

Go, fight, win

HEART OF SCHOOL SPIRIT



Junior Bryce Hill dances in the front row at the white out pep rally Sep. 24 at the Gene and Jerry Jones Family Stadium. Before the football game that night to get the student body excited for the game. "It's really fun to be in the front," Hill said. "But it's hard because you have to know your moves and be sharp and know the dance perfectly." **Photo by Sophie Goelzer**



PEP RALLY FUN
Freshman Sarah Chiste's stunt group throws her into the air for a toe touch at the all-school pep rally before the homecoming game Oct. 22. This was the first all school pep rally. "Whenever we do stunts, I can see everything," Chiste said. "I go so high and it is a really cool view."
■ Sophomore McKenna Duncan does a right hurdler at the white-out pep rally Sep. 24. "I love pep rallies because it's the entire high school and it makes it so much fun," Duncan said. "The football games are so fun because we get to be on the sidelines and it's a really cool experience."
■ Junior Marguerite Davis performs at the SPC Championship halftime game for football on Nov. 6. "The SPC game was so exciting, and I was so happy to cheer with the seniors one last time. Even though we lost I was really grateful to have that experience in my high school experience," Davis said. "I was really excited to do that dance and routine because it was my favorite routine out of the whole season."
Photos by Lily Tollison and Sophie Goelzer

GO YOU EAGLES FIGHT WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT

THE NEWLY INTRODUCED JUNIOR CAPTAIN POSITION ALLOWED A JUNIOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN FOR HER NEXT YEAR AS A SENIOR CAPTAIN.

As she sat in front of her computer, her hands sweaty and stomach twisted, junior Bryce Hill excitedly opened the email she had been waiting for. The email said that she had just been named the first junior captain on ESD's cheer team.

The position of junior captain was a new role added to the team to prepare a junior to be a captain her senior year. Hill was the first junior captain chosen to fill this position in December of 2020 for the 2021 season.

"I love being the junior captain, it's really fun," Hill said. "It's really more of a learning position. I sit in on any meetings or any conversations the captains have with the coaches, but it's more about seeing how they handle themselves, how I need to act and what makes a good leader."

At the end of the sophomore season, varsity cheerleaders filled out a survey about leadership and ideas for the next season to be followed by an interview, almost identical to the process to become a senior captain. The junior is guaranteed to be a senior captain, except in extreme situations. Junior captains are expected to listen in on meetings, lead stretches with the varsity captains and bring treats for the opposing football team's cheerleaders.

"Captains carry a lot of weight and the coaches expect a lot out of them," cheer program director Megan Schroeder '09 said. "And it's

sometimes not fair to ask them to be a perfect captain, never having done it before. They don't know what I expect, and they've never seen it happen."

Schroeder was a varsity cheerleader and a captain her junior and senior years. She said that it had been helpful for her to be a captain as a junior, that way she was able to understand how to be an assertive captain the following year.

Senior captain Mary Grace Altizer said that a captain helps organize and run pep rallies and keeps the team going during structure practice.

"We help give feedback to junior varsity and varsity, and occasionally we'll help choreograph dances," Altizer said. "We also serve as a kind of middlemen between the team and the coaches. We aid in communication and help make sure that everybody feels like their voice is being heard."

Altizer saw the value of the addition of the junior captain position as an opportunity to learn how to be a successful captain. This position gave a junior the opportunity to become more involved and have a firmer grasp of the role of a varsity captain.

"It's really cool," Hill said. "It's a [great] way to be [more] involved with everything, and be a leader of the team."