

ENJOY THE RIDE

Hornets experience the buzz of the crowds and long held traditions at the Minnesota State Fair

Throughout the twelve days in operation, the "Great Minnesota Get-Together" is among one of the most popular end-of-summer traditions, with over one-million Minnesotans in attendance at the 2023 fair. Hornets took the opportunity to experience the mix of food, entertainment and education that the fair had to offer. "I feel like the fair is pretty popular because there's a lot of good food and great rides. I feel like it's just something you have to do since the Minnesota State Fair is one of the biggest fairs. I feel like you just have to go," **Abigail Brothers** (12) said.

Edina students not only got a chance to experience the fair's festivities, but also had a chance to work at the fair. At Java Jive, a state fair coffee stand, Senior **Eleanor Hinkie** and Sophomore **Coleman Hinkie** could be found behind the counter working as baristas. "My favorite part would be that I [get to] work with by

siblings, so my brother and sister and then our family friends. It's really fun to spend a lot of time with them, and it's a really fun community in the booth. Usually everyone who works there has worked there before, so you know all your coworkers. It's just super fun to hang out be able to work but it's also a fun environment to be in," **Hinkie** (12) said.

Nestled within St. Paul, the permanent fair grounds held over 300 fair foods and a variety of rides. The experience served as a summer send off for students and families, creating traditions and memories for those in attendance. "I think the State Fair is popular because it's a perfect combination of rides and food. There's some great food and there's also some pretty great rides and it's just a really fun environment," **Joseph Hemberger** (10) said.

Ally Hahn



Photos Courtesy of Melody Snyder

HERE COMES TREBLE. During the State Fair parade, **August Whited** (10), **Benjamin Cook** (10), and **Wyatt Williams** (12) lead the trombone section. Edina's Marching Band excursion provided some students the opportunity to visit the fair for the first time. "I know it's big in Minnesota, but I didn't know it was that big. I had to leave early, but if I could've had one thing, it would be the fried pickles," **Margaret Curti** (11) said.



Photo Courtesy of Ella Weinstein



Photo by Anna Elliott

MAJESTIC MARCH. Stepping forward in sync, the clarinet section parades down the main street of the State Fair. The Great Minnesota Get Together featured a range of free to more expensive activities. "I went on the big slide but other than that, we just did food. The food prices are a little high, but if you're just going once a year then I think it's okay to splurge," **Laurel Nascene** (12) said.



CRAZY CROWDS. Sky Glider riders get a bird's eye view of the fairgrounds packed with people. The annual event was filled with thousands of people and stands for everyone. "We stopped at the honey stand; we have bees, so my brother really likes bees and honey," **Bridgette Roberts** (11) said.



Photo by Daniel Fenske

MILK IT. **Gavin Ihrke** (12) and **Wilson Schaefer** (11) guzzle down a chilled glass of 2%. Beginning at the end of August, the fair marked the end of hot, summer days. "I was really sweaty in my band uniform, but the cheese curds made it worth it. I also drank a root beer to quench my thirst," **Polly Curran** (12) said.

STEP RIGHT UP. Sophomore **Ruby Peterson** takes a shot at winning a fair game. In addition to the numerous food options, the rides and other various attractions enticed students to visit the annual event. "Me and my friends walked around, went on rides, and of course had some cookies," **Caroline Overmoen** (10) said.

DILL-ICIOUS OR NOT?



"To everyone who hates pickles: grow up. Fried pickles are my favorite because they have a great crunch. The warm part of the pickle is not the best, but they're delicious overall. I have a bucket list of all the pickle flavored things that I want to try next year because I didn't hear about most of them until after the fair. I especially want to try the pickle pizza. The lines for the pickles were super long and it was insanely hot, I was almost ready to leave. But I smelt the pickles and had to stay."

Mia Arfman (9)

"I didn't really have any pickle things at the fair; I really hate pickles and I don't think that it's necessary to have that much themed pickle food. They don't taste that good. What are you gaining from adding pickled cucumbers to everything? Adding them to donuts is disgusting, like the sanctity of non-pickled foods I believe should remain holy. Sometimes I have pickles on my subway sandwich, I can accept the fact that they exist but people need to accept the fact that pickles aren't as good as they think they are."

Maya Frydenlund (12)



monkey business

Lillian Gundberg (12)



"His name is Markel the Monkey. When you take Ceramics 1, your first project is that you have to sculpt an animal out of pinch pot, and I just got really extra with it because it was junior year and everything academic was awful, so I made a cute, little monkey. They have two art fairs: one is just a general art fair for adults, but the one I entered was the K-12 and I got first place. My friend and I made a pact to enter the adult one next year."

Photo courtesy of Lillian Gundberg

What fair food are you willing to wait in line for and why?



"I'd wait in line for mini donuts or for the cookies. I really like sweets. I don't like pickles, so I wouldn't spend my time there. Cheese curds I think deserve more hype. We also played some games and we went to the haunted mansion which was really fun."

Evelyn Wenner (9)



"I would wait in line for Sweet Martha's cookies because they're really good and they're the best when they're fresh and warm. The crepes are definitely underrated, my friend showed me them a couple years ago and they're so good."

Rachel Berge (11)



"[The first place I would go] is Sweet Martha's Cookies. I love them, but they are only good when you get them. The lines were all very long, the longest I waited was about ten minutes for the cookies. My sister waited for over half an hour to get a drink though."

George Rezat (11)



Photo courtesy of Ruby Dypwick



QA
with **Ruby Dypwick** (10)

Why did you want to work at Sweet Martha's?

I was always kind of interested in working [at Sweet Martha's], so I looked it up and applied. I also saw it at the job fair and thought that I might actually have a chance [to work there], so I made my friend **Carly Ferris** (10) sign up with me.

What was a unique part of working at the fair?

I really like that we get to meet a lot of people from out of town and we get to hear all the stories about why they're [at the State Fair] and what their favorite part is, but it's obviously Sweet Martha's, so that's [my favorite part].

Was it stressful to deal with a lot of people?

I enjoyed [dealing with a lot of people], but sometimes it could be stressful because they would run out of cookies, so we would have to stand there for like 5 minutes and they would watch you. [People] would also judge you scooping the cookies too.

Is there anything that surprised you about working there?

[I was surprised] by how nice the people were. I genuinely didn't meet a single person who was mean.