Kelsi Loeffler



Noah Lotland
Brandon Lopez
Gabriella Lopez
Cecilia Lorino
Russell Lucas
Brendan Macauley
Ella Mackiewicz



Cole Madsen
Alexa Magstadt
Aicha Maji
Nestor Mancilla Anastasio
Taylor Mann
Jade Marsh
Willem Martin



Luis Martinez
Sierra Martinez
Andrew Martz
Riley McCombs
Kyren McCuiston
Kiera McDonald
Lauren McFarlane



Laura McGea
Conner McGowan
Katherine McKnight
Julia McNish
Destyni Meadows
John Meats
Samantha Meeks



Mackenzie Meharry
William Mehnert
Moriah Meigs
Thomas Meiss
Kaylanie Alanina Mellinger
Benito Mendoza
Evelyn Mendoza



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Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas

AMELLE Teo

Freshman Amelle Teo was born in the American Samoa, an island in the Polynesian islands surrounded by ocean water.

"I was born [in American Samoa] and then I was raised in New Zealand," Teo said. "Then moved back to the islands for like four years."

In the Polynesian Islands, culture and religion are very important. For example, her community prays for their island. They believe it is important because it helps them get through hardships. Their culture has multiple traditions. "A woman and a man have traditional tattoos," Teo said. "They symbolize important elements like water, earth, wind and fire. Shells in the tattoos represent peace and fertility."

When Teo moved to the United States, she stayed in Las Vegas, NV for two years. Moving to the United States from her home was significant because of how important family is to her culture.

"In my culture, religion is very important," Teo said. "Family is really big, too."

According to Teo, the United States is a lot more industrialized. It also has less of an emphasis on community.

"On the island, it's really small," Teo said. "There's only one football stadium on the whole island and only a few schools."

Coming to Kansas was different than anything Teo had experienced before.

"When I first came to Northwest, I was surprised at how big everything was and how many students there were," Teo said. "I was nervous because it was a new school but also I ended up joining volleyball and I managed for wrestling."

According to Teo, the United States had more opportunities for her family like better colleges and jobs.

"We move to the states for our islands," Teo said.

They want to be able to represent their culture as well as further their education. Teo moved to the United States with her cousins.

"I guess I miss my family and friends from my island," Teo said. "But I know that I need to be here to help my island and represent them."

STORY BY TATUM GORTING



PHOTO BY ABBY RYAN

Sophia Mendus
 Elijah Merritt
 Bianca Metcalf
 Carson Metivier
 Jack Meylan
 Kanoelehua Misipeka
 Imani Mooney



Brady Moore
 Claire Moore
 Kayla Mora
 Isaac Moreno
 Mary Morstadt
 Timothy Moye
 Jack Mudgett



FRESHMEN



Sloan Munson
 Immaculee Muragizi
 Ellie Musson
 Benjamin Nash
 Carolina Navarro
 Victoria Neighbour
 Oscar Neis

Misaiah Newbill
 Alyssa Ngo
 Josh Nohinek
 Ian O'Donnell
 Austin Okerson
 Abigail Obertop
 Jesus Ocampo Estrada

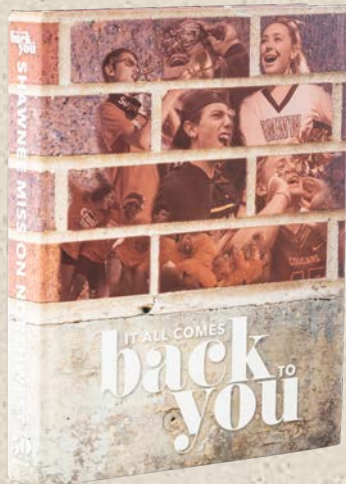
Ericka Ojeda
 Alexander Olivera
 Mason Ortmeyer
 Connor Osner
 Jay Ostolaza-Caban
 Michael Owens
 Jovan Ozegovic

Petar Ozegovic
 Malachi Paige
 Jaden Palacios
 Gabriela Palomo
 Bryce Partee
 Janvi Patel
 Anika Paulette

Alexander Payne
 Kadence Peel
 Kayden Pennewell
 Peyton Perez
 Natalie Peterson
 Addison Pixton
 Eli Pixton

Olivia Pixton
 Caila Poyaoan Felix
 Cody Prater
 Payton Price
 Ally Pruenete
 Hitesh Puri
 Sarah Pyle

Margaret Qualls
 Tyra Quinn
 Raquel Ramirez
 Christopher Ramsey
 Cody Rard
 Gabriella Reavis
 Blake Reeder



**What's one
food item
you can't live
without and
why?**



TATE BURNS

"Water,
cause ya'
need that
stuff to live."



TAMARA HARRIS-WEBSTER

"Can't live
without
tapioca
pudding."



ELLA STEINMITZ

"I can't live
without cheese.
I may be lactose
intolerant,
however,
cheese is
worth it."



ABBY FLICKNER

"I like most
foods. Not
that picky."



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Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas

Jon Reiff
Nicholas Renteria
Amaya Reyes
Xavier Reyes
Jose Reyes Becerril
Madeline Reyes-Heliodoro
Halden Rhodes



Jacob Rhodes
Angela-Fe Richardson
Gabrielle Rickey
Mackenzie Riggs
Samantha Riggs
Megan Rivera
Sarah Robinson



Roxanna Rodriguez
Alex Rogers
Luke Rogers
Taylor Ronfeldt
Sophia Root
Emma Roth
Ashton Rudd



Celso Ruiz
Jeffrey Russell
Alyssa Rutherford
Adam Sakati
Thania Sanchez Hernandez
Caitlin Sanders
Olivia Sanders



Ingrid Santiago Hernandez
Charity Saunders
Alexander Savinkov
Lawrence Schmidt
Daniel Schnacker
Drake Schotland
Jason Scott



Mikah Scott
John Seibold
Olivia Seibold
Jacob Sell
Isabel Semadeni
Olivia Seston
Sterling Sewell



Jillian Sharp
Caleb Shelby
Jackson Shields
James Shields
Nawsi Si
Janmeet Singh
Ana Sinuco-Sierra



Lina Sinuco-Sierra
Cody Sitz
Bianca Smith
Elijah Smith
Gracelyn Soetaert
Jordan Sogaard
Shelby Sogaard



Lucy Soumphonphakdy
Joshua Stanley
Lillian Staver
Ella Steinmetz
Allison Strahl
William Tate
Aviana Taylor



Gabriel Taylor
Mckenna Taylor
Paige Taylor
Amelle Teo
Owen Tepen
Ariana Terreros
Georgianna Teschendorf



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Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas

Cavin Thomas
 Luke Thomas
 Kaiten Thompson
 Annabelle Thomsen
 Naudia Thurman



Yonatan Tilahun
 Julia Todd
 Zadic Torline
 Anahi Torres
 Joselyn Torres



Elmer Trinidad
 Keren Tuttle
 Tania Union
 Ramiro Urita Rojero
 Hannah Van Auker



Teagan Vanblarcom
 Juliana Velasquez Jimenez
 Eduardo Verbena
 Isaiah Versola
 Amir Vester-Smith



Wade Vielhauer
 Samuel Vossen
 Landon Wagler
 Sage Wallace
 Hayden Walter



Solomon Washington
 Alyson Welch
 Rae Anne Weller
 Halle Westbrook
 Austin Weston



Dante Wheateroff
 Jaxon White
 Rachel White
 Reilly Whitmore
 Cherika Williams



Johanna Williams
 Nathaniel Williams
 Summer Williams
 Matthew Wilson
 Sam Wilson



Riley Wineinger
 Logan Winters
 Andrew Wood
 Patrick Wood
 Conal Woods



Cole Wright
 Layziah Yeager
 Daniel Yuman
 Shavez Zachary
 Fabiola Zamudio-Vasquez

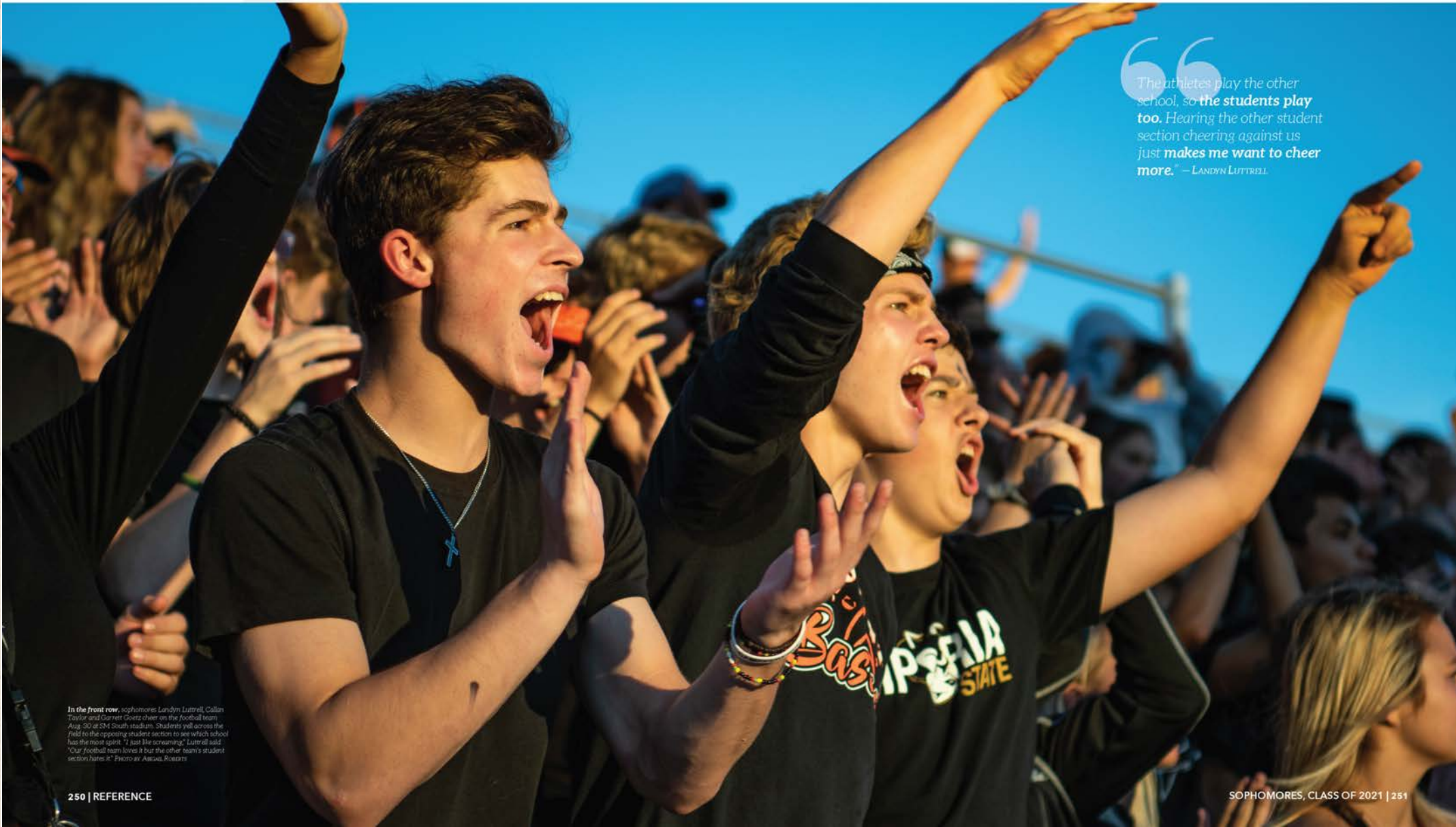
Not Pictured: Eber Arlita, Selma Basic, Angel Brown, Austin Buerneke, Isabel Carbajal-Lopez, Gabriel Dominguez, Sebastian Duewel, Brianna Durbin, Nillson Goldarnez-Molina, Jacob Hampton, Mark Harley, Malcom Hill, Hannah Holmes, Dajana Jackson, Yordi Lara, Kenneth Luna-Castro, D'Angelo Mason, Elizabeth Mendoza-Gomez, Imani Mooney, Karinne Neuner, Katie Payne, Moises Ramirez-Caldelas, Kimberly Reyes-Horta, Isaac Seidner, Danare Smith, Christian Villa, Mexili Villa, Adrian Wimbush, David Wood

Class of 2022



// **The Lair**
Shawnee Mission
Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas

SOPHOMORES



“The athletes play the other school, so **the students play too**. Hearing the other student section cheering against us just **makes me want to cheer more.**” — LANDYN LUTTRELL

In the front row, sophomores Landyn Luttrell, Collin Taylor and Garrett Goetz cheer on the football team Aug. 30 at SM South stadium. Students yell across the field to the opposing student section to see which school has the most spirit. “I just like screaming,” Luttrell said. “Our football team loves it but the other team’s student section hates it.” Photo by ARIANA ROBERTS



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 Shawnee Mission
 Northwest High School
 Shawnee, Kansas

ELIZABETH Kuffour

Dancing in front of her school's student session, sophomore Elizabeth Kuffour performed in another football halftime show. This was one of many opportunities she had been given to showcase her talent.

"With some people, [they dance because] it helps them to express themselves without talking, or because it makes them feel more confident. And even if I didn't do dance, I feel like I would still be comfortable expressing myself and I would still be confident," Kuffour said. "It's not like that for me, and I can't exactly pinpoint why I love it so much. I think there's no feeling like the one I feel when I'm dancing. I just feel the most myself when I'm dancing."

Kuffour started dancing at a young age — she joined classes at a local gym at the age of three. Even then, dance meant a lot to her and that's when her passion for dancing started.

"I just fell in love with that class," Kuffour said. "It was like, once a week for 30 minutes, it was no commitment at all. But even then, I was so laser-focused on learning how to dance. The kids would run around scream but I would stand at the bars doing my thing."

Kuffour has been involved in the NW dance team for two years and plans to continue until she graduates. She has gained skills and close friends from being apart of it.

"I love that it keeps me involved," Kuffour said. "We are at pretty much every soccer, basketball and football game doing either sidelines or halftime and we perform at all the assemblies. So I never miss out on anything at Northwest partially because I'm required to be there but I also love the performance opportunities. I love being able to dance in front of all my friends and all the people at school."

Dance has consumed much of Kuffour's life, since she was involved Miller Marley school of dance as well as the dance team. Kuffour was rehearsing and taking classes for Miller Marley 20 to 25 hours a week.

"It's taught me a lot of lessons that I will be able to carry with me," Kuffour said. "Dances is a very disciplined art form. You're always expected to be respectful and on top of your game, organized and responsible. Those things like to serve you and dance but they also serve you in life. It's also taught me a lot of dedication because it's such a time commitment, and it's such a physically and mentally demanding sport."

STORY BY MOLLY ELFRINK

Phillip Adams
 Tajanai Adams
 Dylan Agard
 Haeel Al-Dawoodi
 Isabella Alaniz
 Erin Albers
 Emily Alexander

Alaysah Allen
 Arianna Allen
 Sydney Allen
 Amber Allison
 Rachel Allison
 Steven Alonso
 Caleb Anderson



Photo by Daniel Baccari



Erick Arita Leiva
 Diana Arita Melendrez
 Kaitlyn Assel
 Abigail Avila-Castillo
 Teresa Baptist

Alexander Barfield
 Jack Barnhart
 Jennifer Barrera-Martinez
 Jude Barry
 Ashby Bays

Esther Bella Ngoa
 Ashton Belt
 Samantha Bender
 Audrey Bennett
 Lamonte Bennett

Abenezer Bereha
 Brandon Berlin
 Brandon Berry
 Isaac Bishop
 Ty Black

Ty Blecha
 Aine Boice
 Patrick Bonewits
 Triston Boone
 Marcus Borders

Lillian Bowen
 Cullan Bower
 Jessica Bozarth
 Adreah Bradford
 Grace Bradley

Tyler Bright
 Caroline Brindle
 Skylar Britt
 Riley Brokeshoulder
 Addilynn Brown

What song do you live by?



"SO Nifty United States"

KATE LAWRENCE



"Hey Ya!" — OutKast

CALLAN TAYLOR



"Banana Pancakes" — Jack Johnson

EMILY ALEXANDER



**Who is your
upperclassmen
crush?**



"Mr.
Johnson"

LANDYN LUTTRELL



"Tied between
Allieu Jagne and
Cody Andrews
because I love
them with all of
my heart."

ERIN ALBERS



"Zak
Gorsuch"

ABBY MARX



"No thanks
broski."

ALEX BARFIELD

**WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE
ASSEMBLY?**



Corey Brown
Danielle Brunner
Austin Bueneke
Connor Buffon
Dominic Burns
Lydia Burns
Kaleb Buting



Guadalupe Camacho
Andrew Campana Villamarin
Jenna Campbell
Ozzy Carmack
Devonte Carpenter
Simon Carr
Julia Carson



Karsten Casares
Yamileth Centeno Calderon
Devontrae Chatman
Ava Cheesman
Gabe Chiles
Andrew Chirco
Amirah Coleman



Samuel Coleman
John Colfax
Jaden Combs
Sebastian Costes
Jessica Cox
Katelyn Dahl
Karnela Davis



Dreviyon Dawn-Chapple
Maura Dayton
Jesse DeBok
Reanne Debose
Ruth Demeke
Bryce Dewsbury
Drew Dickerson



Dashawn Dillard
William Dillon Kinard
Emani Dilunga
Maggie Dolinar
Gabriel Dominguez
Jordan Dorton
Chloe Dougherty



Damario Doyal
Bethany Doyle
Easton Dubbert
Josue Dubique
Alejandro Dueswel
Matthew Duncan
Rory Dungan



Kylie Dunn
Elena Eggerman
Macey Eichkorn
Mya Eitel
Joshua Elias-Amigo
Luzwi Erazo Villeda
Nathan Ervin



Danielle Estrada
Syr-Mauryeon Ewing
Johan Figueroa
Carlos Flores
Jesus Flores
Caitlynn Fowler
Elijah Free



Ethan Freiner
Gentry Gardner
Madison Garner
Meghan Garrison
Jayden Gilreath
Alecia Goebel
Victoria Goodwin

CHLOE Dougherty

Sophomore Chloe Dougherty phone screen lit up her face while she scrolled through Instagram for inspiration. Dougherty stopped scrolling when she saw a girl with bright blue eyeshadow and long black eyelashes. She went to the girl with the bold makeup account; she found her inspiration: @cryptozoological.

"I choose her for my next art project because she isn't afraid to express herself through wild makeup," Dougherty said. "She doesn't care what people think about her and I think that's awesome."

Dougherty paints, draws and creates digital art. Dougherty likes to express herself through her art.

"Art helps me express my creative thoughts and ideas," Dougherty said. "It's a really nice outlet and I think that I put more of me in my art than I just give off to other people."

Art helps Dougherty cope with the stresses of high school. "When I am painting, or drawing or whatever every emotion just melts away," Dougherty said. "No homework, test or project matters when I am creating art. I'm just in the zone."

Art also helps Dougherty when she is feeling overwhelmed. "Sometimes when things kind of get a little too much I just go home and paint," Dougherty said.

Dougherty sells her art in Downtown Kansas City, at First Fridays.

"I sell my art so I can promote my Instagram account so people can see my other works of art and hopefully share with other people," Dougherty said. "Also so I can earn money."

"I feel really amazing when someone buys my art," Dougherty said. "It is nice to feel like someone appreciates what I do."

Even though Dougherty enjoys when people buy her art, she doesn't think about what other people are going to say about her pieces.

"I honestly make art for myself not for other people," Dougherty said. "So I only really care if I enjoy how it turns out. I still hope people like it, but what other people think isn't gonna dictate how I feel about my art."

Dougherty turns off her phone and gets into bed. Ideas are racing in her mind about how she wants to create her next art piece. Slowly she closed her eyes and fell asleep.

"My art is me on a canvas," Dougherty said. "Just the thought of that makes me smile."

STORY BY TATUM SCHUERMAN



Photo: Erika Tupper

“My freshman year I moved 2000 miles to a totally new place. It took most of freshman year to find a group but now I’m so much more comfortable as a sophomore. I’ve never had a bad experience at northwest. I have just always felt safe here.”
— IMANI MULLEN



Abbi Hamilton
Cameron Hammond
Brian Harrell
Seth Harriman
Joshua Harris



Alijah Harvey
Canyon Harvey
Nathan Hawthorne
Marquee Hayes
Andrew Heitz



Keahnjana Henderson
Duke Henke
Valeria Hernandez Garcia
Alexander Herr
Jean Paul Herrera



Madison Herring
Ezra Hodges
Nadya Hodson
Albert Hoelting
Gabriel Holgate



Alvin Horner
Kaiden Horton
Dionte Howard
Abigail Huber
Ajooni Hundal



Kaitlyn Hurla
Tayen Huyett
Lucas Ihde
Reilly Jarrett
Amari Jenkins

What did you learn from freshmen year?



"Extra credit is a lifesaver."

MORGAN KASTELAN

"Turn those Ls into lessons
— Mike the Situation"



ALI WINDOFFER



"That school and grades aren't the only things that matter. Take care of yourself before everyone else."

NESSIE GRAGG

Shannon Gragg
Asanti Grigger
Lauren Groneman
Oliver Grotegut
Rylie Gunter
Jovani Gutierrez
Kevin Gutierrez



Savannah Hadley
Bethel Hailemariam
Trevor Hale
Anna Hales
Noah Hall
Alexander Hallblade
Jacob Hallouer



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Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas



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 Shawnee, Kansas*

**Where do
 you want to
 travel?**



MAURA DAYTON



GRACE RIPPEE

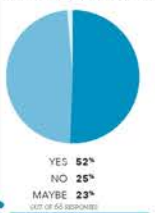


ALEX DUEWEL



DUKE HENKE

ARE ALIENS REAL?



Samantha Jenkins
 Pedro James
 Grant Johnson
 Jacob Johnson
 Jett Johnson
 Julie Johnson
 Colby Johnston



Isaac Jonah
 Lleana Jones
 Victoria Jones
 Ani'hai Kane
 Mason Karlin
 Morgan Kastelan
 Gurleen Kaur



Manvir Kaur
 Anthony Kempf
 Alyssa Kirkpatrick
 Michael Kouri
 Ethan Krugjohn
 Elizabeth Kuffour
 Cierra Ladesich



Griffin Lamb
 Jayce Lamb
 Paige Lambert
 Stephanie Land
 Jacob Lane
 Rian Laster
 Kate Lawrence



Tamira Lawrence
 Claire Laws
 Courtney Lee
 Matthew Lee
 Ella Legreid
 Aaliyah Lewis
 Austin Lewis



Joseph Lilly
 Keller Lloyd
 Alejandro Lopez
 Briana Loudon
 Landyn Luttrell
 Kevin Ly
 Tayjanai Madison



Camryn Maisch
 Alan Makkyla
 Nick Malara
 Maxwell Malik
 Cora Manica
 Kasi Maniktala
 Owen Markwart



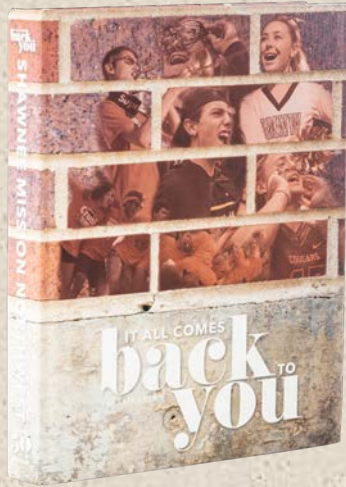
Jacob Mars
 Cole Marshall
 Jackson Martin
 Jenna Martin
 Jordan Martin
 Saul Martinez
 Sophia Martinez



Alexander Marvine
 Abby Marx
 Hayden Masters
 Mackenzie Masters
 Audrey Maxon
 Kylan Mays
 Taylor McCarthy



Preston McClelland
 Avalon McGrew
 Nathan McManness
 Anna McNish
 Jillian Meister
 Angela Mendoza
 Bella Mendoza



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KENET Del Cid-Sanhceez

The aroma of carne asada cooking on the grill drifted through the air at the Del Cid Sanchez family reunion at Hillsdale Lake. The younger children wove their way around to avoid the annual soccer game taking place.

"We all get together and have a great time no matter what we're doing," sophomore Kenet Del Cid Sanchez said. "It's just good vibes when we're together."

In this family, soccer was always on the agenda. Whether you played, were just there to encourage or to help each other practice and get better, their lives revolved around the sport they loved.

"My dad made me want to start playing," Del Cid said. "He committed a huge chunk of his life to soccer, and I want to do the same."

Motivation and effort were never lacking. Del Cid never missed a soccer practice, regardless of how far it was from home. The trip was always worth getting to be a part of the team.

"My dad would travel 2-3 hours just to practice with his team," Del Cid said. "He continued playing

when he got to California."

Soccer has made an immense impact on the father-son bond the Del Cids have to this day.

"When I was little I would go cheer him on at his games," Del Cid said. "Now he comes and supports me at my games. We have always been each other's biggest fans."

Del Cid and his father encouraged his two younger brothers to start their soccer careers early.

"It feels good knowing that I'm helping my siblings learn something that the rest of us have always put our hearts into," Del Cid said.

Although soccer is a priority, family is always more important. With one part of the family from El Salvador and the other from Guatemala, there is plenty of love and culture to go around, according to Del Cid.

"It's very diverse since there's two countries that my family [came] from," Del Cid said. "We mix a lot of things like the food, music and beliefs. In the end, we're all just one big family."

STORY BY MAGGIE DOLNAR



PHOTO BY SHAWNAN EMERSON

Lizbeth Mendoza Gomez
Sarah Milks
Justin Mitchell
Cohen Mitts
Kaylee Mitts
Emma Mlivic
Isabell Moffett



Alexis Moore
Jaylan Moore
Lashell Moore
Lindsay Mora
Paige Morgan
Mason Morris
Samantha Mudgett



“With myself, I see a **difference with how I act.** I used to care a lot about what other people thought of me especially last year. This year I’ve learned to be yourself honestly and **not care what other people think.**” — ALEXIS SMITH



Imani Mullen
Shane Mullen
Tyler Munsayakhom
Bijou Muragizi
Varshini Murugesu



Colin Nachbar
Alexander Nelson
Zoe Newcomb
Desiree Newton
Austin Nichols



Kayla Nickle
Griffin Niemann
Alden Norberg
Sean O'Donnell
Sofia Olivera



Madelyn Omanson
Peter Opoku-Ware
Anaid Ornelas
Joshua Palao
Kallie Pankau



Aliyah Pannell
Jacob Parker
Mason Patterson
Hadley Patton
Karie Pauli



Weston Payne
Abel Perez-Salazar
Lacie Perry
Charmaine Phoenix
Allison Plough

How did you make your choice of AP, IB or regular classes?



"I'm involved in a lot of sports so I needed to keep my classes easy."

RACHEL ALLISON



"IB. I know what I'm capable of and I need motivation to apply myself further in schooling."

CHRIS REYES



"I chose regular classes due to the time factor. Taking advanced classes takes up time. It is really difficult to manage the extra work."

PAIGE MORGAN



What teacher has impacted you and why?

"Mrs. Ojeda. She's impacted high school in a way no other teacher has. Helping me with my decisions for school and sports, and also being there whenever I need her or just making me laugh."



EMMA MLIVIC

"Mrs. Sneed whenever I have a problem I ask myself 'What would Ann Sneed do?'"



ABEL PEREZ-SALAZAR

"Mrs. Brewer. She made me realize that I actually need to work hard to achieve my goals. Last year, even though she went through a hard time with having a tumor, she still came back as strong as ever and worked really hard to help her students."



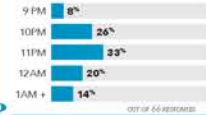
AJOONI HUNDAL

"Mrs. Thomas. She impacted me because first semester of bio last year. I was really struggling and lost my interest in science. Her teaching style just clicked with me and I passed that class with an 'A' easily."



ZOE NEWCOMB

WHAT TIME DO YOU GO TO BED?



Emily Price
Vishal Puri
Sijie Quan
Adam Ramirez
Moises Ramirez
Naidelyn Ramirez
Anahi Ramos Mendoza



Jackson Reese
Alayna Reinke
Gabriella Renteria
Christopher Reyes
Tyler Rhodes
Lilly Riddell
Hayley Rider



Kyndall Ridings
Regan Rigdon
Grace Rippee
Matthew Roberts
Cristina Rodriguez
Karyme Rodriguez
Juan Carlos Rodriguez Melendrez



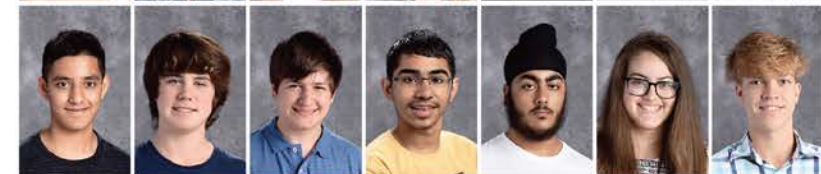
Gael Rodriguez Torres
Sophia Root
Abigail Rosales
Gabriella Rualcava
Allison Ruschill
Clark Russell
Adriana Salazar



Julian Sanchez
Lauren Sanders
Clara Sandnes
Sydney Sanoubane
Zachary Schafersman
Lucas Schauer
Jack Schnittker



Tatum Schuerman
Alec Schmidt
Blair Sedler
Kennedy Sedler
Michael See
Cooper Seglem
Davon Selectman



Jatin Sharma
John Ryan Shirley
Wesley Simms
Harkamaljit Singh
Pallanpreet Singh
Emilia Sixbury
Vann Skinner



Alexis Smith
Ayrianna Smith
Jayley Smith
Wyatt Smith
Cameron Solenberg
Landze Solir
Cody Sprague



Jaxon St. Clair
Tage Stack
Christopher Starke
Kelton Staver
Marissa Steele
Hayden Stegman
Samuel Steinlicht



Gabe Sterns
Laylah Stevens
Matty Stiger
Halley Stone
Shelby Strom
Bret Summers
Cade Swanson



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OLIVIA Williamson

Clap
 After removing the clap board from the frame, Sophomore Olivia Williamson bit her lip during the filming of a music video featuring the men of Queer Eye.
 "What is the one thing in your life, that truly allows you to express yourself?" Antoni Porowski asked during the video.
 "To sing," Williamson replied.
 It started when Jason Coats told the rep class that a "big director" was looking for young actors for a project dealing with the men of a popular show: Queer Eye. Being involved in theatre and

being a stage manager for NW productions, Williamson jumped at the opportunity.
 "I emailed the director and he directed me to the casting director and I had to send them a little video of me," Williamson said.
 The day after sending in her video, Williamson received a call from the directors telling her that she was officially in the video.
 "It was so crazy sitting in French class hearing this news and realizing that I might be mildly famous," Williamson said.
 The next day, people joined Williamson in her home to film some of the shots for the video. When she let her dog out, Williamson was greeted by a familiar face.
 "I looked up and there was Jonathan Van Ness in my driveway," Williamson said. "He ran his fingers through my hair and told me how

beautiful it was. It would normally freak me out but it was Jonathan so I just felt honored."
 "I felt like a movie star and they definitely treated me like one," Williamson said.
 Williamson stepped out from backstage. The spotlight hit her and her scarlet red dress. She walked up to mic and started to sing.
 "When the sharpest words wanna cut me down. I'm gonna send a flood, gonna drown them out. I am brave, I am bruised, I am who I'm meant to be, this is me."
 "The whole experience was so surreal and I couldn't believe it was actually happening," Williamson said. "If I would have told my younger self I would have this experience, I wouldn't believe myself. But, it was real and it was amazing"

STORY BY TATUM SCHIERMAN

Kristen Swarts
 Lauren Swearingen
 David Tagle
 Callan Taylor
 Kennedy Taylor
 Jordan Thomas
 Peder Thomas



Char'nia Thompson
 Imrina Tilmon
 Olivia Tolleson
 Kendall Toomay
 Francisco Torres
 Luvia Tuwei
 Evelyn Valenzuela Barron



“With myself, I see a **difference with how I act.** I used to care a lot about what other people thought of me especially last year. This year I’ve learned to be yourself honestly and **not care what other people think.**” — ALEXIS SMITH



Ashlyn Van Nieuwenhuyse
 Kelly VandenBos
 Andrew Vanderwerf
 Arly Varela
 Bernadet Velez-Padilla



Phillip Vesta
 Amir Vester-Smith
 Ashley VII
 Isaiah Volavonga
 Benjamin Walter



Corbin Washington
 Olivia Warren
 John Watts
 Jacob Weaver
 Aidan Wilcox



Jacy Williams
 Olivia Williamson
 Lily Willming
 Jenna Wilson
 Sam Wilson

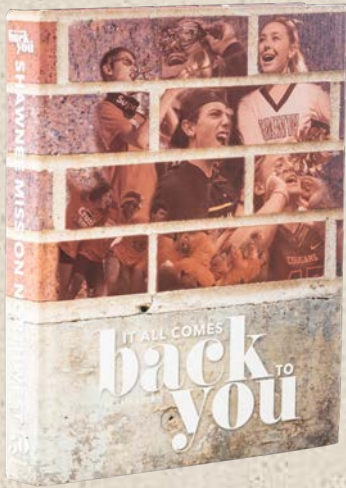


Adrian Wimbush
 Ali Windoffer
 Greg Wood
 Joseph Wood
 Ayden Young



Nathan Zankel

NOT PICTURED: Devon Aiken, Tahreem Allen, Kevin Batres, Evan Battles, Ryan Beck, Blake Brocker, Dylan Butler, Caiden Chapman, Cardell Davis, Kenet Del Cid-Sanchez, Javier Duran-Aguilar, Isaac Emerson, Hilda Encinas-Solis, Cristiana Freire, Oscar Garcia, Steven Garrett, Joseph Geither, Garrett Goetz, Brock Goodwin, Yadiel Gotay, Carson Gray, Victor Kearns, Brady King, Michael Kleinow-Malone, Olivia Lirville, Jan McAllister, Aiden Meek, Jesse Mellott, Abigail Monahan, Perla Morales-Perez, Joseph Nachbar, Isiah Peters, Gregory Renfro, Noah Seidner, Matthew Steinmetz, Isaac Taitt, Ashley VII



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JUNIORS

In front of their class section, juniors Sophia Pope, Anthony Porcilo Ramos, Jon Lara, Brianna Torres, Payton Smith, Rylee Garrett, Kelsey Veli, Chase Cople and Shailynn Yazel perform their Bonfire skit Aug. 29 in the Main Gym. The juniors prepared for the assembly by meeting and choreographing a skit. "It's just a fun thing to do," Porcilo Ramos said. "We're surrounded by friends and everyone gets close." Photos by Alex Rios

"I like **meeting new people** from my grade when we're putting [assembly skits] together. It's really fun dancing in front of our class. They always **get excited and hype us up.**" — SOPHIA POPE





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 Shawnee, Kansas



FATEMEH Moor

Moving to and from cities and countries as a child was difficult for junior Fatemeh Moor. "I was raised in Dubai, but my family's from Iran," Moore said. "So I've lived in both places." Moor lived in Dubai for six or seven years before moving to Iran for second to fourth grades and came to the United States in fifth grade. Moor's first language was Farsi, a language spoken in Iran. Moore learned English in fifth grade. "I feel like it was harder to move so much for my sister and my parents," Moor said. "I didn't live in Dubai for a lot of my life, so I didn't really remember that much, but my family did."

Moor's uncle signed her family up for the Green Card lottery, a application-based program that allows individual people win the opportunity to live in the United States for five years and earn citizenship. People are chosen for the program in a random drawing. Moor and her family became American citizens in 2018. "When I came to America, it was a bit awkward at first because my family is religious," Moor said. "I thought [American school] was this really scary thing that I wouldn't be able to do, but I was able to come to terms with it." In Iran, the communities are more close-knit than in the United States. Extended family members see each other on a more regular basis. "You see your extended family pretty much all the time in Iran," Moor said. "I feel like since the United States is much bigger, it's harder to have direct contact with them." Tradition was emphasized in Dubai and Iran

and, until she moved to America, Moor had worn a hijab, a veil worn by many Islamic women. "I stopped wearing my hijab for personal reasons," Moor said. "Eventually, I just didn't feel like it was authentic. I would get a lot of comments from people in the Muslim community saying that I'm modest and I'm a good, faithful person. I felt like if they had known me better, they wouldn't say that." In spite of U.S. news coverage highlighting racism toward Islamics, Moor has felt more comfortable here due to the opportunities available and the overall diversity she experiences. "In Iran, pretty much everybody's Muslim, that's just the demographic," Moor said. "Here there's such a difference with how people get to socialize and, overall, there's just so much more openness and freedom to be yourself."

STORY BY TATUM GOETTIG

Tatiana Acosta
 Megan Acton
 Peyton Aerni
 Jessica Aguilar
 Yessina Ahumada
 Luke Aitken
 Emma Alexander



Megan Alexander
 Claire Anderson
 Eric Anderson
 Joseph Arena
 Wilmi Arita Leiva
 Blake Aronson
 Peter Arvanitakis



"We are at a point where we all have started thinking about the future and what we are going to do after high school and that can be stressful, but doing it with other students, the amazing teachers and staff makes it doable." — ZAC JARRETT



Luke Athey
 Ashley Avendano-Castillo
 Anna Bachelor
 Laton Bachert
 Lee Ball



Allison Banks
 Alison Barnes
 Alexis Bartkoski
 Andrew Bates
 Parker Baughman



Nathaniel Baum
 Catherine Becker
 Bridgette Bendau
 Jose Benitez-Martinez
 Robin Berger



Kourtney Berry
 Synaj Bingley
 Cheyanne Bolin
 Sephine Bondurant
 Evan Borberg



Emma Bowman
 Parker Brake
 Riley Brocker
 Skylar Brogan
 Porter Brookes



Logan Brower
 Jayla Brown
 Joseph Brown
 Dakota Bruckner
 Ashley Brull

Where do you usually hangout with your friends?



"Black Dog is a good spot but usually stay in with my friends at home"

ELIZA KIDDER



"On the train tracks or in the studio"

SAM DEMOSS



"Chick-fil-A, Chick-fil-A, Chick-fil-A"

NATALEE OAKERSON



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Are there any upperclassmen perks?

"Yes. You know the school, the teachers and the people better. And you are starting to become the 'big man' on campus."



REILLY FORBES

"Closer to being done with school."



KAYLI KINSELLA

"During assemblies everything is facing you because you're on the 'good' side of the stands."



CATIE WOOD

"Honestly, I keep forgetting that 'upperclassmen' includes me."



CATHERINE BECKER

WHAT'S YOUR LONGEST SNAPCHAT STREAK?



Jennaka Bultman
 Jack Burns
 Asher Calzadilla-Casarez
 Rahic Camacho-Torres
 Elizabeth Carmody
 Josiah Carroll
 Helen Castillo



Brandon Castillo Tecpan
 Bailey Cavin
 Michaela Cera
 Rachael Cho
 Ismael Cisse
 Jordan Clark
 Theone Clark



Wesley Clark
 Zachary Claussen
 Tiffany Cloo
 Gavin Cobb
 Anthony Cochango
 Marko Cochango
 Kamren Coleman



William Conner
 Adam Consiglio
 Marques Cook
 Francis Cooper
 Ishamael Coppage
 Chase Copple
 Brooklyn Cowan



William Crafton
 Michaela Crowe
 Matthew Cruz
 Nestor Cruz
 Cate Cunningham
 Justin D'Silva
 Sydney Davis



Ethan Dean
 Thomas Delzeit
 Samantha DeMoss
 Mya Deneke
 Tyler Donovan
 Isabel Dory
 Dario Doughty



Zachary Dulny
 Victoria Duran
 Mollie Elfrink
 Sebastian Emerson
 Jackson Esch
 Reguan Estell
 Aniah Etienne



Jaden Ezull
 Sophia Fairchild
 Anthony Felkins
 Cameron Ferencz
 Mason Ferguson
 Cameron Figgins
 Connor Figgins



Michael Fitzgerald
 Kayla Florez
 Reilly Forbes
 Emma Fowler
 Maren Fowler
 Samuel Franco
 Darius Freeman



Isaac Freeman
 Jason Fuemmel
 Victor Fuentes
 Federico Gallegos
 Katie Gardiner
 Chase Garrett
 Rylee Garrett



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ZAK Gorsuch

As he focused, black graphite pencil in hand, junior Zak Gorsuch lightly sketched on an empty white piece of paper that would soon be filled with dark strokes.

"I've basically been drawing my entire life," Gorsuch said. "I've always been thinking creatively and naturally, but I constantly pull inspiration from other art around me."

Gorsuch's style was mainly inspired by German and Japanese painters he saw in books and video games.

"When I'm doing a full piece, it usually takes me anywhere from two to three days, just because I have a horrible habit of being a perfectionist," Gorsuch said. "Smaller sketches never usually take me longer than 10 minutes. I love drawing quickly."

According to Gorsuch, there have been plenty of times he hasn't been able to draw.

"It really gets to me," Gorsuch said. "I had a horrible experience this year when a painting teacher at JCCC told me I didn't know how to draw. I spent way too much time trying things that I didn't believe in, then I found what worked for me again."

Gorsuch's work reflects the world around him. "The aspects of things I'm familiar with come through in my art, whether that's location, people, movies I've seen," Accuracy comes from familiarity and observation," Gorsuch said. "Getting a sense of how objects or people feel can allow your drawings to become stronger."

Gorsuch's work focused on adding small details that could go unnoticed, but were essential to the feeling of a piece. He did a lot of character designing and looked for the details that revealed a person's story. That opened up opportunities to add smaller accessories, like beads or a textured layer, to give it a feel of depth.

"With sketches, you develop a very personal touch," Gorsuch said. "The roughness has always appealed to me, even more than a finished piece at times."

"Sometimes people tell that they can never be as good as I am and then are upset with me for my skill," Gorsuch said. "I want people to ask rather than just recognize the skill. It's much better to learn from people around you and ask than to sit by them and resent them for their skills. The most important thing I have learned is to accept and learn from my mistakes. My failures are just as, if not more, important than my successes."

STORY BY TARUM GOETTING

Nicholas Gaul
 Nura Ghasempour
 John Gilliam
 Talmadge Gist
 Jordan Glanville
 Michael Glenn
 Tyler Gochenour

Gracie Goodpaster
 Noah Goodwin
 Zachary Gorsuch
 Olivia Gralapp
 Brock Grampsas
 Damian Gray
 Sara Gregor



PHOTO BY NICHOLAS STYERS

66

"I learned a lot this year. Not only academically, but **as a person in general**. As a class, we've experienced and learned a lot together through the years. I'm **super excited** to start a **new year** [next year] with them." – TAVIN MESH



Benjamin Groebe
 Emma Gude
 Sibylle Guglielmi
 Manuel Guillen Jr.
 Katie Gunkel

Eli Gunter
 Crystal Gutierrez
 Austin Hall
 James Hall
 Charles Hanes

Felicia Harming-Frantz
 Ginger Harris
 Kyle Harris
 Zachary Harris
 Alijah Harvey

Ada Heller
 Erin Henton
 Joseph Hernandez
 Colleen Higdon
 Connor Holcomb

Natalie Hole
 Joshua Holloway
 Annalissa Houser
 Zack Hoxsie
 Chloe Huegerich

Noah Hugeback
 Iain Hughes
 Brianna Ibarra
 Taylor Ivie-Mott
 Marquajah Ivory

How do you de-stress?



"Play soccer or get lost in to the YouTube Hole. Subscribe to PewDiePie."

CAMERON FIGGINS



"Cry."

SOPHIA TAGG



"I like to draw or play my guitar. Creating something really helps me relax."

VINCENT RENTERIA



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Do you collect
anything? If
so what?



ADRIANNA NORRIS

"I collect empty
water bottles
in my room
(unintentionally)"



CHELSEY LEE

"yeah,
feelings..."



CLAIRE ANDERSON

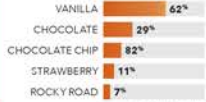
"I collect
makeup
and men's
hearts."



ALLY BANKS

"I keep my movie tickets
and put them on my
wall because movies
have always been
something I've loved
ever since I was little.
Sadly I don't have
that many, but
the collection is
growing."

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE
ICE CREAM FLAVOR?



(Out of 15 responses)

Ryder Jarrett
Zachary Jarrett
Macey Jewett
Jasiah Johansen
Audrey Johnson
Ethan Johnson
Grant Johnson



Jenni Johnson
Colin Jones
Owen Kaltenberger
Shayan Karim
Calvin Kartono
Victor Kearns
Chase Keller



Nicholas Kendrick
Eliza Kidder
Kayli Kinsella
Scott Klein
Owen Kling
Ellis Kniggendorf
Dre Knox



Nicholas Korth
Anastasia Kostelac
Amy Kowalczewski
Chandler Krugjohn
Caleb Ladd
Michael Lammers
Jan Lara Zamora



Mason Larkins
Lily LaRue
Ries Laster
Lilleanna Lawton
Chelsey Lee
Aaron Lin
Ibrahim Linares Lopez



Ty Lindenman
Jordan Linderer
Audrey Little
Eris Little
Adrian Lopez
Nicholas Lorino
Emili Lozano



Citlalli Luna
Summer Luna
Andy Luu
Allison Lyons
Blake Lyons
Chase Madden
Athena Manka



Kahleial Manning
Evan Marchio
Axel Marquez-Vallejo
Kara Martin
Yazmin Martinez Dominguez
Emanuel Martinez Orgaz
Fernanda Martinez-Frias



Ashton McCain
Brandon McCain
Noah McCord
Isaiah McCullough
Brennan McEniry
Brogan McKenzie
Mallory Meeks



Sophia Mehnert
Tavin Mesh
Sonni Meyers
Max Mickey
Atley Mikkelsen
Reis Miller
Kaulani Misioka



// The Lair
Shawnee Mission
Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas

LOGAN Skeens

Taking a deep breath, junior Logan Skeens focused on the basketball net as he imagined the ball dropping effortlessly through the net. He moved to the free throw line where he took another deep breath and a few dribbles before taking aim. The only sound was the scrape of the net after the ball dropped. In the orange-rimmed hoop, Skeens has practiced and perfected thousands of free throw shots since he started playing the sport at the age of three.

"I'm a competitive person," Skeens said. "[basketball] runs in my family and it's taught me a lot."

Even at a young age, Skeens knew he wanted to basketball to be an important factor in his life. By deciding to change from a recreational basketball team to a competitive one in 3rd grade, Skeens was introduced to a different, more aggressive side of basketball.

"Competitive basketball is more fun because you're actually competing," Skeens said. "When I first started playing with my team, we played against those rec teams. I was trying to help my team get better."

Although the basketball season started off rocky, Skeens was hopeful the team would have more wins toward the end of the season.

"I expected better," Skeens said. "It just a lot of mistakes from everybody, including myself. But we could still have come back."

Through basketball, Skeens has learned a variety of life lessons he'll use on and off the court.

"I've learned communication and leadership," Skeens said. "I've also made a lot of connections. I've made friends and then become friends with their friends and it keeps going on."

But, in the end, the most important lessons have been the ones that allow him to become a better basketball player. He worked both during practice and at home.

"I've learned a lot from my coaches," Skeens said. "Whenever the coaches come up with a new drill, I try to remember it so I can practice it at home."

But, when the whistle blows and Skeens is on the court, he's only thinking one thing.

"I have to win," Skeens said. "I need to go all out — like it's my last game."

STORY BY WAIRIMU GITONGA-MBOOGRI



PHOTO BY CARMELO ZAMMIT

Dylan Mitchell
Merceline Mogondo
Abigail Monahan
David Monroy
Fateme Moor
Jaylan Moore
Lauren Moore



Perla Morales Peres
Emily Motsick
Cole Mount
Shelby Mullen
Yvonne Muragizi
Alyssa Murray
Zachary Murray



"I find joy in talking to new people that I have never seen or talked to. I like diving into new programs and groups that will help me view life from a different perspective. Ultimately, I've learned that I will be high school only once. I have to try to make it both a good and fun experience inside and outside of school."

— SHAYAN KARIMY



Tre Mutava
Shinyoung Na
Hunter Navarro
Isaac Nelson
Alyssa Nettie



Blake Neumer
Alice Newell
Ki Nilges
Adriana Norris
Dakota O'Donald



Natalee Oakerson
Megan Okerberg
Angelina Ortega
McKenzie Parks
McKenna Parsons



Shreya Patel
Swapna Patel
Kyle Patton
Sierra Pauli
Skylar Peterson



Nathan Petrich
Lucas Pfeifer
Juan Francisco Pineda Gomez
Anthony Ponce-Ramos
Sophia Pope



Anne Potter
Noah Potter
Charlene Queral
William Rawline
Ada Redondo Zavala

What is your favorite snap filter?



SARAH SULLIVAN

"The one that makes your skin look super clear, like the second one over from no filter, you know?"



EMMA ALEXANDER

"I'm really feeling the snowflake one at the moment."



PAYTON SMITH



// The Lair
 Shawnee Mission
 Northwest High School
 Shawnee, Kansas

*If you could
 start a new
 club, what
 would it be?*



ANNA TOMASSI

*"Good Morning
 Club. We'd hold
 the doors in the
 morning and
 always make
 people have a
 good day."*



ZACH DULNY



CHANDLER KRUGJOHN



LALLI LUNA

*"If I could start a new
 club it would be an All-
 You-Can-Eat Food
 Club. We'd meet up
 once a month, get
 a whole bunch of
 food, eat and just
 talk with friends."*

Adrienne Reine
 Valeria Reyes Becerril
 Cristel Reyes Nava
 Samuel Rice
 Elizabeth Ridgway
 Ethan Ridings
 James Riggs



Kathryn Rivera
 Diamond Roark
 Samuel Robinson
 Gerrin Rodriguez
 Luis Rodriguez
 Josue Rosa Rosa
 Zachary Roth



Jonas Rowland
 Payton Rowland
 Jadyr Rucker
 Abigail Ryan
 Hannah Saathoff
 Parker Sabal
 Areej Saifan



Benjamin Sails
 Sydney Sanders
 Andrew Sargeon
 William Scarlett
 Timothy Schade
 Seth Scheiderer
 Beverly Schenke



Ethan Schreiber
 Kiva Schulze
 Samantha Sedler
 William Seibold
 Gabriel Senteney
 Claire Severance
 Minati Sharma



Braden Shaul
 Ayden Shearer
 Gabrielle Shepherd
 Jordan Sherly
 Spencer Shreve
 Connor Simons
 Jaspreet Singh



Kailli Sitz
 Logan Skeens
 Cole Slack
 Colby Smith
 Hanna Smith
 Payton Smith
 Alison Snawerdt



Suraj Sood
 Maya Sprague
 Amaya Spring
 Kiara Stamati
 Jack Steadham
 Madison Steele
 Nicholas Strahl



Nicholas Styers
 Sarah Sullivan
 Garret Sunds
 Sophia Tagg
 Catherine Taggart
 Issac Taitt
 Cecilia Talley



Sara Tamayo
 Tristan Tepen
 Izabelle Terreros
 Monae Thibaux
 Alyssa Thomas
 Kanyon Thompson
 Anna Tomassi



// The Lair
Shawnee Mission
Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas

Josh Holloway

Decked out in a shirt with ivory-capped snapst, chape and boots, junior Josh Holloway moseled across the stage singing "Oh What A Beautiful Morning." Holloway's costume in "Oklahoma" looked nothing like his usual Star Wars shirt and jeans. This was just part of his transformation into the character of Curly McLain.

"When I'm on stage, I completely forget everything else I have going on," Holloway said. "My biggest goal is for someone to look on stage and not say 'Hey look, that's Josh.' I want them to say 'Oh, that's Curly' or whoever I'm portraying. If that's what they see and that's what they feel, then that's how I know I'm doing a good job."

Holloway used many strategies to prepare for a role and ultimately become the character he portrayed. It varied from just running lines whenever he could to watching movies for inspiration.

"I just find what works best," Holloway said. "Sometimes I'll watch movies and use characters I know from them for voices, for background, for quirks."

"If it's a musical I'll work with my vocal teacher," Holloway said. "I don't listen to tracks. I feel like if you listen to a track, you begin impersonating what you hear. You don't learn it and you don't put your own spin on the song. And if you're not the one singing it, why are you doing it?"

Holloway has been in more than 25 productions in and outside of Northwest. Of his production's at Northwest, he has been the lead three times. Despite his success, theater wasn't something Holloway originally felt called to do.

"I did it because I needed something to do," Holloway said. "It's a place that could balance out other things I wanted to do with my time."

It was the people, the work and the environment that kept him coming back. Theater, although not a core class, taught him valuable lessons about life and himself.

"I've gone through a lot of changes in my time in high school," Holloway said. "I learned to be comfortable with myself. It was just learning how I work under pressure, how I like to work, what I like to do, the people I like to spend my time with."

Through the ups and downs, Holloway tried to appreciate every moment in the Greg Farber Auditorium. "Sometimes I will feel that theater is underappreciated at events or in recognition," Holloway said. "But the auditorium is such a huge part of the school's footprint. It's hard not to feel like there's something special here, something that's recognized by those that matter."

Story by Kelsey Volk



Jackson Tomlin
 Naeley Torline
 David Torres
 Kevin Tran
 Braeden Trondson
 Roosevelt Tuwei
 Lucia Valles



John Van Nieuwenhuyse
 Sydney VanHorn
 Pablo Velez-Padilla
 Johnathan Verbenec
 Noah Verdugo
 Ashley Villa
 Kelsey Volk



Natochia Warren
 Alayanna Watson
 Donovan Weiss
 Adam White
 Marcus White



Kayla Williams
 Darnesha Willingham
 Jabre Willis
 Sarah Wood
 Emanuel Woods

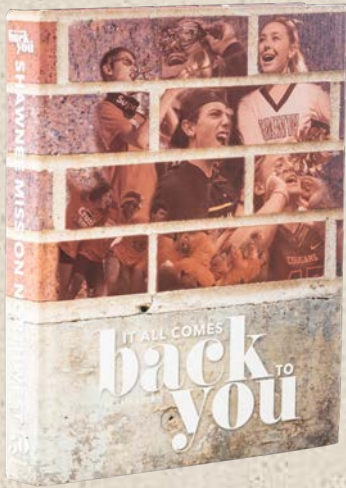


La Naya Wotruba
 Jacob Yager
 Brooklyn Yarnell
 Shealynn Yazel
 Katey Yenger



Mazin Zatar
 Joseph Zillner

Not Pictured: Wasif Ali, Tyjae Clark, Jocelyn Davis, Shad'e Gray, Jovani Gutierrez, Addisen Hilt, Thomas Hochard, Stephanie Land, Vincent Renteria, Sydney Rudd, Mario Sipos, Tales Sterchile, Tyler Thomas



// **The Lair**
*Shawnee Mission
Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas*

SENIORS



“The thing I’m going to miss the most about games is how **everyone comes together** to cheer on the team. No matter what happened during the school day, we come together as a school and **put aside our differences**.” — CALVIN HOWARD

Shouting from the stands, senior Calvin Howard cheers for the varsity boys' soccer team Oct. 8 at SIMAC. Howard was often seen in the front row of the student section. "I go to the games because a lot of my friends go," Howard said. "I feel that I need to lead the crowd." Photo by Shikuma Ensign



// The Lair
 Shawnee Mission
 Northwest High School
 Shawnee, Kansas

CELESTE Gordon

Senior Celeste Gordon closed her eyes and took a deep breath through her nose and out through her mouth. She opened her eyes, swung her arms back and leaped forward, to begin her bar routine.

"My parents just enrolled me when they noticed I had been climbing things like trees all the time," Gordon said. "My parents just decided to put me in gymnastics and I am so glad they did."

According to Gordon, her parents have always been there for her and are her biggest supporters.

"I was a little bit iffy on if I was going to do it," Gordon said. "Because I had my job and school taking up a lot of my time. So I was iffy on if I was going to do it, but my parents were really supportive on all of that."

Gordon gets a lot of motivation and support from the gymnasts on her team as well.

"Without them, I wouldn't have done it," Gordon said. "Every day when I walked into practice, it didn't matter if I was upset, happy, sad or any of those kinds of feelings. I would always leave with a smile on my face because they have helped me get over whatever was bothering me."

Gordon practices every day of the week.

"I keep going to practice no matter what," Gordon said. "That's the only support that keeps me moving forward."

For Gordon, her toughest event is the bars.

"I know what I want to do, but it's just, physically, I can't do it," Gordon said. "I always have a mental block on it. It's hard for me to get the right skills sometimes, so it makes it even more challenging."

Performing became a regular occurrence for Gordon, but she still gets nervous during her events.

"When I have a whole audience watching me do every stunt, I try my best," Gordon said. "That doesn't always happen. I am just nervous about messing up."

Gordon's hands grasped the bars tightly while swinging above them. Suddenly, she hit the ground. She stood back up, jumped to grab the bars and picked up her routine from where she left off.

"Mistakes are proof that you are working hard," Gordon said. "You need to keep pushing yourself until you accomplish it."

STORY BY TATUM SCHUBMAN
 ADDITIONAL REPORTING BY ANTHONY PORCIO RAMOS



Carter Adam
 Mark Adamiak
 Quincy Adams
 Mark Addington
 Chase Agard
 Sammy Alani



Nancy Alonzo Gutierrez
 Edy Alvarado del cid
 Bryan Amen
 Christian Anderson
 Tanner Anderson
 Cody Andrews



Mabel Anstine
 Dylan Arnott
 Emily Arrocha
 Elsie Asante
 Amanda Augustine
 Jorge Avalos



Northwest has made me grow so much as a person. Transitioning from a private school to a public school was really scary. But, once I got here, I realized everything and everyone were very welcoming. There were so many opportunities to help me find my path."

— ASHLEY FISHER



Tristan Aycock
 Dinsmore Baker
 Kyla Barry
 Neva Bartelt
 Isalas Bartolome



Marriah Batrez
 Jackson Beal
 Ethan Beaumont
 Andrew Beaven
 Austin Bell



Maya Bemberger
 Collin Bennett
 Lucas Bicak
 Arisbei Black
 Hannah Black



Tiahna Blackott
 Brianna Bledsoe
 Adriana Bobki
 Liam Boice
 Tristan Bond



Audrey Bonham
 Gage Bowman
 William Braun
 Brett Brazeal
 Hunter Bremenkamp



Charles Brockmann
 Katerina Brockmann
 Jackson Brown
 Kelsie Brown
 Jake Brundrett

Who do you idolize most?



"Snoop Dogg"

HALEY WIERCINSKI



"Scott Disick"

MASON DARPEL



"Elle Woods. Nothing stands in her way. She gets stuff done. We should all strive to do that while wearing hot pink. Iconic, if you ask me."

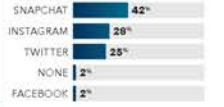
AVA HAUSER



Where do you see yourself in 50 years?



WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE SOCIAL MEDIA?



Dylan Brunner
Rachel Brunner
Lauren Brunsky
Joseph Bultman
Temaya Burgin
Jackson Burnett



John Burton
Matthew Bustamante
Calen Cacioppo
Meredith Calvin
Peyton Carder
Sha'lon Carr



Elijah Castillo
Francisco Castro Jimenez
Jesús Castro Canales
Israel Centeno
Zoe Cerda
Gabriella Chavez



Grace Cheesman
Richard Chen
Jens Christiansen
Meaghan Clarey
Justin Cloughley
Hailey Coates



Hannah Coates
Lillian Cody
Kasey Cohenour
Karsten Coleman
D'asya Collier Williams
Samuel Converse



Alexis Corona
Zachary Creedon
Tamara Cruz
George Cummings
Kyle Cunningham
Mason Darpel



Jazminh Davis
Bryce Debok
Riley Demo
Nathan Denoon
Stephen Dewey
Magdalen Dewsbury



Joey Dillon Kinard
Jake Ditto
Meghan Donaldson
Shanons Dubique
Whitney Dugan
Kelley Dungan



Renya Easterwood
Spencer Engelby
Jose Enriquez flores
Henry Fears
Jose Felix
Nicole Fernandez



Christopher Findlay
Ashley Fisher
Makayla Fisher
Tyler Fisher
Tetyana Flyak
Jeremy Foley

SPENCER Robertson

Senior Spencer Robertson, holding two drumsticks, placed his hands above his head and clacked them together four times before starting to play.

Click. Click. Click. Click. BUM! Robertson has been playing the drums since he was five years old. His inspiration ranged from famous drummers to family members.

"My inspiration was watching professionals play," Robertson said. "Also, my family is full of musicians as well so they inspire me to keep playing."

Although there are many elements to playing the drums, the most important to Robertson is the tempo.

"Most of the time I'm playing drum set in which I could be playing two to three different rhythms on each hand or foot," Robertson said. "To help balance and keep the timing right, I don't think about anything except tempo."

For Robertson, playing the drums came naturally and sparked his interest from the start.

"Drums came really naturally to me and I thought they were

cool, so I just started playing them," Robertson said. "Once I started, I really wanted to continue to learn and play them."

Robertson raised his arms up into the air and threw them back down, drum sticks in both hands, to strike the drum head.

"I plan on playing drums my entire life, but I most likely won't ever make it a full time job," Robertson said. "Honestly don't care about the money, drumming is just what I love to do and it's just something special to me."

Robertson saw drums as a universal second language.

"I think it's really cool to be able to play an instrument or read music, in general, because you can go anywhere in the world and create it with anybody," Robertson said.

Hitting the drum one last time, Robertson ended his song. He set his drumsticks on top of one of the drumheads and stood.

"I have been playing drums since I was five and I don't see myself stopping anytime soon," Robertson said. "I just love it too much."

STORY BY TATUM SCHUERMAN



PHOTO: NICHOLAS STIVERS

Megan Formwalt
Brianna Foster
Samuel Franco
Destree Freeman
Ryan French
Jacob Fry



Nicholas Gann
William Ryan Gentry
Brandon Gibson
Miranda Gibson
Elijah Gist
Wairimu Gitonga-Mbogori



Tatum Goetting
Megan Goetz
Eric Gonzales
Ashley Gonzalez-Nino
Celeste Gordon
Faven Gordon



"NW has made my personality better overtime and has given me a chance to meet amazing people. I am proud of a lot opportunities NW has given me. Especially giving me the chance to work professionally for my engineering career as an intern for Cerner." — LAKSHYA SAINI



Tyra Greer
Kaylin Groneman
Noah Gruman
Spencer Gruwell
Rasiel Gutierrez-lopez



Henry Hales
Thomas Hall
Lauren Hallblade
Courtney Handley
Megan Hanson



Benjamin Harrell
Hailey Hashbarger
Ava Hauser
Lily Havranek
Lucy Heinisch



Will Heitman
Lara Helfrich
Sidney Henkensiefken
Shehara Hernandez Robinson
Gabriella Herrera



Evan Higgins
Elijah Hodson
Anna Hofmeisterova
Georgia Holgate
Diamond Holt



Micayla Houser
Braeden Hovermale
Calvin Howard
Joseph Huber
Mitchell Hufker

**What's
your most
embarrassing
moment?**

"Freshman year Phys. Ed. we played dodgeball. I looked away for a second, and got hit in the face. The lines from the kickball were imprinted in my face until the next hour."

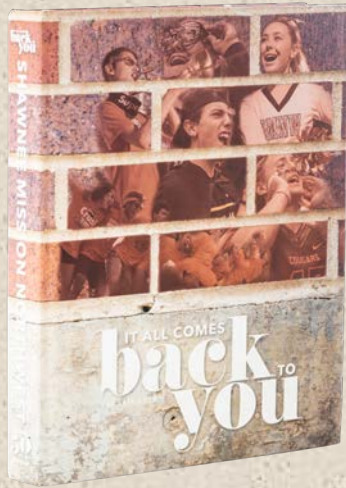
MEGHAN DONALDSON

"Almost falling into the pit during the final performance of 'Sister Act.'"

MIRANDA GIBSON

"The second day of my freshman year, I walked into the guys' bathroom on the lower level of the school and a ton of senior boys in there."

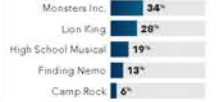
RILEY DEMO



What's on your keychain other than keys?



WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE DISNEY MOVIE?



Anissa Humphries
Dejanai Jackson
Alien Jagne
Carlos Jaime
Halden Jeppesen
Michelle Jerop



Andrew Johnson
Libby Johnson
Raven Johnson
Emily Jones
Ethan Jones
Yairee Juarez



Spencer Kaleto
Juliana Kantner
Courtney Kastelan
Lauren Kelley
Alejandro Kelly
Jack Kelly



Sidney Kendall
Kirryn Killingsworth
Penelope King
William Kinkade
Rebecca Kipper
Dylan Klahn



Zoe Kopp
Karsen Kozioł
Jodi Kudzinowski
Hope Lamartina
Nathan Lee
Alec Letz



Esperanza Lopez
Destiny Lucas
Sadie Lucier
Kara Lyons
Jillian Macek
Lauren Macek



Zachary Madorin
Anna Madrigal
Sir-Michael Madrigal
Abigail Madsen
Mackenzie Maisch
Adelaide Manica



Kiven Maquial
Sandra Marciano Pinto
Tamaya Martin
Frida Martinez
Jayden Martinez
Katelyn Martinez



Nayely Martinez
Joshua Marvine
Paras Marwaha
Caleb Masters
Emily McAllister
Tomas McAnany



Zachary McCone
Bailey McCoy-Groshong
Terri McCullough
Megan McDonald
Adam McElroy
Jaquelyn McKay

Dugan^{WHITNEY}

Senior Whitney Dugan approached a dark grey, rubber mat in the wrestling room. She took a deep breath and prepared for the match.

"I've been wrestling since 8th grade," Dugan said. "My cousin did it and she was always really fit. I guess I thought if I tried it, I would slim down and get confident."

For female wrestlers, the sport they compete in is a little out of the ordinary. In Kansas, as well as other states, the girls have their own division, but, regardless, they still have to compete against boys. "I have experienced sexism, but it's mostly comments about not being strong enough or athletic enough," Dugan said. "One of my coaches makes a really big deal about it when I wrestle a boy because they do tend to be stronger physically. I have to have technique over strength for them."

Dugan not only stuck to the regular training regimen as the boys do, she also went to a weights program during zero hours plus followed a strict diet.

"[Diets] can be intense. It's up the wrestler though," Dugan said. "A lot of people have to cut a lot of weight, so that could be scary."

Five female wrestlers have joined the team this year, nearly doubling the number on last year's team.

"I think [gender stereotypes] have started to go away with the sport growing," Dugan said. "The people who still think girls aren't hard workers and aren't good, strong athletes need to stop."

Dugan is also on another wrestling team outside of school. "I would tell other girls to definitely give wrestling a chance," Dugan said. "It changed my whole life and started to change my views on a lot of things."

Originally, Dugan wanted to continue her wrestling career in college, but has since changed her mind. Nevertheless, she wanted to make her mark on wrestling.

"It's a great way to build your confidence and get stronger," Dugan said. "I want to leave and be the start of girls' wrestling here."

STORY BY TATUM GOETTING



PHOTO BY AMY FORD

Jacob McLain
Michelle Mendoza
Dawson Mesh
Alyssa Meyer
Grace Miller
Ashlyn Mills



Haley Mock
Vincent Molina
Dionna Moore
Kaitlyn Moore
Ladrell Moore
Olivia Moore



Bryan Morales
Hilda Morales
Silicia Moreno
Michaela Morgan
Spencer Mouron
Paolo Muscadin



“Now that it is my senior year, I understand that some friendships end for a reason. Some things are **just not meant to be and that is okay**. There is something for everyone whether that'd be sports, music or anything else. If you don't find yourself, it isn't the end of the world. **There are bigger and better things to come.**” — JACKIE MCKAY



Sofia Nash
Natasha Nedwetzky
Audrey Nelson
Austin Nguyen
Aubryn Nicholas



Patrick O'Keefe
Maggie O'Neill
Cole Ondrush
Rosa Ortiz
Emma Ottinger



Max Overesch
Hunter Pafias
Alejandro Paredes-Corpus
Angelo Parra
Merritt Parsons



Darshil Patel
Rohan Patel
Austin Patton
Cole Patton
Kaitlin Pauli



Nathaniel Pearce
Lindi Peterson
Megan Peterson
Tyler Peterson
Quynh Pham



Randy Pham
Abigail Piercy
Elizabeth Prosser
Spencer Pruter
Michael Quaaas

What organization would you join if you could redo high school?



"CCC Exec Board because I initially wanted to do it, but forgot to turn in the application."

EMILY ARROCHA



GAGE BOWMAN



"Photojournalism. I have always loved taking pictures, so I regret never putting myself out there and trying it."

MAKAYLA FISHER

// The Lair
Shawnee Mission
Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas

**What is going
to be your
major and why
did you pick it?**



HANNAH SULLIVAN

"Music Education. The music directors have had such a big impact on my life. I can totally see myself becoming Snead. And Eichman is so young and is showing me all the time just how possible it is for me to achieve that."



HAILEY HASHBARGER

"Tattoo artist. I want to leave my mark on this world, or at least its people."



JACKSON BURNETT

"Mechanical or aerospace engineering. Taking the physics classes at Northwest made me realize how interesting that stuff is to me."



ANNA MADRIGAL

"Political Science. I'm going to law school directly after college because I want to make an impact."

Aidan Quinn
Dayton Raines
Angelica Ramirez
Jonathan Ramos-Tecorral
Natalie Randazzo
Miles Raney



Sophia Rard
Kaleigh Rash
Andrew Reid
Emma Reinke
Abigail Roberts
Rylee Roberts



Spencer Robertson
Jaelyn Rogers
Ricardo Romo
Christopher Rong
Caleb Rosebaugh
Mina Rulis



Conrad Ruppeltus
Lakshya Saini
Rachel Salazar
Isabella Salerno
Samuel Sanabria Flores
Caroline Sanders



Dylan Sanoubane
Hjalmar Santos-Acosta
Anna Schmidt
Ellen Schnacker
Johanna Scott
Samantha Sedler



Rachel Seibold
Keri Sengraseuth
Cameron Shelby
Samantha Shepherd
Gabriela Shipman
Jacob Shreve



Nicholas Sixbury
Olivia Sloan
Brynni Smith
Charles Smith
Madelyn Smith
Destinee Sprague



Hailey Spring-Clark
Samuel Springer
Catherine Steinacker
Abigail Story
Mary Sullivan
Dale Talley III



Chanler Taylor
Izabelle Terreros
Olivia Terryberry
Lance Teschendorf
Rachel Tezera
Abigail Thimmesch



Cooper Thompson
Ederia Thompson
Nina Tiger
Jacob Toomay
Luke Towler
Devyn Trondson



// **The Lair**
Shawnee Mission
Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas

Isabel Valdez
 Tim Van Lerberg
 Paul Vanbooven
 William Vandenbos
 Andrea Velazquez
 Molly Vielhauer



Jacob Wallace
 Alexandra Walsh
 Evan Wapp
 Daniel Ward
 Eric Wartko
 Creighton Washington



Taylor Washington
 Keyon Watson
 Eathan Weaver
 Elizabeth Weems
 Samantha Weians
 Stephanie Whisenant



Addisyn White
 Shantice White
 Tierney White
 Haley Wiercinski
 Jameson Wilson
 Preston Wilson



Abigail Winter
 Lauren Wolfe
 James Wood
 Skyler Wright
 Kobe Wright Hamman
 Maggie Yonker



Samuel Yu
 Diego Yuman
 Shanel Zachary
 Carmelo Zamudio-Vazquez



Jordyn Zeno
 Joshua Zumalt
 Luis Zuniga

Not Pictured: Jameson Alexander, Ryan Ault, Jadonte Beasley, Lilly Ann Brann, Patricia Byrum, Elizabeth Carmody, Alexis Carrillo, Gasper Castro Jimenez, Coral Chen, Sophia Clark, Kaleigh Cooper, Daijon Estell, Requan Estell, Michael Hagerty, Chase Hamilton, Walter Hartman, J'Shawn Hill, Kyle Johnson, Sidea Johnson, Becky Lin, Ana Lopez, Skye Mauna, Triston McCreight, Isaiah McCullough, Austin Mitchell, Armando Molina, Hunter Navarro, Ivan Noble, Estefani Ortega, Nam Phan, Kennan Rickel, Curte'z Riley, Mateo Rodriguez, Jennifer Rojas, Victoria Sims, Suraj Sood, Henry Tomasic and Dezmin Wilcox.

Class of 2019



// The Lair
 Shawnee Mission
 Northwest High School
 Shawnee, Kansas

SPORTS Teams

Schedule

March 19 vs Blue Valley SW
 March 21 vs Bishop Miege
 March 23 vs Mill Valley
 March 26 vs SM North
 March 28 vs Lawrence Free State
 April 2 vs Gardner-Edgerton
 April 4 vs Olathe West
 April 6 vs Olathe NW
 April 9 vs Olathe East
 April 11 vs Blue Valley West
 April 12 vs Blue Valley West
 April 16 vs South
 April 18 vs Lawrence Free State
 April 19 vs Blue Springs South
 April 25 vs Olathe North
 April 26 vs Summer
 April 30 vs Lawrence
 May 2 vs Olathe South
 May 7 vs SM East
 May 13 TBA
 May 23 TBA

Captains:

EVAN HIGGINS, MARK ADAMIAK &
 AUSTIN BELL

Schedule

Mar. 20 vs Lawrence Free State
 Mar. 23 vs SM South
 Mar. 27 vs SM East
 Apr. 1 vs SM North
 Apr. 4 vs Olathe Northwest
 Apr. 10 vs Gardner-Edgerton
 Apr. 22 vs DeSoto
 Apr. 27 vs Lawrence
 Apr. 29 vs Olathe North
 May 1 vs Olathe West

BOYS' BASEBALL Varsity



Row 1: Austin Bell, Jacob McLain, Thomas Hochard, Justin Mitchell, Duke Henke, Evan Borberg, Ty Lindemann, Connor Simons
 Row 2: Domenic Mussat, Lucas Bick, Jordan Linderer, Tommy Hall, Cole Ondrush, Rylee Roberts, Tanner Ybarra
 Row 3: Bryce DeBok, Will Kinkade, Ty Blecha, Mark Adamiak, Evan Higgins, Jackson Beal, Blake Reeder

BOYS' BASEBALL Junior Varsity



Row 1: Mason Karlin, Braeden Trondson, Darius Freeman, Noah Hugeback, Drew Dickerson
 Row 2: Patrick Whitney, Ben Salla, Alan Makryla, Evan Battles
 Row 3: Joseph Zillner, Zachary Hoxie, Landyn Luttrell, Gabe Sentene, Ryan Borberg

BOYS' BASEBALL C-Team

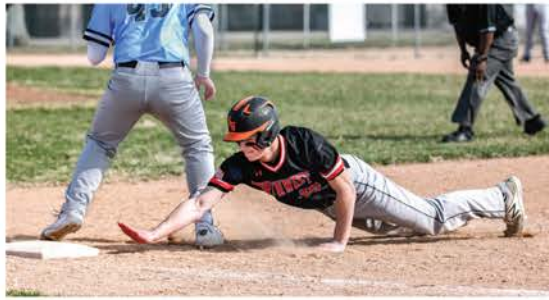


Row 1: Matthew Dunn, Cole Madsen, Russell Lucas, Adam Sakatt, Jack Mudgett, Cody Prater, Sam Vossen
 Row 2: Matt Milner, Rylee Wineinger, Ashton Rudd, Tristan Adkins, Caleb Shelby
 Row 3: Donovan Ganapini, Tyler Gundelfinger, Cameron Christy, Gabe Jeppesen, Andrew Martz

Schedule

Mar. 20 vs Lawrence Free State
 Mar. 23 vs SM South
 Mar. 27 vs SM East
 Apr. 1 vs SM North
 Apr. 4 vs Olathe Northwest
 Apr. 8 vs DeSoto
 Apr. 12 vs Gardner-Edgerton
 Apr. 27 vs Lawrence
 Apr. 29 vs Olathe North
 May 1 vs Olathe West

BACK FOR MORE



1. On the mound, senior Mark Adamiak pitches to a Lawrence Free State player March 28 at LFHS. The Cougars lost the game 0-2. "I didn't pitch as well as I was hoping to," Adamiak said. "Hopefully, I learn from past mistakes and do better at [future] games." Photo by Blake Hennessy
 2. At the JV game, sophomore Landyn Luttrell dives back to first base March 27 at 3 & 2 Baseball Complex. The Cougars beat the Lancers 5-3. "At games, I ask myself what I can do to help us win and what I can do to help my team," Luttrell said. "Whatever that is, I play my best to do it." Photo by Evan Dorn
 3. As the ball leaves his hand, senior Cole Ondrush pitches March 19 at Blue Valley Southwest. Ondrush is a reserve pitcher and has only pitched one game. "When I finally got called up to the mound, the only thing I could think of was to blow it by them and throw strikes," Ondrush said. "If they hit the ball, so be it, I got a defensive wall behind me." Photo by Kase Spawka
 4. Senior Bryce DeBok watches his teammates March 26 at the 3&2 Baseball Complex. DeBok is the varsity boys' pitcher. "Good teammates are the guys who work their butts off everyday and hold each other accountable," DeBok said. "It's nice knowing I always have a whole field of other guys who have my back." Photo by Kase Spawka



SIGN OF THE TIMES

Four seniors sign to play baseball in college.



Mark Adamiak
 WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY



Tommy Hall
 UNIVERSITY OF DALLAS



Evan Higgins
 OTTAWA UNIVERSITY



Jacob McLain
 OTTAWA UNIVERSITY



// The Lair
Shawnee Mission
Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas

Scoreboard

vs Washburn Rural 44-67
vs SM South 58-64
vs Mill Valley 37-35
vs Olathe East 56-66
vs Olathe Northwest 21-38
vs BV Northwest 40-62
vs Olathe West 40-62
vs SM North 58-54
vs SM East 62-66
vs Turner 79-38
vs Willard 56-66
vs Leavenworth 67-46
vs Olathe South 65-46
vs SM South 46-59
vs Olathe North 69-70
vs Lawrence 56-89
vs SM West (Score Unavailable)
vs Lawrence Free State 63-69
vs Gardner-Edgerton 64-65
vs SM South 56-63

Captains:

DALE TALLEY III,
EVAN HIGGINS &
LUKE TOWLER

Schedule

Dec. 7 vs SM South
Dec. 11 vs Mill Valley
Dec. 13 vs Olathe East
Dec. 21 vs Olathe NW
Jan. 4 vs Olathe West
Jan. 8 vs SM North
Jan. 16 vs De Soto
Jan. 21 vs SM West
Jan. 24 vs Blue Valley
Southwest
Jan. 25 vs Leavenworth
Jan. 31 vs SM South
Feb. 5 vs Olathe North
Feb. 12 vs Lawrence
Feb. 14 vs SM West
Feb. 22 vs Gardner
Edgerton

Scoreboards

vs Mill Valley 58-48
vs Olathe Northwest
vs Olathe West 43-67
vs SM North
vs SM East 55-68
vs De Soto
vs Turner
vs Olathe South 31-52
vs SM South
vs Olathe North 39-67
vs SM West
vs Lawrence Free State
54-72
vs Gardner-Edgerton

BOYS' BASKETBALL Varsity and Junior Varsity



Row 1: Ty Black, Callan Taylor, Damare Smith, Landon Wagler, Brennan McEniry, Logan Steens, Isaiah Volavonga **Row 2:** Taylor Washington, Amari Jenkins, Andrew Sargeon, Ty Lindenman, Ben Groebe, Noah Hugeback, Noah McCord, Bijou Nabavira Muragizi, Crystal Reyes **Row 3:** Ty Blecha, Evan Higgins, Luke Towler, Dylan Brunner, Dale Talley III, Peyton Carder, Jack Barnhart

BOYS' BASKETBALL Sophomore



Row 1: Tanner Ybarra, Dylan Kinard, Duke Henke, Peter Opoku-Ware, Drew Dickerson, Gabe Sterns, Dashawn Dillard, Bianca Smith **Row 2:** Alan Makkyla, Isaac Jonah, Cohen Mitts, Chris Starks, Evan Battles, Brady King, Charles

BOYS' BASKETBALL Freshmen



Row 1: Aaron Jackson, Ethan Hugeback, Carsten Caseras, Patrick Price, Patrick Wood, Andrew Martz, Logan Davis **Row 2:** Katrina Grey, Bryan Guana, Alex Rogers, Ronnie Hall, Connor McGowan, CJ Dodds, Jay Ostolaza-Caban, Madi Hoffman, Meg Qualls **Row 3:** Brad Qualls, Donovan Ganapini, Dante Wheatcroft, Jeffrey Russel, Cam Christie, Luke Formwalt, Ale Payne, Brandon Lopez, Jiro Ko, Keith Smith

GIRLS' BASKETBALL Varsity and Junior Varsity



Row 1: Dasya Collier-Williams, Jackie McKay, Hannah Black, Rachel Seibold, Megan Hanson, Abby Winter, Daizy Solir **Row 2:** Kate McKnight, Lily Wilmimg, Kylie Dunn, Maggie Chapin, Ella Mackiewicz, Brooke Brummer, Ericka Ojeda, Olivia Seibold **Row 3:** Olivia Seston, Sage Grampas, Tamara Harris-Webster, Kennedy Taylor, Ries Laster, Mollie Elfink, Kyra Gottfried

GIRLS' BASKETBALL Sophomore and Freshmen



Row 1: Valerie Herrera, Emma Milvic, Tamiia Union, Jillian Meister, Anaid Ornelas-Ortiz, Alexis Moore **Row 2:** Lauren Groneman, Rachel Allison, Jasmen Eskridge, Isabel Semadeni, Immaculee Muragizi, Annie Hofmeisterova, Sydney Sanoubane **Row 3:** Naudia Thurman, Janessa Horner, Piper Borgman, Camryn Malsch, Ella Legreid

Scoreboard

vs BV West 45-31
vs Washburn Rural 38-52
vs Mill Valley 41-49
vs Olathe East 23-41
vs Olathe NW 52-49
vs Olathe West 59-47
vs SM North 62-28
vs SM East 42-27
vs BV Northwest 57-35
vs Leavenworth 51-40
vs Olathe South 47-43
vs SM South 70-38
vs Olathe North 59-54
vs Lawrence 35-25
vs SM West 43-45
vs Lawrence Free State 68-66
vs Gardner-Edgerton 48-24
vs BV Northwest 51-27
vs Olathe South 51-48
vs Derby 60-27

Captains:

DASYA COLLIER-WILLIAMS,
HANNAH BLACK, RACHEL
SEIBOLD, MEGAN HANSON &
ABBY WINTER

Schedule

Dec. 4 vs Washburn Rural
Dec. 10 vs Mill Valley
Dec. 15 vs Blue Valley West
Dec. 20 vs Olathe NW
Jan. 3 vs Olathe West
Jan. 8 vs SM North
Jan. 10 vs SM East
Jan. 14 vs Mill Valley
Jan. 17 vs Blue Valley SW
Jan. 22 vs Blue Valley
Feb. 1 vs SM South
Feb. 4 Olathe North
Feb. 12 vs Lawrence
Feb. 15 vs SM West
Feb. 18 vs Lawrence Free
State
Feb. 21 vs Gardner-
Edgerton

BACK FOR MORE

The girls' varsity basketball team became substate champions after defeating Olathe South



1. Before the state game, sophomore Kyle Dunn high-fives her teammates as she is introduced March 7 at Koch Arena. Dunn transferred to Northwest this year after playing on the varsity team at SM North. "It was pretty amazing to get [to the state tournament]," Dunn said. "I've always dreamed of playing at state and it was an experience I'll never forget." **Photo by Pires Bonifacio 2. Senior DD Williams charges to the basket** March 7 in Koch Arena at Wichita State University. Northwest took their game to the state tournament, but lost in the first game, 27-60 against Derby. "When I lose, I feel like it's a lesson and that in the next game it's something I can do better," Williams said. **Photo by Pires Bonifacio**



// The Lair
 Shawnee Mission
 Northwest High School
 Shawnee, Kansas

Scoreboard

6th place out of 16 teams
 at Royal Crest
 2nd place out of 3 teams
 at Mission Bowl Olathe
 2nd place out of 3 teams
 at College Lanes
 3rd place out of 4 teams
 at Olathe Lanes East
 1st place out of 4 teams
 at Park Lanes
 3rd place out of six
 teams at Olathe Lanes
 East
 1st place out of 4 teams
 at Park Lanes
 2nd place out of 5 teams
 at Park Lanes
 5th place out of 13 teams
 at Olathe Lanes East
 3rd place out of 5 teams
 at Mission Bowl Olathe
 1st place out of 10 teams
 at College Lanes
 5th place out of 9 teams
 at Northrock Lanes

Captain:

PRESTON WILSON

Boys' Bowling



Row 1: Dakota Stephens, Spencer Engelby, Kyle Cunningham, Preston Wilson, Ryan Gentry, Dylan Mitchell Row 2: Justin Peterson, Colby Hovermale, Ryan Shirley, Kyle Patton, Owen Markwart, Daniel Schnacker, William Dent Row 3: Tyler Gochenour, Laton Bachart, Jack Burns, Tate Burns, Matt Steinmetz, Isaac Nelson

Scoreboard

8th place out of 16 teams
 at Royal Crest
 2nd place out of 3 teams
 at Mission Bowl Olathe
 2nd place out of 3 teams
 at College Lanes
 2nd place out of 4 teams
 at Olathe Lanes East
 1st place out of 4 teams
 at Park Lanes
 3rd place out of 6 teams
 at Olathe Lanes East
 1st place out of 4 teams
 at Park Lanes
 1st place out of 5 teams
 at Park Lanes
 11th place out of 13
 teams at Olathe Lanes
 East
 1st place out of 5 teams
 at Mission Bowl Olathe
 1st place out of 12 teams
 at College Lanes
 5th place out of 9 teams
 at Northrock Lanes

Captain:

CHEYANNE BOLIN

Girls' Bowling



Row 1: Angelina Ortega, Emma Reinke, Desiree Freeman, Destiny Lucas, Charlie Quarrel
 Row 2: Shelby Strom, Cheyanne Bolin, Yessina Ahumada, Grace Bradley
 Row 3: Justin Peterson, Tabitha Baptist, Alanya Reinke, Kayla Nickle, William Dent

CHEERLEADING Varsity



Row 1: Lauren Moore, Bridgette Bendau, Annalissa Houser, Payton Smith, Emma Bowman, Esperanza Lopez, Temaya Burgin, Riley Brocker, Jordan Clark, Jaelyn Rogers, Brytni Smith, Neva Bartlett, Libby Johnson Row 2: Hailey Spring-Clark, Cody Andrews, Addisyn White, Kelsie Brown, Emily Motsick, Kaleigh Rash, Chloe Hugerich, Rachel Salazar, Jayla Brown, Audrey Johnson, Audrey Little, Citlalli Luna, Mackenzie Maisch, Brianna Bledsoe, Brianna Ibarra, Alyssa Nettie, Lucy Heinisch

Captains:

LIBBY JOHNSON,
 TEMAYA BURGIN &
 HALEY SPRING-CLARK

CHEERLEADING Junior Varsity



Row 1: Kayvin Hollinger, Mackenzie Masters, Samantha Mudgett, Sydney Allen, Reagan Pigdon, Olivia Warren, Jacy Williams, Clara Sandnes, Amber Allison Row 2: Riley Brokeshoulder, Isabella Alaniz, Dreivyon Dawn, Nessie Gragg, Gabriella Ruvalcava, Hailey Stone, Madelyn Omanson, Rachel Allison

Captains:

JACY WILLIAMS,
 RILEY BROKESHOULDER, SYD-
 NEY ALLEN &
 BELLA ALANIZ

CHEERLEADING Freshmen



Row 1: Destiny Meadows, Jaxon White, Gabriella Lopez, Olivia Sanders, Olivia Seibold, Teagan VanBarcom, Gracelyn Soetaert, Harmony Bailey Row 2: Martha Arvanitakis, Sophia Brewer, Emilia Consiglio Mya Conway, Kira Cacioppo, Kairi Kinney, Mackenzie Meharry, RaeAnne Weller, Alyson Welch Row 3: Grace Cerda, Yaretzy Blanco, Naudia Thurman, Raquel Ramirez, Allison Strahl, Addison Harrop, Adora Heitman, Paige Taylor, Natalie Peterson, Gwynivere Klobien, Jedis Horton

Captains:

SOPHIA BREWER,
 HARMONY BAILEY,
 MACKENZIE MCHARRY &
 EMMY CONSIGLIO



// The Lair
Shawnee Mission
Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas

Boys' Captains:

JACKSON BURNETT &
SPENCER KALEKO

Girls' Captains:

RILEY DEMO &
ABBY WINTER

CROSS COUNTRY *Girl's and Boys'*



Row 1: Alan J. Makkyia, Abigail Winter, Adam Flickinger, Alec Schmidt, Alexa Magstadt, Alex Barfield, Ally Prunite, Amelia Lamb, Amy Kowalczewski Row 2: Andrew Vanderwerf, Austin Oakerson, Ben Harrell, Ben Nash, Cade Swanson, Caleb Masters, Dawson Mesh, Emily Price, Evan Battles Row 3: Gabe Sterns, Grace Miller, Gracie Goodpaster, Jackson Burnett, Kiara Stamat, Lee Ball, Levi Aguirre, Luke Aiken, Mason Karlin Row 4: Mason Patterson, Nadya Hodson, Noah Gruman, Pedro Gonzalez, Peter Arvanitakis, RaeAnne Weller, Riley Demo, Ryder Jarrett Row 5: Sage Wallace, Sammy Weians, Sam Springer, Samuel Steinlicht, Catie Wood, Sebastian Duesel, Shane Mullen, Spencer Kaleko, Spencer Shreve Row 6: Sydney VanHorn, Tiffany Cloo, Tori Neighbour, Varshini Muruges, Coach Van Rose, Coach Justin Stigge, Coach Mike Rose

Varsity

BOYS'

11th out of 11 teams

Greg Wilson
Classic

GIRLS'

No Team Score

14th out of 31 teams

Heartland
Classic

3rd out of 8 teams

Maple Leaf
Invitational

5th out of 12 teams

League

2nd out of 7 teams

Regionals

8th out of 12 teams

State

Junior Varsity

BOYS'

11th out of 11 teams

Greg Wilson
Classic

15th out of 15 teams

Olathe
Twilight

14th out of 17 teams

Heartland
Classic

3rd out of 5 teams

Maple Leaf
Invitational

6th out of 13 teams

League

GIRLS'

4th out of 7 teams

No Team Score

7th out of 15 teams

2nd out of 5 teams

3rd out of 8 teams

C Team

BOYS'

No Team Score

6th out of 13 teams

8th out of 12 teams

Greg Wilson
Classic

Olathe
Twilight

League

GIRLS'

No Team Score

5th out of 10 teams

No Team Score

DRILL TEAM *Varsity*



Row 1: Ashlyn Mills, Peyton Aerni, Anna Schmidt Row 2: Sephine Bondurant, Bylee Gunter, Jenni Johnson, Hadley Patton, Lilly Riddell, Jacy Rucker, Kiya Schulze Row 3: Karie Pauli, Sadie Lucier, Elizabeth Kuffour, McKenzie Parks, L'leana Jones, Gabby Chavez, Courtney Lee

Officers:

ASHLYN MILLS,
ANNA SCHMIDT &
PEYTON AERNI

DRILL TEAM *Junior Varsity*



Row 1: Cianna Blakeman, Courtney Kastelan, Alyssa Cunningham, Megan Freeman, Abby Ashlock, Summer Williams, Damarría Dillard

Officers:

MEG FREEMAN &
CIANNA BLAKEMAN

"I really appreciate the support the coaches on drill team have given me. While dancing at a studio, it felt more like individual competitions while dancing on drill team is a team effort and we're all striving for the same goal and not competing with each other. Having the whole student body clap for you after a performance and cheer you on has been so meaningful to me over the past four years."



SENIOR ASHLYN MILLS
DRILL TEAM CAPTAIN



Scoreboard

Varsity
vs SM West 16-14
vs Leavenworth 41-12
vs Olathe South 27-21
vs SM East 7-37
vs Lawrence 20-2
vs Olathe Northwest 21-29
vs Gardner-Edgerton 27-49
vs SM South 41-49
vs SM North 35-28
vs Gardner-Edgerton 28-49



Row 1: Jackie McKay, Sam Sedler, Mark Addington, Zach Creedon, Jaime Alexander, Ethan Beaumont, Ethan Weaver, Chase Agard, Tyler Fisher, Triston Aycock, Tristan McCreight, Charles Brookmann, Megan Hanson. **Row 2:** Rachel Seibold, Dante Beasley, Requan Estell, Mitch Hufker, Dale Talley III, Dylan Brunner, Peyton Carder, Spencer Gruwell, Israel Centeno, Alec Letz, Makayla Fisher

Scoreboard

Junior Varsity
vs SM West
vs SM East
vs Lawrence
vs Olathe NW
vs Gardner-Edgerton
vs SM South



Row 1: Riles Laster, Ty Lindenman, Braden Shaul, William Crafton, William Scarlett, Darius Brown, Pablo Velez, Kanyon Thompson, Chase Garrett, Blake Aronson, Mollie Elfrink. **Row 2:** Kamren Coleman, Ayden Shearer, Isaac Freeman, Zachary Hoxsie, Marques Cook, Isaac Tate, William Rawline, Chase Copple, Johnathan Verbene, Luis Rodriguez

BACK FOR MORE

The football team added an inflatable cougar tunnel and new music for their entry at the beginning of home games



1. Carrying the flag, freshman, Mikah Scott runs onto the field Oct. 11 at SM North. At the start of home games, the team runs through an inflatable cougar tunnel. "I loved the feeling of adrenaline rushing through my body as I ran onto the field," Scott said. **Photo by Evan Dorn**. **2. Racing out of the inflated cougar,** senior Spencer Gruwell carries the Cougar flag before the home game Sept. 21 in the North District Stadium. The varsity team was led by the Cougar flag and American flag at the front of the group. **Photo by Aimee Roberts**

FOOTBALL SENIORS

FOOTBALL SOPHOMORES



Row 1: Alvin Horner, Garrett Goetz, Lamon Te Bennett, Corbin Washington, Tristan Boone, Duke Henke, Cooper Seglem, Trey Chapman. **Row 2:** Colby Johnston, Justin Mitchell, Nate Hawthorne, Philip Vesta, Albert Hoeltig, Griffin Lamb, Johnny Watts, Phillip Adam, Ashton Belt. **Row 3:** Isaac Emerson, Chris Starks, Easton Dubbert, Mar Pwina, Ty Black, Connor Buffin, Lucas Rife

FOOTBALL FRESHMEN



Row 1: Jiro Ko, Mikah Scott, Logan Gray, Alex Rogers, Cole Madsen, Colin Bachtie, Kyren McCuiston, Zadic Torline, Aaron Jackson, Luke Rogers. **Row 2:** Katrina Gray, Kanyon Thompson, Nate Williams, Drayden Harris, Eli Smith, Kayden Pennewell, Xavier Reyes, Jack Mudgett, Tyger Husband, Chris Ramsey, Meg Qualls. **Row 3:** Madi Hoffman, Ahren Hohe, Donovan Ganapini, Connor Berlin, Thomas Johnston, Kael Farkes, Jack Meylan, Blake Reeder, Nick Cohen, Keith Locke, Michael Owen, Daniel Barnes, Logan Harvey, Johanna Williams. **Row 4:** Billy Dent, Domenic Mussat, Brad Qualls

Scoreboard

Freshmen
vs SM West 36-14
vs Leavenworth High 28-6
vs Olathe South 6-34
vs Shawnee Mission East 6-34
vs Lawrence High 20-34
vs Olathe Northwest 26-0
vs Gardner-Edgerton 14-26
vs Shawnee Mission South 48-18
vs Shawnee Mission North 50-6

BOYS' GOLF



Row 1: Connor Osner, Chase Keller, Gavin Meats, Tyler Peterson, Adam Ramirez, Ryan Hanson, Andrew Heitz. **Row 2:** Petar Ozeovic, Cole Foreman, Joe Bultman, Ryan Gentry, Drake Schotland, Michael Owens, Max Dory

Scoreboard

Mar. 25 at Lake Quivira Country Club
Mar. 27 at St. Andrews
Apr. 3 at St. Andrews
Apr. 8 at Oakwood Country Club
Apr. 10 at Sunflower Hills Golf Course
Apr. 15 at Tomahawk Hills Golf Course (**Junior Varsity**)
Apr. 15 at Shawnee Country Club (**Varsity**)
Apr. 16 at Country Club of Leawood
Apr. 22 at Topeka Country Club
Apr. 29 at Tomahawk Hills Golf Course (**Junior Varsity**)
Apr. 29 at Lawrence Country Club (**Varsity**)
May 1 at Sycamore Ridge Golf Course
May 13 at TBA
May 20 at Sand Creek Golf Course

Captain:
JOE BULTMAN



// The Lair
Shawnee Mission
Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas

Scoreboard

Team Score at Shawnee Golf & Country Club : 407
Team Score at Milburn Country Club : 446
Team Score at Lake Quivira Country Club : 401
Team Score at Eagle Bend Golf Course : 399
Team Score at Lawrence Country Club : 450
Team Score at Falcon Ridge Golf Course : 403
Team Score at Regionals : 491 (4th place)
Individual Score at State: Sidney Henkensiefken 95

Captains:

SIDNEY HENKENSIEFKEN

Scoreboard

Team Score at Shawnee Golf & Country Club : 407
Team Score at Milburn Country Club : 446
Team Score at Lake Quivira Country Club : 401
Team Score at Eagle Bend Golf Course : 399
Team Score at Lawrence Country Club : 450
Team Score at Falcon Ridge Golf Course : 403
Team Score at Regionals : 491 (4th place)
Individual Score at State: Sidney Henkensiefken 95

Captains:

SIDNEY HENKENSIEFKEN

Scoreboard

vs SM South 2-1
vs Blue Valley NW 1-3
vs KC Christian 10-0
vs Blue Valley West 3-2
vs Olathe South 2-2
vs SM North 2-1
vs Olathe NW 1-4
vs Mill Valley 0-5
vs Lawrence FS 1-0
vs Olathe North 4-1
vs Olathe East 0-1
vs Olathe West 2-0
vs Lawrence 3-1
vs SM East 0-0
vs Gardner Edgerton 9-0
vs SM West 1-1
vs Harmon 2-0
vs Olathe NW 4-0
vs Olathe East 0-3

Captains:

JACOB SHREVE & HENRY TOMASIC

GIRLS' GOLF



Row 1: Haley Wiercinski, Sonni Meyers, Lizzie Weems, Sloan Munson, Julie Johnson Row 2: Coach Whitney, Lauren Kelley, Sidney Henkensiefken, Grace Cheesman, Jim Bamburg

GYMNASTICS



Row 1: Jessica Tingle, Kadence Peel, Megan Campbell, Rachel Brunner, Payton Smith, Zoe Kopp, Beverly Schenke, Audrey Johnson, Jessie Rood Row 2: Charlie Querar, Cierra Ladesich, Isabel Dory, Ellen Schnacker, Ellie Ridgway, Audrey Little, Brendan MacAuley

BOYS' SOCCER Varsity



Row 1: Jake Brundrett, Henry Fears, Eli Gunter, Jacob Shreve, Tristan Tepen, Cole Slack, Eli Hodson Row 2: Edy Alverado Del Cid, Cameron Ferencz, Axel Marquez, Wilmi Arista Leiva, Bryce Dewsbury, Nester Cruz, Todd Boren Row 3: Drew Perkins, Tony Ramos, Henry Tomasic, Tanner Anderson, Connor Figgins, Evan Marchio, Joesa Rosa Rosa

BOYS' SOCCER Junior Varsity



Row 1: Ty Bell, Will Seibold, Laken Arnold, Ethan Johnson, Jacob Kendrick, Cole Foresman, Kenet Del Cid Sanchez, Michael Lammers, John Seibold, Jacob Johnson Row 2: Jeremiah Driesel, Carlos Flores, Ishmael Cisse, Gael Rodriguez, Logan Brower, Cameron Figgins, Jaden Combs, Julian Gutierrez, Sebastian Emerson, Cohen Mitts, Ryan Borberg, Vann Skinner, Blake Lyons, Adam White

BOYS' SOCCER C-Team



Row 1: Anthony Estrada, Cairo Araujo, Connor Osner, Matthew Dunn, Sam Beardslee, John Seibold, Owen Tepen, Sam Vossen, Drake Ruiz Row 2: John Gose, Jonathan Akiliu, Peter Opoku-Ware, Adam Sakati, Jeffrey Russel, Gage Hartman, Thomas Meiss, Saul Martinez, Ben Mendoza, Haley Lukes

BOYS' SOCCER D-Team



Row 1: Roberto Duran, David Tagle, Javier Duran, John Paul Herrera, Gavin Meats, Jacob Rhodes, Timothy More Row 2: Andrew Campana, Austin Weston, Ishmael Coppage, Wade Vielhauer, Brady Moore, Tyler Rhodes, Akorede Gbadebo, Dan Fletcher

Schedule

Sept 8 vs Olathe North at Shawnee Mission Soccer Complex
Oct 2 vs Olathe East at Shawnee Mission Soccer Complex
Oct 4 vs Olathe West at ODAC

Captains:

LOGAN BROWER & ADAM WHITE

Scoreboard

vs SM South 10-0
vs Turner 3-0
vs Olathe North 3-0
vs Mill Valley 2-4
vs Olathe South 0-5
vs SM North 6-0
vs Olathe NW 1-1
vs Lawrence FS 2-1
vs Olathe East 2-1
vs Olathe West 1-1
vs SM East 0-5
vs St. Thomas Aquinas 2-4
vs Olathe NW 2-1
vs SM West 2-1

Schedule

Sept 4 vs Blue Valley at Blue Valley High School
Oct 1 vs Turner at Steinger Field



// The Lair
Shawnee Mission
Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas

Schedule

Mar. 20 vs De Soto
Mar. 22 vs Blue Valley North
Mar. 28 vs Olathe North
Apr. 2 vs Olathe South
Apr. 4 vs SM North
Apr. 9 vs Olathe Northwest
Apr. 11 vs SM South
Apr. 12 vs Mill Valley
Apr. 16 vs Lawrence Free State
Apr. 18 vs Blue Valley
Apr. 23 vs Olathe East
Apr. 25 vs Olathe West
Apr. 30 vs SM East
May 2nd vs Lawrence
May 4 vs SM West
May 7 vs Gardner Edgerton

Captains:

CAROLINE SANDERS &
KIRRYN KILLINGSWORTH



Row 1: Megan Goetz, Adriana Bobki, Ada Heller, Katie Brockmann, Sophia Pope, Megan Hanson, Kirryn Killingsworth, Row 2: Nura Ghasempour, Alyssa Murray, Kate Lawrence, Dajanai Jackson, Shelby Strom, Sofia Hughes, Emily Arrocha Row 3: Drew Perkins, Makayla Fisher, Hannah Coates, Lauren Sanders, Caroline Sanders, Skylar Britt, Hailey Coates, Tatum Schuerman, Todd Boren

GIRLS' SOCCER Junior Varsity



Row 1: Carolina Navarro, Kendall Toomay, Trinity Her, Ally Banks, Olivia Setton, Paige Brummer, Olivia Linville, Valerie Herrera Row 2: Drew Driesel, Ajooni Hundal, Rory Dungan, Piper Borgman, Paige Morgan, Emily Price, Kate McKnight, Emma Milvic, Brooke Brummer

GIRLS' SOCCER C-Team



Row 1: Tatiana Comas, Naywi St, Jordan Sogaard, Sydney Sanoubane, Thania Sanchez Row 2: Citlalli Luna, Amelia Lamb, Katrina Grey, Sarah Leming, Natalie Oakerson, Stella Grist, Lindsey Mora, Daniela Chacon Row 3: Haley Lukes, Yessina Ahumanda, Lacie Perry, Madi Hoffman, Anna Hales, Bijou Muragizi, Amaya Spring, Peyton Perez

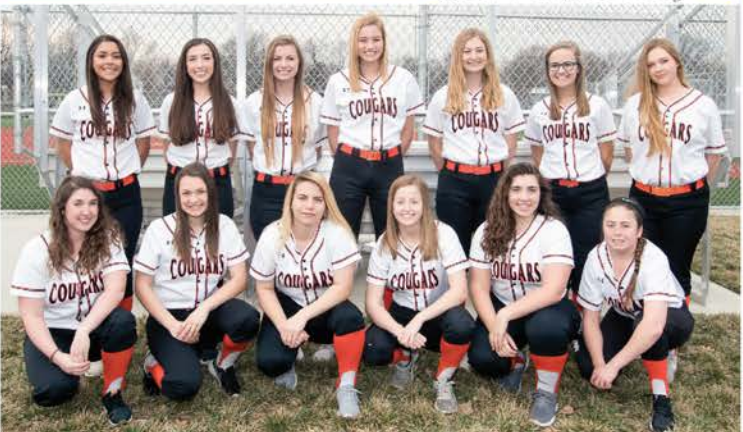
Schedule

April 4 vs SM North at Shawnee Mission Soccer Complex
May 6 vs Olathe North at Shawnee Mission Soccer Complex

Captains:

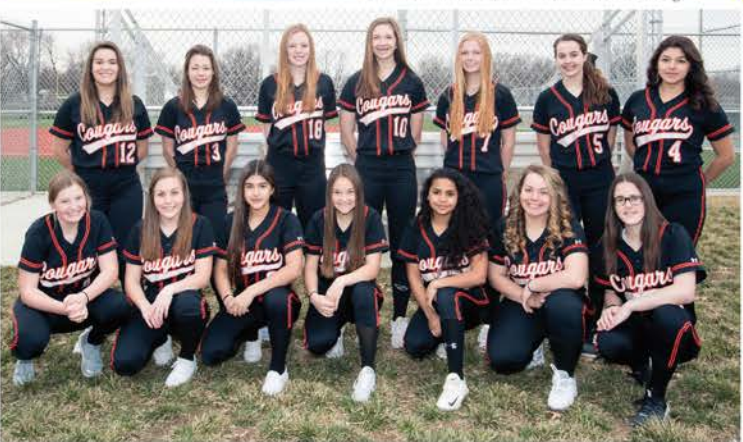
CITLALLI LUNA,
JORDAN SOGAARD &
SYDNEY SANOUBANE

SOFTBALL Varsity



Row 1: Sarah Mills, Brooklyn Cowan, Destiny Lucas, Emma Gude, Mary Hannah Sullivan, Michaela Crowe Row 2: Arisbei Black, Kaitlin Pauli, Lauren Wolfe, Jennika Bultman, Megan Formwalt, Annie Borberg, Katie Gardner

SOFTBALL Junior Varsity



Row 1: Samantha Mudgett, Autumn Horn, Sierra Martinez, Jerina Campbell, Alayna Mellinger, Taylor Bonfeldt, Riley McCombs Row 2: Kyndall Ridings, Brooke Bazzel, Maggie Chapin, Emily Alexander, Kayli Kinsella, Kelsi Loeffler, Sophia Martinez

Schedule

Mar. 26 vs Lawrence
Mar. 28 vs SM East
Apr. 2 vs SM North
Apr. 4 vs Lawrence Free State
Apr. 9 vs SM West
Apr. 11 vs Olathe East
Apr. 16 vs Olathe North
Apr. 18 vs Lansing
Apr. 20 vs Leavenworth
Apr. 20 vs St. Thomas Aquinas
Apr. 23 vs Olathe NW
Apr. 25 vs SM North
Apr. 23 vs Olathe South Apr.
30 vs Olathe West May 3 vs
Lansing
May 7 vs Gardner Edgerton
May 13 vs TBD
May 23 vs Away TBD
(Regional & State
Tournament)

Captains:

KAITLIN PAULI &
MEGAN FORMWALT

Schedule

Apr. 1 vs Lawrence Free State
Apr. 3 vs SM South
Apr. 8 vs SM East
Apr. 12 vs SM North
Apr. 17 vs Olathe NW
Apr. 22 vs Gardner Edgerton
Apr. 24 vs Olathe West May 1
vs Lawrence
May 5 vs Lansing
May 6 vs Olathe North



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Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas

Scoreboard

Dec 1 JV/Varsity Invitational vs Lansing
Dec 4 JV/Varsity Meet vs Olathe North
Dec 7 JV/Varsity Meet vs Olathe South
Jan 5 JV/Varsity Invitational vs Lawrence, Lawrence Free State, SM East, SM North, SM West, Washburn Rural
Feb 1 JV/Varsity League vs Olathe South
Feb 2 JV/Varsity League vs Olathe South
Feb 4 JV/Varsity Sunflower League vs Lawrence, Lawrence Free State, Olathe East, Olathe North, Olathe NW, Olathe South, Olathe West, SM East, SM North, SM South, SM West
Feb 7 JV/Varsity Late Chance Meet vs Lawrence Free State

Captains:
BEN HARRELL

Schedule

Mar. 20 at SM North
Apr. 1 at Chisholm Trail Middle School
Apr. 5 at California Trail Middle School
Apr. 9 at Lawrence Free State
Apr. 13 at SM West
Regionals:
Apr. 16 at Prairie Trails Middle School
(Varsity)
Apr. 16, at SM North
Junior Varsity:
Apr. 19 at SM Northwest
Apr. 25 at SM Northwest
May 2, 3, & 4 at Summit Trail Middle School
League:
May 8 at Lawrence Free State

Captains:
MIRANDA GIBSON & CATIE WOOD

Schedule

Mar. 21 vs BVH
Mar. 27 vs Olathe North
Mar. 28 vs BVNW
Apr. 1 vs Olathe East
Apr. 2 vs Lawrence Free State
Apr. 3 vs Gardner Edgerton
Apr. 8 vs SM East
Apr. 10 vs Mill Valley
Apr. 13 vs TBA
Apr. 15 vs Olathe West
Apr. 16 vs SM North
Apr. 22 vs BVNW
Apr. 24 vs SM West
Apr. 28 vs SM West
Apr. 29 vs Blue Valley
May 2 vs SM South
May 10 vs Away
May 11 vs TBA

Captains:
HENRY TOMASIC & MASON DARPEL

Boys' SWIM



Row 1: Carson Metivier, Caiden Levi Chapman, Brendan MacAuley, Jack, Nick Malara, Alex Duewel, Grant Kozdol, Miller, Ben Harrell, Will VandenBos, Hunter Bremankamp, Eric Gonzales, Bryce DeBok, Coach Ryan Lee
Row 2: Alec Schmidt, Scott Klein, Brian Harrell, Alex Savinkov, Cameron Solenberg

GIRLS' SWIM & DIVE



Row 1: Jasiyn Rogers, Celeste Gordon, Miranda Gibson, Julianna Kantner, Olivia Terryberry, Patricia Pyram
Row 2: Teresa Baptist, Avalon McGrew, Theone Clark, Katelyn Dahl, Jillian Meister, Payton Rowland, Audrey Johnson
Row 3: Bailey Cavin, Julia Carzon, Julie Johnson, Skylar Brogan, Sara Gregor, Madi Kitson, Riley Brocker, Maddy Graff
Row 4: Kylie Dunn, Catie Wood, Isabel Dory, Sarah Ellison, Emma Ayers, Adrienne Johnson

Boys' TENNIS



Row 1: Mason Darpe, Rohan Patel, Nam Pham, Will Braun, Henry Tomasic, Spencer Pruter
Row 2: Gavin Cobb, Jovan Ozegovic, Jack Schmitzer, Tim Schade, Nick Malara, Luke Formwalt, Zadic Torline, Sebastian Jairo Duwel, Sebastian Coster
Row 3: Naeley Torline, Tyler, Carson Metivier, Justin D'Silva, Elvin Lin, Jackson Each, Brock Grampas, Sije Quan, Morgan Moberg
Row 4: Andrew Braun, Aaron Lin, Gabe Sterns, Jackson Reese, William Crafton, Tainadze Gist, Cecilia Talley

GIRLS' TENNIS



Row 1: Gabriella Herrera, Sadie Lucier, Catherine Steinacker, Allieu Jagne, Olivia Sloan, Mabel Anstine, Meghan Donaldson
Row 2: Naeley Torline, Jenna Campbell, Brooklyn Cowan, Morgan Katschen, Naeley Torline, Michaela Cross, Emma Alexander
Row 3: Ken Clow, Erin Dory, Minati Sharma, Cecilia Lorino, Brooke Clausen, Emily Morsley, Sibylle Guglielmi, Cecilia Talley, Morgan Moberg
Row 4: Mla Abadie, Chitall Luna, Addison Pibton, Sara Gregor, Natalie Oakerson, Olivia Linville, Faith Na, Sammi Meeks
Row 5: Anna Hales, Grace Rippe, Claire Severance, Natalie Peterson, Ella Legreid, Olivia Pibton, Alexis Smith, Anna Bachelor

BOYS TRACK & FIELD



Row 1: Caleb Masters, Ben Harrell, Jackson Burnett, Tomas McNaney, Chanler Taylor, Eli Hodson, Spencer Kaleho, Peyton Carder, Mitch Hultker, Triston Aycock, Eric Gonzales, Isaac Freeman, Spencer Gruewell, Cooper Seglem, Caiden Levi Chapman, Cameron Ferencz, Isaac Emerson
Row 2: Chase Garrett, Jean Paul Herrera, Alec Schmidt, Adam White, Dante Wheatcroft, Ryder Jarrett, Chase Coppel, Jeffrey Russell, Kael Farries, Gabriel Holgate, Darryl Brown, Karvon Thompson, Jack Meylan, Luke Rogers, Anthony Kempf, Brandin Berry
Row 3: Andrew Campana, Connor Figgins, Corbin Washington, Mason Morris, Ahren Hohe, Eli Laurent, Jack Van Nieuwenhuysen, Kaiden Horton, Christopher Augustine, Timothy Moye, Braden Shaul, Alex Rogers, Connor Berlin, Brandon Berlin, Phillip Vesta, Ben Groebe
Row 4: Nick Kendrick, Carson, Alex Lopez, Cade Swanson, Jacob Mars, Albert Hoeltling, Colby Johnston, Joshua Harris, Kyle Harris, William Rawline, Koltan Thompson, Mikah Scott, Pedro Gonzales-Marroquin, Adam Flickinger, Chris Ramsey
Row 5: Wade Vielhauer, Landon Wagler, Phillip Adams, Isiah Voia, Mason Patterson, Shane Mullen, Samuel Steinlicht, Alex Duewel, Ty Black, Cameron Figgins, Nester Cruz, Lee Ball, Jens Christiansen, Max Garay, Levi Aguirre, Austin Oakerson, Tyler Rhodes, Brandon Lopez, Logan Davis

GIRLS' TRACK & FIELD



Row 1: Niesse Gragg, Jacy Williams, Tiffany Cioo, RaeAnne Weller, Addison Pibton, Megan Qualls, Raquel Ramirez, Olivia Pibton, Shelbynn Yazel, Rylee Garrett, Alex Walsh, Lauren Kelley, Zoe Kopp
Row 2: Mackenzie Masters, Sydney Allen, Riley Demo, Grace Miller, Sydney VanHorn, Abby Winter, Maeya Eklhorn, Aaliyah Lewis, Alison Buschill, Mary Montalt, Eliza Kidder, Meghan Donaldson, Lara Helfrich, Erin Henton
Row 3: Olivia Warren, Laylah Stevens, Clara Sandnes, Ella Legreid, Amy Kowalczyk, Ally Pruente, Natalie Randazzo, Grace Goodpastor, Victoria Neighbour, Amber Allison, Camryn Maisch, Ericka Oyeda, Ashley Vili, Payton Smith, Sophia Taga
Row 4: Riley Brothershoulder, Jenna Martin, Abby Maden, Gabby Chavez, Courtney Lee, Deana Jones, Alexa Magstad, Meronline Mogorodo, Ella Mackiewicz, Zole Johnson, Kelly Whitmore, Victoria Duran, Fernanda Martinez-Frize, Harmony Bailey
Row 5: Hannah Van Juijen, Owen Fowler, Kira Calcioppo, Natalie Peterson, Brooke Clausen, Michaela Morgan, Blair Sedler, Kerensy Sedler, Tamiya Martin, Grace Cramblett, Katie Ault, Shelby Sogaard, Allison Strahl, Lily Calvin, Sarah Sullivan, Annie Hofmeisterova, Jaleiya Kane

Schedule

August 21 vs BV
August 29 at Indian Creek Recreation Center
August 30 vs SM East
September 6 Quad at College Boulevard Activity Center
September 11 Invitational
September 15 Districts
September 17 Quad at Lawrence High School
September 19 Quad at Lawrence Free State
September 25 vs Blue Valley North
September 27 League at CBAC
October 1 vs SM North
October 6 Regionals at Mill Valley

Captains:
MABEL ANSTINE & OLIVIA SLOAN

Schedule

Mar. 22 at Blue Valley
Apr. 4 at SM Northwest
Junior Varsity:
Apr. 5 at Blue Valley
Apr. 12 at SM South
Apr. 17 at SM South
Apr. 19 & 20 at Rock Chalk Park
(Varsity)
Apr. 26 at Topeka Seaman
(Varsity)
May 3 at SM North
May 10 at SM South
May 17 vs TBA
May 24 vs TBA
May 25 vs TBA

Schedule

Mar. 22 at Blue Valley
Apr. 4 at SM Northwest
Junior Varsity:
Apr. 5 at Blue Valley
Apr. 12 at SM South
Apr. 17 at SM South
Apr. 19 & 20 at Rock Chalk Park
(Varsity)
Apr. 26 at Topeka Seaman
(Varsity)
May 3 at SM North
May 10 at SM South
May 17 vs TBA
May 24 vs TBA
May 25 vs TBA



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Scoreboard

Leavenworth 3-2	Topeka 1-2
BV North 0-3	Ottawa 2-0
Gardner-Edgerton 0-2	Tonganoxie 2-0
Olathe Northwest 1-2	Gardner-Edgerton 0-2
BV Southwest 1-2	Great Bend 2-0
Emporia 0-2	Olathe East 1-2
Olathe North 2-0	SM North 2-0
SM South 2-0	Olathe West 3-0
Lawrence FS 1-3	SM South 2-0
Blue Springs 2-1	Olathe South 2-0
Park Hill South 0-2	Junction City 2-0
SM East 2-0	Bonnie Springs 2-0
St. James Academy 0-2	EV Northwest 0-2
Lawrence FS 0-2	Olathe South 3-0
SM West 2-0	SM East 3-1
Lawrence 0-2	Lansing 0-2
Notre Dame de Son 3-0	SM West 2-0
Piper 2-0	SM North 3-0
	Olathe West 2-0
	BV West 0-2

Captains:

HANNAH BLACK &
RYLEE GARRETT

VOLLEYBALL Varsity



Virlian Kieffer, Rylee Garrett, Reanne DeBose, Whitney Dugan, Hannah Black, Abby Madsen, Audrey Bennett, Taylor McCarthy, Kanoelhua Misipeka

Scoreboard

Aug. 30 vs Blue Valley North
Sept. 4 vs Gardner-Edgerton
Sept. 5 vs Gardner-Edgerton
Sept. 11 vs Olathe North
Sept. 13 vs Lawrence Free State
Sept. 20 Notre Dame de Son
Sept. 22 vs Blue Valley
Sept. 22 vs East
Sept. 24 vs Olathe East
Sept. 25 vs Olathe East
Oct. 2 vs Olathe South
Oct. 4 vs East
Oct. 16 vs North

Captain:

BLAIR SEDLER

VOLLEYBALL Junior Varsity



Row 1: Katie Gunkel, Emma Ayers, Kaulani Misipeka, Katy Bustamante
Row 2: Ellie Musson, Kayli Kinsella, Annie Borberg
Row 3: Elizabeth Thrice, Blair Sedler, Ada Heller, Jordan Sogaard

Scoreboard

Aug. 24 vs TBA
Aug. 28 vs Leavenworth
Aug. 30 vs SM South
Sept. 5 vs Gardner-Edgerton
Sept. 10 vs Olathe North
Sept. 13 vs Lawrence Free State
Sept. 15 vs Olathe East
Sept. 17 vs Lawrence
Sept. 24 vs Olathe East
Sept. 27 vs Olathe West
Sept. 29 vs SM South
Oct. 2 vs Olathe South
Oct. 4 vs SM East

Captains:

DESIREE NEWTON &
EMMA MLIVIC

VOLLEYBALL Sophomore



Row 1: Desiree Newton, Jillian Sharp, Zoe Johnson, Emma Mlivic, Samantha Bender
Row 2: Trinity Her, Maria Berardo, Tatum Schuerman, Kennedy Sedler
Row 3: Haley Davis, Daisy Solis, Maggie Chapin, Sophia Martinez, Sierra Martinez

VOLLEYBALL Freshmen



Row 1: Angela Richardson, Amelie Teo, Paige Brummer, Sophia Mendus
Row 2: Brook Brummer, Mary Morstadt, Teagan VanBlarcom, Madi Graff, Sydney Elpers
Row 3: Coach Gurber, Ella Mackiewicz, Katie Ault, Shelby Sogaard, Abby Huber

Scoreboard

Aug. 24 vs TBA
Aug. 28 vs Leavenworth
Aug. 30 vs SM South
Sept. 5 vs Gardner-Edgerton
Sept. 8 vs Blue Valley West
Sept. 10 vs Olathe North
Sept. 13 vs Lawrence Free State
Sept. 17 vs Lawrence
Sept. 19 vs SM East
Sept. 20 vs Lansing
Sept. 24 vs Olathe East
Sept. 27 vs Olathe West
Sept. 29 vs SM South
Oct. 2 vs Olathe South
Oct. 4 vs SM East
Oct. 6 vs Lawrence Free State

WRESTLING



Left to right: Charles Brockmann, Abel Perez, Andrew Reid, Bret Summers, Will Heitman, William Scarlet, Triston Boone, Whitney Dugan, Caleb Rosebaugh, Isaac Emerson, Curtis Riley, Kayden Pennewell, Xavier Reyes

Captains:

CALEB ROSEBAUGH, ANDREW REID & CHARLES BROCKMANN

Scoreboard

14th at Steve Leslie Inv. with 139.5 points
13th Cougar Invitational with 90 points
20th Johnson County Classic with 45 points
11th Derby Invitational with 63 points
NW win with 42 over OLE with 39
NW loss to LPS with 64
13th at Husky Inv. with 60.5 points
10th at Junction City Inv. with 65 points
NW loss to Shawnee Heights with 72 points
NW loss to BV West with 59 points
SM District Champions
NW win with 60 over SMN with 12 points
NW win with 50 over SME with 25 points
NW win with 60 over SMS with 21 points
NW win with 48 over SMW with 28 points
Sundowner League 8th with 71 points
11th at 6A Regional with 64 points
16th at 6A State with 32 points

BACK FOR MORE

Senior Charles Brockmann ends his high school career on high a note.

Wrestling taught me that I have to work hard every day to reach my goals. Fifty years from now, I'll remember how hard the practices are, cutting weight, and being 3x state placer. * Senior Charles Brockmann





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Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas

CLUBS & *Organizations*

PHOTOS BY LIFETOUCH STUDIOS

President:
BRYCE DEBOK
Sponsor:
VONDA MORRIS

ACADEMIC DECATHLON



Row 1: Varshini Murugesh, Manvir Kaur Row 2: Bryce DeBok, Ryan Beck

Sponsors:
PENNY SNEAD &
BRETT EICHMAN

BAND CONCERT



Row 1: Angelica Ramirez, Sara Gregor, Megan Okerberg, Chase Hamilton, Bernard Velez-Padilla, Tiffany Cloo, Merritt Parsons Row 2: Matt Roberts, Hannah Saathoff, Marko Cochango, Jesse DeBok, Nathan McManness, Nathan Petrich, Olivia Moore Row 3: Amanda Augustine, Zac McCone, Kennedy Taylor, Noah Seidner, Gabriel Holgate, Michael Fitzgerald, Patrick O'Keefe

BAND FRESHMEN CONCERT



Row 1: Keren Tuttle, Abigail Obertop, Mya Eitel, Zane Bicak, Laura McGee, McKenna Taylor, Alyssa Ngo Row 2: Zadic Torline, Connor Osner, Isabel Semadeni, Alexander Olivera, Jack Ensley, Georgia Holgate, Gabriella Haddadi, Abigail Flickner Row 3: Elijah Criss-Greene, Moriah Meigs, Alyssa Rutherford, Imani Mooney, Margaret Chapin, Tabitha Baptist, Morgan Ediger, Kairi Kinney Row 4: Luke Berberic, Lucas Bohndorf, Jacob Sell, Jon Reiff, Henry Kniggendorf, Sterling Sewell, William Delzeit, Jackson Baldwin, Brandon Kour

Sponsors:
PENNY SNEAD &
BRETT EICHMAN

BAND MARCHING



Row 1: Jenni Johnson, Riley Gunter, Lilly Riddell, Courtney Lee, Lleana Jones, Gabby Chavez, Elizabeth Kuffour, McKenzie Parks, Karie Pauli, Sadie Lucier, Jaydn Rucker, Kiva Schulze, Anna Schmidt, Ashlyn Mills, Peyton Aerni Row 2: Maya, Hannah Sullivan, Keren Tuttle, Georgie Teschendorf, Adrienne Reine, Angelica Ramirez, Ellie Ridgway, Evan Wapp, Caroline Sanders, Naeley Torline, Grant Koizol, Abby Obertop, Katie Assel, Jenna Wilson, Robin Berger Row 3: Hanna Smith, Lacie Perry, Claire Anderson, Cecilia Talley, McKenna Taylor, Tiffany Cloo, Sara Gregor, Maggie Yonker, Angelina Ortega, Merritt Parsons, Riley Demo, Maxwell Barth Row 4: Connor Osner, Cavin Thomas, Allison Ruschili, Jessica Cox, Reilly Forbes, Megan Okerberg, Anna Bachelor, Sibylle Guglielmi, Wairimu Mbogori, Trevor Hale, Bernadette Valez-Padilla, Ellen Schnacker, Teresa Baptist, Moriah Meigs Row 5: Noah Hall, Luke Aitken, Morgan Ediger, Henry Fears, Owen Markwart, Danielle Brunner, Cora Manica, Aly Rutherford, Abigail Butler, Megan Donaldson, Olivia Moore, Josh Zumalt, Wyatt Smith Row 6: Austin Hall, Nathan McManness, Carson Metivier, Albert Hoelting, Clair Severance, Colby Johnston, Justin Cloughley, Marko Cochango, Jack, Alex Olivera, Nathan Petrich, Aidan Quinn, Ki Nilges, Ashby Bays Row 7: Maggie Chapin, Katie Ault, Grace Cramblett, Brogan McKenzie, Brandon Khouri, Charlie Smith, Spencer Shreve, Max Dory, Grant Johnson, Jacob Sell, Daniel Ward, Ian Hughes, Michael Kleinow-Malone Row 8: Jackson Baldwin, Jacob Lane, Jaxon St. Clair, Amanda Augustine, Blake Lyons, Spencer Robertson, David Torres, Patrick O'Keefe, Alan Makkyla, Garrett Sunds, Alex Marvine, Jesse DeBok, Lauren Macek, Bailey Cavin Row 9: Justin D'Silva, Lucas Pfeifer, Sam Converse, Spencer Pruter, Michael Fitzpatrick, Scott Klein, Brian Harrell, Joe Huber, Mason Darpel, Zac McCone, Mason Larkins, William, Pedar Thomas Row 10: Tanner Anderson, Ryan Beck, Jacob Wallace, Gentry Gardner, Zachary Roth, Andrew Johnson, Sterling Sewell, Andrew Reid, Nathaniel Hollman, Henry Kniggendorf, Ryan Gentry

Drum Majors:
CAROLINE SANDERS,
EVAN WAPP &
ELLIE RIDGWAY
Sponsors:
PENNY SNEAD,
DOUG TALLEY &
BRETT EICHMAN



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Sponsors:
 BRETT EICHMAN &
 MARY WATSON

BAND PERCUSSION



Row 1: Grant Koziol, Jessica Cox, Max Barth, Georgie Teschendorf **Row 2:** Cavin Thomas, Noah Hall, Melvin Horner, Ki Nilges, Danielle Brunner **Row 3:** Patrick O'Keefe, Eli Pixton, Zac McCone, Mason Larkins, Mason Darpel, Ian Hughes

Sponsors:
 PENNY SNEAD &
 DOUG TALLEY

BAND SYMPHONIC



Row 1: Adrienne Reine, Jenna Wilson, Ellie Ridgway, Riley Demo, Cecilia Talley, Maggie Yonker, Merritt Parsons, Naeley Torline **Row 2:** Lacie Perry, Wairimu Mbugori, Meghan Donaldson, Justin Cloughley, Allison Ruschill, Hanna Smith, Trevor Hales, Abigail Butler, Mary Hannah Sullivan **Row 3:** Henry Fears, Cora Manica, Lauren Macek, Max Dory, Grant Johnson, Ethan Jones, Colby Johnston, Caroline Sanders, Charlie Smith, Ellen Schnacker **Row 4:** Owen Markwart, Aidan Quinn, Brogan McKenzie, Scott Klein, Alan Makkyia, Jacob Lane, Jaxon St. Clair, Nate Pearce, David Torres, Spencer Pruter, Josh Zumalt **Row 5:** Albert Hoelting, Blake Lyons, Peder Thomas, Zachary Roth, Tanner Anderson, Ryan Beck, Jacob Wallace, Gentry Gardner, Nathaniel Hollman, Sam Converse, Brian Harrell, Claire Severance

BACK FOR MORE

The marching cougar pride flew to Orlando, because they were invited to march in a Christmas parade in Walt Disney World and Universal Studios



1. Marching down Main Street, the Marching Cougar Pride performs "God Rest ye Merry Gentlemen" Dec. 29 at Magic Kingdom. The band finished every two years to perform in the yearly Disney Christmas Parade. "This was my second time going on the band trip," senior Olivia Moore said. "I get really excited, but I also remember I'm wearing three layers of polyester in Florida." Photo by SHNW B&B. 2. Standing tall, drum majors Caroline Sanders, Evan Wapp and Ellie Ridgway march through Disney. The band went to Orlando to perform in Disney World's Christmas parade. "Being the drum major in the front was a time sort of gave me a better sense of pride for our band," Sanders said. "The drum majors are the first people you see and I felt as though we were a first impression of band to the people at Disney." Photo by SHNW B&B.

BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS OF AMERICA



Row 1: Julianna Kantner, Lauren Kelley, Haley Wiercinski, Emily McAllister, Naeley Torline **Row 2:** Eli Castillo, Jordan Glanville, Mason Larkins, Michael Owens, Hannah Coates **Row 3:** Preston Wilson, Andrew Reid, Nathan Lee, Lee Ball, Jason Fuemrler

President:
 JULIANNA KANTNER
Sponsor:
 JAN BERG

CATEGORIES



Row 1: Olivia Gralapp, Catherine Becker **Row 2:** Jesse DeBok, Ryan Beck

President:
 OLIVIA GRALAPP
Sponsor:
 VONDA MORRIS

CCC EXEC



Row 1: Olivia Terryberry, Megan McDonald **Row 2:** Ava Hauser, Lizzie Weems, Libby Johnson **Row 3:** Megan Hanson, Carlos Jaime, Lindi Peterson, Meaghan Clarey

Presidents:
 AVA HAUSER &
 MEAGHAN CLAREY
Sponsor:
 SARAH DENT



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CCC SECOND HOUR SEMESTER 1



Row 1: Hilda Morales, Molly Vielhauer, Mallory Meeks, Ava Hauser **Row 2:** Audrey Little, Citlalli Luna, Emily Motsick, Mark Addington, Kiara Stamati, Kaleigh Rash, Silicia Moreno **Row 3:** Victoria Duran, Olivia Moore, Katie Gardner, Abby Madsen, Kelsie Brown, Ada Heller, Meghan Donaldson, Sarah Dent **Row 4:** Lily Havranek, Eli Castillo, Diamond Holt, Chase Copple, Randy Pham, Mason Darpel, Maya Sprague

CCC SECOND HOUR SEMESTER 2



Row 1: Meredith Calvin, Tierney White, Lauren Moore, Molly Vielhauer, Brooklyn Cowan, Ava Hauser **Row 2:** Silicia Moreno, Arisbei Black, Esperanza Lopez, Shantice White, Natalie Randazzo, Rylee Roberts, Max Overesch **Row 3:** Sarah Dent, Zach Dulny, Jacob Fry, Lily Havranek, Jake Toomay, Mason Darpel, Randy Pham, Abby Madsen

CCC THIRD HOUR SEMESTER 1



Row 1: Natalie Hole, Frida Martinez, Faven Gordon **Row 2:** Michaela Crowe, Amy Kowalczewski, Anna Bachelor, Emma Gude, Lily LaRue, Sofia Nash **Row 3:** Riley Brocker, Sidney Kendall, Abby Winter, Alex Walsh, Eliza Kidder, Josh Zumalt, Sarah Dent **Row 4:** Zac McCone, Jennaka Bultman, Logan Skeens, Will Braun, Cage Bowman, Max Overesch

CCC THIRD HOUR SEMESTER 2



Row 1: Anna Bachelor, Michaela Crowe, Lily LaRue, Riley Brocker, Emma Alexander, Sofia Nash, Amy Kowalczewski **Row 2:** Sarah Dent, Eliza Kidder, Megan Okerberg, Mackenzie Maisch, Miranda Gibson, Hailey Coates, Kaitlin Pauli, Emma Ottinger **Row 3:** William Crafton, Darius Freeman, Eli Castillo, Carlos Jaime, Calvin Howard, Carter Adams, Matthew Bustamante, Jennaka Bultman

CCC FOURTH HOUR SEMESTER 1



Row 1: Nina Tiger, Nura Ghasempour, Megan McDonald, Tierney White, Megan Hanson, Olivia Terryberry, Peyton Aerni **Row 2:** Michaela Morgan, Lizzie Weems, Lauren Wolfe, Bailey Cavin, Yairree Juarez, Ashley Gonzalez-Nino **Row 3:** Cameron Shelby, Zac Jarrett, Lindi Peterson, Makayla Fisher, Jose Felix, Ana Hopper **Row 4:** Mason Larkins, Joey Dillion-Kinard, Jake Toomay, Luke Towler, Matthew Bustamante, Caleb Ladd, Colby Smith, Sarah Dent

“I love CCC Exec because it’s made up of people who not only love and care about one another, but also **care about those in the community**. What I’ll remember about CCC Exec in 50 years will be **baking cookies before every Cappuccino Day** with everyone. Also, I’ll never forget when Carlos Jaime showed Meaghan Clarey **what the Mandela Effect was**.”



SENIOR MEGAN MCDONALD
CCC PUBLICIST



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Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas

CCC FOURTH HOUR SEMESTER 2



Row 1: Megan McDonald, Olivia Terryberry, Audrey Little, Kate Rivera, Lizzie Weems, Audrey Johnson **Row 2:** Sarah Dent, Emma Gude, Megan Hanson, Kara Lyons, Michelle Jerop, Adriana Bobki, Ellen Schnacker **Row 3:** Miles Raney, Lauren Wolfe, Mason Larkins, Zac Jarrett, Sammy Weians, Celeste Gordon

CCC SIXTH HOUR SEMESTER 1



Row 1: Sara Gregor, Sadie Lucier, Rian Laster, Sophia Pope, Rosa Ortiz, Gracie Goodpaster, Meaghan Clarey, Brytni Smith, Emily Arrocha **Row 2:** Adriana Bobki, Kara Lyons, Rachel Seibold, Mason Ferguson, Samantha Sedler, Rylee Roberts, Jayden Martinez, Reilly Forbes, Sarah Dent **Row 3:** Diamond Roark, Lindi Peterson, Allison Lyons, Carlos Jaime, Jordan Glanville, Aaron Lin, Kaitlyn Moore, Owen Kling, Desiree Freeman, Eric Gonzales

BACK FOR MORE

Chemistry Club meet every other week, throughout the year, to conduct a variety of experiments that the members choose



1. Chemistry Club students' snowflake ornaments start to form during a meeting Dec. 6 in Room 215. The snowflakes were made by putting pipe cleaner into a beaker of boiling water and borax. 2. Co-President senior Maggie O'Neill makes a crystal snowflake ornament in Chemistry Club Dec. 6 in Room 215. "Chemistry Club has been really special to me because it was one of the first clubs I really got involved in at NW," O'Neill said. "I'll definitely remember being involved in this club." Photos by Fara Bakasat

CCC SIXTH HOUR SEMESTER 2



Row 1: Sophia Pope, Bridgette Bendau, Libby Johnson, Payton Smith, Nayely Martinez, Emily Arrocha **Row 2:** Sarah Dent, Meaghan Clarey, Alyssa Netti, Gabby Chavez, Sarah Gregor, Temaya Martin, Sadie Lucier **Row 3:** Olivia Moore, Rylee Roberts, Austin Patton, Eric Gonzalez, Cody Andrews, Allison Lyons, Grace Miller

CHEMISTRY CLUB



Row 1: Manvir Kaur, Natalie Hole, Skylar Brogan, Mina Rulis, Varshini Muruges, Isaiah Delauder **Row 2:** Minati Sharma, Sidney Henkensiefken, Jack Van Nieuwenhuysse, Shayan Karimy, Juan Gomez, Maggie O'Neill, Christopher Augustine, Sara Gregor

President:
SIDNEY HENKENSIEFKEN &
MAGGIE O'NEILL
Sponsor:
JENNIFER ANCELL

CHOIR A CAPELLA



Row 1: Emily Arrocha, Inani Mullen, Hope LaMartina, Citlalli Luna, Maya Bemberger, Riley Brocker, Olivia Graiapp, Samantha Shepard, Cate Cunningham **Row 2:** Becca Kipper, Mary (Hannah) Sullivan, Molly Vielhauer, Sydney Davis, Merceline Mogondo, Kalli Sitz, Kate Rivera, Ava Hauser, Emily Jones, Adriana Norris, Emma Alexander **Row 3:** Skylar Britt, Miranda Gibson, Alison Barnes, Devyn Trondson, Gerrin Rodriguez, Sarah Sullivan, Christian Anderson, Allison Lyons, Caleb Anderson, Georgia Holgate, Kaiden Horton **Row 4:** Dayton Raines, Tre' Mutava, Francis Cooper, Claire Severance, Diamond Holt, Adam White, Cooper Gobin, Jacob Fry, Abigail Madsen, Justin Mitchell



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 Shawnee, Kansas

CHOIR MEN'S



Row 1: Jacob Parker, Austin Weston, William Mehnert, Cole Madsen, Ian Adams **Row 2:** Jacob Fry, Drew Jaime, Jeffery Russell, Carlos Flores, Freddy Collette, Cole Foresman, Logan Winters

CHOIR CHAMBERS



Row 1: Emily Arrocha, Hope LaMartina, Emily Jones, Ava Hauser, Molly Vielhauer, Hannah Sullivan, Imani Mullen **Row 2:** Justin Mitchell, Merceline Mogondo, Caleb Anderson, Christian Anderson, Dayton Raines, Gerrin Rodriguez, Miranda Gibson, Georgia Holgate **Row 3:** Tre' Mutava, Sarah Sullivan, Jacob Fry, Adam White, Cooper Gobin, Claire Severance, Devyn Trondson

CHOIR GIRLS CONCERT



Row 1: Damarria Dillard, Gabi Reavis, Jaxi White, Rachel White, Brittney Doyle, Angela Mendoza, Raquel Ramirez, Gwen Fowler **Row 2:** Esha Amin, Morgan Kendall, Grace Cerda, Meg Qualls, Beatrice Hodges, Gabbi Haddadi, Jazmin Brice, Cherika Williams **Row 3:** Adora Heitman, Maria Berardo, Kiera McDonald, Katelyn Doering, Addison Pixton, Lilly Cox, Maddie Hoffman, Emilia Consiglio **Row 4:** Brooke Claussen, Anne Borberg, Olivia Pixton, Victoria Goodwin, Cat Sanders, Imina Tilton, Megan Freeman, Gwynivere Kloebien, Jordan Sogaard

CHOIR EXEC



Row 1: Imani Mullen, Molly Vielhauer, Kate Rivera **Row 2:** Dayton Raines, Adam White, Lillian Bowen, Jacob Fry

President:
 DAYTON RAINES,
 JACOB FRY, MOLLY
 VIELHAUER
Sponsor:
 CASSIE BANION

CHOIR GIRLS SELECT



Row 1: Amirah Coleman, Isabella Alaniz, Erika Joy Felix **Row 2:** Lashell Moore, Evelyn Valenzuela Barron, Shinyoung NaLacie Perry, Jessica Bozarth **Row 3:** Kendall Toomay, Jessica Cox, Tanya Flyak, Lauren Sanders, Ava Cheesman, Mackenzie Masters, Karie Pauli **Row 4:** Lauren Swearingen, Maura Dayton, Alison Shawerdt, Lillian Bowen, Alayna Reinke, Olivia Tolleson, Georgia Holgate

"I always look forward to seeing the others on exec and attending meetings because they are **all goofy and accepting people**. We also have a lot of fun in meetings. I know I will remember it in 50 years because it's **created a home for me** and the people I've made a huge contribution to it."



JUNIOR KATE RIVERA
 CHOIR OUTREACH COORDINATOR



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 ARISBEI BLACK
Sponsor:
 SARAH DENT



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Row 2: Alex Walsh, Kaitlin Pauli

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Row 2: Haley Wiercinski, Ally Banks, Alex Juarez, Sofia Mehnert, Sophia Fairchild, Abby Marx, Randy Del Fin Cabo, Casey Hess, Zoe Cerda, Lizzie Weems
Row 3: Ryan Gentry, Eli Smith, Thomas Meiss, Jovan Ozegovic, Ali Windoffer, Sarah Ellison, Sage Wallace, Julia Todd
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Row 1: Tiffany Cloo, Natalie Peterson, Sara Gregor, Sadie Lucier, Manvir Kaur **Row 2:** Sophia Mehnert, Jackson Burnett, Shayan Karimy, Claire Moore, Imani Mooney

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Sponsor:
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Sponsor:
 SARAH DENT

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 AUDREY NELSON
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Row 1: Libby Johnson, Riley Demo, Megan Hanson, Grace Miller, Hannah Black, Mabel Anstine, Abby Winter, Sophia Clark, Kaitlin Pauli, Zoe Kopp **Row 2:** Henry Fears, Sam Converse, Carlos Jaime, Spencer Kaleko, Dylan Brunner, Allieu Jagne, Noah Gruman, Jacob Shreve, Chris Rong, Henry Tomasic



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 JANINE DEINES

IB DIPLOMA JUNIORS



Row 1: Minati Sharma, Alyssa Murray, Shreya Patel, Parker Baughman, Adrienne Reine, Sibylle Guglielmi
Row 2: Isabel Dory, Billy Scarlett, Catherine Becker, Shayan Karim, Victor Fuentes, Ada Heller

IB Coordinator:
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Row 2: Sophia Rard, Caroline Sanders, Henry Tomic, Will VandenBos, Caleb Masters, Mabel Anstine, Gabi Shipman

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Row 2: Jacquelyn McKay, Parker Baughman, Minati Sharma, Ashley Fisher, Kasey Cohenour
Row 3: Ava Cheesman, Allison Snawerdt, Lee Ball, Julianna Kantner, Grace Cheesman

KUGR



Row 1: Keri Sengpraseuth, Kara Martin, Sarah Milks, Tavin Mesh, Grace Bradley, Bridgette Bendeau, Lauren Moore, Sofia Nash, Anna Tomassi, Kate Lawrence
Row 2: Christian Anderson, Brianna Ibarra, Sara Tamayo, Zak Gorsuch, Sophia Clark, Rylee Roberts, Bryan Morales, Sam Sedler, Stephen Dewy, Erin Albers, Kaitlin Pauli, Arisbei Black
Row 3: Brian Harrell, Ella Legreid, Connor Simmons, Spencer Engelby, Josh Marvine, Will Braun, Cameron Shelby, Spencer Kaleko, Evan Battles, Jake Ditto, Shealynn Yazel, Tre' Mutava, Chris Rong
Row 4: Preston Wilson, Matt Steinmetz, Sam Converse, Nick Gann, Bryce DeBok, Carter Adams, Calvin Howard, Dawson Mesh, Marcus Cook, Keyon Watson, Lucas Pfeifer, Justin D'Silva, Ty Black

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 SAM CONVERSE &
 CAMERON SHELBY
Associate Producers:
 JOSH MARVINE &
 SAM SPRINGER

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Row 2: Gabi Shipman, Merritt Parsons, Chris Reyes, Katie Ault, Jayley Smith, Ellen Schnacker, Catherine Becker
Row 3: Alayna Reinke, Adam McElroy, Jamie Riggs, Noah Seidner, Jesse DeBok, Ethan Jones, Micayla Houser, Joe Gehr

President:
 ETHAN JONES
Sponsor:
 JOE GEHRER

BACK FOR MORE

Journalism students traveled to Chicago for the annual JEA/NSPA National High School Journalism Convention Nov 1-4



Journalism students seniors Wairima Okongo-Mbogori, Tatum Gootling, Kyle Roberts, Cameron Shelby, Sam Springer, Liv Cody, Jole Dims, Sofia North, Sam Converse, Juniors Abby Ryan, Ethan Schrader, Mike Elrink, Sofia Meyers, Thomas Debat, Dylan Mitchell, Nicholas Shyer, Annaliese Houser, Erin Henton, sophomores Kayla Nikkie, Eli Kuffour, Freshman Chantey Saunders, and advisors Susan Mowry, William Dent, and Wes Mikal take a trip to Chicago Nov. 1-3. They were for the fall JEA Journalism Conference. Photos by Wes Mowry and Dylan Mitchell.



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KELSI HORNER &
CHRISTIN LAMOURIE

LGBTQ+ CLUB



Row 1: Patricia Byram, Anika Paulette, Laura McGee, Anna Madrigal
Row 2: Abby Marx, Gabrielle Shepherd, Catherine Becker, Lillian Bowen, Dayton Raines

LGBTQ+ EXEC



Row 1: Anna Madrigal **Row 2:** Lillian Bowen, Dayton Raines

LINK CREW JUNIORS



Row 1: Lauren Moore, Hanna Smith, Adrienne Reine, Natalie Hole, Alyssa Murray, Peyton Rowland, Shreya Patel, Alice Newell, Adriana Norris, Tavin Mesh, Audrey Johnson, Claire Anderson, Sara Gregor
Row 2: Ally Banks, Sibylle Guglielmi, Sophia Fairchild, Emma Gade, Mallory Meeks, Marceline Mogondo, Reilly Forbes, Riley Brocker, Victoria Duran, Taylor Irie-Mott, Rylee Garrett, Kelsey Volk, Brooklynn Cowan, Kiara Stamat, Amy Kowalczywski, Sophia Mehnert, Evan Borberg
Row 3: Minati Sharma, Tre' Mutava, Ada Heller, Areej Sallan, Cate Wood, Spencer Shreve, Ethan Johnson, Jonas Rowland, Juan Gomez, Adam White, Victor Puentes, Jennaka Bultman, Maya Sprague, Justin D'Silva, Sarah Sullivan, Katherine Gardner, Sara Tamayo

LINK CREW SENIORS



Row 1: Courtney Kastelan, Zoe Kopp, Silicia Moreno, Meaghan Clarey, Ava Hauser, Meredith Calvin, Megan Hanson, Keri Sengpraseuth, Yairree Juarez **Row 2:** Sadie Lucier, Miranda Gibson, Gabby Chavez, Mabel Anstine, Mina Rulis, Megan McDonald, Olivia Terryberry, Lizzie Weems, Grace Miller, Anna Schmidt **Row 3:** Caroline Sanders, Maggie O'Neil, Mimmi Gitoruga-Mbogori, Caleb Rosebaugh, Lakshya Saini, Liridi Peterson, Deryn Trondson, Henry Fears, Ashlyn Mills, Rachel Selbold, Karsen Kozl, Megan Formwalt, Kaitlin Pauli **Row 4:** Jullanna Kantner, Abby Winter, Caleb Masters, Jacob Shreve, Jackson Burnett, Jacob Wallace, Alieu Jagne, Tanner Anderson, Noah Gruman, Benjamin Harrell, Sam Converse, Jake Brundrett, Grace Cheeseman, Hannah Coates

Sponsor:
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KELSI HORNER &
CHRISTIN LAMOURIE

LOUDER THAN A BOMB



Row 1: Lance Teschendorf, Emma Ottinger
Row 2: Anna Schmidt, Henry Hales, Zoe Cerda

Sponsor:
JULIANNE LONDON

"[Louder than a Bomb] allows us a chance to hear from perspectives that are so vastly different from our own. In that, it breeds empathy. You don't always remember the poems you hear, but **you remember the way you were affected.**"



SENIOR EMMA OTTINGER
LOUDER THAN A BOMB MEMBER



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MOCK TRIAL CLUB



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Row 2: Jacob Parker, Devyn Trondson, Zoe Cerda, Thomas Meiss, Anna Bledsoe

President:
JAXON ST. CLAIR
Sponsor:
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Row 2: Theone Clark, Cameron Solenberg, Zack Harris, Josh Harris, Emilia Sixbury, David Hunt

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Row 3: Manuel Guillen, Abby Marx, Eli Castillo, Jacob Shreve, Zak Gorsuch, Ricardo Romo

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Row 1: Kelley Dungan, Mabel Anstine, Tiffany Cloo Row 2: Juan Pineda Gomez, Lara Helfrich, Caroline Sanders, Cate Steinacker
Row 3: Jackson Burnett, Shayan Karimy, Henry Tomasik

President:
CAROLINE SANDERS
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Presidents:
SPENCER PRUTER &
RILEY DEMO
Sponsor:
SUSAN NAGEL

NATIONAL SPANISH HONOR SOCIETY



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Presidents:
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JULIANNA KANTNER
Sponsor:
ERIN MEYER



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Shawnee, Kansas

President:
MEGAN FORMWALT
Sponsor:
DEBBIE BOREN

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Row 1: Merceline Mogondo, Naaley Torline, Alyssa Murray, Fatemeh Moor, Michaela Crowe, Payton Rowland, Adriana Norris, Sara Gregor, Brooklyn Cowan, Tiffany Cloo, Claire Anderson, Theone Clark, Sydney Sanders, Alice Newell, Natalie Hole, Cate Cunningham, Peyton Aerni
Row 2: Sophia Mehnert, Cameron Ferencz, Hanna Smith, Olivia Giralopp, Chloe Hoegerich, Parker Baughman, Amy Kowalczewski, Kiara Starnati, Emma Gude, Rylee Garrett, Annalissa Houser, Lauren Moore, Anna Badvelor, Sydney VanHorn, Emily Mostick, Shreya Patel
Row 3: Catie Wood, Gracie Goodpaster, Kelsey Volk, Kayli Kinsella, Anna Tomasi, Allison Banks, Catherine Becker, Ethan Johnson, Ads Heller, Sarah Sullivan, Minati Sharma, Alison Snawerdt, Skylar Brogan, Sibylle Gugelheimi, Shealynn Yazel, Sophia Pope, Sara Tamayo, McKenna Parsons
Row 4: Jennaka Bultman, Abby Ryan, Spencer Shreve, Justin D'Silva, Maya Sprague, Jonas Rowland, Jack VanNieuwenhuyse, Isaac Freeman, Lee Ball, Adam White, Shayan Karimiy, Juan Gomez, McKenzie Parks, Brock Grampas, Ben Groebe, Scott Klein, Ries Laster, Ryder Jarrett

NATIONAL HONORS SOCIETY SENIORS



Row 1: Emily Arrocha, Brynli Smith, Lizzie Weems, Tatum Goetting, Zoe Kopp, Meaghan Clarey, Molly Vielhauer, Emma Reinke, Merritt Parsons, Riley Demo, Megan Hanson, Olivia Terryberry, Megan McDonald, Courtney Kastelan, Libby Johnson
Row 2: Ava Hauser, Megan Goetz, Haley Wiercinski, Jackie McKay, Josh Zumalt, Grace Miller, Zoe Cerda, Sophia Rard, Georgia Holgate, Kaitlin Pauli, Samantha Welans, Ashley Fisher, Lauren Kelley, Mina Rulis, Ashlyn Mills, Kelley Dungan
Row 3: Rachel Selbold, Lakshya Saini, Karsen Kotzoi, Abigail Winter, Megan Formwalt, Hannah Coates, Tomas McAnany, Josh Marvino, Magzlie O'Neill, Grace Cheesman, Caroline Sanders, Olivia Sloan, Lindi Peterson, Julianna Kantner, Cate Steinacker, Mabel Arstine, Chris Rong, Calen Cacioppo
Row 4: Caleb Rosebaugh, Lily Havranek, Aliou Jagne, Caleb Masters, Jacob Shreve, Ben Harrell, Henry Tomasic, Joe Bultman, Noah Gruman, Tanner Anderson, Jacob Wallace, Will VandenBos, Jackson Burneth, Darshil Patel, Spencer Mouron, Spencer Pruter, Sidney Henkensiefken, Dayton Faines

"NHS is important because it not only facilitates so many service opportunities to benefit NW and communities outside of NW, but it encourages high standards and academics. I've enjoyed working alongside other exec members and our sponsor [Dr. Boren] to grow NHS into an organization that can continue to serve NW and other communities."



SENIOR MINA RULIS
NHS VICE PRESIDENT

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Row 1: Sydney VanHorn, Becky Lin, Varshini Muruges, Fatemeh Moor, Katelyn Martinez, Alice Newell
Row 2: Federico Gallegos, Nina Tiger, Jordan Martin, Zak Gorsuch, Cate Steinacker, Sophia Rard, Ally Banks, Evan Borberg
Row 3: Chris Findlay, Isaac Bishop, Miles Raney, Chelsey Lee, Jodi Kudinski, Gentry Gardner
Row 4: Zach Harris, Chandler Krugjohn, Sidney Henkensiefken, Noah Gruman, Billy Scarlett, Will Vandenbos

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Row 2: Tajana Adams, McKenzie Biggs, Mary Morstad, Carissa Lange, Aljoni Hundal, Bryan Shirley, Adrienne Johnson
Row 3: Georgie Teschendorf, Cody Rard, Sidney Kendall, Silicia Moreno, Brianna Durbin, Ali Welcher, Abigail Butler, Samantha Biggs
Row 4: Cade Swanson, Katie Ault, Madelyn Edson, Angela, Amaya, Ethan Krugjohn
Row 5: Avalon McGrew, Nathan Zankel, Carlo Flores, Reanne DeBose, Wesley Simms

ORCHESTRA SYMPHONY



Row 1: Sydney VanHorn, Varshini Muruges, Fatemeh Moor, Riley Demo, Cella Talley, Alice Newell
Row 2: Evan Borberg, Cody Rard, Nina Tiger, Jordan Martin, Carissa Lange, Aljoni Hundal, Cate Steinacker, Hannah Sullivan, Adrienne Johnson, Claire Sewarance, Micayla Houser
Row 3: Federico Gallegos, Chris Findlay, Sidney Kendall, Silicia Moreno, Sophia Rard, Angela Mendosa, Alii, Abigail Butler, Grace Cramblett, Hannah Smith
Row 4: Miles Raney, Chandler Krugjohn, Chelsey Lee, Ally Banks, Isaac Bishop, Amaya Reyes, Evan Wapp, Colby Johnston, Ellie Ridgway, Jaxon St. Clair, Henry Fears
Row 5: Georgie Teschendorf, Avalon McGrew, Nathan Zankel, Noah Gruman, Sidney Henkensiefken, Zach Harris, Will Vandenbos, Gentry Gardner, Wesley Simms, Jacob Lane

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NINA TIGER,
CHELSEY LEE &
JORDAN MARTIN
Sponsor:
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NINA TIGER,
CHELSEY LEE &
JORDAN MARTIN
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Shawnee, Kansas

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 ABBY RYAN,
 PAIGE MORGAN,
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 & SKYLAR BROGAN,
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PHOTOJOURNALISM



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Sponsor:
 JUSTIN PETERSON

POKEMON CLUB



Row 1: Isaac Emerson, Cecilia Lorino, Laura McGee, Colin Goodrich
Row 2: Tabitha Baptist, Alex Nelson, Gabe Taylor, Isaac Emerson

"Race project has given students a chance to look at the history that has influenced and continues to influence our city and community. No matter your background, Race Project gives students a space to share their own experiences and perspectives, Race Project has offered me something unique to every club and organization in this school."



JUNIOR NATALIE HOLE
RACE PROJECT KC MEMBER

PROM COMMITTEE



Row 1: Brytni Smith, Emily Jones, Libby Johnson, Mallory Meeks, Keri Sengpraseuth, Brooklyn Cowan, Silicia Moreno, Courtney Kastelan
Row 2: Maggie Dewsbury, Katie Gardiner, Abby Madsen, Rylee Roberts, Alex Walsh, Lindi Peterson, Kelsey Volk, Grace Cheesman
Row 3: Shealynn Yazel, Bryan Morales, Jennika Butman, Cameron Shelby, Sophia Tagg, Kayli Kinsella, Maya Sprague, Aidan Quinn

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 & NEVA BARTELT
Sponsor:
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Row 3: Skylar Brogan, Spencer Kaleko, Sam Converse, Sidney Henkensiefken, Kelsey Volk

Sponsor:
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RACE PROJECT KC



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Presidents:
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 MABEL ANSTINE
Sponsor:
 BEN PABST

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Row 1: Tatum Goetting, Yeretz Blanco, Manvir Kaur
 Row 2: Eliza Kidder, Sadie Lucier, Sammy Weians, Meaghan Clarey, Erin Henton
 Row 3: Mabel Anstine, Ali Windoffer, Ethan Johnson, Ben Pabst

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 JOSH HOLLOWAY
Sponsor:
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 Row 2: Shantice White, Ava Hauser, Gerrin Rodriguez, Ana Hopper, Jacob Parker, Jayce Lamb
 Row 3: Ethan Schreiber, Lily Havranek, Josh Holloway, McKenzie Parks, Jackson Tomlin, Claire Severance, Devyn Trondson

Presidents:
 WILL VANDENBOS &
 ANGELINA ORTEGA
Sponsors:
 SARAH FREDERICKSON
 & DONNA PEDERSON

— ROBOTICS CLUB —



Row 1: Isalah Delaughter, Grant Kozio, Naeley Torline
 Row 2: Will VandenBos, Jesse DeBok, Brogan McKenzie, Luke Thomas, Matthew Kucharczyk

— SADD CLUB —



Row 1: Kiva Schulze, Libby Johnson, Katelyn Martinez, Dionna Moore, Manvir Kaur
 Row 2: Sarah Dent, Kiera McDonald, Maggie Dewsbury, Emma Ottinger, Carissa Lange

Presidents:
 MAGGIE DEWSBURY
 & KATELYN MARTINEZ
Sponsor:
 SARAH DENT

— SOURCES OF STRENGTH —



Row 1: Madison Garner, Anisah Grigger, Harmony Bailey, Logan Harvey
 Row 2: Samantha Bender, Julie Johnson, Aniah Etienne, Mary Morstadt, Olivia Warren, Keren Tuttle, Raquel Ramirez
 Row 3: Samantha Mudgett, Emma Gude, Madison Kitchon, Taylor Mott, Sam DeMoss, Sibylle Guglielmi, Kendall Toornay, Sophia Brewer, Cindy Alexander
 Row 4: Sarah Dent, Allison Ruschill, Kelsey Volk, Ericka Ojeda, Natalie Peterson, Colby Johnston, Clark Russell, Chris Reyes, Stella Grist, Victoria Neighbor, Lisa Morstadt
 Row 5: Melissa Osborn, Ben Nash, Piper Borgman, Henry Kniggendorf, William Delzeit, Mason Morris, Kristen Swartz, Jack Burns, Tamara Harris-Webster, Lillian Bowen, Zoe Newcomb, Sophia Martinez, Ben Pabst

Sponsors:
 MELISSA OSBORNE,
 BEN PABST &
 SARAH DENT

— BACK FOR MORE —

Directed by the repertory theatre class, the production "Band Geeks" was held April 5-6



1. On stage, junior Kate Rivera sings "The Festival of Champions" April 5 in the Greg Parker Auditorium. Rivera played "Nicole" the twirler girl. "I've wanted to play Nicole for a really long time so I was super happy when I got the role," Rivera said. "I've never played a mean girl before, so it was interesting and fun to make certain choices." Photo by Abigail Ryan 2. Junior Claire Severance performs on stage April 5 in the Greg Parker Auditorium. Severance was in the musical "Band Geeks" and played the role of "Laura." Laura is going to be a challenge with how reserved she is," Severance said. "I've had a lot of processing and thinking going into this about how I'm going to play her." Photo by Abigail Ryan



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Shawnee, Kansas

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& KARSEN KOZIOL
Sponsors:
DEBORAH JENKINS &
MISTY VERREN



Row 1: Kelsey Volk, Shelby Mullen, Mallory Meeks, Daniel Schnacker, Sierra Pauli, Cate Cunningham
Row 2: Matt Cruz, Abby Winter, Hannah Coates, Rachel Seibold, Sophia Pope, Olivia Sloan, Karsen Koziol, Kaylee Mitts, Misty Verren
Row 3: Ben Groebe, Kyle Cunningham, Callan Taylor, Ryan Ault, Gabe Holgate, Sam Coleman, Zach Murray, Josh Nohinek



Row 1: Morgan Kasteian, Zoe Kopp, Kirryn Killingsworth, Adriana Bobki, Brianna Ibarra, Amelia Lamb, Jade Marsh
Row 2: Arisbel Black, Kaitlin Pauli, Maggie Dolinar, Natalie Peterson, Ericka Ojeda, Emma Milovic, Karle Pauli, Jackie McKay
Row 3: Evan Borberg, Zach Dulny, Lindi Peterson, Chase Keller, Eli Castillo, Olivia Sloan, Rylee Roberts, Maggie Dewsbury
Row 4: Grace Rippee, Tamara Harris-Webster, Ben Groebe, Ryder Jarrett, Callan Taylor, Mitchell Hufker, Matt Steinmetz, Caleb Ladd, Shealynn Yazel

— BACK FOR MORE —

Spirit Club put together and ran assemblies throughout the year, including the recently reintroduced Bonfire that the school was not able to have the year before.



1. With his arms in the air, Junior Ryder Jarrett cheers in front of his class Aug. 29 in the Main Gym. Jarrett is Spirit Club's King of Spirit. "My favorite part about Spirit Club is definitely all the hype at assemblies," Jarrett said. "I like the pressure I get before the assembly and the whole atmosphere of it all." Photo by Shawnee Mission District 2. Senior Kaitlin Pauli and Junior Ryder Jarrett think about the Spirit Stick winner before it is awarded. Spirit Club presents the Spirit Stick to the winning class at assemblies. "We don't know what class wins until it is announced, so we usually talk about who we think will win and why," Pauli said. Photo by Savanah Baosak.

— SPIRIT CLUB EXEC —



Row 1: Kaitlin Pauli, Zoe Kopp, Kirryn Killingsworth Row 2: Arisbel Black, Evan Borberg, Chris Bong Row 3: Maggie Dewsbury, Lindi Peterson, Olivia Sloan, Sara Tamayo

Presidents:
KIRRYN KILLINGSWORTH
& KAITLIN PAULI
Sponsor:
MORGAN MOBERG &
KIKERA O'BOYLE

— STUDENT COUNCIL —



Row 1: Sophia Brewer, Alyssa Murray, Tavin Mesh, Riley Dens, Libby Johnson, Peyton Rowland, Sarah Milks, Yerszy Blanco
Row 2: Kaitlin Pauli, Grace Miller, Ben Nash, Rory Dungan, Alex Walsh, Erin Albers, Natalie Peterson, Kyra Gottfried, Sophia Fairchild
Row 3: Sophia Clark, Cullan Bower, Katie Wood, Michael Owens, Brandon Berlin, Elizabeth Kuffour, Xavier Reyes, Henry Fears, Brady King
Row 4: Tamara Harris-Webster, Eugene Johnson, Josh Marvine, Henry Tomasic, Garrett Goetz, Andrew Braun, Juan Gomez, Spencer Shreve
Row 5: Jack Burton, Dawson Mesh, Eli Laurent, Allieu Jagne, Peyton Carder, Jett Johnson, Callan Taylor, Carlos Jaime

President:
DAWSON MESH
Sponsor:
SARAH DENT

— STUDENT COUNCIL EXEC —



Row 1: Henry Fears, Libby Johnson, Henry Tomasic Row 2: Dawson Mesh, Allieu Jagne, Peyton Carder



// The Lair
Shawnee Mission
Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas

Presidents:
HALEY MOCK,
GABBY SHEPARD
& GARRETT SUNDS
Sponsor:
JUSTIN PETERSON



Row 1: Tabitha Baptist, Laura McGee, Cecilla Lorino, Stephanie Land, Mya Eitel **Row 2:** Garrett Sunds, Jamie Riggs, Noah Seidner, Jesse DeBok, Gabriel Taylor, Dakota O'Donald

Sponsor:
CINDY SWARNER



Row 1: Rosa Ortiz, Kaleigh Rash, Ashley Brull, Samantha Shepherd, Natalie Oakerson **Row 2:** Katey Yenger, Anna Tomassi, Elsie Asante, Kara Lyons, Cheyanne Bolin, Isabella Salierio **Row 3:** Rebecca Kipper, Kourtney Berry, Brandon McCain, McKenzie Parks, Ashton McCain, Kelsie Brown, Elizabeth Prosser

Sponsor:
CINDY SWARNER



Row 1: Najochia Warren, Isabel Valdez, Lauren Brunsky, Brytni Smith **Row 2:** Maddie Smith, Grace Cheesman, Brianna Bledsoe

THE LAIR

Editors In Chief:
MIMU MBOGORI &
TATUM GOETTING
Sponsor:
SUSAN MASSY



Row 1: Charity Saunders, Tierney White, Sydney Sanoubane **Row 2:** Abbie Roberts, Aryianna Smith, Alanna Mellinger, Tatum Goetting, Teagan VanBlarcom, Lizzie Weems, Oliver Grotgut **Row 3:** Zoe Cerdá, Ethan Schreiber, Maggie Dolinar, Tatum Schuerman, Skylar Brogan, Kelsey Volk, McKenna Parsons, Mimú Mbogori **Row 4:** Michael See, Lily Hawranek, Jason Fuernmeier, Aileu Jagne, Matthew Bustamante, Tony Ramos, Abby Ryan, Mollie Elfrink

THE NORTHWEST PASSAGE

Editors In Chief:
JAKE DITTO &
ANNALISSA HOUSER
Sponsor:
SUSAN MASSY



Row 1: Kate Lawrence, Annalissa Houser, Sarah Milks, Sofia Nash, Keri Sengpraseuth, Abigail Rosales **Row 2:** Karmela Davis, Pylee Garrett, Erin Albers, Chase Hamilton, Rory Dungan, Sonni Meyers **Row 3:** Elizabeth Kuffour, Paige Morgan, Cody Andrews, Nick Lorino, Jake Ditto, Alden Norberg, Kasi Manikita

BACK FOR MORE

Tall Oaks is a workshop many journalism students attending in the beginning of the year which featured learning and team-building opportunities



1. Senior Cameron Shelby gets interviewed by a first year KUOR member Aug. 25 at Tall Oaks Conference Center. Shelby one of the KUOR executive producers. "As a leader you try and find a way to bond with your students, and Tall Oaks gives me that opportunity right at the beginning of the year," Shelby said. "You learn a lot and you have a lot of fun." **Pietro** at Point Mankato **2. Freshman Maddy Graff** competes in one of the team building games that took place at Tall Oaks. The goal of the game was for competitors to move a cookie from their forehead into their mouth in under a minute. "I remember being so nervous going in there not knowing anyone," Graff said. "It was so important because I learned a lot of skills and really developed." **Pietro** at Elm Day **3. While refereeing the volleyball tournament, junior Annalissa Houser** speaks through a megaphone. Houser was a part of the leadership team and helped plan the event and games that the campers participated in. "Planning for [Tall Oaks] was really hard, but it was fun to see everything unfold," Houser said. **Pietro** at Houser Van Alstyne



// The Lair
Shawnee Mission
Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas

Presidents:
SHANTICE WHITE &
JOSH HOLLOWAY
Sponsor:
JASON COATS



Row 1: Alice Newell, Jazmin Brice, Natalie Hole, Kelley Dungan, Imani Mullen, Fatemeh Moor, Kate Rivera, Claire Anderson, Maddi Hoffman, Tajana Adams, Lily Cox, Jason Coats **Row 2:** Ava Hauser, Jude Barry, Parker Baughman, Emma Ottinger, Stephanie Land, Mabel Anstine, Jayce Lamb, Meg Freeman, Katelyn Doering, William Mehnert, Tre Mutava **Row 3:** Sarah Sullivan, Zach Duiny, Ana Hopper, Olivia Tolleson, Addilynn Brown, Shantice White, Jacob Parker, Allison Banks, Allison Shaverdt, Gerrin Rodriguez, Lily Havranek **Row 4:** Lillian Bowen, Devyn Trondson, Dayton Raines, Chris Findlay, Jackson Tomlin, McKenzie Parks, Sam Converse, Colin Jones, Josh Holloway, Ethan Schreiter, Claire Severance, Ivan Noble

Presidents:
SPENCER PRUTER &
RILEY DEMO
Sponsor:
SUSAN NAGEL



Row 1: Megan Goetz, Lauren Kelley, Rachel Seibold, Keri Sengpraseuth, Sofia Nash, Kelley Dungan, Megan Formwalt, Caroline Sanders, Alex Walsh, Hannah Coates **Row 2:** Calen Caccioppo, Mason Darpel, Dale Talley, Calvin Howard, Luke Towler, Bryce DeBok, Mitch Hufker, Dawson Mesh, Ben Harrell **Not Pictured:** Jacob Fry

President:
KELLEY DUNGAN
Sponsor:
REBECCA ANTHONY



Row 1: Teagan VanBlarcom, Natalie Hole, Alice Newell, Kelley Dungan, Haley Wiercinski, Tatum Goetting
Row 2: Keri Sengpraseuth, Sophia Fairchild, Zoe Carda, Amy Kowalczyk, Sara Greger
Row 3: Ally Banks, Sarah Sullivan, Noah Gruman, Dayton Raines, Josh Marvinne, Kelsey Volk

YOUNG REPUBLICANS

Presidents:
JULIANNA KANTNER &
SAMANTHA WEIANS
Sponsor:
TODD BOREN



Row 1: Payton Rowland, Skylar Brogan, Henry Fears, Christopher Ramsey, Caleb Rosebaugh, Mabel Anstine, Evangelina Hrenchir
Row 2: Cole Madsen, Colby Johnston, Megan Formwalt, Julianna Kantner, Albert Hoetting, Abby Winter, Sammy Weiens, Olivia Terryberry
Row 3: Riley Wineinger, Bailey Cavin, Ethan Johnson, Cade Swanson, Jacob Johnson, Max Overesch, Eric Wartko, Hannah Coates, Michael Owens
Row 4: Devyn Trondson, Ryder Jarrett, Mason Patterson, Jake Toomay, Eli Laurant, Henry Tomasik, Juan Gomez, Tamara Harris-Webster

YOUTH & GOVERNMENT

President:
JOSH MARVINE
Sponsor:
CHRISTIN LAMOURIE



Row 1: Natalie Hole, Sophia Fairchild, Sara Greger **Row 2:** Sophia Mehnert, Ally Banks, Spencer Pruter, Megan Formwalt, Kelsey Volk

BACK FOR MORE

Young Republicans and Young Democrats come together every year to debate relevant topics



1. Junior Juan Gomez talks with freshman **Michael Owens** at the Young Democrats and Young Republicans debate April 5 in Room 121. Different topics in current events were discussed at this debate. "It's very important to have debates because there are people on both sides that are blind and just plug their ears to the facts and ideas that the other side has to say," Owens said. "If you can start to develop an ability to listen and analyze what both sides say before you get to college or out in the real world, then it makes it a bit more enjoyable to everyone around you." **Photo by Kati Spasasewski** **2. Senior Noah Gruman** makes an argument regarding immigration at the debate. Gruman participates in Young Democrats and Debate at NW. "It's so easy with social media to develop a bubble mentality in politics instead of trying to reach out and not only listen but be able to explain how your ideas can solve our most collective problems in a rational way," Gruman said. "Debate and discussion are the best ways for kids to develop their own political identity in an informed way." **Photo by Kati Spasasewski**



// The Lair Shawnee Mission Northwest High School Shawnee, Kansas

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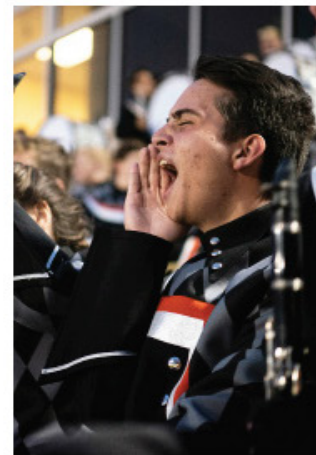
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B "I'm definitely not the same girl that started going to school. I've stopped caring what others think about me. Honestly, no one's opinion matters about who I truly look like!"
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1. Adam in his new uniform, senior Josh Burkhart before his bid for Sept. 21 in the North District Stadium. The handy dandy... 2. Josh in his new uniform, senior Josh Burkhart before his bid for Sept. 21 in the North District Stadium. The handy dandy... 3. Josh in his new uniform, senior Josh Burkhart before his bid for Sept. 21 in the North District Stadium. The handy dandy...



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C "My favorite part about Northwest is the atmosphere of acceptance. This is my first year, but it already feels like home. The moment I walked into the door, I was surrounded by people who all welcomed me into this school. We all just want to see each other succeed." -freshman Autumn Cerda

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D "I have become more independent and I don't care what other people think of me. When I was in elementary school and middle school, I constantly worried about what others thought of me. But, now I feel more like myself, not somebody else." -sophomore Maura Poyton

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1. Senior Mima Mbigori marches while playing her flute in the Homecoming parade Oct. 5 at Shawnee Northwest. Multiple clubs and sports participated in the parade with decorated floats. "This year as a section leader I felt like I was responsible for how my section was marching," Mbigori said. "It's super satisfying to see how far they have come." Photo by Justin Cerda
Junior Jody Rucker dances during the half-time of a girls' junior varsity basketball game on Jan. 29 in the main gym. Rucker joined the dance team so she could be apart of something at Northwest and so she could meet new people. "The best thing about dance is every time I go to my studio for a class I know I will feel accomplished in the end and will work hard." Photo by Hannah Van Rader

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E "Every day at Northwest has been super impactful. I've been able to meet so many incredible people and engage in a very supportive community." -freshman Sarah Ellison
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F "My favorite part about Northwest is the people. Both staff and students bring a positives atmosphere to the building!"
 -freshman Kael Farries

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G "I would not have expected to see football stars nerdy kids, older kids, younger kids, big or small to be in the same friend groups, but they are. NW is special in the way that everyone is seen as equals!"
 -freshman Cameron Gray

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H "Frau Masenthin [has influenced me the most]. She always has a positive attitude and she chimes in and converses with us. It's more of like a friend to friend relationship rather than a teacher to student relationship!" -freshman Evangelina Hernandez

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1. Freshman Andrew Brain screams into the crowd at the SM Northwest Homecoming assembly on Oct 5. Brain is the Vice President of STUCCO and he supports student government by decking out in an Ancient Greek toga. "Assemblies are the best because you get to see all the other class's creativity, hype and enthusiasm, and it's so refreshing." Brain says. "SM Northwest has such a great culture." Photo by Masar Rivas 2. Senior Spencer Engelby approaches the line Jan. 25 at Park Lawn. Engelby just started to bowl with new hands this past summer. "Whenever I bowled one handed sophomore and junior year, my top series would be around 530," Engelby said. "Now my highest and my usual is around 630!" Photo by Elizabeth Theissen





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I "My favorite part about Northwest is the memories we make, like when our football team made it past the first round of playoffs. Having eight days off from school was pretty nice, too!" -sophomore Lucas Hyde

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J "What comes to my mind when I hear Northwest is a very loud student section, a diverse group of kids and, when it comes to assemblies, all of us coming together to mold one, big family!" -senior Carlos Jaime

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K "I took [Mrs. Brewer's] class my freshman year and two years later I still go and talk with her. Anytime I'm having a problem she knows exactly what to say to help. She helped me realize I have the ability to succeed at whatever I put my mind to!" -junior Eliza Kidder

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L "NW has made me realize that not everyone is going to like you and you just have to be you and you will make friends!" -freshman Kelli Leffler

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1. Senior Duke Talley reaches to steal the ball from SM South senior Sam Caldwell Dec. 7 in the Main Gym. Talley received a foul for putting Caldwell. "On defense I like knowing [my opponent] is not going to score unless he makes an amazing play, and on offense, I just like making buckets and getting my team involved," Talley said. Photo by Sylvia Broussard 2. After homecoming queen crowning, senior Mabel Ameline hugs junior Pylee Corneer Oct. 5 in the SM North District Stadium. Ameline was crowned first runner-up. "Hearing my name was seriously crazy because I wasn't expecting it at all!" Ameline said. "It took me a second to realize what was actually happening and I got super emotional!" Photo by Sylvia Broussard 3. After the game, Assistant Coach Drew Perkins talks to the Varsity team, Sep. 22 at MBI Valley. Perkins spoke to the team about what went wrong during the game and how they could learn from it. "As a team we have to learn from our mistakes and build off the good. My personality I reflect watch video and try to figure how we can get better," Perkins said. Photo by Savannah Deason



// The Lair Shawnee Mission Northwest High School Shawnee, Kansas

1. **Junior Ethan Schreiber** asks about a live appearance by Rhianna at the April 5 in the Creg Parker Auditorium. Schreiber played the "sassy" character, Abbin, in the repertory musical "Band Geeks". "Even though Abbin and I share a similarity, I had to learn how to bring it up to his extreme," Schreiber said. "I could've pushed the limits but I felt like I found his balance." Photo by Asah Pank 2. **Showing his spirit**, sophomore Coby Johnston cheers in the band section Feb. 34 in the Main Gym. This was the first assembly where band was allowed to compete for the spirit stick. "I thought it was really cool that the band was allowed to participate for the spirit stick, and I felt like that pushed every other classes to cheer louder," Johnston said. Photo by Staetman Dierckson 3. **Junior Adam White** plays guitar on stage Oct. 3 in the Creg Parker Auditorium. White had a solo in the fall choir concert. "Music has always been a huge part of my life," White said. "It's changed my life and I love that." Photo by Asah Pank



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N "The thing that has changed me the most during my time at Northwest has definitely been theatre. It's made me more confident in myself and has introduced me to some of the greatest people. I don't know who I'd be if I had never done theatre." -junior Alice Newell

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O "One thing I'll always remember about NWJ is random people mistaking me for my sister calling me Ms. Ojeda." -freshman Ericka Ojeda

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P "I love the sense of family and spirit Northwest provides. I love assembly days because from the very second you walk in the doors there is a buzz that's felt all throughout the school. Everyone is so spirited and it feels like everyone has a place." -freshman Natalie Peterson

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1. Taking plants out of trays, senior Chase Miller helps to prepare for plant sale March 8 in the greenhouse. The money goes to help the program for the future years to come. "The greenhouse is always a blast as we prepare for plant sale because we play loud music and everyone is always dancing," Miller said. "We're all little kids again, and the greenhouse is our happy place." Photo by Sidney Alexander/awm 2. In the Greg Parker Auditorium, freshman Anna Holloway sits on stage 5p. 8. Almost Mame is Holloway's first show at NW. "It has been a lot of a struggle getting used to things," Holloway said. "But (the cast, crew) and Mr. Coats have definitely helped me figure out my place at this school." Photo by Adam Baur

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Q "Personally, I was not a cool kid when I was in middle school. Stuck in 8th, I can't make a lot of friends. When I got in high school I can be in normal classes, it really changed me. I met a lot of people making friends, joining tennis. It is really fun." -sophomore Sijie Quan

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R "Northwest has changed me because it has showed me that God doesn't accept me on my good days and deny me on my bad, but that everyday can be a good day if you just push through." -junior Diamond Raab

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// The Lair Shawnee Mission Northwest High School Shawnee, Kansas

1. Looking up at the crowd, senior Addison White cheers during the varsity football game Sept. 22 at SM North. The cheerleaders perform along to songs played by the marching band. "The best part about cheering at football games is when the crowd is cheering for you and you have your best friends right there with you," White said. *Photo by David Hamon*



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S "I started wearing my hair up so I can no longer hide behind it and I've started to gain a little confidence. I'm still self-conscious, and I still care way too much about everything, but I'm slowly getting to a place where I can be happy with myself, and all of it's happening in high school!" —sophomore Emi Sixbury

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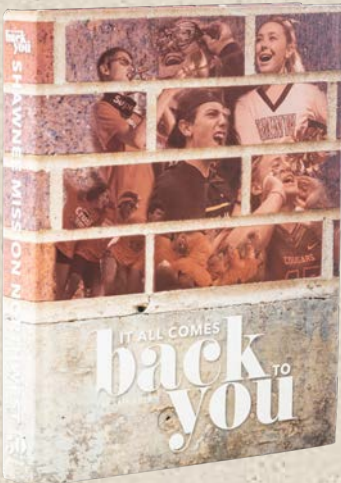
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T "I joined swim team last year when I was a junior and [Castie Wood and I] became fast friends. She's the type of person that is always positive about any situation and will make you feel better about anything just by being around her. She's helped push me to be a better athlete but also a better person!" —senior Olivia Terryberry

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"My favorite memory at NW is getting caught 'out of bounds' during lunch lot!" - sophomore Evelyn Valenzuela
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"The hardest part about being in high school is taking the time to figure out who you are as a person and learning that people who are your friends at one point in time, won't be there in another point in time." -senior Lauren Wolfe

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"[One thing I'll always remember about NW is] the positivity that exists in the students. This school may seem wack, but it's actually really cool!" -junior Jacob Yager
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"As an awkward and shy freshman, I really admired [the amount of people at Northwest who're passionate about making high school feel like a home]. From day one, there were always upperclassmen who were determined to make me feel not only welcomed but excited to be a Cougar!" -senior Josh Zumalt
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1. Picking up a dresser, freshman Xavier Reyes helps senior Tamara Korman's dad move the dresser from the truck to the school. Student Council members picked up items to go in the annual STU CO garage sale. "Well the first day Henry [Reyes] was going to be by himself so I offered to help then I ended up helping a lot," Reyes said. "I just got to help pick stuff up and I like helping the upperclassmen with events!" Photo by STEPHAN EMMERSON 2. Junior Anthony Cochoango reads out a verse from his Bible during See You at the Pole Sep. 26 at the front of the school. See You at the Pole is set up by Club 121. "I really enjoyed that everyone was able to come to the pole together and worship God," Cochoango said. Photo by ANGEL ROBLES



YEARBOOK COLOPHON

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE YOURSELF TEN YEARS AGO?



SUSAN MASSY
ADVISER

"Cherish the people around you. Smile. See the positive. Listen carefully. Find a solution, not someone to blame!"



WES MIKEL
ASSISTANT ADVISER

"The reward for hard work is not waiting in the distance. The reward is the work. And the work is to the reward!"



McKENNA PARSONS
FINANCE EDITOR

"Not everything is going to go your way and you will have to push yourself to be a hard worker. Step outside of your shell and great things will come!"



ALIEU JAGNE
PUBLICIST

"Love everyone to the fullest, don't run relationships if you don't have to. Don't always be so trusting of everyone you meet. Follow your heart & listen to your gut."



MATTHEW BUSTAMANTE
STAFF WRITER

"Don't procrastinate and try not to be shy in middle school and early high school."



ZOE CERDA
STAFF WRITER

"Don't stress too much, everything will work out for the best. And take advantage of nap time!"



TATUM GOETTING
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

"Be who you are and trust that you're making the right decision. Don't be afraid of putting yourself out there and stop comparing yourself to others. It's okay to go to your grandparents' houses more often!"



WAIRIMU MBOGORI
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

"What's up Mimi! Don't ever forget where you are from. They are always there to support you. Also, it's okay to have a weed name! It makes you who you are. It's not a weed name!"



ETHAN SCHREIBER
DESIGN EDITOR

"Take some time to learn about who you are and who you want to be before letting other people define that for you."



MOLLIE ELFRINK
CO-COPY EDITOR

"Don't take elementary gym class so seriously and don't be afraid to get yourself out there!"



MAGGIE DOLINAR
STAFF WRITER

"Stop being so glib, nobody is timing you when you run upstairs to get something. Also stop curling your hair so weird!"



MADDY GRAFF
STAFF WRITER

"Greatness isn't only for the chosen few. The truth is, greatness is for us all. It's not a special place or person. GREATNESS is whenever somebody is trying to find it." -Nike



CARLOS JAMIE
STAFF WRITER

"I am so glad we're not weird and we don't eat our boogers or anything. Eat all of the snacks provided!"



KAYLA NICKLE
STAFF WRITER

"Yes, you are going to move to Kansas and not know anyone, make as many friends as you can and don't be afraid to just go for it. Always try your hardest with grades and don't procrastinate because you'll regret it. —believe me!"



KELSEY VOLK
CO-COPY EDITOR

"Your hair isn't going to be as blonde as it is forever. Listen to mom, she's usually right. Never stop singing like no one is listening. Call grandma as much as you can."



LILY HAVRANEK
SENIOR TRIBUTES EDITOR

"Don't grow up with such a fear of regrets. If you are really happy, you won't have any — you won't be able to. Everything you've done has led you to this point, it's all had a part in making you, you."



ABIGAIL ROBERTS
PHOTO EDITOR

"Don't worry, you're strong and you can get through anything. Just stay motivated. Don't blame yourself for everything and have a little unstructured fun!"



ABBY RYAN
PHOTO EDITOR

"Be more adventurous while you're growing up, except for when it comes to hair—don't get those bangs."



ANTHONY RAMOS
STAFF WRITER

"Don't do drugs!"



SYDNEY SANOUBANE
STAFF WRITER

"Aye man, stop cutting your brother's hair. Or else your hair will be gone, and that's the tea sis, period."



CHARITY SAUNDERS
STAFF WRITER

"Never go on Google Plus. Ever. That was a nightmare and a horrible decision to make. Also stop being mean, why were you so mean? What?"



MICHAEL SEE
STAFF WRITER

"Watch who you hang out with, stuff now gets pretty serious. Also, you grow up to be very ugly so don't think your cute."



SKYLAR BROGAN
PHOTO EDITOR

"Have confidence in yourself and know that everything will work out. Also, use nap time while you still can."



ELIZABETH WEEMS
REFERENCE EDITOR

"Keep believing that success will come from good work, creating a sense of purpose and seeing the best in the world."



TIERNEY WHITE
REFERENCE EDITOR

"Be more open and have a bigger heart."



TATUM SCHUERMAN
ASSISTANT COPY EDITOR

"Don't forget about the people who have always been there for you."



ARIANNA SMITH
STAFF WRITER

"Grow up and be the bestest girl that ever lived. Never let anyone get in your way of success."



TEAGAN VANBLARCOM
STAFF WRITER

"Don't care as much about what people think because you are amazing! Let go of things and love your life with NO regrets."



JASON FUEMMELER
STAFF DESIGNER

"Don't be afraid of the future and being afraid of people, to be more confident in myself, not let anything ruin my day. Good times are coming."



OLIVER GROTEGUT
STAFF DESIGNER

"Don't squish spiders, you regret when you're older."



// The Lair
Shawnee Mission
Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas

PHOTOJOURNALISM



"Don't shave off your eyebrows."

KERI SENGPRASEUTH
NEWSPAPER PHOTO EDITOR



"Go to as many of your brother's events as you can and keep playing the piano because you'll miss being able to do that stuff someday."

ERIN HENTON
NEWSPAPER PHOTO EDITOR



"You're only getting one chance at life. So live it how you want to live it. Don't look back to regret the things you didn't do. Just do them then."

PAIGE MORGAN
NEWSPAPER PHOTO EDITOR



"Start actually paying attention in class because you'll need it."

SEBASTIAN EMERSON
SPORTS EDITOR



"Don't forget to enjoy the little things in life and appreciate the beauty in the world. Love, and embrace the people who show kindness."

SIDNEY HENKENSIEFKEN
CAMERA MANAGER



"Don't miss out on opportunities just because you don't want to leave home."

THOMAS DELZEIT
SMUGMUG EDITOR



"Get rid of the friends who don't make you feel good about yourself. The ones who try to make you feel like you have less worth need to go."

SOFIA OLIVERA
SMUGMUG EDITOR



"Stick with the sports you were doing. You were really good at them. Also enjoy life the way it is because being a six year old is pretty sweet."

RILEY BROCKER
PHOTOGRAPHER



"Work hard and don't give up."

LILY CODY
PHOTOGRAPHER



"Live more right now. What's happened has happened and what will come will come so low."

PIPER BORGMAN
PHOTOGRAPHER



"I would say to live in the moment and enjoy every second. Don't worry so much about what comes next because it's more fun not to. Don't take anything for granted."

ERIN DORY
PHOTOGRAPHER



"Stop worrying, just be happy."

CECILIA LORINO
PHOTOGRAPHER



"Take more risks and not care so much what other people think. You're here for a good time, not a long time."

DYLAN MITCHELL
PHOTOGRAPHER



"Chill out. Don't be such a diva."

CLAIRE MOORE
PHOTOGRAPHER



"It's okay to have bad days, as long as you have better ones tomorrow."

MEGAN RIVERA
PHOTOGRAPHER



"Introduce yourself to more things. The people you meet might not always be your friend, so be careful who you make friends with."

NICHOLAS STYERS
PHOTOGRAPHER



"Continue to be yourself. No matter what. You may lose some friends along the way but I don't necessarily mean it's your fault."

EDERIA THOMPSON
PHOTOGRAPHER



"1. Try your best in school, but also enjoy life. 2. One bad grade or failed assignment never hurt anybody. 3. But most importantly, NEVER let your mom cut your hair."

HANNAH VAN AUKEN
PHOTOGRAPHER



"If you have any opportunities to do your best, take it. Be nice to the people around you. Never be scared to ask for help."

CARMELO ZAMUDIO
PHOTOGRAPHER

THANK YOU!

Cough— Cough stands for Caring, Observant, Understanding, Gifted and Helpful! Thank you for guiding us and giving us advice we will use for years to come. Even if you don't think you ever have the right thing to say, you do. You're always able to put up with us even when we're angry or frustrated and we have no idea how you do that. You always push us to be our greatest and you don't settle for 'alright.' You always seem to have the right solution for everything. Thank you for listening to every single rant we had and supporting us through every single hardship. You're so caring and considerate of others; we know you're our biggest fan! Thank you for always putting us first, even when it's David's birthday. You a funny girl too. Hehe. Thanks for listening to our tea talks and giving us input. You always give us straight forward advice which we appreciate greatly. Lastly, thank you for being our closest friend this year. We love you!

Wes Mikel— Hello Wesley, Thank you for being here (most of the time) to help us with everything from design to relationship advice. You always keep a fun atmosphere and make jokes to lighten the mood. Thanks for always keeping us updated on your Dungeons and Dragons thing and we're so proud of you for becoming a certified Body Pump instructor! You're always so good at making sure we get things done and making schedules for us to stay organized. (p.s we know you like Newspaper more, just admit it.)

John Kelley— Thank you so much for being the best Walsworth Rep ever! You always give us such great feedback and you're always making things happen that we didn't think would be possible! Even though we don't like it much, thank you for always reminding us to meet our deadlines.

Mike Taylor— Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to help us at the beginning of the year to develop the theme we fell in love with. Your charisma and optimism has rubbed off on us.

Crystal Kazmerski— Hey Kaz! It's me, your opening-copy buddy. Thanks for all the late night phone calls and for helping me make opening as precise and heartfelt as possible, even if it is a little cheesy. You are incredibly talented and I am amazed at your ability to make things "move like smoke" (if you know, you know) Thanks for always rooting for me and helping me even though you live across the country. — Kelsey Volk

Lisa Gruman— You're always so happy and positive! Thank you for always believing in us and boosting our confidence. We love showing you our progress and we love your feedback! Thank you for supporting us so much!

Jeff & The Crew— Thank you for always unlocking doors we need for

photos and cleaning up even when we're still here at 10 pm. We'll try to keep the room clean after our work nights from now on.

Thesplans— Thank you for trusting us use your stage for picture days because we know how special that place means to you. Your productions are amazing, you guys almost stay here longer than we do!

David— Thank you for always making our days better when Cough isn't here. We enjoy how you wear the same thing every time we see you. Also, we don't always get your sarcasm, but we appreciate it when we understand it. Thanks for always being so cool about Cough staying with us so late, even on your birthday and anniversary. We are currently having a top secret investigation on if you're a robot or a human. We'll give you the results shortly.

Photo J— Thank you for taking such incredible photos for our book! You guys work so hard to get everything so perfect. Thanks for always being down to take last minute mugs we need and then doing cutouts for days!

Newspaper— Thank you for letting us invade your work nights, without those, we wouldn't have a yearbook! Being in 4th hour, you guys have impressed us so much with the amount of excellent work you do in such a short time.

Staff— Without you guys, our book literally wouldn't exist. Thank you for all the laughs during class and for sitting through our Motivational Mondays (we know you love!). I hope each and every one of you are proud of what you contributed to this book because it's amazing!

Pisani— Even though you always randomly walk into our room and yell at us, we enjoy your company. Thanks for not flooding our room this year or releasing a hamster into 151, we really appreciate that...and yes, we are done with the book!

Editors— Hey what's up you guys, yes, This is your thank you note. Thank you for working so hard this year. You guys have blown us away with your new ideas and incredible work ethic. Thank you for always going to every work night just to help us out with whatever we're struggling with. You guys have become such great friends and people we can count on. Even though we've had some weird conversations that also get really deep in the back room, we appreciate every single one of you. For the non-seniors, we're so excited to see what you guys do next year! Love you!

— CO EDITORS-IN-CHIEF TATUM GOETTING AND WAIRIMU MBOGORI

Colophon

The 2019 Lair contains 400 pages of 100lb Legend Matte Paper. The endpapers are four-color lithograph designed on standard white matte endsheet stock with four-color throughout. The cover is a four-color lithograph. All pages were submitted to Walsworth Publishing Company in Marceline, Mo., via PDF uploads for a press run of 1,300.

The book was sold to students for \$62. Additional funds were raised through the sales of senior ads. Portraits and group photos were taken by Litetouch Studios and Prestige Photography. Sports group pictures were taken by Haley Photography and Litetouch Studios. Content photographs were taken using nine Nikon D80s, one Nikon D90, one Nikon D3100, two Nikon D7000s, three Nikon D7100 and one Nikon D600.

Pages were designed using Adobe Creative Cloud on 17 Macintosh iMac computers and 11 Macintosh MacBook Pro laptops.

Headlines are primarily Eloquent JF Pro and Avenir Next Bold. Body copy is set in 6/10.5 pt. Also Light. Photo credit is in Also Light Italic Small Caps 6/8 pt. By lines are Also Light Italic small caps 8/10.5 pt.

The 2018-2019 Lair is a member of the Journalism Education Association, the National Scholastic Press Association, the Columbia Scholastic Press Association, Quill and Scroll, the Journalism Educators of Metropolitan Kansas City and the Kansas Scholastic Press Association.





Senior Tomas McNamany puts out a fire April 6 in the NW environmental lab. Only Environmental Education students can participate in the prairie burn. "My favorite thing was how much fun we had with it even though it was a lot of work," McNamany said. "The thing I'll remember most about the burn is probably how hot it was actually going to be." PHOTO BY SEANIAN EVENSEN

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Shawnee Mission
Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas



Well, what do you think?
What'll come back to you
when you reflect on this year?

Will it be a smell?

A sound?

A feel?

A moment?

Your first heartbreak? (Or maybe the
friends who put you back together?)

Will you ever be able to see neon
without thinking of Zach Dulny?



In the stands, sophomores Erin Albers and Isabella Moffat cheer for their class at the WPA assembly. Erin, 14, in the Main Gym. The sophomore theme was white out. "I was being able to get hype with my friends and cheering out loud. We're going on all the teams and seeing them show off their talents." Photos by Sebastian Emerson

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Shawnee, Kansas

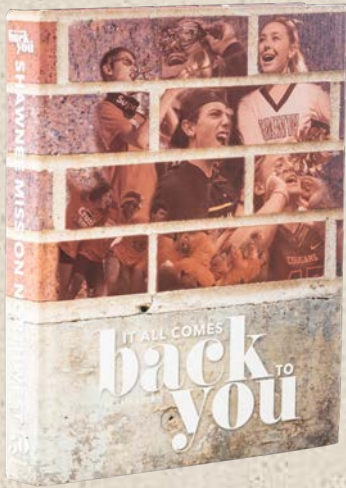


You may not remember the exact day winter starts, but who could forget shivering in the freezing rain as boys' soccer won regionals.

This year wasn't perfect—and we have eight snow days to prove it. But we laughed. We cried. We even pretended to be supportive when the freshmen won the Spirit Stick.

Like the students before us, we linked arms and raised our banners to the fore during the school song: "Cougars, now and evermore!"

Mmm, not sure about that. But years from now, when you flip through these pages, it'll all come rushing back.



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Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas

Junior Linsey Murdaugh, with other students at the top, took the Senior Cheer Club of 2019 to the top of the school. The picture booklet let students explore different cultures throughout the school. "One thing I really liked about it is seeing how many pictures there are in our school and how positive and interested everyone was." - Linsey Murdaugh. Photo by Sebastian Esham.

You'll remember.

You'll remember all of it.

Because somehow,
some way...

IT ALL COMES
back TO
you



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*Shawnee Mission
Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas*

The 50th anniversary was only a footnote in the course of the year. The most significant celebration was the recognition of the 50th graduating class. There was no cake. No candies. No celebration of the past.

Perhaps this is because Northwest began as a school constantly looking to the future, a school working to set its own path. Regardless, since its origins, Northwest has been about one thing: the students. They are still number one.

Although this book has tried to honor the history of this school, we have, for this reason, focused this book not on an anniversary, but on you.

-2019 Lair Staff



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Northwest High School
Shawnee, Kansas*

IT ALL COMES
back
TO
you