

details

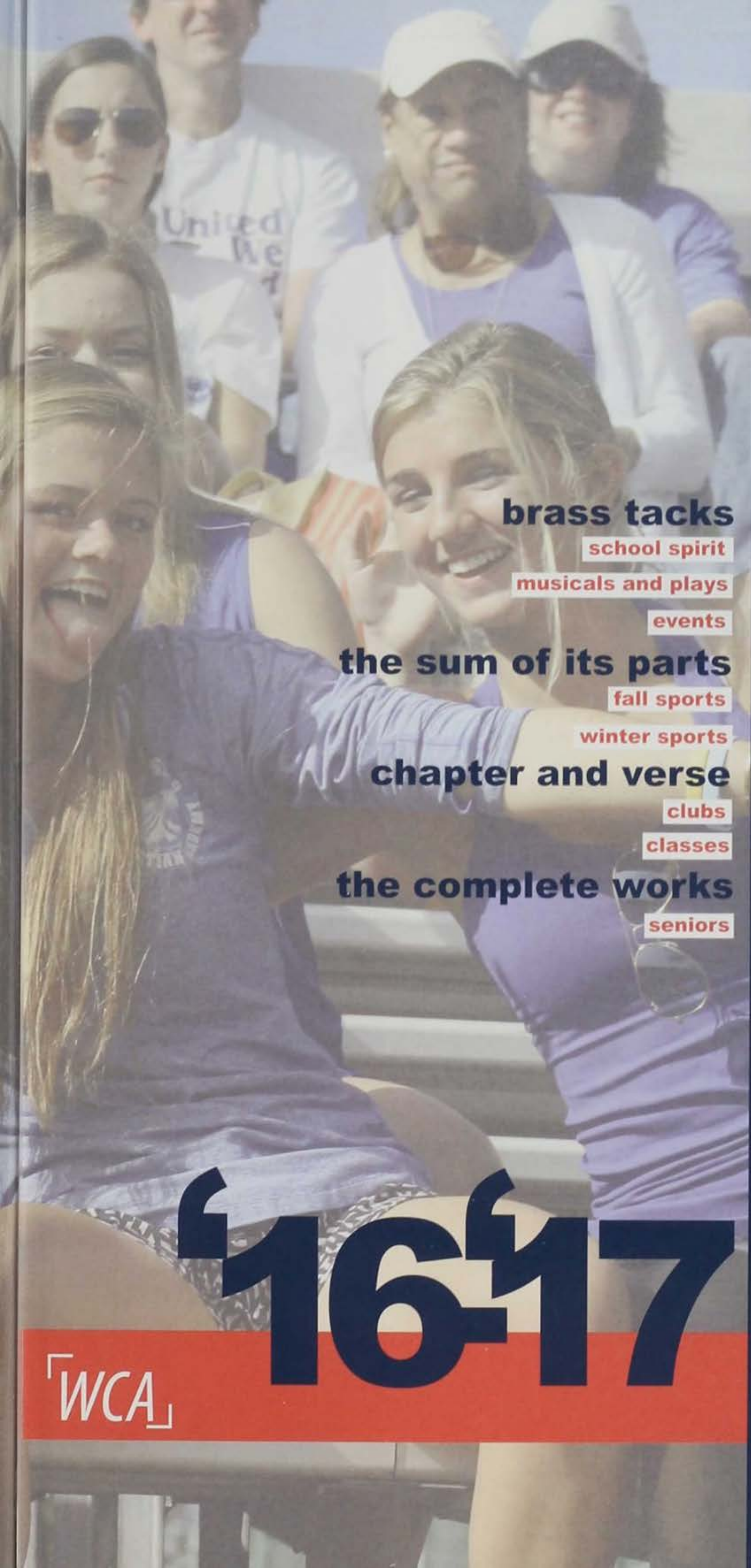
all in the

westminster christian academy
foundation 2016-2017



「all in the」

details



brass tacks

school spirit

musicals and plays

events

the sum of its parts

fall sports

winter sports

chapter and verse

clubs

classes

the complete works

seniors



Michael Tran, sophomore

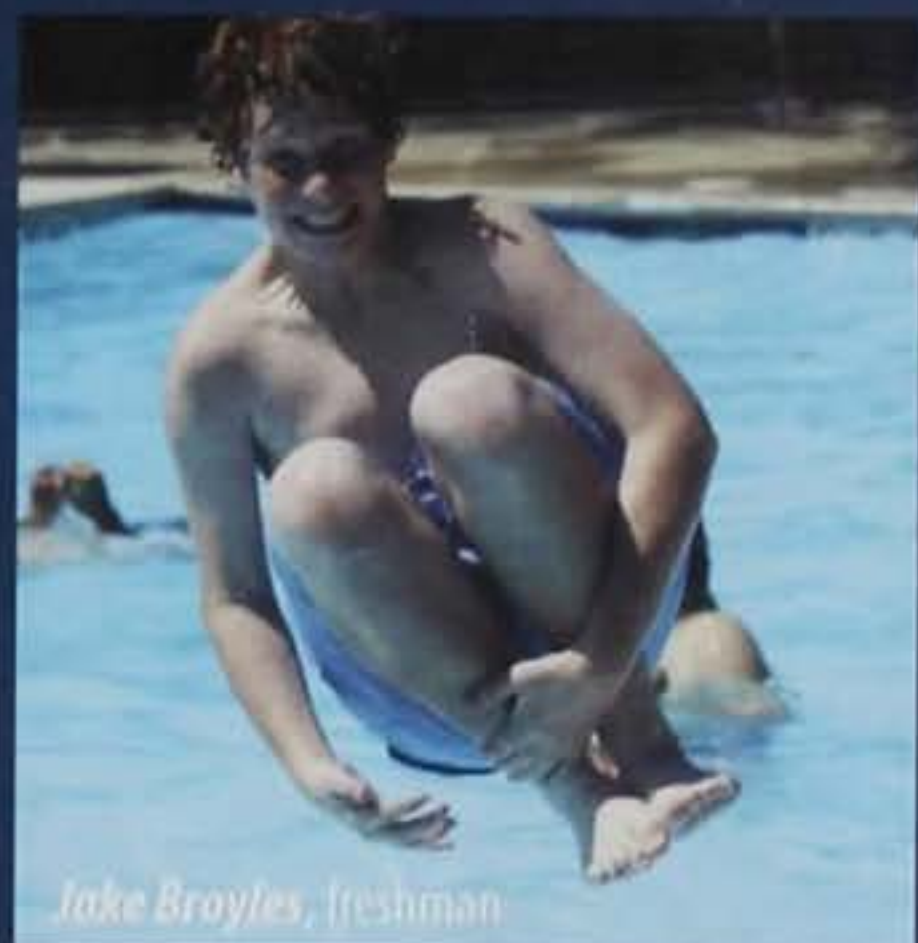
008



Libby Thomas, freshman

056

122



Jake Broyles, freshman

170

'16'17

「WCA」



Grace Johler, sophomore





Bethany Stone senior



Grace Rahal, Grace Dempsey, and Ella Polski freshmen



Senila Luo, Susan Yi, and Kayla Liu juniors



Hannah Eisenbeth junior



Emily Fentress and Lauren Bell sophomores



Natalie Brown junior

details all in the 2016-2017

WESTMINSTER CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

the foundation

VOLUME 41

Population: 1,014
800 Maryville Centre Drive
Town & Country, MO
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The Story is *told*

in the details

“All in the details”

is a way of bringing **together**

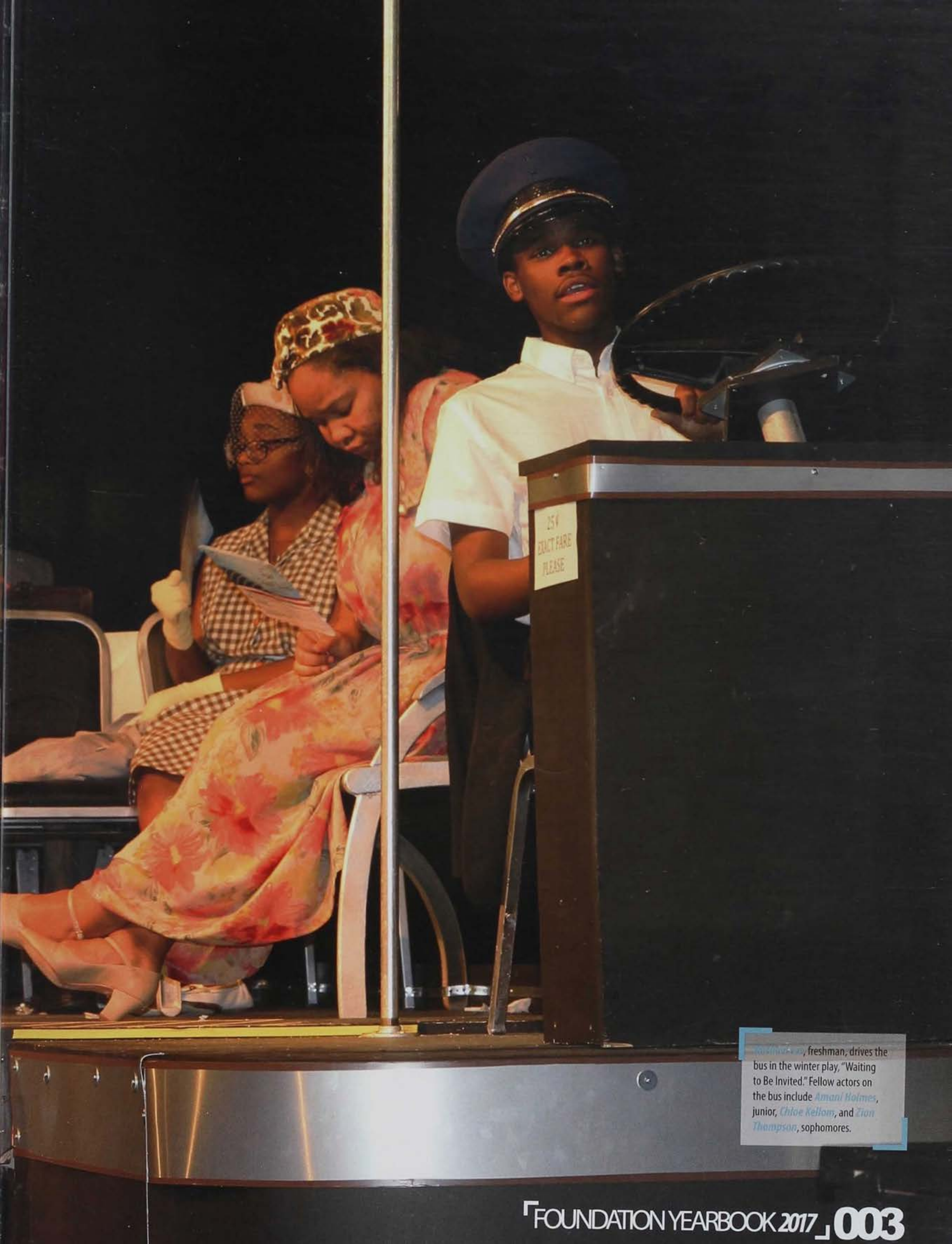
the *small* events, the *hard* work, and *dedication*

of the students into the **bigger** picture.

The goal is to **highlight** moments

to focus on the *essentials* and tell

the story they deserve.



Joshua, freshman, drives the bus in the winter play, "Waiting to Be Invited." Fellow actors on the bus include *Amani Holmes*, junior, *Chloe Kellom*, and *Zion Thompson*, sophomores.

The Story *is told*

in the numbers



I care about my grades because I know that I want to get into a good college, and I kind of want to be a doctor, specifically a neonatologist. I'm working really hard now, so I can be in the hard classes. I know [honors classes] are the best place for me because I want to challenge myself, and I know it'll help me later in life and later in high school.

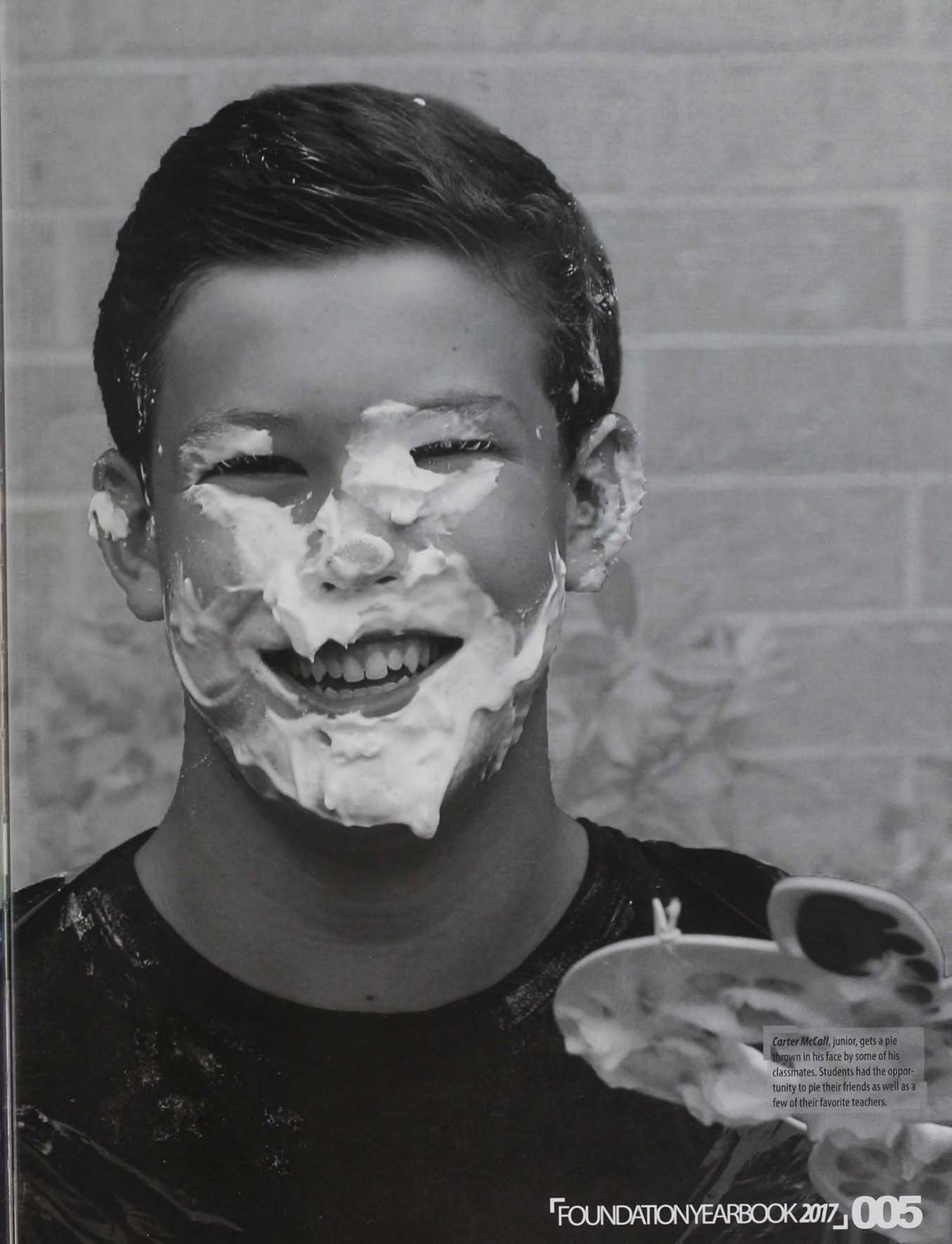
-Ava Bidner, freshman

Winning motivates me. It doesn't really matter about my personal stats as much as the team winning and advancing forward and trying to win state for Veeg.

-DJ Stewart, senior

20% of students here are on financial aid and approximately 10% more have discounts from parents working here or at a CSASL school.





Carter McCall, junior, gets a pie thrown in his face by some of his classmates. Students had the opportunity to pie their friends as well as a few of their favorite teachers.

The Story is *told*

words

in our

**Last year was great,
but this year is going to be even better.
I can't wait to see all my friends again
and to make new ones too.**

Maybe I'll take that hard class I was recommended for...

or maybe not.

Will I make the varsity team this year?

Maybe I should audition for the play.

I want to treasure the memories before it's too late.

These six years are going to fly by.

Will I survive?

This year is

all in the details





Mathew Culligan and **Josh Hanson**, freshmen, chill by the pool at the freshman retreat. "[my favorite moment was when] Mr. Burkey jumped into the pool fully clothed," said Hanson.

getting down to

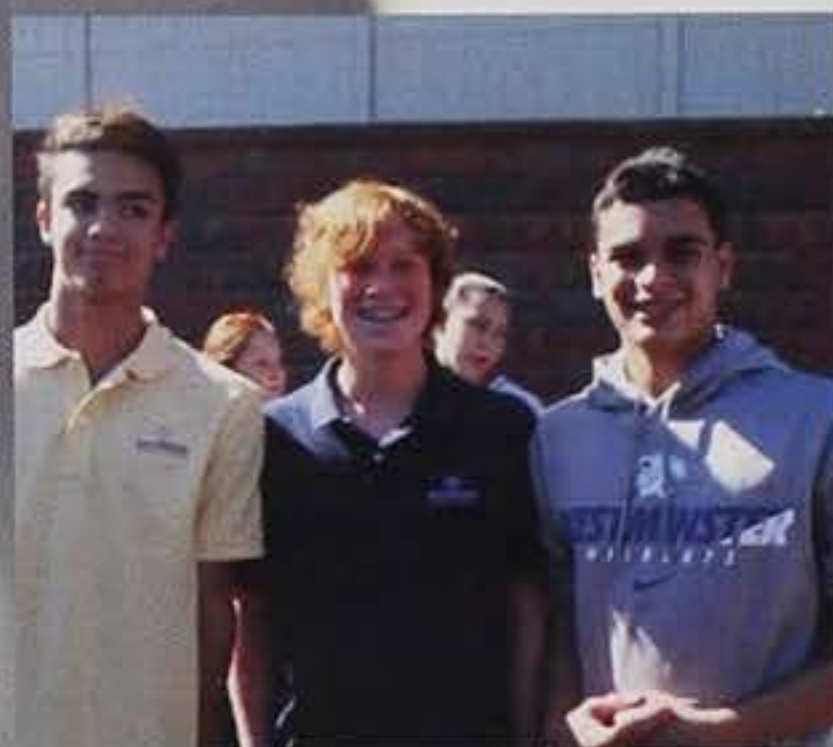
brass tacks

“I like the student life activities here because they’re very community oriented. You’ll almost surely grow closer to the people that you participated in these activities with.”

-Abigail Staats, sophomore



Abigail Staats and Emily Penner, sophomores, hang out in the grass field at Eckert’s Farm during sophomore class bonding.



Devon Deverger, Campbell Coffee, and William Gore, sophomores, wait around during a routine fire drill with their class.



Molly Andersen, Rachel Arndt, and Patrick Claus, sophomores, ride the haunted hay ride at Eckert’s.

Nina Bacon and Lexi Jo Alm, freshmen take a break from a game at the freshman retreat.



LU

IT'S TIME WE ALL
LEED BLUE.

2014 PLAYOFFS





high ropes

Oregon and Washington Summer Seminar group makes a "W" for Washington as they explore a cave on Third Beach. The group hiked six miles to their camp site on the beach the night before. In order to bring the swelling down from their feet, several students stood in the ocean for many hours. "The competition in the ocean wasn't to see who could withstand the cold the longest. It was to whittle down who the three biggest idiots were," said *Emily Kessel*, senior.

Twelve students, three teachers, and one guide, set off on a 10 day adventure in Oregon and Washington last summer. They hiked in the Wallowa Mountain Range and Third Beach, rafted the Grande Ronde River, visited Mt. Rainier National Park, and camped in the Hoh Rain Forest. One of the treks the students encountered on the trip was at Third Beach, La Push, Washington. It started out in the Hoh Rain Forest when they had to climb ropes to gain access to the trail from the beach. "Does this make me Tarzan?" said Lucas Chimento, senior, when he saw the ropes. Although not everyone had the same response: "This is it, this is how it ends," thought Alayna Marusiodis, senior. The ropes were slick and muddy because of the rain that morning, which

made it extremely challenging to climb up the steep grades with 35-40 pound backpacks on. As the group continued on their hike, they came to more challenging ropes and rope ladders, made of what seemed like drift wood. Then, when the hikers thought they had completed all of the ropes, the tide was up in the ocean, cutting off their route around more ropes. In order to get to their destination on the other side of the cliff, the students had to climb up and over another muddy and sandy ledge with wet ropes. Even though there were many mixed feelings about the ropes, the students overcame them with the help and encouragement of each other, teachers, and their fearless guide. They all learned on several occasions that there is pain in beauty.



Erin Galakatos, Maddie Mercer, Savannah Matthews, and Alivia Johnston, seniors, gather around the bonfire on the last night of the South Dakota trip. The students opened up to each other and all promised they would stay close during the school year. "One night everyone was around the campfire, and we shared the last time we cried. It got really deep, and everyone was really vulnerable with each other. We agreed that we wanted to stay close our senior year and build real friendships with each other. It was a moment I will never forget," said Johnston.

Tiffany Johnson, senior, explores the river bank by the camp site in the Hoh rain forest in Washington. The group gave trail names to each member that described their personality, and Johnson's was "Tuff Tiff."



Jordan Merkel, Josh Pottebaum, Cooper Moore, and Jimmy Thomas, seniors, relax by the bonfire after a day of kayaking on the Missouri River. They kayaked to their campsite where they recapped the whole trip. On this night no one slept in their tents because they wanted to see the full moon.



Olivia Holt and Amanda Ahlbrand, seniors, roast marshmallows by the bonfire. "My favorite memory was all of the car rides and bonfires at night. I know it sounds super weird for that to be my favorite part of the whole trip, but these are the times that everyone was able to grow close to each other and learn a lot about people you normally wouldn't have at school. In the car, we were all able to jam out to music with the teachers and really get to see a whole other side of everyone. During the bonfires, we had some deep talks, and we had some funny talks. I will never ever forget these moments," said Holt.

Matthew Hoekzema, senior, balances on a fallen tree above the river along with other summer seminar participants. Hoekzema was often referred to as a mountain goat because he would leap from rock to rock and was also very fast.



Emily Kessel and Molly Cook, seniors, take a water and Snickers break at Mount Rainier, Washington. While the group was coming down the mountain they had a close encounter with a bear. "I hoped Mrs. Birchenough would protect me because I wasn't prepared to run down a mountain away from a rabid bear," said Cook.



Alyssa Shikles and Allison Theanon, seniors, explore their camp site in the Hoh Rain Forest the first night of the trip. "Summer seminar was one of the best choices I made in high school. I'm pretty sure the experiences and the memories will stick with me forever," said Shikles.



Elizabeth Sems and Julie Griesedieck, seniors, hang out in their hammock at after a long day of biking. "My favorite place was the second campground we stayed at. We hung up all our ENOS in the trees and played spike-ball. It was really relaxing after all day biking," said Sems.

I did 30+ hours of Just Dance to break in my hiking boots.



-Valerie Winkler, senior

The group from Spain poses for a picture at the beach in Denia. One day when they went to the beach it was so windy that they had to leave. "The sand was getting in our faces, and we couldn't put our towels down," said *Lauren Willis*, junior. "We couldn't do anything, so we had to just walk around the town."



Mackenzie Wieberg, senior, and *Brittany Johnson*, junior, play with a Spanish child at the preschool in Spain. "I loved the spending time with the kids in the mornings, and it was one of my favorite parts of the trip," said Johnson. "Even though there was a language barrier, we were still able to have fun with them."



Bridgette Grimm and *Betsy Bailey*, juniors, take a hike with a girl from Alfa and Omega. Even though the students stayed in dorms at the school, they spent two nights with a host family touring and experiencing the Spanish culture.



Tyson Jones and *Anna Hassler*, sophomores, *Hanna Eisenbath*, junior, *Sarah Nolting*, senior, *Johnathan Mette*, junior, and *Jake Rattan*, sophomore imitate a picture in a restaurant on their last night in New York. "I think it was really incredible to go somewhere so big with so many of my friends," said Nolting. "I feel like I became closer to my friends, and the trip made me think about what I want to do with my life as a person interested in the arts."



Brittany Johnson, *Betsy Bailey*, *Bridgette Grimm*, and *Ashley Peterman*, juniors, stand at the top of the castle of Denia. The students had to walk two miles from the school to get here, but from the top the whole city was visible.



Chloe Kellom and Alexa Rosenberg, sophomores, visit the Radio City Music Hall in New York. While on the tour, the tour guide, Chris, told them a story about a ghost that was believed to inhabit the building. It became an inside joke within the group that they would go up to the desk and ask about Chris, and they would say no one named Chris works here, meaning Chris was the ghost.



Abby Charles, senior, Ty Jones, sophomore, Hanna Eisenbath, junior, Jake Rattan, sophomore, Jonathan Mette, junior, and Anna Hassler, sophomore pose for a picture in New York. The trip was open to anyone interested in the arts, and their activities varied from art museums to Broadway workshops.



The seniors from the Spain trip pose for a picture at the Plaza Real in Madrid. This famous plaza contained a lot of history and used to hold bull fights and political speeches. Now the bottom level is filled with restaurants and shops, and the upper levels are apartments.

house arrest by band-aids

From buying pineapples in Madrid to swimming in the Mediterranean, the Spain summer seminar was a memorable trip. Right after the last final exam, eighteen students and three teachers embarked across the Atlantic to the small town of Denia, Spain. After spending a week attending school at Alfa and Omega, Westminster's sister school, they traveled to Madrid to go sightseeing for the last few days of the trip.

One particular escapade that stood out to the students was on the last night when the teachers attempted to trap them in their rooms by putting a band-aid on each door. They thought if the students tried to leave their rooms, the band-aid would break, and the teachers

would know they had snuck out.

Paige Stanfill, senior, did not want to let this ruin her last night in Spain.

"We immediately started thinking of ways to get out," said Stanfill. "We considered going to talk to the teachers and then already having a broken band-aid for the rest of the night, pretending we were sick, and we even called the room having a party below us and tried explaining to them our dilemma and asking for help (all in Spanish), but they didn't come help us." No one will ever know if they were successful in their escape attempts.

This eventful night proved to be an exciting end to an already great trip. "I loved all the hilarious memories we made," said Stanfill.

new york itinerary

Tuesday

Radio City Music Hall
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime

Wednesday

Broadway Workshop 101
The Crucible
The Color Purple

Thursday

Broadway Workshop-song and dance
Metropolitan Museum of Art
Fiddler on the Roof

Friday

Making a Scene Broadway Workshop
School of Rock

Saturday

Shop/Central Park



leadertrip to go

WCA student leaders traveled down to High Hill Christian Camp in August for the annual Leadership Retreat. After swimming at the lake or playing outdoor games, the students cooled down and went to chapel.

This year, Stephanie Schall and Tim Muehleisen, history teacher, spoke, and the leaders listened to the messages that they brought. Schall told the students that a leader needs to capture the hearts of others in order to guide them.

"She made me think about leadership in a

way I hadn't before," said Caroline Kopsky, freshman. Schall quoted Maya Angelou and said, "People will forget what you said. People will forget who what you did. But people will never forget how you make them feel."

The next day, Muehleisen advised the leaders to take the problems that life throws at them day by day and not to focus on the end goal. He instructed them to use the process, to break it down into component parts, and look at the parts. "My goal is to make the process the joy," said Muehleisen.



It was fun to hang out with new people in different grades.

-Hope Burkey, freshman



Hope Burkey and Nina Bacon freshmen, and *Maggie Kehr*, sophomore, eat lunch together at the leadership retreat. The students were placed into groups for lunch in order to meet people from other grades and leadership positions.



The school leaders sit down together at chapel, listening to Mrs. Schall's message. The team had three chapels during the retreat.



Lily Duda, Kinsley Lawrence, and Grace Dempsey, freshmen, enjoy the weekend back at Westminster after the two days away. The three learned a lot about leadership and how they can further the WCA community with the skills they were taught.



After a long ride, the leaders are ready to arrive at High Hill Christian Camp. The leadership team met at WCA and then left for the two day long retreat.



The seniors, who have been leaders freshman through senior year, gather for a picture at their last leadership retreat. The ten of them have been on the leadership team for the past four years of high school.



Michael Theonen junior

According to Michael Theonen, junior, the bus ride down was a time to reconnect with his friends that he had not seen over the summer. "It was an opportunity to hang out with my boys," said Theonen.

Emily Stoner, junior, also had an opinion about the drive to High Hill. "The highlight of the bus ride was talking to everyone I had not seen and about what we were going to do on the retreat," said Stoner.

Stoner along with Natalie Brown, Maggie Kurop, and Taylor Siebenman, juniors, sang "the classic high school musical songs" and Taylor Swift songs on the drive down to High Hill Camp.



Libby Thomas, freshman, plays with Mille, Mrs. Brown's dog at the freshmen retreat. Both Mille and Bogey have become huge parts of the school.

Kevin Kim, freshman, aims and shoots the water gun at his freinds as they jump in the pool. Kevin spent most of his day during the retreat at the pool, shooting water guns and swimming.



Sophia Mullen, freshman, smiles after she shoots the bow and arrow right in the bullseye. This was Sophia's first time shooting the bow and arrow, but she quickly got the hang of it.



At the freshman retreat, it's half time in the intense dodge ball game. The score was tied as **Anna Rockwood** and **Riley Merrifield,** freshmen, stopped to take a picture then jumped right in the game and gave it their best.



Hayley Adiar and **Ella Polski,** freshmen, get together in front of the beautiful flowers for a picture. They were on a break in between games and decided to take a walk. It was a great opportunity for the two girls to meet new people and connect with classmates at the retreat.



did the retreat help as an incoming freshman?

“It made the transtion into highschool almost easy because I knew a few more people and had already met them and made the connection.”

-**Ella Fiala,** freshman

“There were a lot of people who I would've never met in school from the leadership retreat because we don't have any classes together.”

-**Nina Bacon,** freshman



Nick Gustavison, freshman, pulls back his bow and arrow to get ready to shoot the target. He successfully made it in the red zone.

freshmen



Sabrina Granata and *Lea Despotis*, freshmen, and *Brooke Lemp* and *Alyssa Despotis*, seniors, snack on donuts for breakfast on Wednesday morning. Lemp and Despotis talked to their peers about what it is like as a new freshman and how to cope with it. This quiet time in the morning was very beneficial for the girls as they transitioned into high school.



Ashley MacDonald, freshman, is on the dance team this year and really loves it. "This team has definitely made a huge difference in my transition into high school. They're like family. I was comfortable with them even before school started, and that really helped when I needed someone to go to when freshman year started. Sports definitely help the transition," said MacDonald.

Victoria Smith, *Sophia Sacco*, and *Grace Skiljan*, freshmen, *Moira Wright* and *Alena Vermillion*, seniors, gather for breakfast for a Fresh Connect meeting on Wednesday morning. The girls talk about everything from their favorite donuts to friend issues and how to maintain good grades. Vermillion gave advice to the younger students on how to do well in school and with friends.



The jump from middle school to high school was known to some as the most intimidating, scary, and treacherous transition of all. "I was pretty scared going into high school freshman year, but I knew a few upperclassmen. I have some great friends, so everything was totally fine," said Bridget Sullivan, freshman.

Everyone handled it differently. Some looked forward to the change while others dreaded it. However, Westminster provided several opportunities to make the jump easier on the incoming freshman.

One of those opportunities was sports.

"Sports are a huge help while going into high school. I met tons of new people, and I had a team that I could be open to and talk about anything with. The coaches helped, and my teammates helped a lot too. It made all the difference," said Lauren Gates, freshman.

Even the coaches made it easy to have fun, get to know one another, and grow in your skills while making the transition as easy as possible.

Another thing that aided this transition was leadership, with the various types of leadership and retreats making it easier on incoming freshman to get the feel of high school and meet other upperclassmen.

"The freshman and leadership retreat helped my transition because my new teachers were there, and I got to meet other people that I did not know. Then when I got to the first couple days of high school, I knew a lot of people, and I already had memories with them. That helped a lot," said Libby Thomas, freshman.

The leadership community and retreats definitely eased the incoming freshmen's fear of high school and made it seem almost welcoming.

Fresh Connect was another really popular way to make freshman year a lot easier. Wednesday mornings new freshmen and seniors were paired together in a group much like PC. They gathered to talk about topics varying from ways to balance grades all the way to handling friends as the new kid.

Although some would say freshman year was tough, Westminster provided many opportunities to help freshmen get involved and transfer smoothly into high school.

What is the first thing to go?

survey of 29 people

6

SLEEP

13

HOMEWORK

5

FOOD

6

OTHER



Paris Hubler, senior, is the co-leader of art board for the senior class. "Trying to fit in art board amongst all the tests and homework in the week leading up to spirit week is nearly impossible. It's exhausting and stressful, so when the board is done, and you get to see the finished product, you experience utter relief and pride," said Hubler.



Sydney Moore, freshman, works on painting something for their art board. The overall theme this year was wonders of the world, and the freshmen did the Golden Gate Bridge. "It's taken up a lot of our time and is definitely requiring us to work productively; we also come here on Saturdays for four hours," said Moore. "I have soccer practice after this, and then I have a lot of homework, so I've been getting to bed pretty late, but it's worth it."



Eli Diedrick, Noah Adair, Koby Schmer, Brennan Orf, and Jack Wittenauer, freshmen, learn the dance for their boys poms routine. Freshman year is always difficult during spirit week because it is their first time without the help of parents.



Amanda Ahlbrand, Hannah Beckman, Tiffany Johnson, Jillian Klein, Erica Ridenhour, goof off during the 3 hour long practice. There were no lifts scheduled for the routine, but they thought they would try one anyway. "[the first thing I give up is] sleep, but also peace of mind because not only am I getting an average of 5 hours of sleep, but in that little time, I had a dream about our lip sync routine," said Beckman.



Gracie Dark, eighth, paints the ocean scene for the middle school art board. They chose the Great Barrier Reef as their worldly wonder.



The seventh grade lip sync, this year they are performing to Katy Perry's "Roar." They have had parent help and student help.

Sabrina Granata, Libby Thomas, Katherine Bauer, and Ella Fiala, freshmen, learn a new move for the freshmen lip sync. Their first spirit week doing everything by themselves start out rough because they ended up changing their song to "Bare Necessities" instead of a Lilo and Stitch song.

Sterling Webb, Caleb Thompson, Jordan Coleman, Nick Ford, Sam Vestal, and two Winter Camp Korean students, seventh, boys poms practice their formations on an after school practice the week before spirit week. "The reason I took part in boys poms is because almost every year my brothers did it so I decided maybe it will be fun," said Webb.



—“—
[It takes] a lot more
behind the scenes work
than you would think.

—Abbi Barron, senior.

Emily Kessel, senior, lies on the floor after practicing lip sync for 3 hours. The senior's lip sync practices were always scheduled for very late at night. "We're like Beyoncé's back up dancers," said Kessel.



While Spirit Week itself gets all the attention, the rest of January leading up to it comes with late nights and long preparations to prepare for the upcoming events. From skipping dinner to losing sleep, students give up a lot in order to perfect their routines.

"Spirit week has taken over my time, sanity, and life. I've had to give up sleep, study time, and my dignity (due to my extreme lack of dance skills)," said Nikki Breneman, junior.

Hannah Brown, senior, had similar thoughts. "Pick one: sleep, homework, or food. But actually, sike because you picked lip sync, so you get none," said Brown.

But in the end, these long hours only make spirit week that much more exciting when the hard work finally pays off. "All jokes aside, it's by far the best week at WCA all year," said Hannah Beckman, senior.

The eighth grade, lip sync practices in the eighth grade commons. This year they will be performing to the "Safety Song."



PAWS UP FOR WILDCAT WEEKEND

Over the years, Wildcat Weekend remained a constant highlight of the year for Westminster students of all grades as well as their families. This year the Student Leadership Team worked hard for weeks in advance to ensure the carnival's success.

"The entire Student Leadership Team helped out, and all the grades contributed. The seniors really took over though, which was super cool to see. Student Leadership members gave up weekly lunches to discuss new booths and ideas as well as figuring out how to improve the weekend," said Hannah Haguewood, senior.

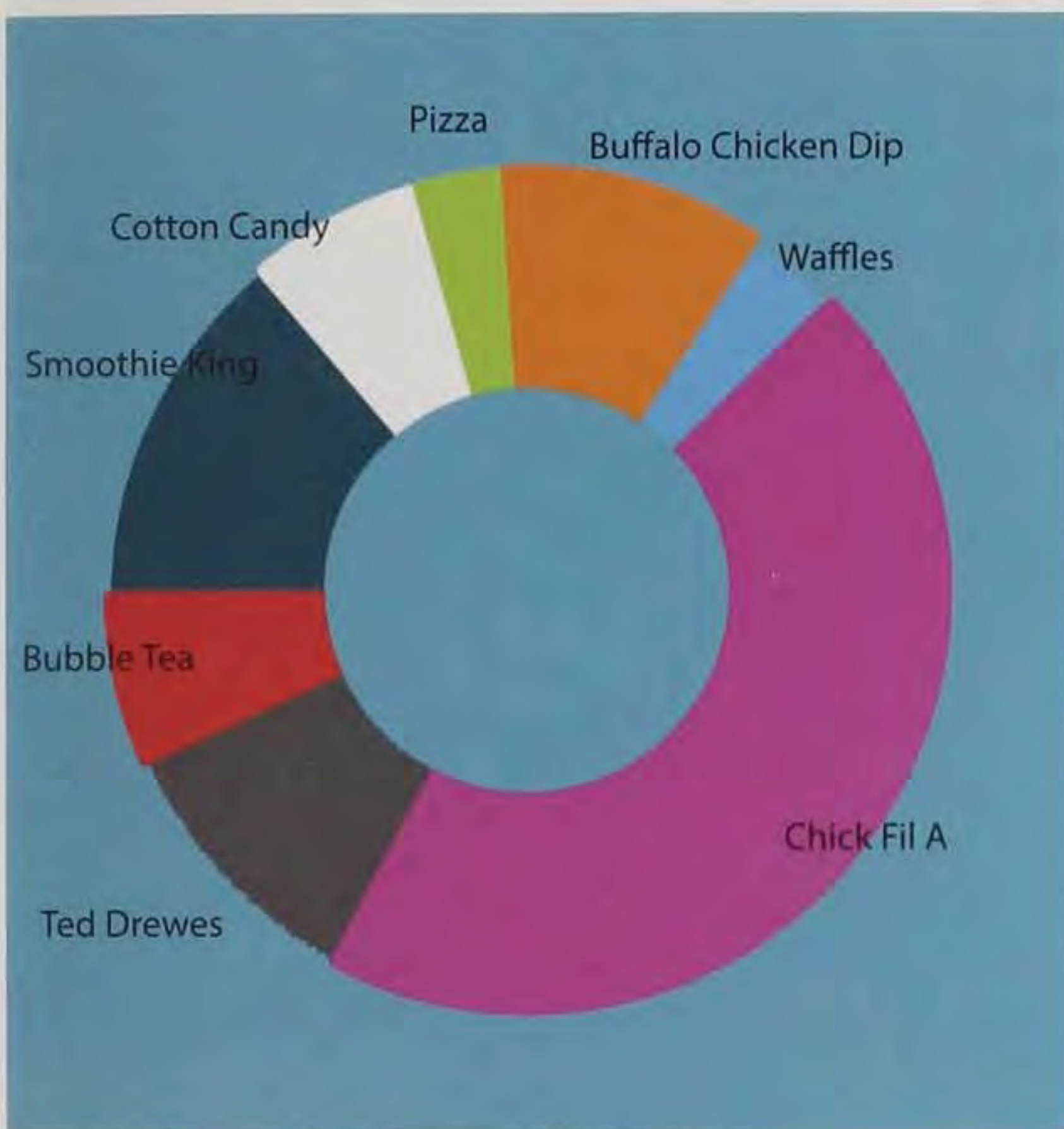
Additionally, students contributed their day off to the Carnival by utilizing the Friday before to help set up booths at 10:00. They also showed up at 10:00 the day of, an hour before the carnival opened to the public, to ensure that things were moving smoothly.

The Student Leadership Team proved successful in their efforts, as the carnival worked in bringing one of Westminster's largest student sections to support the football team in their game against MICDS. Carter McCall, one of the leaders of Blue Crew, thought it was one of the best games of the season.

"That game was great, lots of people came. We really got it going in the second half, with people from all grades coming together to cheer for the team," said McCall.

Pamela Mueller, sophomore, Bekah Warren, junior, and Jessie Kunkel, sophomore, work the French club booth, serving crepes and other pastries.





Top menu items of Wildcat Weekend according to a survey of 254 WCA students

get in my Belly!

One of the highlights of Carnival for many Westminster students are the different food booths that make appearances every year. While some student clubs and organizations come up with creative games, others sell different foods reflecting their club's main focus. For example, the French club sold crepes while the Spanish club sold quesadillas.

Additionally, the freshman class joined in on the fun by selling Belgian Waffles accompanied by a large topping bar filled with whipped cream, bananas, and strawberries. The sophomore class sold Ted Drewe's ice cream as well. However, the most popular dish was Chick-fil-a, a staple in most Westminster students diets.

Ty Jones, sophomore, Hannah Eisenbath, junior, and Sarah Nolting and Olivia Henderson, seniors, enjoy the photo booth. Students could choose a variety of funny props to take pictures with their friends.



Gracie Wessels, Zoe Lintner, Ellie Callier, and Becca Chimento, eighth graders, sold cotton candy to raise money for their class budget. The other grades came up with their own booth ideas to raise money for their class budgets.



Sofia Granata, senior, races against one of her friends on the Bungee Run, one of the most popular games at the carnival this year. This is not the first year this game has made an appearance at Carnival.



Olivia Blatz, sophomore, cheers on the football team in their homecoming game against MICDS. While the cats did not win their game, the Blue Crew stands were packed with students cheering them on.



Hannah Sturr, Kiley McKee, Claire Sanden, Hattie Means, and Amanda Espy, sophomores, walk through the different class and club booths. Student's favorites included the Blue Crew, Varsity Cheer, and shopping booths.



Avery Engelmeyer, Sydney Johnson, and Ally Drooger, juniors, celebrate the 11th grade's win in the annual powder puff game. "This game was so fun. My favorite part was playing on the field with my best friends," said Engelmeyer.

juniors win, again?!

It's not every year that the juniors take the win in the annual powderpuff game. This fall the girls battled head to head on the turf until the very end. The game resulted in the juniors pulling out the most points and dominating the senior class. With it being one of the closest games in Westminster powderpuff history, the scoreboard showed nothing but equal competition between both teams. With hard work, encouraging coaches, and cheerful bench warmers, both teams left the field feeling proud of themselves and their team.

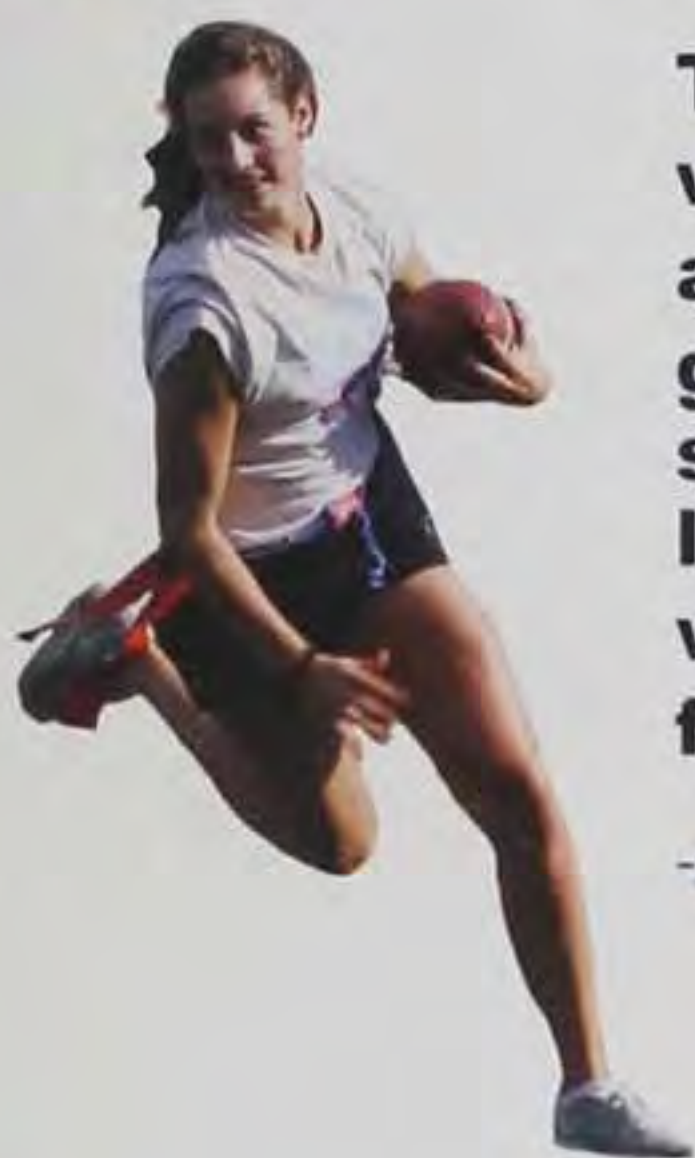
Throughout the game, the juniors took advantage of their speed and different strategies of plays they could do that were given to them by their coaches. "We got together and wrote out some plays that we thought would be good for the girls to do and ran them at the practices, so they could practice them and perfect them," said Levi Alldredge, junior. Alldredge was one of the junior coaches who helped the team along with a few of his other friends. The team managed to remember the

plays and perform them exactly how they practiced, which is how many people think they won the game. The juniors worked hard at practice, had their hearts in the game, and managed to show off their talent on the field the day of the game.

Once the juniors finished the game with a win, they celebrated their victory together. The team stayed humble and congratulated the senior class on being such good competition for them, being great sports about it. "The senior class was so much fun to play against, and I am glad that we are all so close in our relationships that we can have a friendly competition with them but still be competitive about it," said Ally Drooger, junior.

It was such an unforgettable moment that I'll always remember. It is one of my favorite memories spent with my classmates.

Ally Drooger junior



The game was so fun, and I'm glad I got to spend my last year with my best friends.

-Alivia Johnston, senior



This was a great event for both classes, and it was full of school spirit.

-MaryKate Kopsky, senior



The competition was good, and we were so close to winning.

-Jayla Malloyd, senior



Katie Myers, junior, celebrates with her team after winning the game. Most of the juniors were surprised that they ended up winning considering the competition they were up against, but they stayed humble about their victory the whole time they celebrated.



Encouraging their teammates, the seniors push until the end to fight to win the game. The seniors gave the juniors great competition the entire time and enjoyed their last game of powderpuff together.



Holding up the "ones" for the win, the juniors celebrate after the game. All of their hard work payed off, and they brought home a victory with a positive attitude and cheerful spirits.

charitable connections

Every year during the second week of November, the Student Leadership Team organizes ITSOG (In The Spirit of Giving), a week-long drive for food, clothes, baby items, school supplies, and toys. All of the items are given to five different charities. This year, however, there was an open spot, and a new charity needed to be found.

Haley Schmer, junior, worked for the St. Louis Children's Hospital Youth Council. "A bunch of kids from a bunch of schools meet every few months, and we organize clothing drives for the hospital," said Schmer. "They emailed us, asking if we could get some hats and gloves from our school."

Ms. Woodall caught right on with the idea. "I'd never heard of the charity before, but we thought it was a great fit," said Ms. Woodall, who works in the Student Life Office and was in charge of ITSOG this year. "We're always looking for new places, so we can build more and more relationships through the years."

The student body delivered 2,366 PJs, hats, and socks for the Children's Hospital. "They were super excited and extremely thankful," said Schmer.



Olive Robson and Olivia Demetry, sophomores, go through a bag of canned goods.



Austin Disper, sophomore, labels a box of baby items.



Gus Duda, seventh grade, places a pair of PJs on the table.

M - T - W - Th - F



Dennis McDaniel and Harry Ottsen, seventh grade, show off a bag of toys.



Ava Hollmann, freshman, organizes a box of school supplies.



Rebekah Sems, freshman, unloads a box of diapers. As part of the Student Leadership Team, Sems and the rest of the group took half a day off of school to deliver the items donated to charities across St. Louis.

5,005 **FOOD ITEMS**

12,725 **BABY ITEMS**

2,566 **PJS & SOCKS**

25,663
total items given

2,132 **TOYS**

4,125 **SCHOOL SUPPLIES**



Alyssa Cannon, junior, carries a box of school supplies to the bus.



Ellie Alm and Natalie Bunton, seniors, spot something off while delivering baby items.



Bogey takes a break after sorting through boxes and bags of donations students brought in.

Laughs, Deceit... earnest

Actors use their bodies, voices, facial expressions, tones, and so much more to convey to the audience their story. In Westminster's production of *The Importance of Being Earnest*, the actors accomplished this while bringing to life the satire of Oscar Wilde.

This masterpiece comedy is about two protagonists who put on a facade and claim to be a man named Ernest. The two major themes seen throughout the play are about social satire of Victorian ways and triviality when it comes to serious institutions, such as marriage.

The *Importance of Being Earnest* mixed old English language with humorous puns such as this one spoken by a mother to her daughter: "When you do become engaged, I, or your father, should his health

permit him, will inform you of the fact." This kept the play enjoyable, a bit historical, yet still easy to follow. No matter what role they received, the actors and actresses generally enjoyed this production.

"Not getting my first choice was totally fine as I really care more about the experience to participate in productions and focus in on my acting ability to improve it," said Cole Heintz, sophomore.

Jessica Wilson, junior, didn't even think she would be in play when she auditioned.

"I actually auditioned just for the experience. I just wanted to try auditioning for something, so I wouldn't get rusty from not auditioning

for anything until second semester. I didn't think I was getting a part at all."

Throughout preparations for this play, all the actors strived to improve in their acting abilities and work hard with each other to put on the production. They were earnest to learn, grow, and improve.



Jessica Wilson, junior, played the role of Gwendolen Fairfax in this play. She typically performs in musicals, however, she tried out for the play and was shocked to have been given a role in the cast.



Abby Cockerham, junior, and Tom Southwell, senior play the roles of Miss Prism and John Worthing. At the very end of the show, John discovers that Miss Prism is the person who left him in the train station when he was young.



Cole Hintz, sophomore, played the role of Lane in the play. One of his most memorable moments from the play was whenever they improvised during the show. He also really enjoyed the all-cast prayers before performing.

Natalie Brown, junior plays the role of Lady Bracknell and *Elena Brown*, also a junior, plays the role of Cecily Cardew. They exchanged a lot of comical dialogue throughout the play.



Jake McKie, senior played the role of Algernon Moncrieff who fell in love with Cecily Cardew. McKie says that throughout the course of this show, he has eaten over one hundred cucumber sandwiches. There was a scene where McKie's role requires him to eat, and he willingly did.



Tom Southwell, senior, plays the role of John Worthing, also known as Jack. However, he called himself Earnest until the very end when his true identity was discovered.



The best thing about working with the cast is the amount of love and consideration going around

-*Michael Shaw*, senior



Michael Shaw, senior, plays the role of Rev. Canon Chasuble. His favorite line was anything said by Lady Bracknell.

young talent



Kaitlyn Butler, seventh grade, and *Ian Gilbert*, eighth grade, act onstage together. Butler played the town crier and Gilbert played the guard.



Being an empress was fun because I got to be somebody different from myself.

-*Mary Lauer*, seventh grade

This year, the middle school play was all about laughs as they put on a production of Perkin and the Pastrycook. There were many returning eighth graders that had been part of shows last year.

"Drama and Improv are some of my favorite hobbies, and I pursue them whenever the opportunity presents itself," said Ian McKie, eighth grade, one of the veteran actors. But of course, with new students comes new faces. The new seventh grade class brought some fresh talent to the production.

"I wanted to do this play because I love acting. I have never been in a play, but I have had major roles in musicals," said Sarah Cahill, seventh grade. Many of the seventh graders had previous acting experience, so they had some bigger roles of the play. However, some of them were completely new to the world of acting.

Abbie Johler, seventh grade, decided to try out acting for the first time. "I wanted to try theater because my sister told me it was really fun," said Johler. Many people came out to see these talented actors, and all three of the shows were sold out. The older students who helped with this production saw much talent in this new group of young actors. Many of these students are planning to stay on the path of acting due to their positive experience with this production.

"I will do plays in the future. I may not get all the good parts, but I hope to. I want to become a performer in my future, and the only way I can do that is audition. I love the thrill of

Ian McKie, eighth grade, acts out a fighting scene. He was played the role of Perkin, a royal odd job man.



Abby Johler, seventh grade, chats with family and friends during intermission.



Mary Lauer, seventh grade, and *Grace Andrews*, eighth grade, sit onstage in a scene together. Mary played Empress Wilhelmina and Grace played one of her ladies-in-waiting.



Xavier May, seventh grade, has his makeup done by one of the student helpers.

Blue Crew leader, *Luke Heintz*, junior, guides the crowd with the chant, "I believe that we will win" in the football game against MICDS. Unfortunately, the team lost 14-33.



“ ”

Blue Crew is one of the things that brings the WCA community together as friends to support our fellow classmates.

-Weston Schad, senior.



Dani Renaud and Kathryn Kramer, juniors, cheer on the football team during Carnival. "I enjoy the entertaining environment and cheering on my friends, win or lose," said Renaud.



Will Wetzel, Erin Galakatos, Kyrstin Pritchett, and Teddy Bacon, seniors, support the Wildcats at Carnival. They have been strong supporters and members of Blue Crew since their freshmen year.

friday night ice

Pumped up fists, bellowing voices, smeared blue streaks on cheeks, and a sea of blue: welcome to Westminster's very own blue crew.

The proud, dedicated student section had been the constant in the school's sports, always decked out in unique themes and known for chanting along with the cheerleaders. Although the bleachers were always packed last fall to see football, more and more students were flocking to the chilly ice rink to witness varsity hockey's stellar team.

The pounding of sticks, the punches thrown, and the sharp blades tearing up the ice attracted the biggest crowds the school's hockey team had ever seen. Many students enjoyed these late night

games because they're quicker as well as easier to understand.

"Hockey games are better than football because it's not start and stop, and the short game keeps my attention. The energy level is much higher, and even though it's cold, it's still a lot of fun," said Hannah Sturr, sophomore.

The crowded seats not only gave Blue Crew more support but made the hockey team play with all they've got.

"I like a vocal crowd because when our fans chant in unison to us and the opposing crowd, it helps us play better," said Joe Schroeder, sophomore and member of the team. The temperatures may have been freezing, but the support from Blue Crew was valuable and game changing.



Lauren Bauer, junior, and *Lexie Kratky*, sophomore, watched a 2-1 victory against Marquette. This game's theme was a white out, which was a popular theme for the hockey games.



Anna Gierhart, junior, and *Hannah Sabadell*, senior, cheer on the Wildcats despite the 3-4 loss to Oakville. "I love how upbeat and crazy the crowd is; it's always so fun to be a part of!" said Gierhart.



Natalie Brown and *Sydney Rasch*, juniors, watch the hockey team play against Kirkwood. Rasch's favorite part of the games are when the "fights break out."



Chandler Estes and *Chloe Thomas*, sophomores, attend the football game against Borgia. "I love going with my close friends and all the students to stand together as a community to cheer on the team," said Thomas.

Kyrah Booker, junior, introduces Natalie Brown onto the stage. Booker acted as Viola Davis, an Academy Award-winning actress, and Brown acted as Joan Baez, a folk singer.



trivision new shoes

Learning to “put yourself in another’s shoes” is a lesson that many learn when they are younger. The Night of the Arts helped students to put themselves in the shoes of others by diving into the lives of people during the Civil Rights movement. Michael Lee, freshman, played a role in the living museum. “Being someone else for a night and really trying to understand even a small part of who they are or what they stand for is really important,” said Lee.

Natalie Brown, junior, said her favorite part of the evening was listening to the different songs and poems each character performed to enhance the portrayal of their character. Brown sang “Birmingham Sunday,” a song about African-American children killed by a group of white adults. “This night really gave me a chance to break out of my comfort zone, and it gave me a new appreciation for Black History Month,” said Brown.

Overall, Brown said that the night was a huge success with more people in attendance than she had predicted. The night challenged the performers as well as the audience to “put themselves in another’s shoes,” which left everyone with a better understanding of racial equality.



Top: Among the displays in the art exhibit was a representation of Simone Biles by *Bethany Stone*, senior. “She inspires me because she didn’t let anything stop her,” said Stone.

Bottom: *Chris Lee*, senior, tries a sample of soul food. Fried chicken, green beans, and macaroni and cheese were served that night.



Top: Three signs lead the way to the art exhibit, where art students made pieces based off of African-American artists and culture.
Bottom: *Ahmad Alexander*, seventh grade, plays the drums during a performance in the Grand Entry.



The Varsity Dance Team performs on stage. VDT had multiple performances that night, and divided into several groups for each dance. They had a wide variety of dances, from interpretive dancing to hip-hop.



Kayla Hawkins, junior, recites a poem she wrote. A member of the SEED club and enrolled in a class on race and culture, Hawkins wrote the poem about her life and dealt with a variation of issues involving race and culture.



Christian McGhee, senior, plays the keyboard for a performance with the jazz band. “I composed the first two bits for the jazz band,” said McGhee. He also played the vibraphone and conducted the band. “It was a fun experience to hear the drums from a different perspective,” said McGhee, who normally plays the drums.



Chloe Kellom, sophomore, and *Amani Holmes*, junior, perform an act from the winter play, *Waiting to be Invited*. The play tells the story of four workers who travel to a “whites only” department store to have lunch.



Kayla Colley, Kyle Dolan, Jerram Adams, and Harrison Lawrence, sophomores, cheer on their classmates during the floor is lava. They hoped to beat the juniors and seniors. Unfortunately, the sophomores placed sixth in this game.

surprise surprise

The games the first few days of spirit week are usually an exciting time full of fierce rivalries. With the competition heating up, the faculty decided to surprise the students with a lip sync performance. "I, along with many of the other teachers, loved seeing the kids' surprised looks when we went out to the floor for the routine!" said Christina DeVerger. After many weeks of practicing and keeping it a secret, the faculty performed a mash-up of songs. The routine was simple yet very fun to watch.

"Mrs. DeVerger was nice and kept the dance pretty simple for us," said Allison Pautler. DeVerger's choreography really paid off, and most of the students really enjoyed it.

"I loved it, shout-out to Mrs. DeVerger. She was awesome!" said Christine Steck, junior. Not only did the teachers enjoy it but so did the students. The faculty definitely surprised the students, and no one suspected it.

"I was surprised because I would have never pictured some of my teachers to be out there performing," said Kayla Hayes, junior. By the end of the performance, the whole school was on their feet clapping. It was an amazing surprise, and the teachers really out did themselves. "I think this should become an annual thing for spirit week," said Hayes.



The teachers pose at the end of their performance. Many of the teachers' favorite part about being in the performance was being a part of a fun activity with their friends. "Dancing to Beyonce and Justin Timberlake with my friends was pretty awesome," said Molly Arvesen.



Erica Ridenhour, senior, gets ready to guide her classmate in the caterpillar race. After six years of this game, the seniors were able to quickly finish. The seniors took first place.

Sammie Davidson, senior, surfs on the mattress. The seniors quickly moved Davidson across their bodies in hopes to win. The seniors got first place in the mattress surf.

Clayton Grass, senior, searches for his shoe during the shoe relay game. Grass and his classmates hoped to finish in first place. The seniors ended up taking sixth place.



Sarah Broyles and *Logan Sells*, seniors, race against *Elizabeth Meeks*, junior. The seniors took second place while the juniors took first place. "It's a lot of fun to see all the classes competing together and working hard together," said Meeks.

Levi Alldredge, *Charlie McCracken*, *L.B. Battle*, and *Levi Wright*, juniors, fight against the sophomores in Tug-O-War. The juniors went in very confident about beating the sophomores. The juniors won and advanced to competing against the seniors for first and second place.



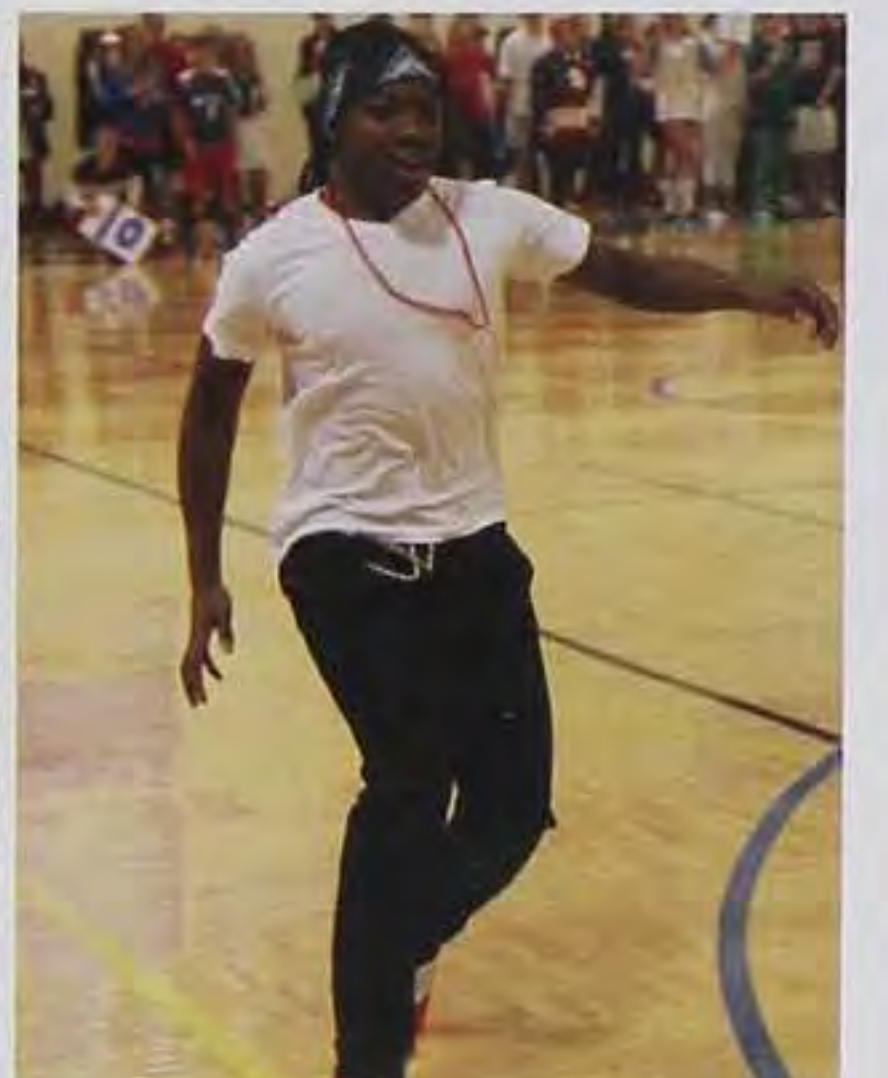
Drew Dempsey, junior, passes the chicken to his teammate. The juniors beat the eighth graders in the first round. They advanced to the finals against the sophomores.

Chase Lottmann, junior, pulls *Victoria Meuret*, junior, in the chariot relay. The juniors started off strong and but fell to second place. "Its a lot harder than it looks. I feel like I was doing more work than Chase," said Meuret.



Caleb Layton, *Sean Webb*, *Alec Hollmann*, *Jack Rahal*, and *Markus Cicka*, juniors, move across the gym floor quickly to get to the other side to hand off the carpet squares to the junior girls. "I like being in the games because of the excitement and chance to compete against my friends in other grades," said Layton.

Hannah Redmond, junior, runs across the gym during the shoe relay game. Redmond had to find her shoes in one of the six buckets and sprint back to her team. "My favorite part of spirit week is participating in the games because I love the rivalry between the grades," said Redmond.



Katie Hobaugh and *Natalie Ford*, freshmen, compete in the very first game of spirit week. Hobaugh pulled Ford across the gym during the chariot relay. The freshmen took fifth place.

Veronica Ortiz, *Ellie Callier*, *Izzy Cancila*, and *Margo O'Meara*, eighth grade, help their team win Tug-O-War. The eighth grade fought against the 7th grade. "It was so fun to participate in the games with my friends", said Ortiz.

Larry Minner, seventh grade, runs to the opposite end of the gym in the shoe relay game. Minner was one of 7 runners in the game. The seventh grade took first place.



Rachel Byars, Elizabeth Meeks, Brooke Patterson, Kathryn Kramer, and Carter McCall, juniors, cheer on their grade on Day 3 of Spirit Week. Junior students gave their best efforts at being the most spirited grade by starting chants, cheering the loudest, and getting as close to the activities as possible by inching their way onto the basketball court. Despite their spirit and energy, the juniors came in third place, leaving many disappointed.



Keaton Greiwe, sophomore, dresses in red, white, and blue to support Team USA for Olympic day. Greiwe cheers on the sophomore class as they win the final round of "Ultimate Chicken." The sophomore class was devastated when they didn't take first place overall in Spirit Week.



Lucy Wood and Abby Stewart, freshmen, show their school spirit by dressing in all red to represent their grade. Despite their best efforts, the freshmen came in fifth place in Spirit Week overall.



Sarah Shoemaker and Anna Johnson, juniors, show off their costumes on holiday day. Johnson dressed up for the Day of the Dead and carefully covered her face in makeup to complete her ensemble. "It took me almost 2 hours," said Johnson.

cats costume

The competition was intense this year between the grades for who had the best costumes. Students were forced to use their creativity to come up with the most unusual and elaborate outfits.

Caroline McGown, a student known for her crafty ensembles, said that she put a lot of work into her outfits, specifically her Rowing Team costume on Olympic day. "We wanted to go above and beyond," said McGown, "so we built ourselves the canoe from poster-board." The team spent the day "rowing" around the school with fake ores, refusing to break character.

For many competitive students, however, showing off their creative outfits is only half of it. The best dressed award was one of the most competitive aspects of Spirit Week this year. McGown among others was disappointed when her group failed to receive the Spirit Stick. "We were pretty mad when we didn't win. We thought we were going to for sure," said McGown. Joe Southwell, sophomore, put a full day's work into constructing a cardboard army tank for holiday day. "I put so much work into my costume, and a lot of people told me they thought I was going to win, so I was pretty disappointed when I didn't," said Southwell.

All students worked hard to push boundaries for the dress up days, which led to an exciting and unpredictable Spirit Week.



Elle Pierson, Alyssa Legters, and Ruth Connelly, freshmen, go all out for holiday day. The girls dressed up for their holiday by wearing ugly Christmas sweaters and elf hats.



Stephen Gross, junior, wins the spirit stick on day one. McGinty went all out with a pink onesie, shoes, and a mohawk to create his winning ensemble.



Kirsten Davis, senior, took home the spirit stick by dressing as an Olympic torch for Olympics Day. Davis handcrafted a hat of flames and painted her face orange and red as well.



David McMullan, sophomore, won best dressed on holiday day with a full Uncle Sam outfit for the Fourth of July. While the seniors came out on top in the end, the sophomores were a close second place overall.



The seventh grade boys basketball team rallied together to dress up as the Harlem Globe Trotters for group day. Winning best dressed was a big accomplishment for the seventh grade, as the seventh grade usually doesn't win many events.

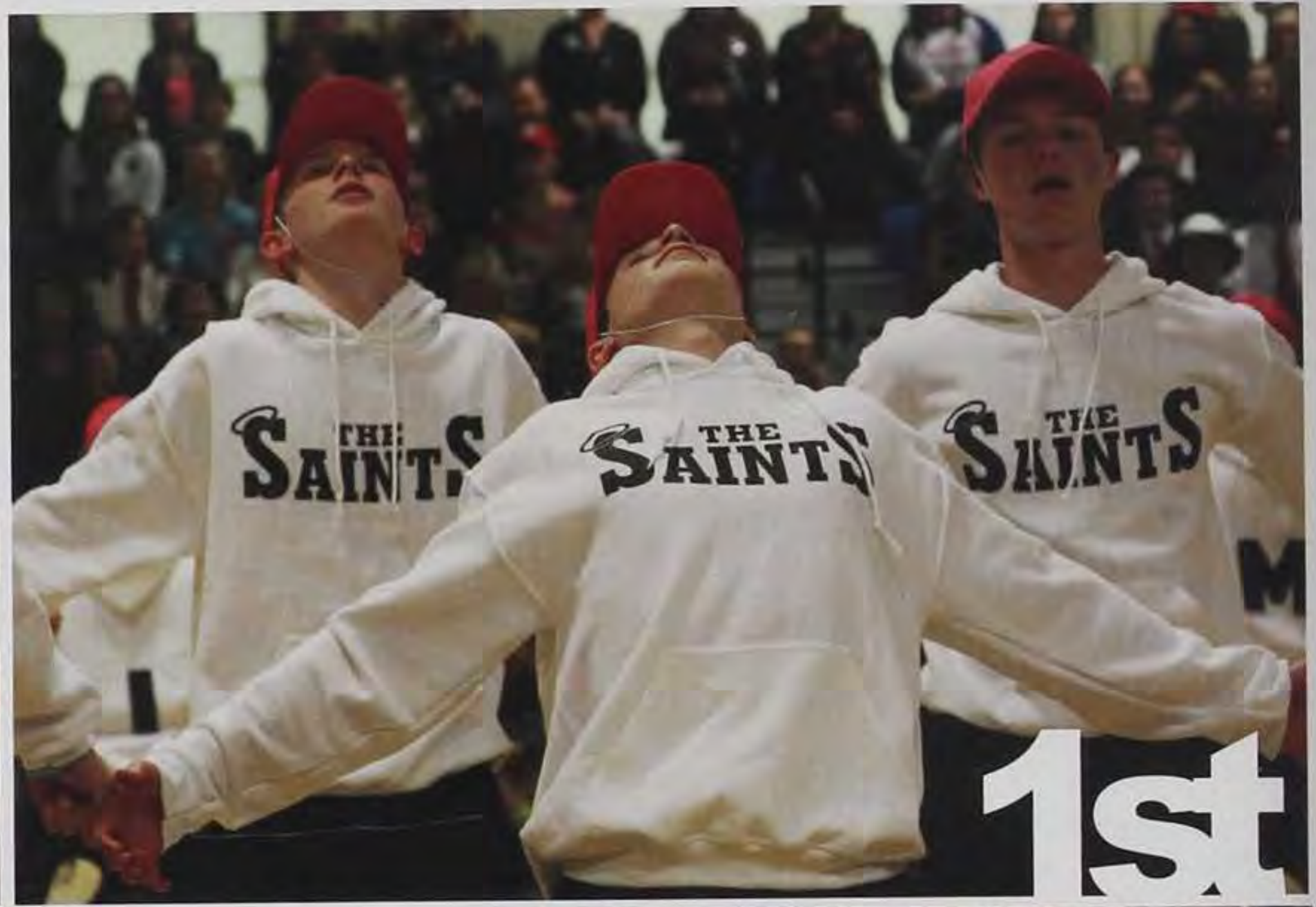


Tom Southwell, senior, won best dressed on the final day of Spirit Week. Southwell rode through the halls on his wooden horse throughout the entire school day.

Kurt Weinberg, Chris Kirby, and Frankie Sacco, juniors, compete in boys poms. Their routine won first place. On the back of their sweatshirts, it spelled out "marching to the top."

Mark Geisz, sophomore, provides the anchor for the rest of the sophomore boys in their lip-sync routine with his acrobatics. Geisz could also be seen in multiple drama productions during the year.

Caleb Layton, junior, dances competitively during his performance. Just like most years, the boys poms routines were extremely competitive. "My favorite part was performing during the basketball game because the leaders told us we could add in our own moves," said Layton.



Thomas Arndt, sophomore, does high knees as a part of the routine. The sophomores caused an upset by placing second overall in spirit week. "The most challenging part was learning all the dance moves, but it was a lot of fun to be with all my friends," said Arndt.



Patrick Claus and *Evan Seabaugh*, sophomores, were partners during their routine. Many of the boys did handstands during their performance. "I'm not much of a dancer, but I enjoyed hanging out with people I don't see everyday," said Seabaugh.



Henry Hartshorn and *Eli Diedrich*, freshmen, jump up during their routine. For both of them, it was their first year doing boys poms. "My favorite part was getting candy at practice, and I will definitely be doing it next year," said Hartshorn.

Brennan Orf, freshman, participates in synchronized punching. This was Orf's first year doing boys poms. The freshmen came in fourth place with an Army themed performance.



Sam Parker Stillman, eighth grade, waits to begin his routine. The eighth graders competed well but ended up coming in 6th place. "I enjoyed watching all of the performances and seeing what we were up against," said Stillman.



Bryce Oliver, eighth grade, goes up into a handstand during his boys poms routine. Each boy was assisted by their partner to maintain synchronization. "My favorite part was having to work together with other people to get all of the moves right," said Oliver.

”

My favorite thing boys poms was being with my friends, goofing off, and having fun.

-Kirk Ellis, seventh grade



Will Wetzel, Cooper Moore, and Teddy Bacon, seniors, waited to perform their airplane-themed boys poms routine. The tension in the Arena rose as the audience anticipated their performance. The seniors placed third in boys poms.

3rd behind the scenes

Leading boys poms can be a test of patience and an extremely frustrating task to take on. It requires time, effort, and much perseverance to teach a group of teen boys a three to four minute poms routine.

"The hardest part of leading was working together to find the best solutions to small choreographic problems while getting the guys to be motivated and quiet down," said Lexi Jo Alm, freshman. Motivation can sometimes be hard to come by during practice after a long day of school, so the girls had to be creative and find ways to keep them focused. This can be difficult as Alm said.

Some grades came up with strategies. "We gave them goals by telling them that if they did the next dance well, then they could go get food or water," said Hannah Sturr, sophomore.

Additionally, the juniors used a strategy to get the job done. "This year we picked boys poms captains who pushed each other to be motivated," said Anna Bohlmann, junior.

The seniors had to be motivated to practice as well. "We tried to motivate them by getting out of practice early sometimes, but most of

it was competitive motivation. When they remembered we were in it to win, they kicked it into high gear," said Moira Wright, senior.

Candy is always a good idea for motivation. "We brought in candy to give them once they got a move down," said Sophia Mullen, freshman.

But in the end, despite how hard it was to motivate the guys, the leaders had a lot of fun with it. "My favorite part was seeing how much the guys improved from the first practice to the performance and creating deeper relationships with them," said Lauren Bohlmann, freshman.

For the seniors, it was bittersweet since it was their last time participating in Spirit Week. "My favorite part was seeing the whole thing come together. We had worked so hard, and the extra hours definitely showed. Although we were unhappy with our placement and were hoping to be rewarded for all our hard work, I'm still so proud of how the routine looked and how hard all the boys worked for it. Honestly I think it pulled our grade together," said Wright. Class unity is one thing that spirit week is meant to create. Without the hours put in and the leaders behind it all, Spirit Week would not be the same.



The seventh grade boys poms performed competitively. They came out in fifth place which is rare for seventh graders and performed to a Star Wars song.

5th



Josh Berglar, senior, acts as an airport ground control during their aviation themed boys poms. The seniors made a plane and passed out airplane snacks to the judges during their performance. "My favorite part was the adrenaline rush from running it and performing on Thursday. I felt so good at the end especially since it was senior year," said Berglar.

1st Place: The Sophomores

Allison Broadhurst and Tierra Allen, sophomores, get their heads in the game. Broadhurst was one of the sophomore choreographers. "It was definitely a proud moment that I will keep with me for a long time," said Broadhurst.



Lydia Abebe, freshman, remembers the choreography during lip sync. The freshmen didn't have much time to learn the dance after changing their song a few times.

Bridgette Grimm and Rachel Byars, juniors, show off their sassy sides during lip sync. "Even though lip sync takes up a ton of time, I look forward to the practices with my friends" said Grimm.

Lauren Lucas, Caroline Davis, and Kaler Terry, sophomores, form a pyramid. Stunts like this were crucial for the sophomores winning first place.

Christina Mason, senior, does a hand dance called tutting during lip sync. The senior routine included many cool hip-hop elements like this one.



heads in the game

On Friday, February 3rd, the final day of Spirit Week, the entire school gathered in the arena to watch the most highly anticipated "big event" of them all. The abundance of practice was very time consuming for many students. "It's been hard for me to keep up with my Netflix shows," said Brooke Lang, junior. Others found that the practices were not only too frequent, but very exhausting. "Lip Sync is literally the most workout I've done since the time I heard 20 piece nuggets were half off at McDonalds," said Natalie Brown, junior. Although the practices were a little bit of a struggle, by the time spirit week rolled around, it was all worth it.

At the end of the day after each grade was finished performing, it was time for the results to be announced. Third through sixth place were predictable, but the student body was not prepared to hear who would take home the first place. The sophomores and seniors had each formed a crowd on the floor, waiting to hear the results. Everyone predicted that the seniors would win, so as a joke, the other grades began

to chant, "Sophomores! Sophomores!" as the results were announced: "And in first place, the ssss- Sophomores!"

The sophomores went crazy, jumping and yelling, completely shocked by their victory. "When the word sophomores was announced into the microphone, I absolutely lost it along with the rest of my grade. I was so insanely happy that all of our hard work had paid off, and I couldn't stop smiling and hugging my friends," said Allison Broadhurst, sophomore. The rest of the student body stood still in disbelief. Could the sophomores actually win? Was that even allowed?

The seniors were very upset, but in the end, they were content knowing they had tried their best. "It ultimately brings our class closer as we teach them difficult choreography. It's a lot of fun and highly recommend that every girl should participate" said Alena Vermillion, senior.

I loved lip sync because I got to spend time with people I wasn't necessarily close with



-Jillian Klein, senior



2nd



3rd



4th



5th



6th

Abby Charles, senior, dances during the senior performance. Charles was a choreographer for the senior lip sync this year. The seniors did a hip-hop rendition of Pinocchio, complete with puppet strings tied to their hands and feet.

Savanna Steffens and *Sydney Johnson*, juniors, show their dramatic sides during the third portion of their lip sync. Johnson was one of the main choreographers of the rain themed dance, complete with umbrellas and raincoats.

Sophia Clifton and *Abby Sickels*, eighth grade, break it down to "The Safety Dance." The eighth grade dance was choreographed by a student, even though middle school is allowed to get help from parents.

Madison Moeller, seventh grade, twirls her ribbon during Lip Sync. The seventh graders surprised the crowd when they pulled out blue ribbons at the end of their dance to "Roar."

Allison Hardin, freshman, dances to "The Bare Necessities" with her class. Although the freshmen finished in 6th place, they still put on quite the show.

24 points?

The Friday night of Spirit Week was one arguably of the biggest nights of the year. With the men's varsity basketball playing John Burroughs, the cheer and dance teams showing off their routines to a full crowd, and the first and second place winners for each Spirit Week event performing for the crowd, all the hard work put into spirit week led up to Friday night.

Every grade worked hard to win. While the games were mostly won by the seniors and juniors, the sophomores were staying close behind on the scoreboard. The Friday assembly shocked the school as the sophomores beat out the seniors in lip sync, art board, and boys poms. However, the video project and games helped the seniors take first place overall.

"We were obviously disappointed we didn't get first, but we did everything we possibly could to take home the win, and in the end, we overcame the setback in points and won," said Hannah Beckman, senior.

The class of 2017 saw the juniors as a threat to their title, but it was the sophomores who were the real competition. The sophomores took second place overall, shocking the juniors. This spirit week proved it is important to work hard all week instead of just working for the performances.

"I'm glad we won because it brought us closer as a community. After all the hard work put into preparing for spirit games and decorations, it was worth it to win in the end," said Abbi Barron, senior.

Spirit Week was a time for us all to come together as one and not worry about being with our certain groups. Spirit Week was an emotional rollercoaster.

-Jayla Maloyd, senior



Boys varsity basketball team congratulating Cliff DeGroot, senior, during the game. DeGroot scored his thousandth point during the Friday night game. The varsity team won against John Burroughs.



Jordan Shaw, Lauren Lucas, Caroline Davis, and Olivia Strange, sophomores, pose after the announcement of their place for spirit week. The sophomores beat out the juniors and took second place overall. The sophomores were only 24 points behind the seniors.



Maggie Wessels, sophomore, and Anna Bohlmann, junior, show off their moves during the Friday night basketball half time. The varsity dance team performed a basketball inspired hip hop routine.



Alayna Marusiodis, Olivia Holt, and Erica Ridenhour, seniors, pose after the seniors win first place in spirit week. "I loved bonding with everyone and having each other's backs. It felt like family," said Marusiodis.

MaryKate Kopsky and *Alex Lawrence*, seniors, lead the senior class to victory during spirit week. They were the spirit leaders of the senior class and for the whole school. "For me, winning spirit week was definitely one of the greatest moments of high school. We had a great team of leaders who all worked incredibly hard to contribute to our win," said Lawrence.



Seniors, first place

Sophomores, second place

Juniors, third place



Seventh Grade, fourth place

Freshmen, fifth place

Eighth Grade, sixth place





Kelsey Ginger, senior, stands amongst the other main characters, *Chloe Kellom*, sophomore, and *Amani Holmes*, junior, at the end of the play. The play was performed January 19-21 in the Black Box Theater.



Sam Webb, junior, *Kelsey Ginger*, senior, and *Olivia Strange*, sophomore, wait backstage. "My favorite part is when we see the women at the end fighting. I like it because you get to see how even when people have a goal, nervousness can make them get upset," said Webb.



Amani Holmes, junior, and *Olivia Strange*, sophomore, play prominent roles in this play. "This affected how I view people because now I learned that I need to broaden my friendships to learn different backgrounds of people because everybody's background is different. It helped me to not judge others," said Holmes.



Michael Lee, freshman, plays the part of Palmeroy Bateman, the bus driver. This play was the fifth play Lee has performed in at Westminster.

the power of words

Words have the power to change lives. These students dove into a deep and emotional play about a history that directly affected their lives. "This play showed me that it's okay to be scared to do something that may be against what you believe in but as long as you have friends who are with you it will be okay," said Kelsey Ginger, senior.

Not only can words change beliefs, but they can evoke feelings of appreciation. "It makes me appreciate my rights as an African American and how my ancestors worked hard to get where I am today," said Micah Gooch, junior.

The words of this play have a power to change the outlook on life. For Chloe Kellom, sophomore, this was the case. "This play has really changed the way I look at my life. There were so many things that they couldn't do in that time period and were scared to do, but now I don't have those problems. I have learned to be more thankful because I am blessed to be living in this day and age. It has shown me that even with the racial problems in our country today I have to stand up for what is right and allow my voice to be heard in a peaceful but effective manner," said Kellom.

Chloe Kellom, sophomore, and *Amani Holmes*, junior, act out a scene at the end of the play. "My favorite part was when Ms. Grayson got on the bus. She tried to talk to all of us, but she caused a lot of tension such as the 'baptist that's just one step below' line," said Kellom.





Joshua Anderson, Daniel Shultz, and Katie Huang, seventh grade, goof around together at their art table during Mrs. Vogel's art class. "I like how you can express yourself through creativity, and I like how Mrs. Vogel lets you really enjoy having art. She really likes to let students relax and let them have fun," said Anderson.

Luke Bequette and Jack Wooldridge, seventh grade, bounce sculpting ideas off of each other. "I have never really done art before, but I am really enjoying it so far," said Bequette.



Kaitlyn Butler, and Dennis McDaniel, seventh grade, practices for the middle school production of Perkin and the Pastry cook directed by Mrs. Scott. "I loved the whole experience. I liked being able to do the play and being able to make a lot of friends during the play because I did not know that many people beforehand," said Butler.

Nolan Jones and Jacob Park, seventh grade, play with play-doh as preparation for creating with normal clay. "I enjoy Mrs. Vogel. I've had her as a teacher for seven years, and I love having her again because she is always happy, and she always makes art way more fun," said Jones.

a teacher's trademark

I recreated the Mona Lisa



-Owen Burkemper, seventh grade

There are teachers who make it hard to have fun in class, and there are teachers that make classes fun and relaxing. Mrs. Vogel is one of those teachers.

"I love Mrs. Vogel because she is so much fun. She knows just what to say to help students relax, and she knows how to inspire her students to make art to the best of their abilities," said Max Kraemer, eighth grade. Many see Mrs. Vogel as a universally loved teacher in the Westminster community, providing support and care to all her students.

"Whenever I am upset, I almost always go to Mrs. Vogel to talk about what is upsetting me and how I can get over it in the best way," said Abby Sickels, eighth grade. Mrs. Vogel's trademark is that she is able to remember almost every student's name that walks past her door.

"It makes me feel so appreciated and loved whenever I walk past Mrs. Vogel's door, and she says hi to me while using my name," said Kate Orrick, eighth grade. When it comes to teachers, students remember the ones that leave a mark on them for the rest of their lives.

A young man with short hair, wearing a white ruffled shirt and a gold chain, is shown in profile, looking towards the left. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights on his shirt and face against a dark background.

Diamond Clay, seventh grade, stands on the stage for the fall middle school play. "The play was very fun, and it gave me a lot of experience. I don't do plays a lot, so it was really fun to have the experience having to do a play with other people," said Clay.

snow ball



Abby Stewart and Mackenzie Axford, freshmen, sit with their friends before the Christmas Banquet dinner begins. This was their very first Christmas Banquet. This year, freshmen were encouraged to attend CB with their friends rather than worrying about finding a date.

For many freshman, Christmas Banquet can be an overwhelming and intimidating experience. There are a lot of things to consider: what dress to buy, who you will sit with, and who your date will be. To help them prepare for their first Christmas Banquet, they often ask their older siblings who have experienced it all before to provide them with tips to have a fun night.

"I felt very lucky to get to share my first Christmas Banquet with my older sister, Kyrstin. I knew that she had gone through three other CBs, so I expected her to give me all the details. I wanted to know what to wear, where to sit, what food they served, if there would be chaperones, and more," said Alyssa Pritchett, freshman.

Along with informing her sister about all the details of the event, Kyrstin also made sure to tell her sister and brother about the most important part of the event. "I told them to have fun and enjoy themselves. This is a fun time to be with your whole high school in a different setting! Take lots of pictures because when you're a senior," you and all your friends will go through every picture you took at every CB you went to," said Kyrstin Pritchett, senior.

Many students looking back on CB agreed that although the little details are important, the most important thing is to enjoy yourselves and take lots of photos so you can look back and remember the fun times you shared with your closest friends.



Julia Rockwood, Devon Deverger, Morgan Sickels, Hannah Brown, Catie George, Bridget James, and Jack Clement, sophomores, get a picture before the Christmas Banquet dinner. The theme of Christmas Banquet this year was Snow Ball, and the color scheme was blue and silver.



Jayla Malloyd, senior, performs the song "White Christmas" as a part of the Christmas Banquet program. This was Malloyd's second year performing during Christmas banquet but her first year singing a solo.



Jessica Wilson, Caroline Hinrichs, and Natalie Brown, juniors, and Chloe Kellom, sophomore, sing an acapella performance during the Christmas Banquet dinner. They are a student-led acapella group that perform at many school functions.



Olivia Strange, sophomore, gets a picture with her date, Nathan Walsh, junior. This year's banquet had a buffet style dinner and a cookie dough cupcake for the dessert.



Isabella Francois, Katherine Bauer, and Alyssa Legters, freshmen, get a picture before they head into the arena for the Christmas Banquet program to begin. Christmas Banquet was held on December 9th.

at your service



Alexis Tuggle, senior, serves at the Agape Academy and Childhood Development Center. "What I like about senior service is you get to make connections, build relationships, and become the kids' role model. It's kind of like the kids become one of your siblings, and everytime you see them, they automatically make your day. It's a really humbling experience," said Tuggle.

Julia Snodgrass and *Sara Boylan*, seniors, help out at Mercy Hospital. "Each week is different for us. Sometimes we get to make birth certificates, and some days we watch children whose parents cannot take care of them because they are in the hospital. We've also spent a lot of time in the trauma office meeting real doctors and surgeons. We get to see the behind the scene paperwork and work that goes into each patient. It's been really cool this year to meet the staff and some of the patients here. The most memorable time I had was one week I was delivering gifts to rooms to kids in intensive care and one woman, the mom, started crying and thanking me. She told me her son had been there five weeks, and I got to hear her story," said Boylan.

Carmen Verbeke, senior, works with kids at North Glendale elementary. "At senior service we read to the kids, and they read back to us. We also help them with writing and spelling out words. Spending time with the kindergarteners has taught me patience and to have fun! I look forward to every Thursday morning with the kids," said Verbeke.





Emma Hackman, senior, spends her Thursday morning at Howard Park Center. Howard is a school for kids with autism. "I love spending one on one time with a particular child and seeing how they have grown throughout the year," said Hackman.



Paige Klein, senior, helps out at Daysprings Art and Education. This is a local school that specializes in Fine Art education. Daysprings also focuses on developing students with performing arts talent.



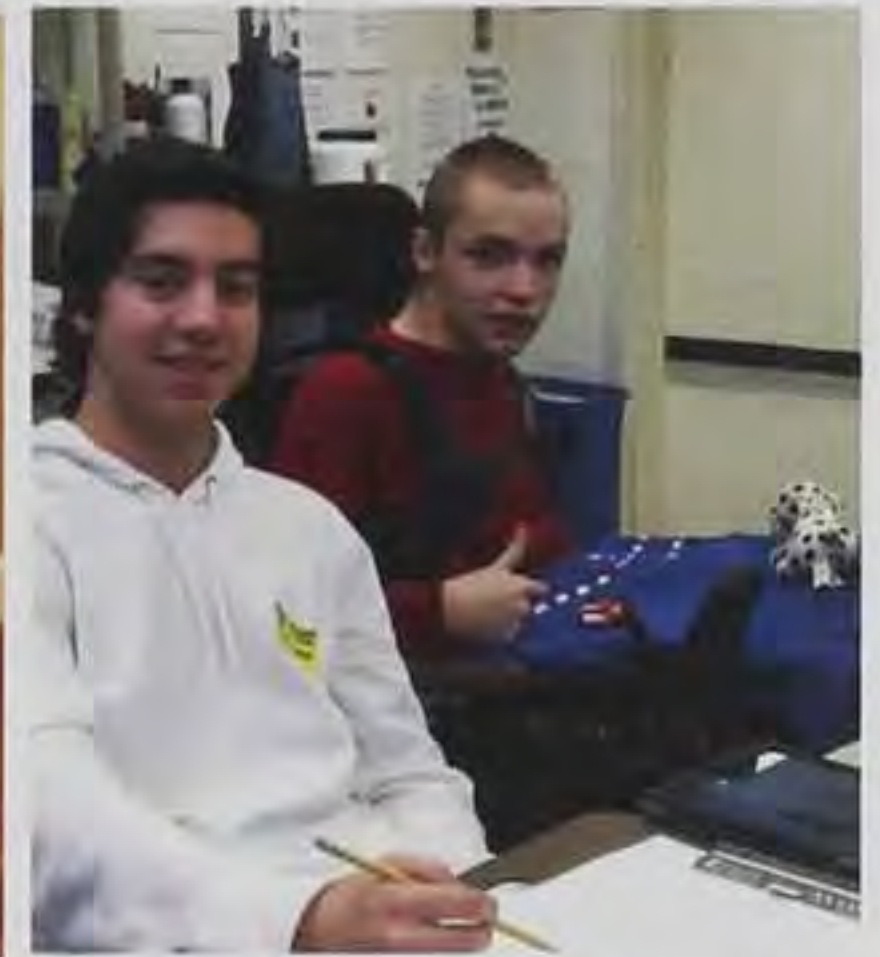
Gabby James, senior, does her service at Moog Center for Deaf Education. Moog Center makes it possible for children with hearing loss to talk and experience success in their lives both in school and in the world. "I love my senior service because I love working with little kids. They're so genuine and adorable, and they say exactly what they think which is normally super funny and cute," said James.



Sara Swan, senior, does her senior service at the American Diabetics Association. This association provides programs for people living with diabetes as well as their friends and family.



Joshua Vander Velde, senior, serves on Thursday mornings at Parc Providence. Parc Providence is an assisted living home that specializes in memory care.



Logan Bauer, senior, does his senior service with kids with disabilities. Late last year the seniors all lined up outside the student life office to pick their senior service location, and some arrived as early as 5 am to get the more popular places.

“ ”

Senior Service has been a very humbling experience for me.

- *Sara Boylan*, senior

Many students at Westminster starting in even seventh grade look forward to the opportunity to do their senior service. When the then juniors were signing up for their senior service last year, some got to Westminster as early as five in the morning. Students lined up and waited to sign up for their senior service locations. Because they were allowed to choose an organization that interested them, many students enjoyed their senior service.

"Working with the students at Promise Academy every Thursday is one of the highlights of my week. I have loved building relationships with them, watching them grow and learn, and being silly with them. They always brighten my day, and the kids will always have a special place in my heart," said Christina Mason, senior. Seniors having the opportunity to take time out of their busy week on Thursday mornings gives them the opportunity to look at service a little differently. Although Westminster requires seniors to participate in senior service, most seniors really do enjoy it, and it creates a life long memory of service.

Senior service can also give some students the opportunity to focus on what they want to pursue after college. "I'm thinking about majoring in elementary education, so it is a good experience to see if I can picture myself being a teacher not," said Brooke Lemp, senior. Service is said to be the action of helping or doing work for someone. Service is all about helping others, and that is exactly with the seniors do every week.



A group of senior girls sports their pajamas at the senior pancake night. "I like that there was no one there but our class, and I felt that we grew closer just because there aren't many times that someone rents out the Shack and gets the whole place to themselves," said Becca Lai, senior.



Brie Adams, Jovana Hampton, Kalei Layton, Kristen Keys, Chloe Kellom, and Rachel Rothrock, sophomores, participate in the activities at Eckert's. There were many options of things for the students to do such as camel rides, a haunted house, and a hayride.



Tomas Mitchem, senior, sits in a booth at the Shack. "It was a lot of fun and a great way to bring the grade together. There's nothing better than unlimited waffles. I definitely would do it again," said Mitchem.



Rachel Rothrock and **Tierra Allen**, sophomores, enjoy the sophomore trip to Eckert's. "This was definitely a very fun event, and I think they should do it every year for all the grades," said Allen.



Nick Suter, Harry Medler, David Kerckhoff, Zach Nall, and Nick Callier, seniors, hang out at the senior pancakes and pajamas night. While the night was advertised as a time to eat pancakes and other breakfast foods in pajamas while enjoying time with friends, in actuality, there were no pancakes which upset some of the seniors.

a failed attempt at fun

Every year the class moms plan events for their respective grades. Oftentimes, these activities were things middle aged women believe will appeal to teenagers, but they ended up being cancelled or barely anyone shows up.

"It would be more fun if peers who actually could relate to the students could plan what they are doing because they would know it is actually something they like," said Emma Winter, senior.

"As a third quarter senior, this was the first event that I have gone to," said Hailey Rupprecht, senior, regarding the pancakes and pajamas night. "None of the other events have been things that I would want to go to."

In addition to being unappealing activities, a lot of the time they were not well advertised. "No one knows about them," said Michael Pritchett, sophomore.

Furthermore, many students were afraid to reach outside of their comfort zone and get to know new people. If their friends were not going, they did not want to attend. "Clicks won't go, so you instantly lose 5 to 15 people," said Josh Theus, senior.

While a lot of these events were canceled due to lack of interest, a few were planned that the students really enjoyed. "I love how the class gets to hang together outside of school," said Josh Berglar, senior.

The main focus of these events was to spend time with classmates, not to entertain high schoolers on a Friday night. "I really don't care if it's lame or not; if people I like to talk to will be, there I'll go. I think it should be focused more about socializing opposed to something to do," said Rachel Farrell, senior.

Additionally, it can be a way to meet new people and socialize with those one might not otherwise interact with. "It allows me to see other people in my grade that I don't normally meet at school," said Zach Nall, senior.

So, while students seem to see the activities the moms plan as boring, they can end up being a fun way to hang out with the whole grade, especially people outside one's usual friend group.



Luke Peters, Jacob Reeve, Blake Potter, Griffin Andersen, Blake Barthelmass, Clayton Grass, and Jonny Parker, seniors, eat breakfast for dinner at the Shack. "I just went because a lot of my friends were going, and we wanted to go after the hockey game. I was a little disappointed there were no pancakes; I think everyone was," said

Will Vestal and Caroline Megown, sophomores, enjoy the sophomore trip to Eckert's. "We sat on the bus for a really long time, and then we went on a hayride," said Vestal.



Matthew Thoenen, Amanda Espy, and Claire Sanden, sophomores, sit on the hayride during their night at Eckert's. "We got there, and they let us do whatever we wanted. My favorite part was when we snuck into this cornfield we weren't supposed to be in, so that was kind of fun," said Thoenen.

A group of seventh graders enjoys their ice skating outing at Steinberg's ice rink in Forest Park. "The ice skating was one of the many activities that they planned to help us meet people and make the transition into Westminster easier," said Isaac Niekamp, seventh grade.



Photo courtesy of Kristi Terschak

7th Steinberg's	8th Sports Fusion	9th Tailgate and Picnic	10th Eckert's	11th None	12th Pancakes and Pajamas
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All senior pancakes and pajama pictures courtesy of Kelly Beat

fierce dedication

At 3:00 when other students were pouring out to their cars, ready to go home for the day, the robotics team was gearing up for a long night. They went from sitting listening to teachers lecture in science classes to putting these lessons into practice and learning from hands-on experience what it is like to design and engineer a robot meant to complete a specific task. Given only six weeks to accomplish this feat, these students spent long hours after school each night working on the robot, especially in the days leading up to their regional competitions.

"Whenever I was not at cheer or lip sync, I was at robotics, so normally my school day would be sixteen hours long. That would be perfectly normal for me," said Valerie Winkler, senior. Staying until 10:00 or sometimes later, it took a special type of dedication to be a part of this team. "I was there til about ten at night every night. If I was able to leave early, it generally was because I had either a test or some previous engagement the next day or that evening," said Matthew Hoekzema, senior.

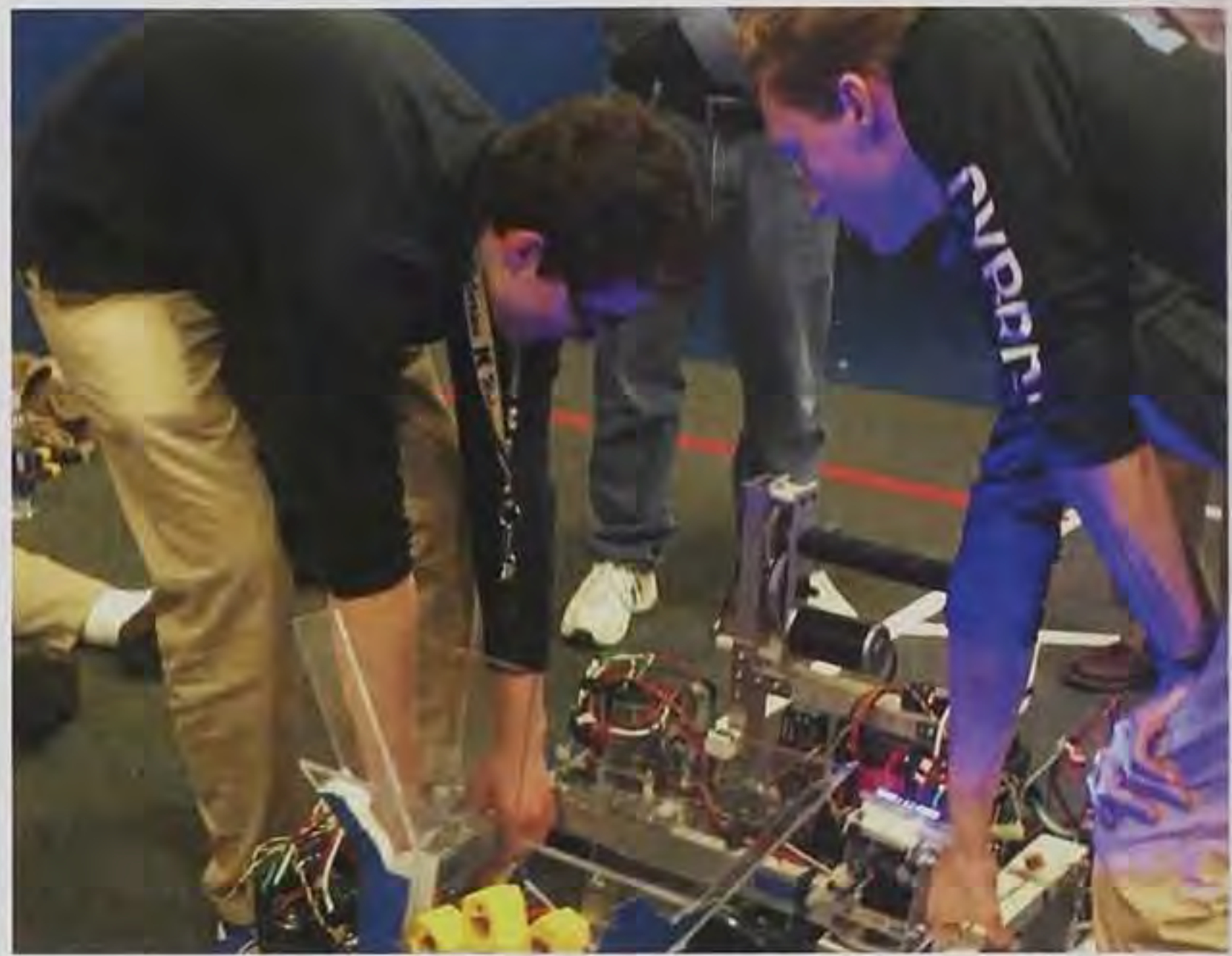
These long hours forced students to learn valuable time management skills in order to complete their homework for what were oftentimes advanced classes. "I do my best to stay on top of my homework by trying to stay up to a week ahead in most of my classes, especially ones with the biggest workloads," said Ian Woodard, sophomore.

To those who did not understand their passions, all of this time and effort may seem fruitless, but the members of the team viewed it as a student-run business that would prepare them for the future. "We have to stay so long because it's actually a business. It's a legitimate business where you have to make a product within 6 weeks and release it," said Hoekzema.

"It's like working a full time job immediately after school," said Sam Dare, junior.

All of this hard work is meant to prepare the students for a career in STEM fields. "I joined to construct the framework for what, in hopes, could be my future career one day," said Woodard.

In the end, all of this time and effort put into creating a robot paid off when they saw their robot in action at the competitions. "Seeing it all come together is the coolest feeling in the world; it's indescribable. Watching it perform as among the best is truly amazing," said Dare.



Ian Woodard, sophomore, and *Hayden Shively*, junior, observe the robot to make sure everything is running correctly. The two are members of the programming team. One of their tasks is to get the robot to function autonomously, without human input, for the first fifteen seconds of a match.

Ethan Storer, freshman, observes changes in the robot that need to be made. The team was competing at the St. Louis regional, and certain team members made adjustments between matches to make sure that the robot would work right.



Amanda Berry, sophomore, works on the robot in the pit during the St. Louis regional. Berry was the leader of the drive team this year and was in charge of making the drive frame, so the robot could move. "Robotics is a unique opportunity where we get to learn how to work with and lead others in a professional environment while having fun with friends in the process," said Berry.



Sam Dare, junior, and *Matthew Hoekzema*, senior, observe the robot in action. He serves as head of engineering. "My jaw dropped when I saw the swerve drive. It took so many tries to get it right," said Dare.



Robotics
Team 4256



8
Weeks

94
Members

10
Wins Prior to
Worlds

Blake Barthelmass, senior, clamps down the base of the robot. They must ensure that the robot is secure before they drill. "I would work Monday through Friday and worked on swerve," said Barthelmass.



Carter Hickel, eighth grade, uses a screwdriver to create a game field part. Game Field made the parts that the robot interacts with. They got to use equipment like screw drivers and a band saw.



Ben Schuler, senior, does soldering. He was a member of the electronics team. "The game this year is a nice mix of different challenges. It's creative and interesting," said Schuler.



Reagan Grass, freshman, observes a bolt that is about to be placed on the robot. It was his first year. However, he became familiar with the robot and got to work on it during competitions.

the **sum** of its parts



Sam Haupfear, sophomore, waits on the ice for the varsity hockey game to start. Haupfear was a force in the goal, with over 360 saves during the season. He helped the team with their end of the season win against Ladue in the Wickenheiser Cup championship.



Paige Penberthy, junior, sets the ball during warm ups of a junior varsity volleyball game. The Wildcats played against Principia, winning both sets at their home court. Penberthy was one of two setters on the JV team.



Caleb Legters, seventh grade, looks for a pass as he keeps the ball away from his opponent. The middle school team played Parkway Central on October 4, towards the end of their season. Legters contributed to the middle school soccer team for his first year at Westminister.

Being a part of a team is like having a second family.

-JT Fuller, senior



HONOR
JESUS CHRIST
IN ALL THINGS

CHRISTIAN
CHARACTER
DEFINES
WHO WE ARE

GOOD GRADES
AND CONDUCT
LEAD THE WAY

“W
BE
“N



Notify the manager or
operator on duty if the
main drain is not visible.

BATHER
LOAD 96

To register a complaint
about the condition of this pool,
contact St. Louis County
at (314) 867-8999.



JT Fuller, senior, performs a dive at a swim meet. Fuller competed on both the swim and dive teams. However, he made the “biggest splash” in diving.

press pause

“I remember running and then hearing my shoulder crack when I got lifted up off the ground,” said Chad Briden, junior.

Briden, Westminster’s starting initial quarterback for the 2016 season, still remembers the unforgettable moment his clavicle split in pieces during the hot game against St. Dominic high school on Aug. 27.

With his adrenaline pumping through his body, Briden did not feel the pain at first, so he tricked himself and the trainer into thinking he was not hurt.

“I was trying to convince [the trainer] that I was okay, but when she asked me to lift up my arm, I couldn’t. She asked me to throw, and I could only throw five yards. Then she told me to take my jersey off, and I couldn’t; she had to cut it off. That was very frustrating,” said Briden.

Also troubled with Briden’s injury, Westminster’s football team had to make some adjustments. Josh Pottebaum, senior, took on Chad’s role of leading the team as quarterback.

“[My injury] changed things up because Josh was playing slot before, and now he has to play both ways. He’s been playing a lot, and it’s hard to play both ways for the whole game as one of the main players. He’s doing a great job, but he has to do a lot. It’s probably pretty tiring,” said Briden.

As a whole, the team adapted well to the major change, and they hoped to come back stronger than ever during the season.

“The season is a little rough right now, but [I am looking forward] to show people that we can pull through,” said Caleb Layton, junior. Briden also anticipated a strong return after therapy: “This will make me want to play harder in the future, and I hope I can return for the last game of the regular season against Borgia,” said Briden.

I think we’ll be alright if we keep working together and playing together.

Dyllan Conway, senior

(Left to Right): *Patrick Andrew*, and *...*, sophomores, and *...* and *...*, seniors, line up on defense against Lutheran North High School's team. Both seniors, Thomas and Moore, have a combined total of over fifty tackles early in the season, contributing greatly to the defensive line on the team. The sophomores also added a number of tackles in the game against Lutheran North.



Led by seniors *...*, *...*, *...*, *...*, *...*, *...*, and *...* (front row, left to right) the team makes an entrance onto the field before the game against MICDS. The team kicked off Carnival on October 1 with their last home game of the season. The Wildcat seniors also celebrated their season with a ceremony before the game.



Austin Greene, senior, prepares for a down during a close home game. The team lost a large party of their team's starting players after the 12 seniors graduated. To celebrate them, Westminster held a senior day during the last home game of the regular season.



Grant Lavallo, junior, receives a long pass near the end zone to score. Playing wide receiver, Lavallo scored four touchdowns early in the season. The Wildcats were the main event to watch during Westminster's annual fall Carnival, but the team lost to MICDS 33-14.



Caleb Layton and *Jeremiah Thompson*, juniors, talk while taking a water break during a hot game. The Wildcats lost in a tough 21-24 match against Lutheran North. Both Layton and Thompson were wide receivers for the Wildcats.

STEVE
WEBB
#26



8

TOUCHDOWNS

723

YARDS

17

TACKLES

one for the books

Touchdown! The crowd goes wild!

The Wildcats had just won against the highly acclaimed John Burroughs Bombers with a 27-0 score to clinch the game. The season was just beginning, and the team already had a win in the books. The boys left the Bombers having had only one kick-off.

"Joey Migliazzo made a really big hit in this game, and we bonded really well after the big win," said Jerram Adams, sophomore wide receiver. The team was victorious over the Bombers and proved to be a powerhouse throughout their season.

"Coach Drockelman has been a big help and a very good coach this year," said Adams.

"The JV team works together nicely, and they all play to their strengths and know each other's weaknesses," said Caleb Layton, junior.

Ben Straub, freshman, wears pink socks to support breast cancer awareness month. Straub played wide receiver and line backer.



Maxwell Burns, sophomore quarterback, makes a pass during the Burroughs game on Sept. 12.

Rams v. Cats

Toby Davidson, *Nayden Engel* and *Ethan Hare*, freshmen, run back to get in line after scoring against the Ladue Rams.

Lone Davis, freshman, steps up to punt the ball on fourth down in a tough game against Ladue. Davis played quarterback and defensive back.



Max Radloff, freshman, comes off the field after a series against Ladue. He played offensive and defensive lineman.



The Wildcats fight hard in the game against Ladue Sept. 19. The Cats took a tough loss, with a score of 21-42.

The team is doing great so far. We are really working well together.

-Jerram Adams, sophomore



Jerram Adams, sophomore and *Jamison Terry*, freshman

Sept 19

a goal unmet a legacy left

The clock ran down, the buzzer blared, and the Cats were victorious once again. The Varsity Soccer team ran off the field with excitement after a 2-0 win over Priory. "We have a pretty big rivalry with priory, so it's always nice to beat them," said Teddy Bacon, senior.

Beginning the season with five straight shutouts, the Cats were in for a successful season. Seniors Teddy Bacon, Connor Dolan, and Will Wetzel led the strong defense while senior Jack Bauer and junior Frankie Sacco led the forward line. Each game they continued to play their hearts out in search for one goal: to become district champions once again. The team was mostly filled with seniors who had been playing together for many years.

"It would be really cool for us as a group of senior guys to be the first to win 2 district championships in our high school careers," said David Kerckhoff, senior. Not only was the team filled with a strong group of seniors, but there were many returning varsity underclassmen.

"The guys this year are all very close, so we are usually all on the same page on and of the field," said Bacon.

With many victories, the cats ended with a regular season with a record of 11-10-1. The senior guys wished to leave knowing that they motivated the underclassmen to succeed next year. "I want to motivate the younger guys to keep the desire to work hard and earn wins even after I leave," said Kerckhoff.

Varsity SOCCER

Joey Keane, sophomore



11

WINS

10

LOSSES

1

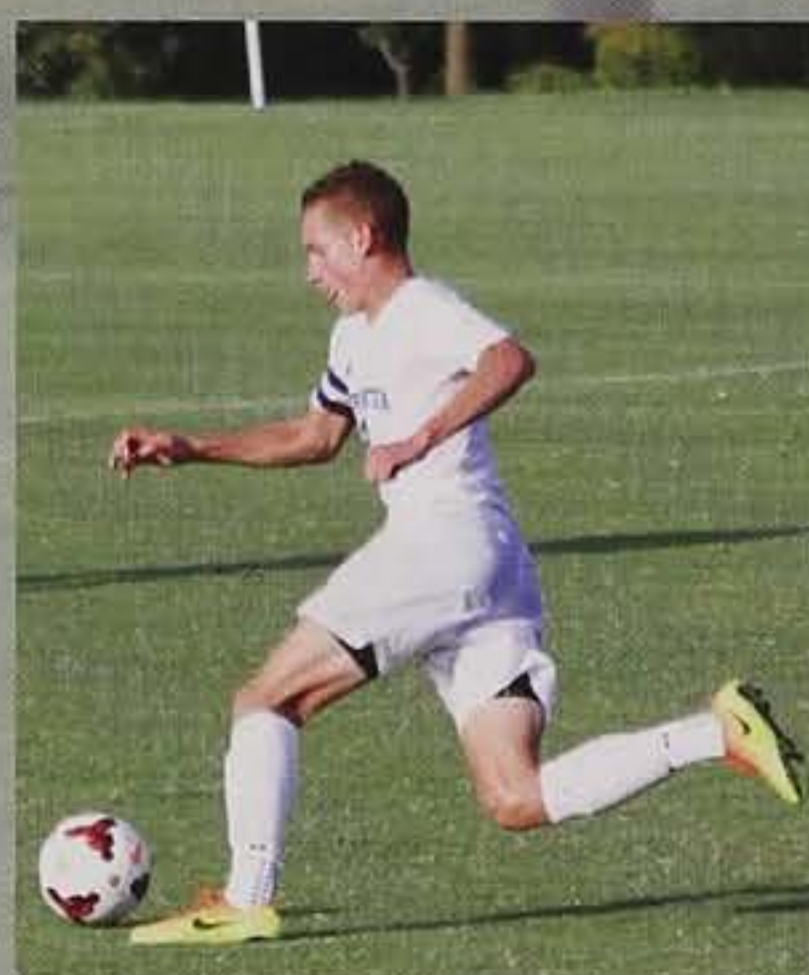
TIE



Connor Dolan, senior, settles the ball to kick it up the field to his teammates. This was Dolan's fourth year on varsity, and he was one of the three captains on the team.



Jack Bauer, senior, dribbles the ball down the field. Bauer and his teammates put up a good fight against MICDS, but the cats unfortunately lost 2-5.



David Kerckhoff, senior, kicks the ball down the field. Kerckhoff was one of the senior captains this season. This was Kerckhoff's fourth season on varsity.



Will Wetzel, senior, gets ready to kick the ball up the field to the forwards in this game against St. Charles West. Wetzel was one of the strong defenders who kept the other team from scoring, leading the Cats to a 6-1 win.

Nathan Laughlin, sophomore, saves the ball from going out of bounds. Westminster beat Lutheran North 7-0 at this game.



a netful of goals



Spencer Graham, sophomore, protects the ball from his tough opponent, Priory. Graham was a center striker for the team and had the opportunity to score a lot of goals for the wildcats this season.



Chris George, sophomore, settles the ball before passing up the field. "I enjoy playing center midfield because of all the action you get throughout the game," said George.



Kurt Weinberg, junior, kicks the ball to his teammate. Weinberg played midfield this season and had a chance to make numerous plays during the games.



Mike Lemp, freshman, runs with the ball in a close game against MICDS. Lemp played left defense, and his main goal of the season was to win.



Chase Lottmann, junior, prepares to move the ball up the field and protect his goalie. Lottmann was a key player this season on defense playing center back.



Danny Sacco, freshman, pats *Kurt Weinberg*, junior, on the back after the team scores a goal in the intense game against MICDS. The wildcats played one of their best games of the season, ending the game in a victory of 2-0.

Personally, my goal was to become a better athlete on and off the field.

-Chris George, sophomore

”

He shoots, and he scores! With a total of 60 goals and 13 shutouts, the team had a successful season. Alex Token, junior, and Luke Linam, sophomore, led the team with the most goals this season. “I enjoy being able to be the guy to make plays. If I’m not assisting my team, I’m scoring goals. It’s a lot of fun,” said Token.

With six junior guys, the team had a lot of experienced talent. These athletes were able to use another season together to improve.

“I think this season is unique because all the juniors on JV have been playing together for several years, so we really play off each other well,” said Chase Lottmann, junior.

“Our goal was to go undefeated, but unfortunately, we fell short of that goal,” said Token. When asked what this team goal was for the season, many responded similarly. Completing the season with three-fourths of the games ending in a victory, the team goal was nearly reached. However, the goal of winning and losing with grace was fulfilled.

“My goal personally was to improve my skills for the upcoming season next year. A goal for the team was to grow and bond together by the end of the season,” said Nathan Scharr, junior.

The JV Wildcats battled hard this season and are seeing improvement every year. They defeated one of their biggest rivals, MICDS, 2-0 both earlier and later in the season.

To end the season, the team took first place in the Metro Tournament and met their team goal.



“We pray before the start of every game,” said *Danny Sacco*, freshman. This game against Lutheran North was played on a Saturday morning in October during the Metro Tournament. Every game a different player prayed.

white board encouragements

As a team, the varsity tennis girls developed a system for the purpose of lifting each other up and encouraging one another. At each practice they took a white board and wrote positive notes about a specific teammate, planning to show it to them at the end of the season.

"We write their name at the top, and they have to turn around," said Maddy Challenger, senior. "Everybody writes something, and you just write lots of nice things about them."

With each practice dedicated to a different girl, at the end of the season each member of the team will get their own white board full of uplifting notes from their teammates.

"Everybody will get to see what their teammates think of them," said Alicia Hu, freshman.

Varying from comments on personality to acknowledgments about each others' strengths on the tennis court, the girls found this to be a helpful and fun system to encourage their teammates.



Julie Griesedieck, senior, serves the ball to her opponent. Julie is one of the captains of the team. "I've been playing since I was little, and it's cool to be a leader on the team this year," said Griesedieck.



Kiley McKee, sophomore, waits for the ball. This was her first year on the varsity team, and she was excited to play at the higher level.

Andrea Lacassie, senior, returns a ball during a doubles match. This was during one of the many tournaments the team participated in throughout the season.



Josie Christen, freshman, stands ready to receive the ball. Christian was one of three freshmen on the varsity team.



Maddy Challenger, senior, hits the ball over the net. "I like singles because even though you're on your own, you can still contribute to the team," said Challenger.



Alicia Hu, freshman, plays a doubles match with her partner, who was Caroline Hinrichs, junior, for this match. "My favorite part of tennis is being with the team because the varsity girls are all really nice," said Hu.



Hannah Sabadell, senior, and *Maggie Kurop*, junior, make blankets with their team for the Linus project. This is an annual team service project that they do in hopes of benefiting the community.



Hannah Haguewood, senior, swings at a difficult ball. This was during the Metro League Tournament, hosted by Westminster. Haguewood and her partner took third in doubles flight 6.

I like singles because even though you're by yourself, you're playing for your team.

-Kaitlyn Davidson, senior



HATTIE MEANS

Sophomore



#1

Seed

13

Matches



fairway gems

To some, walking from hole to hole may seem the least exciting part of the game. However, the golf girls discovered a way to keep themselves entertained. Macie Daniels, junior, and MaryKate Kopsky, senior, created a collection of fairway gems.

"Our collection consists of driver heads, acorns, an Osage orange, misshapen leaves, grasshoppers, and even a turtle," said Kopsky.

"Looking for interesting objects can keep me calm and interested during the game. My favorite thing I picked up was the little snapping turtle. Hiding it from everyone was super fun. It is just a fun thing to do and now a new tradition for me at least," said Daniels.

Unfortunately, they had to let the turtle go and throw away the orange, but as the year continued so did their collection!

Macie Daniels, junior seals the teams victory with a final score of 83. Daniels played in the Missouri State Golf Tournament later in the season.



Abby Nall, Alyssa Cannon, and Bridgette Grimm, juniors, and Natalie Bunton, Casey Moeslein, Amanda Ahlbrand, and Sofia Granata, seniors, celebrate at the end of a hot match.



Bridgette Grimm, junior, and Sofia Granata, senior, take a water break during their game on a hot summer day. In this match they beat Lutheran South 184-243.



Macie Daniels, junior, and Taylor French, senior, shed big smiles after they won a tough match. The girls played Lutheran South on September 1.

”
Despite how I play, I am always encouraged by my teammates.



-MaryKate Kopsky, senior



Sofia Granata, senior, hits a drive with a nine iron on the sixth hole at Crystal Springs golf course. During the Angel Classic, Westminster's girls placed 5th with a score of 372.

fights on, friends off



Chelsea Caplinger, senior, competes in a doubles match with her teammate. She was a dedicated player on the team and will never forget the memories she made with her friends.



Hannah Brown, senior, sets herself up in the ready position. This was Hannah's final year on the tennis team, and she made the best out of every moment.



Rachel Arndt, sophomore, takes a lunge to reach the ball. She returned the ball with a fast pass which the opposing team could not return. Rachel is a natural athlete and strives for nothing but excellence.



Lily Duda, freshman, returns the ball with an overhand pass. This was her first year on JV, and she loved it. Lily was a strong addition to the team and helped her teammates excel with her tips and dedication.



Jessie Kunkel, Ashley Moellenhoff, and Allison Eichenlaub, sophomores, cheer on their teammates while they wait for their set. The girls were supporters, cheerleaders, and almost like sisters to their team this year.

“
I love the competition we have on the team. We fight for our spots and have fun while doing it.
”

-Madi Gipperich, sophomore



The girl's JV tennis team was thriving with new members this year. Some of the players say they joined to strengthen their skills, while others say they joined just for fun, but whatever the reason was, the team helped each other reach the victories they all desired.

Starting off the season with a win, new players and doubles partners Allison Eichenlaub and Ashley Moellenhoff, sophomores, succeeded in a match against Parkway West and with another win early in the season against Ursuline. The girls were off to a great start and were proud of their accomplishments as they continued to impress themselves throughout the season.

“Allison and I work really well together. We're really good at communicating with each other on and off the court. Plus, we always laugh off our mistakes together, which makes it easier to move on.

As the season continued, a dedicated returning member, Jessie Kunkle, sophomore, made her mark through the season with a number of wins and unforgettable plays. She played each match with a strategy in mind and strength in each swing, which led her to her success.

Whether they were just beginning to learn the game or coming back to play again, each member of the team had special skill to them that stood out and made a difference. With a “W” in the books for the girls JV tennis team, this year was definitely victorious.



Sarah Brown, freshman, carefully lines up her swing, hoping for the perfect shot. She keeps her eye on the ball as she gets herself in the perfect form to get the ball exactly where she wants it. It was Brown's first year on the team, and she loved it.



Jordan Shaw, sophomore, follows through with her swing. She made sure to always work on her technique and form as a dedicated golfer.

45
Wins

22
Losses

15
Ties



Alyssa Cannon, junior

PLAYER SPOTLIGHT:
ALAYNA MARUSIODIS

Position:

Center Defense

Nicknames:

"TEAM MOM"

"MARSI"

"MARSI-LAY-LAY"

“The **best part** of the season was when we tied on **senior night**. It was a really cool experience because I played really well, and everyone played really well. [The **worst part** of my season was] when I got in a **car accident** after the Villa game, but I was only out for two games and one week of practice.”



#34



Making her way around a defensive player, **Halle Kaiping**, senior, steals the ball at the John Brouchs game. Kaiping was a valuable asset as a midfielder during her first year on the varsity team.



hungry hungry

Starting its second season ever, the Westminster varsity field hockey team was anxious for their first game against Marquette Catholic on August 22. During the 2015 season, the WCA vs. Marquette game ended in a 0-1 loss after double overtime, so this year, the Wildcats were looking for some solid redemption.

To give the players some motivation, head coach Nancy Schmer read *The Hungry Hungry Caterpillar* to the team. She encouraged the team to play their hardest and make sure they were always giving 100% on the field, just like the hungry caterpillar himself. The team took the field with a hungry mindset, ready to dominate their home opener.

The game itself proved to be a frustrating one. In the first half, the Wildcats earned 11 corners, which are offensive plays that happen

as a result of a defensive foul in the circle and often provide a great scoring opportunity. However, they were not able to finally score until the second half... or so they thought.

Captain Haley Schmer, junior, landed two balls in the goal in the beginning of the second half, but both goals were called back due to two supposed fouls.

"The whole team was itching to win the game, so we were all nervous that our goals weren't being counted. We needed those points," said Schmer.

Much to the home team's relief, the dry spell did not last much longer.

In an offensive corner, Schmer passed the ball to Lexi Berra, junior, who whacked the ball into the goal. Finally, the scoreboard showed the hard work of the Wildcats!

For the last fifteen minutes of the game, Westminster defended their 1-0 score, and when the clock ran out, the team was

redeemed from last year's loss and ready to take on the rest of their season.

"The Marquette game was a really cool way to start the season and definitely got us pumped up and feeling competitive for the rest of the season," said Ashley Peterman, junior, a first year varsity forward.



Sidney Keane, senior, and Ally Drooger, junior, play with a teammate's dog following the win against Marquette. The girls were in high spirits after their home opener and even more delighted to get some puppy love.



Unity was created in the team because of me because I am the team's child.

-Morgan Sickles, sophomore



Callie MacDonald, senior

Sophie Clement, sophomore, dribbles the ball down the field at the Marquette game. Clement was new to Westminster this year and had lots of field hockey experience that landed her on the varsity squad.



A lot of times I whiff, but I keep trying and eventually I get it... usually.

-Hannah Sturr, sophomore



Whitney Radloff, junior

MAGGIE
KEHR
#8



5

WINS

6

LOSSES

1

TIE



Jenna Galakatos, junior, blocks a Pattonville player from getting down the field in their fourth game of the season. "We need to really work together and make sure we pass the ball up the field and to people," said Galakatos.



Maggie Kehr and Rachel Rothrock, sophomores, and Sarah Peirick, junior, laugh together after a game against Oakville. "I get nervous when we are in a tie and then we have a corner. We have to make that shot; otherwise, it's just a tie, and no wants that," said Kehr.

Jessica Norman, sophomore, attempts to steal the ball from the Lindbergh player. "My favorite part of the sport is when you're out there on the field, and you're just playing hard with your friends. You get to feel like you can do anything because you have everybody supporting you," said Norman.



Lily Cohn, sophomore, tries to catch up to the opposing player during a C team game. "A lot of people, including me, try to do everything, but you can't do that. You have to let your team play too," said Cohn. The C team was mostly made up of freshman and sophomores who wanted to try a sport that has a high level of teamwork involved.

common ground

As a Christian school, praying was a daily part of life whether it was before class started or at halftime of a sports game. At the last game of the JV field hockey season, the coach of the other team approached Michelle Pottebaum, Westminster coach, saying that she had seen them praying. The MICDS coach was a Christian, but she could not pray with her girls because the school is not religious.

"The other coach came over to Coach Pottebaum and said is it ok if we pray with you at the end of the game. Then we went over to them and asked if it was ok with the players," said Dani Renaud, junior.

This simple act of kindness had a great impact on not only the other team but also the Westminster team.

"I thought it was a great experience because we got to pray with people that didn't go to a Christian school," said Renaud.

"It was a wonderful experience; it was totally surreal. It was definitely a game I will remember forever," said Lexi Hanson, sophomore.

When I am about to hit the ball, I get very excited, and I try to remember to hit the ball right.

Meredith Grass, sophomore



Avery Engelmeyer and **Madeline Williams**, juniors, jump to block the hit. The team defeated Principia 25-22 in the first match. The team finished out the night with another win of 25-5.



is consistency the key?

The varsity volleyball girls had a pregame ritual to help them get pumped for every game. "We always watch the JV and freshman teams and get together to eat and do homework," said Samantha Huber, junior.

After supporting the other teams, they proceeded to the locker room to get ready for their own game. "To get psyched, we like to play loud music in the locker room," said Elisabeth Sems, senior.

Now prepared to face their opponents, they walked to the court to warm up and have a team talk before the game. After the pregame huddle, they prayed for the game. "After prayer we yell for Him," said Sems.

Consistency is key when it comes to traditions. According to the girls, these pregame warm ups kept them motivated.



Hilary Hightower, junior, hits the ball. The team won both matches against John Burroughs with final scores of 25:18 and 25:18.



Jordan Haeusser, junior, sets the ball for her teammate. The Cats won the game against John Burroughs.



Samantha Huber, junior, serves the ball to her opponents. "I love playing volleyball because it is a team sport, and I love playing with the other girls," said Huber.



Taylor Andrasko, junior, warms up before the first match against Lutheran North. The first match the team lost 21:25 but won the second and third match 25:21 and 25:14 consecutively.

ELISABETH
SEMS
#23



363

ATTACKS

143

SERVES

77

KILLS

first come first serve

In a sport with so many girls that try out, making JV as a freshman was rare. Since there was a freshman volleyball team, most of the younger players made this team as opposed to a higher one.

"I didn't know anybody since I'm one of the only four freshmen on the team, but now we all work really well together," said Izzy Cunningham, freshman, a JV player.

On the other hand, the freshman team offered an opportunity for younger players to try a new sport. Allison Hardin, freshman, played volleyball for the first time this year.

"I actually learned to love it after I had thought it would just be a one year thing," said Hardin.

No matter what team someone makes, the volleyball program sought to give freshmen the opportunity to become acquainted with the sport, giving them a place on the team and allowing them to interact with older players in the process.



Taylor Highmark, Grace Skiljan, Macy Lottman, and Sabrina Granata, freshmen, focus on the match with their coach from the sidelines of the court.

— “ ” —

I loved getting closer to the girls on my team on and off the court!

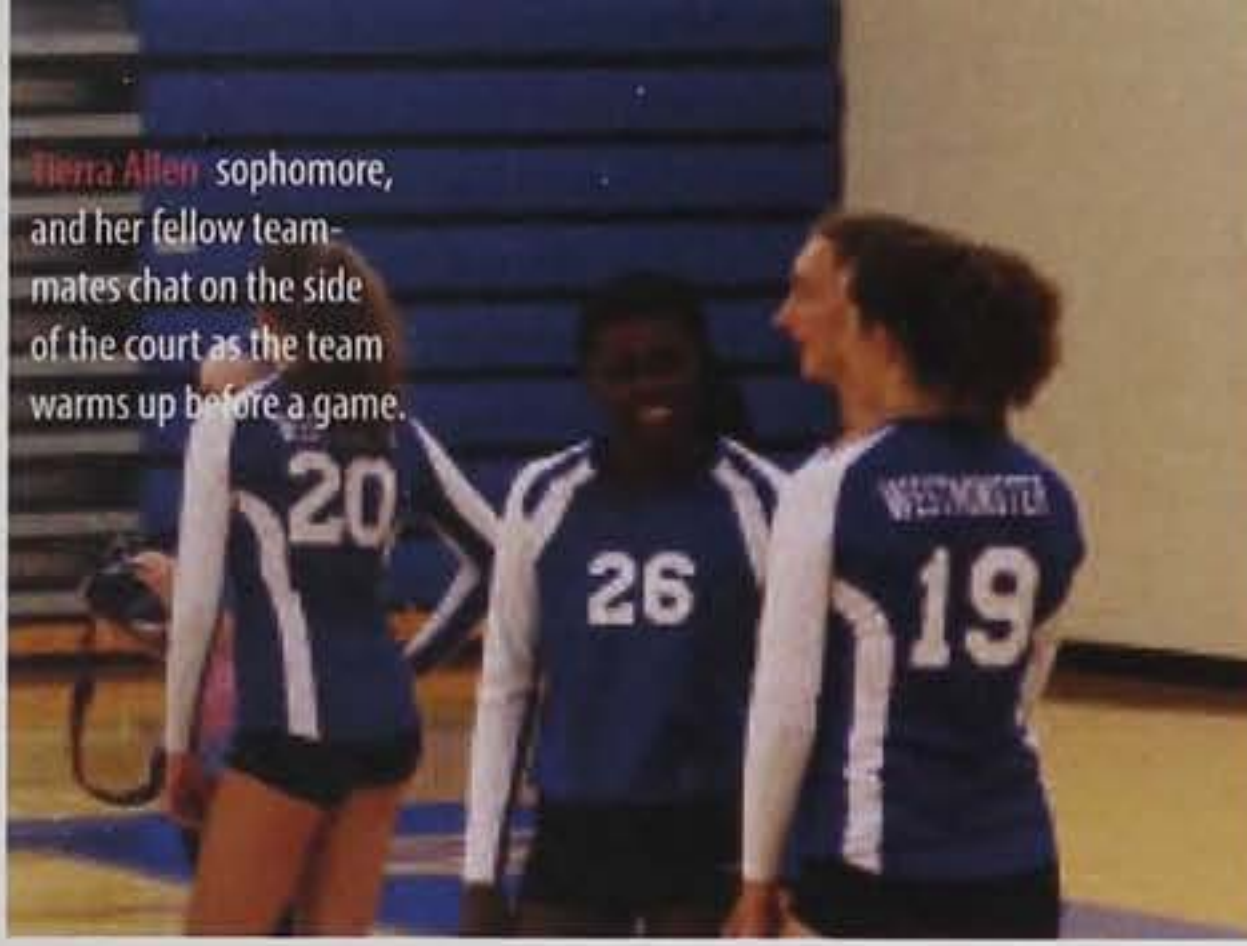
—Amanda Espy, sophomore

Kate Johnson, freshman, congratulates her friend and fellow teammate on a strong spike that gained the wildcats another point.



Evie Cunningham, freshman, is one of the only four freshmen on the JV volleyball team.

Tierra Allen, sophomore, and her fellow teammates chat on the side of the court as the team warms up before a game.



Izzy Cunningham, Heidi Hightower, Evie Cunningham, freshmen, *Amanda Espy* and *Sarah Becker*, sophomores, huddle up for a pep talk and a prayer before their game begins.



Hayley Adair, freshman, high fives some supporting upperclassmen before a game earlier in the season.



Sarah Becker, sophomore, signals to the players while they all wait in anticipation for the ball to be served and the match to begin. The wildcats won this match 2-0 against Lutheran North.



Emily Lytle, junior, reaches her arm back and prepares to serve the ball as her team watches and supports her from the side.

Rylie Koester, junior, jumps up high for a strong first serve of a match. This was a game that the JV team ultimately ended up winning.

miles in the mud

On September 10th, the boys cross country team, along with 35 other teams, lined up for their second meet of the season at Forest Park. However, this meet would prove to be significantly tougher for the runners.

During the few days before the race, rain had been flooding the course. The morning of the race, the 3.1 mile course could barely be seen beneath the muddy puddles. The rain had created slippery mudslides throughout the course along with thick patches of mud that claimed the shoes of several runners during the meet.

Many runners tried to take actions before the race to make sure that they would not lose their shoes. Some runners taped their shoes or tied them in extra knots to try to prevent losing them in the mud. However, these precautions did not prove to work for some.

"I lost my triple knotted shoe in the mud less than a quarter mile into the race. I had to then run the next three miles without a shoe," said David Montgomery, junior.

Despite the challenging circumstances, the boy's cross country team finished second out of 36 teams along with several impressive individual performances. Evan Parres, junior, finished first for Westminster and third overall out of 261 runners.

"Running in the mud at the Forest Park meet was one of the most challenging things I have ever done both mentally and physically, but through the cheering of my teammates and coaches, I found a way to push through," said AJ Lloyd, junior.

Lloyd came in second for Westminster and 12th overall despite it being his very first 5k.



Brendan Grbich, junior, nears the end of his race at Forest Park. This was the biggest meet of the season for the cross country team with over 35 teams competing. The Westminster boys came in second overall.



Jake Graham, junior, begins the second mile of the 5k race at Forest Park. This was Graham's second race of the season and his first Varsity race.



Xander Smith, junior, finishes the last 100 meters of the 2-mile race. This race was hosted at the very beginning of the season by Westminster as a preseason meet. Smith finished 3rd out of all the Westminster and Whitfield runners.

Will Leonard, sophomore, finishes the first mile of his varsity race in Memphis, Tennessee. This was Leonard's first year on varsity. The boy's team finished 9th out of the 24 schools at this race.



AJ
LLOYD
JUNIOR



3RD
OF 261

BEST FINISH

16:24

FASTEST 5K



Xander Smith, Evan Parres, and AJ Lloyd, juniors, say a cheer before the start of the race. This meet at Forest Park was the second meet of the season for the cross country team and by far the muddiest race they would run all season.



The varsity team stands together holding hands after their race at forest park, their biggest meet of the year. It had been raining the whole week prior to race day, making the course extremely muddy.

a changing of the guard four years to come

In 2015, the girls cross country team was almost entirely composed of seniors, with the exception of only two juniors and one sophomore, leaving only those three underclassmen left for this year's season. This meant the team needed a lot of new recruits. Fortunately, several freshmen came out, making up the majority of the team.

With this many freshmen came a lot of inexperience and chaos. "Being a freshman on varsity is nerve-racking, fun, and daunting all at once," said Ava Hollmann, freshman. "At first, I felt slightly overwhelmed; I really did feel like fresh meat. But now I feel confident in my abilities and even more confident in my teammates. Together, we have grown into a very strong varsity team."

Although the freshmen were young and inexperienced compared to the juniors on the team, they were not alone.

"I do like having a young team as it levels the playing field because most everyone shares the same sense of inexperience," said Isabella Francois, freshman.

However, this amount of inexperience can be difficult to keep organized.

"Having a bunch of freshmen on the team can be a little hectic, but I love them all. It makes me happy that more kids are trying out the sport that I love," said Kathryn Kramer, junior and captain.

The team had a lot of new potential and talent to build off of in the years to come.



Kathryn Kramer, junior, nears the end of her race at Jefferson City. Kathryn served as a team captain. Kramer went to state this year, and the team placed 11th out of the sixteen teams that went.



Mary Stuart Murray, junior, gives a thumbs up to her teammates as they cheer her on from the sidelines. This was Murray's first year running cross country at Westminster.

Alyssa Despotis, senior, runs her first meet ever. Alyssa ran track her junior year and loved it, so she decided to run cross country too.



Chloe Wimpheimer, junior, runs at the Frank Horton meet in Memphis, Tennessee. It was a flat course, so many runners ran well and achieved their personal records.



Allison Theonen, senior, nears the end of her run. She shaved minutes off her previous personal record at this race. Allison's teammates called her "mom" because she was one of the only seniors on the team.



Isabella Francois, freshman, sprints towards the end of her race. Her teammates often called her "mouth" because of how much she liked to talk.



Ava Hollmann, freshman, passes the first mile mark in the 3.1 mile race. She finished within the same second as her teammate Rachel Strothkamp, junior.



Pamela Mueller, sophomore, runs while wearing her sunglasses. She always made sure she looked her best while she ran. This was Pamela's first year on the team and at the school.

team nicknames

RACHEL STROTHKAMP
sunshine

KATHRYN KRAMER
elmo

ALYSSA DESPOTIS
ad





out touched

Caleb Terschak, sophomore, watched the relay knowing that Westminster and Fort Zumwalt North were close in points. A first place finish would mean victory in the first meet of the season. Terschak noticed that the team had fallen behind half a length to the Fort Zumwalt relay team. After looking at Fort Zumwalt's final swimmer of the relay, Terschak then looked to Jak Patterson, junior, and asked one question, "Do you think the Fort Zumwalt swimmer is fast?"

No answer came from Patterson. Terschak stepped up on the starting block preparing himself for the next 100 yard sprint. "I was hoping that [Fort Zumwalt's] swimmer was not fast. I knew I just had to give it my all," said Terschak.

Terschak dove in close behind Fort Zumwalt's swimmer. "It was incredible to watch, especially since I knew that he was tired from earlier events," said Reid St. John, sophomore. There was a feeling among the Westminster swimmers that Terschak could make a comeback. "As soon as I saw Terschak dive into the water, I knew it would be a comeback. Getting excited, I started pointing out to the other swimmers what Terschak was doing," said Patterson.

Terschak came from behind. "I swam as fast as I could," said Terschak.

This closed the gap between him and the Fort Zumwalt swimmer. As soon as Terschak finished, he looked back to discover he had taken the lead and won the race by three seconds. "As soon as I finished, my only thought was whether we had won the meet," said Terschak. The race was over, but the final points of the meet came down to this one race. Terschak had done it. He pulled out the victory for Westminster, winning the meet against Fort Zumwalt and Holt on October 4th.



Jak Patterson, junior, cheers for his teammate as they come into the wall. "Jak was always cheering people on and getting everyone hyped to swim," said *Dawson Egan*, senior.



Stephen Gross, junior, celebrates after he finishes the 100 Freestyle against Fort Zumwalt North on Oct. 14. Gross placed third in this race, dropping four seconds and reaching his personal best swim.



Caleb Terschak, sophomore, swims butterfly during his 200 in a swim meet against Ladue on Sept. 2. Terschak has been one of the team's strongest members this season. The boys lost this meet with a final score of 58-120, and Terschak placed first in this event



Reid St. John, sophomore, prepares to take off for his race. The Wildcats won this meet against Fort Zumwalt North with a final score of 112-68. "Reid is an excellent swimmer, a fun teammate who strives to do his best, and is a great person in and out of the pool," said **Sebastian Lacassie**, freshman.

JT Fuller, senior, focuses before entering the water. Fuller was one of two divers on the swim team this year. He got his seasonal best diving score on senior night with a score of 177.

Daniel Fox, sophomore, swims breaststroke during the 200 individual medley against Fort Zumwalt North. The Wildcats won with a final score of 112-68. Fox was one of the team's strongest swimmers for the individual medley.



Jacob Reeve, senior, races his way to the wall during the 100 freestyle. Reeve was one of three seniors this year. "Jacob was a great asset to the team because he could swim almost everything," said **Jak Patterson**, junior.



Chris Kirby, junior, cheers as his teammate finishes his race. Kirby was one of the two divers on the team this year. He achieved his highest score of the year at conference with a score of 172.

Jak Patterson, junior, swims breaststroke against Rockwood summit. The boys were defeated with a final score of 73-106. Patterson swam free style and breaststroke.

Although I wasn't able to swim this year, it was still fun to help the team with timing and just being with them.



-Jesse Parham, junior



The Varsity Softball team gathers to discuss how they are going to attack the second inning. "Even though we lost that game, we battled all 7 innings. We had fun, and that made the game worth it," said *Izzy Clawson*, junior. When asked about their favorite part of the team, many players said they loved the community.



Lauren Gates, freshman, delivers a high speed pitch in attempt to strike out the player at bat. Lauren Gates was one of the two pitchers for the varsity team.



Reese Earleywine, freshman, races to first base after hitting the ball into the outfield. Earleywine prefers playing infield and was a second baseman this year.



Deanne Pfyl, junior, waits for the ball at bat. "My advice for playing softball is to focus and play for God," said Pfyl.



Maddie Volding, junior sets in position to receive the ball. Volding played first base and has been playing softball since her freshman year.



Dani Mabry, sophomore, pitches the ball in the fourth inning. "My favorite part of softball is the upbeat energy and nonstop mental aspect of what's next," said Mabry.

Madelyn Trost, senior, catches the ball, resulting in three strikes for the player at bat and ending the inning. This was the first game, and the team won 9-6 against Lutheran St. Charles.

Izzy Clawson, junior, dashes to third base in the second inning. Clawson prefers playing infield. The phrase Clawson used to describe softball was "mental toughness."

Katelynn Graham, sophomore, waits for the ball. Graham played 3rd base during this game. Her favorite game was against Parkway West on September 20 because even though they lost, they played a hard game.

It's a hard game **MENTALLY,** so it's a nice **CHALLENGE.**

-*Erin King*, junior

just hit the ball

“Winning is all that matters.” This was a common cultural expectation when one thought about sports; this also translated over into school.

Consequently, in sports and school, an opportunity for a fun challenge is rare. Being in a college preparatory school, one was often pressured to over-analyze situations, but for these girls, being on the softball team opened an opportunity to leave this stress behind.

“I play it to just have fun and have good community,” said Deanne Pfyl, junior.

Hard work, fun, and constant were all words the softball players used to describe the sport, so it made sense that when these girls stepped up to bat, their minds were clear. “I think to myself just hit the ball,” said Brooke Lemp, senior.

“Softball is a great way to get my mind off of other things and use the abilities I have been using my whole life,” said Dani Mabry, sophomore.

That was what made this team different from the rest: the ability to tackle a challenge and play for fun without worrying about the score.

look back



Kristen Keys, sophomore, and Alivia Johnston, senior, get the rebound off an opponent's shot. The Wildcats lost in a close game to Visitation Academy, 24-34. Westminster took the lead at half-time.

“I can remember my first day of high school tryouts like it was yesterday,” said Alivia Johnston, senior. Johnston was one of the three seniors on the 2016-2017 women’s varsity basketball team, and being a senior now, she saw things in a different perspective than when she first tried out for the team. “The seniors are the leaders of the team... I have always looked up to the seniors ever since I was a freshman because of their work ethic, love of the game, and encouragement,” said Johnston.

Like Johnston said, the seniors brought with them a lot of experience and responsibility, and they carried a special role as mentors to the younger players, especially the freshmen on the team.

Making varsity this year, freshmen Carsyn Beachy and Macey Lottmann shared similar feelings about being the youngest players. “At first it was nerve wracking, but everyone was so welcoming, and the seniors were so nice,” said Lottmann. Beachy, along with her fellow freshmen, shared that the seniors were supportive and welcoming to the younger players that made the team.

When asked to give advice for the new players, the seniors stepped up to share their personal experiences: “[Freshmen], enjoy the process... never take advantage of basketball because time flies,” said Johnston. As a senior, Johnston encouraged the new players to embrace their time on the team because her time flew by.



Kristen Keys, sophomore, starts the game jumping for the ball once the whistle was blown. Keys, playing in an offensive position, scored 11 points for her team against the Kirkwood pioneers. Keys is one of the top scorers for the team.



Jordan Haeusser, junior, plays defense against her opponent. Haeusser and her teammates played against Kirkwood High School on February 14, celebrating Valentine's day with a special red-and-pink theme. Many students from Westminster showed up to support the lady Wildcats.



Claire Sanden, sophomore, intercepts a pass from the other team. During the team's warm ups, Sanden pumped the team up with her spirit and encouragement. She also stood at the end of the "tunnel" for the starting players to run through once they were introduced and gave them all high-fives or secret handshakes that they made up.

NATALIE BUNTON #2



76

Points

42

Assists

53

Rebounds

“ We always listen to music before games to get pumped up ”

-Carsyn Beachy, freshman



The team stands together in front of the flag to sing the national anthem before a home game. As a part of their pre-game routine, the team warms up and then enters the home court arena before announcing the starting line-up.

PLAYER SPOTLIGHT:

Alexis Turner

JUNIOR

#21

Position: *Guard*

It was enjoyable playing with girls from different grades. I liked how the younger girls would come to practice complaining about the work they got or ask for advice from us older kids. I would tell them it gets worse from here.



Deanne Pyl, junior, is one of the few swing players who plays on JV and varsity basketball this year. Because the program was so small this year, there had to be swing players.



Brie Adams, sophomore, prepares to take a free throw during the game. "My favorite part of being on the team is the connection I've made with old teammates and new teammates and getting to play with them while having fun at the same time," said Adams.



Jessie Kunkel, sophomore, takes a practice shot from the free-throw line during the warm-up. "My favorite part of being in the team is being able to work hard and be around a team who I know has my back," said Kunkel.

tiny but mighty

With only seven players total, the JV basketball team was especially small this year, yet this did not stop the girls from giving their all on the court and being fierce competitors to other schools.

"Even though we had 7 players, we still gave our all no matter what," said Sydney Hott, freshman.

With five players on the court at a time, they had few to no subs each game. "Sometimes if a player was injured or sick, we didn't have any subs," said Carsyn Beachy, freshman. This meant that the remaining players had to develop endurance to be able to play for long periods of time.

"You have to work extra hard and have all this discipline to not get tired, so you can stay on the court," said Brie Adams, sophomore.

This small team was a result of the small amount of girls that tried out. "I guess there's just a decreasing interest. They couldn't cut anybody, but there were only eighteen girls in the whole program," said Dani Mabry, sophomore.

However, the girls made the most of a less than ideal situation, and in the end the size of the team did not even cross their minds. "You didn't really notice when you were off the court that there weren't many people on the bench because all their personalities were just so loud," said Mabry.

Macey Lottmann, freshman, gets ready to take a free throw during the warm-up. Macey played two positions on the team: guard and forward.



Sydney Hott, freshman, takes a practice shot during the team's warm up. The girls were from different grades and friend groups but learned to play as a team throughout the season.



down to the wire

Michael Thoenen, junior, holds his ground on defense. Thoenen, well over 6 feet tall with a sizable wingspan, posed as a defensive threat to the Whitfield Warriors.

Cliff DeGroot, senior, hits a fade-away three pointer. As of March 3rd, DeGroot was in the top 3 of 3 point shooters in the St. Louis area. He had 108 three pointers, averaging 4.00 per game.



DJ Stewart, senior, shoots a free throw towards the end of the Whitfield game. Stewart also played tough defense and helped the team by getting several rebounds.



Dominic Cusumano, junior, looks to pass to his teammate. Cusumano played aggressive defense and offense throughout the season.

Dyllan Conway, senior, shoots a free throw. Conway came in clutch and made several crucial free throws that helped lead the team to victory over the Warriors.

It came down to the wire. Up 60-59 against Whitfield with 42.5 seconds left on the clock, the boys came out of the timeout, ready to rise to the occasion. Both teams played scrappy defense. As time ran out, the fouls began to roll in. First up to the line was DJ Stewart, senior, who made one of his free throws. Next was Dyllan Conway, senior. Conway, known for his grit on the football field, proved himself on the court, and sunk both of his free throws. The home crowd erupted. "The floor was literally shaking at points during the game," said Stewart.

Ice ran through the veins of every cat. As the stands settled down, Whitfield went to inbound the ball. Out of nowhere came Conway who forced Whitfield to turn the ball over. This gave Conway an easy opportunity to drive to the basket for a layup. With 10 seconds left to play,

the wildcats were up 65-62. Whitfield called a timeout. It was all a matter of one possession to make or break the game. Only one second passed until Steve Webb was fouled. Webb took a deep breath and made one of two free throws. The scoreboard now read 66-62. To ensure that not too much time ran out, the wildcats quickly fouled a warrior.

As the pressure heightened, the opposition only made one free throw. The ball was in the home team's possession with hardly any time left. The Wildcats held the ball until there was no time remaining and celebrated a 66-63 victory where every second counted. "The game was one of the most intense events I've played in," said Stewart.

senior standouts



#24

STEVE WEBB

Steve Webb, senior, is equally effective on both the offensive and defensive sides of the things. Webb was ranked in the St. Louis area for scoring leaders and steal leaders. A major accomplishment of his season was joining the 1,000 point club.



#12

DJ STEWART

DJ Stewart, senior, makes a significant impact through his defense. He had six games where he got ten or more rebounds. Stewart had a total of 180 rebounds for the season.



#5

CLIFF DEGROOT

Cliff DeGroot, senior, hit 1,000 career points on Friday night of Spirit Week against Burroughs. He was the team's leading 3 point scorer. DeGroot had 25 points including 7 3 pointers in the team's victory over Lutheran South.

wish & swish together



John Ferguson, freshman, possesses the ball in a game against Priory. Ferguson played as an aggressive point forward and was able to control the offense with his skills. Ferguson has been playing basketball since he was four years old.

Tyler Bryant, Zach Benes, Tommy Briner, and Eli Diedrich, freshmen, watch their teammates in a game against MICDS. Benes played point guard and Diedrich played as a shooting guard this season. Both have a lot of experience and have been playing for seven or more years.



Bennie Anderson, freshman, raises his hands for a shot in the basket in a game against Whitfield. "My favorite part about basketball was the running," said Anderson.



Mason Andrasko, freshman, protects the ball from his opponent, Priory. "My favorite part about the basketball season was playing the games," said Andrasko.



Arthur Jordan, freshman, dribbles the ball down the court and prepares to shoot. He was a power forward this season and has had five years of experience.



Ben Hicks, freshman, jumps for his layup during the game against Whitfield. Hicks' position was guard, and he was a scorer along with a strong ball handler for the Wildcats this season.



Blake Jewell, sophomore, dribbles and drives the ball towards the basket. Jewell has been playing basketball since he was in first grade and played point guard this season. "My favorite memory is when we were playing against Lutheran South and were down by a lot, and then we came back and won in overtime," said Jewell.

The JV boys basketball team was full of seasoned players with experience ranging from three years to playing since they were three years old -- with some players playing up to thirteen years already.

Highlights of the season include winning all of their district games for the season.

"This year was unique because whenever we had adversity we overcame it, and we improved," said Blake Jewell, sophomore.

The team has been strengthened by relationships they built. The guys practiced hard, played together, and prayed as a team.

"This season is unique because the relationships between everyone was much stronger, and I enjoyed being around my teammates a lot more this year than others," said Austin Disper, sophomore.

Rituals were established that brought the team together. Before every game the team went over plans for the games.

"Seeing our team grow from last year has been awesome, especially going into next year," said Luke Linam, sophomore.

The relationships that were established have the guys remembering this season positively and looking forward to next year.



Luke Linam, sophomore, dribbles the ball. Linam has been playing basketball since he was three years old. "Winning our first tournament of the year is one of my favorite memories," said Linam.



The team shakes hands with Borgia after their game in February. In a close game against the Knights, the JV team lost the game.

I have been playing since I was four years old.

-Matthew George, freshman



Brennan Orf, freshman, passes the ball to his teammate in a game against Whitfield. Orf played forward and center this season and was a critical player to the JV team. By the end of the season, he earned several Varsity minutes. He has been playing since he was in 3rd grade, and he continues to enjoy the game.

a new twist on vdt

Once again, the Varsity Dance Team did not fail to impress the audience. As soon as the girls stepped foot onto the court, at the Spirit Night Varsity Basketball game, the crowd went crazy for their first glance at the costumes and hair the girls had put together.

They wore a bright blue warm-up suit with intense blue makeup that could be seen across the gym and long twisted ponytails. "I was super pumped for the fake hair because I knew it would surprise a lot of people and catch them off guard. It was something different that would keep everyone interested to see what VDT has coming next," said Lauren Bohlmann, freshman.

With having intricate choreography, detailed formations, and bold facials to worry about while they dance, the hair was just another risk to add to the mix. "We definitely had some concerns with the fake hair, considering one time at practice, one of the girl's ponytails flew off and went full contact into another's face. It was pretty funny, but that just meant we needed to make sure to keep those in with extra support," said Ashely MacDonald, freshman.

Aside from the memorable routine, it is no secret that the Blue Crew gives their full support and undivided attention to the dance team. From bringing signs for the seniors to chanting their names as they dance, the student section anticipates what VDT will come up with next.

"The blue crew is absolutely amazing. Their constant support is our motivation, and we feed off of their energy when we perform. There's nothing better to see the major support we have from our peers, and our goal is to leave them speechless and eager to see us perform again," said Bohlmann.

To wrap it all up, the Varsity Dance Team definitely brought one for the books. Each and every time they hit the stage, or court in this matter, the girls give everything they had to put on a good show that would stand out apart from the others.

Since they make it look so easy, that just goes to show how much hard work and time these girls put into their dances, while giving the school something great to talk about.



Holly Gilmore, senior, finishes her last year on Dance Team with a bang. This year, Holly thrived on the team and took on the role as one of the captains like a pro. She made a big impact on the team and will be missed next year.



Lauren Bohlmann, freshman, feels the music as she performs at Spirit Night. "It was the most memorable routine, and it looked like everyone in the crowd absolutely loved it," said Bohlmann.



Moira Wright, senior, takes on a sassy pose as she performs on the Spirit Night routine. She is one of the captains on the team and brought the girls to success as they impressed the crowd with their stellar dance moves.

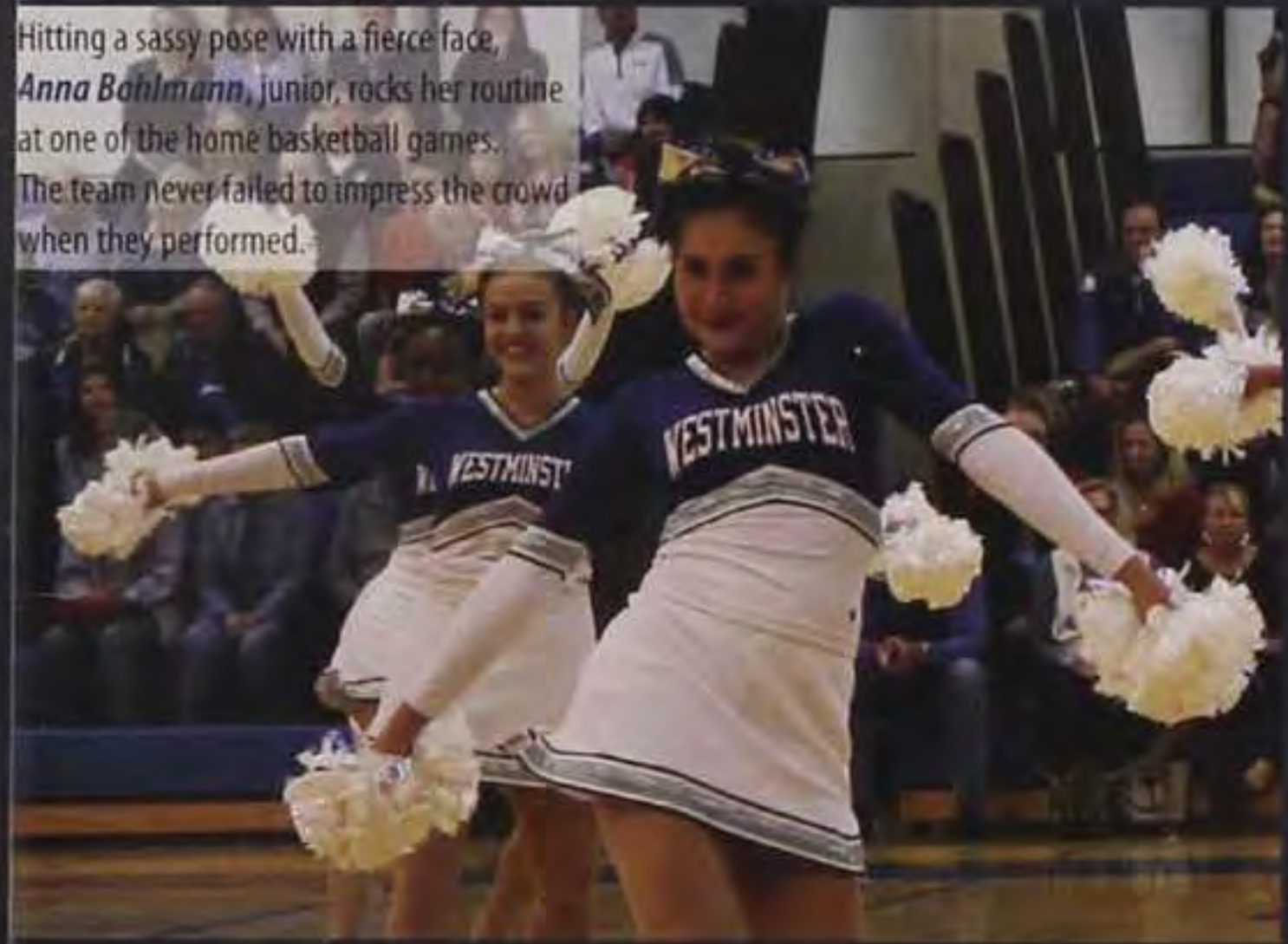


VDT sports their new uniforms in the beginning of the season. They get a few new costumes every year and the girls said this one was one of their favorites. The costumes sparkled in the sun during their half time performance as they wowed the crowd with their dance moves.



VDT rocks it in their matching warm-up suites. They made a memorable appearance with their hair, makeup, and costumes at Spirit Night. After the performance, the girls were all so proud of themselves and their hard work they put into the routine.

Hitting a sassy pose with a fierce face, *Anna Bahlmann*, junior, rocks her routine at one of the home basketball games. The team never failed to impress the crowd when they performed.



Elizabeth Meeks, junior, smiles big during a high-energy routine. She hit all of the motions perfectly and added in some of her personality with her facials to catch the crowd's attention.



— “ ” —

The weaves were a lot more complicated than they look. The amount of bobby pins, hair bands, and hair spray we used to keep those ponytails in was insane but definitely worth it because they added so much to our performance.

-Ashley MacDonald, freshman



The team started off their performance in a clean formation, before they got ready to rock it at Pride Night. It was a successful start to the basketball season and a performance to remember. The girls worked hard at practice to pull off this performance, and it all payed off.



Sarah Broyles, senior, fought the heat and cheered the football players at one of their games. "I have loved my time cheering at Westminster," said Broyles. "I have made so many friendships and learned what it really means to serve. We were truly able to encourage athletes." Broyles planned on further pursuing cheerleading by working at the National Cheerleading Association, a summer camp for high schoolers.



Maggie Ellis, freshman, fully enjoys cheering on her fellow teammates at one their games. She smiled as they got the crowd standing on their feet. It was a successful game for the football team.

changes on the cheer team

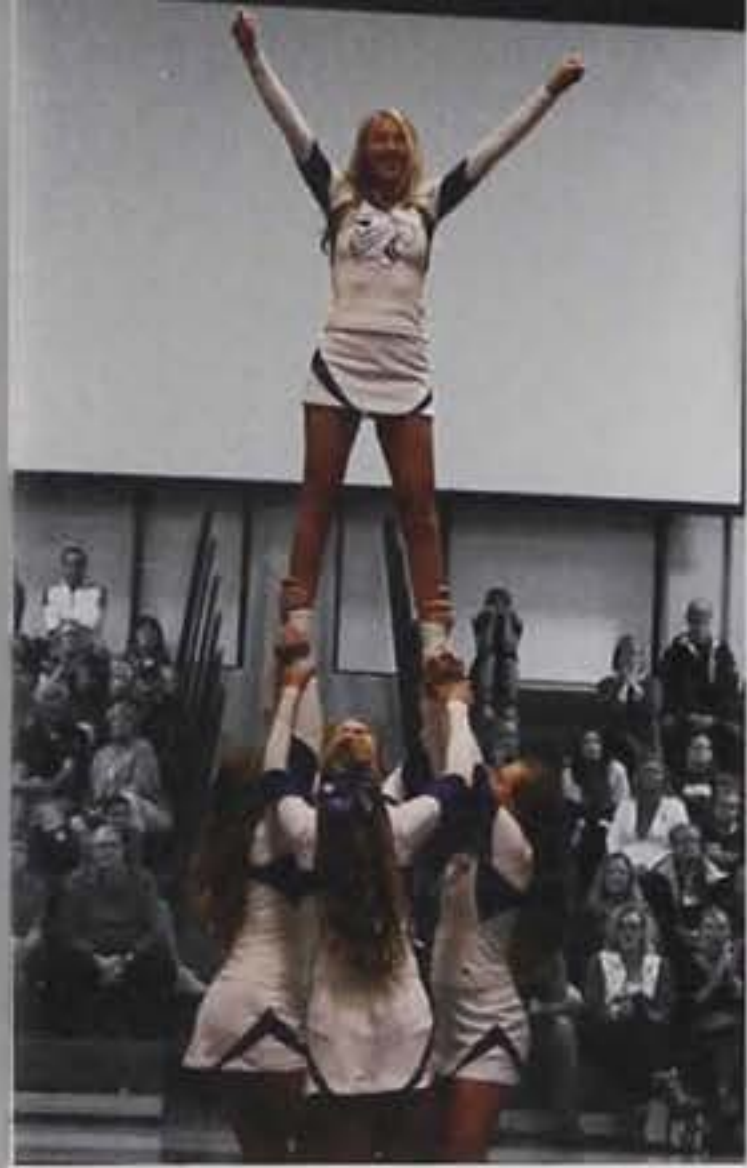
The WCA cheer team has experienced some new changes this year and are also preparing for some changes to come. This year, the team got a new coach, Kristin Keller. "Our new coach is such a sweet person!" said Sarah Broyles, senior. "Her excitement in leading our team and enthusiasm is motivating and enjoyed. She has come a long way in a short year and has proved her ability to coach us well and with a loving heart." The new coach is a great new improvement to their team even though it was a big change.

Also, these girls have to adjust to another big change coming up. Seven seniors are leaving for college next year and will have to leave the cheer team behind but not the memories. "I have made so many great relationships through cheer. These girls are like my sisters, and they have really shaped who I am today. I am going to miss them but am looking forward to hearing about the great things they will do," said Valerie Winkler, senior. The seniors will be missed, and the rest of the team will have to adjust to their absence.

The Westminster cheer team truly does sacrifice a lot to go out and cheer their teammates on. "No matter the game or circumstances, we still have to keep the smiles and the pep no matter what, that's our job," said Bethany Stone, senior. The team has accomplished a lot this year and is really proud of what they have done.



The Westminster Wildcat flyers flew high while showing off their moves at Pride Night. They pulled off an amazing performance and wowed the crowd with their energy. They got the whole crowd hype for the exciting new basketball season to come.



Rachel Byars, junior, *Emma Gion*, junior, *Maggie Ellis*, freshman, *Hannah Beckman*, senior all work together to lift *Erica Ridenhour*, senior, into an extension. "We always had so much fun at practice even if we had a bad day. It was fun to get close to people that I probably wouldn't have if it wasn't for cheer," said Ridenhour.



Casey Moeslein, senior, is the flyer in this stunt group as *Emma Gion*, junior, *Rachel Byars*, junior, *Betsy Bailey*, junior, *Hannah Beckman*, senior all support her as her bases and spotters. "I like cheer because we all become super close, and my teammates become a great support system," said Bailey.



Sammie Davidson, senior, and *Lauren Bauer*, junior, work hard as they lift *Valerie Winkler*, senior, high in the air. "I'm going to miss working with all these sweet and talented women of God. This group of seniors has been amazing to work with through the past 4-6 years, and I am grateful for the time I got to spend with them," said Winkler.

“ ”

I've been on this team since freshman year, and it's been some of the best times of my life. These girls are my family, and that won't ever change.

-*Amanda Enger*, sophomore



Sarah Broyles, senior, *Besty Bailey*, junior, *Alyssa Glass* and *Bri Harris*, sophomores, all lift *Amanda Enger*, sophomore, up in an impressive extension in front of the crowd. Amanda had been cheering for four years now and had grown in her experience.

staying peppy

Cheerleaders are notorious for being peppy; in fact, it comes with the job. What many do not realize is it becomes hard to stay peppy. When it is a Tuesday night, and there is a test and paper due the next day, the task of cheering others up becomes nearly impossible. These girls often have to come up with ways to stay peppy and have a good time. For the JV cheer team, a few girls took this matter into their own hands. Tori Jesse and Emilee Mitchell, freshmen, competed with each other to see who could be more enthusiastic.

"I really don't know how. It just kind of happened that way. We both are competitive and goofy and were

bored at one game. And that's how it all started," said Jesse. Not only does this competition keep Jesse and Mitchell peppy, but it encourages other teammates to stay spirited.

"I normally look at Emilee for encouragement because her and Tori usually have like a peppy competition every game. They try and see who can be the peppiest, so I always look at Emilee. She just cracks me up; she is so ridiculous, but it's so funny at the same time," said Victoria Smith, freshman.

At the end of the day, whether it is through a game or just friendship, this team maintains their energy and cheers on the team.

Tori Jessie, freshman, celebrates a field goal by doing a toe touch. A toe-touch is her favorite jump to do at a game. Many times she would coordinate a jump with another teammate.



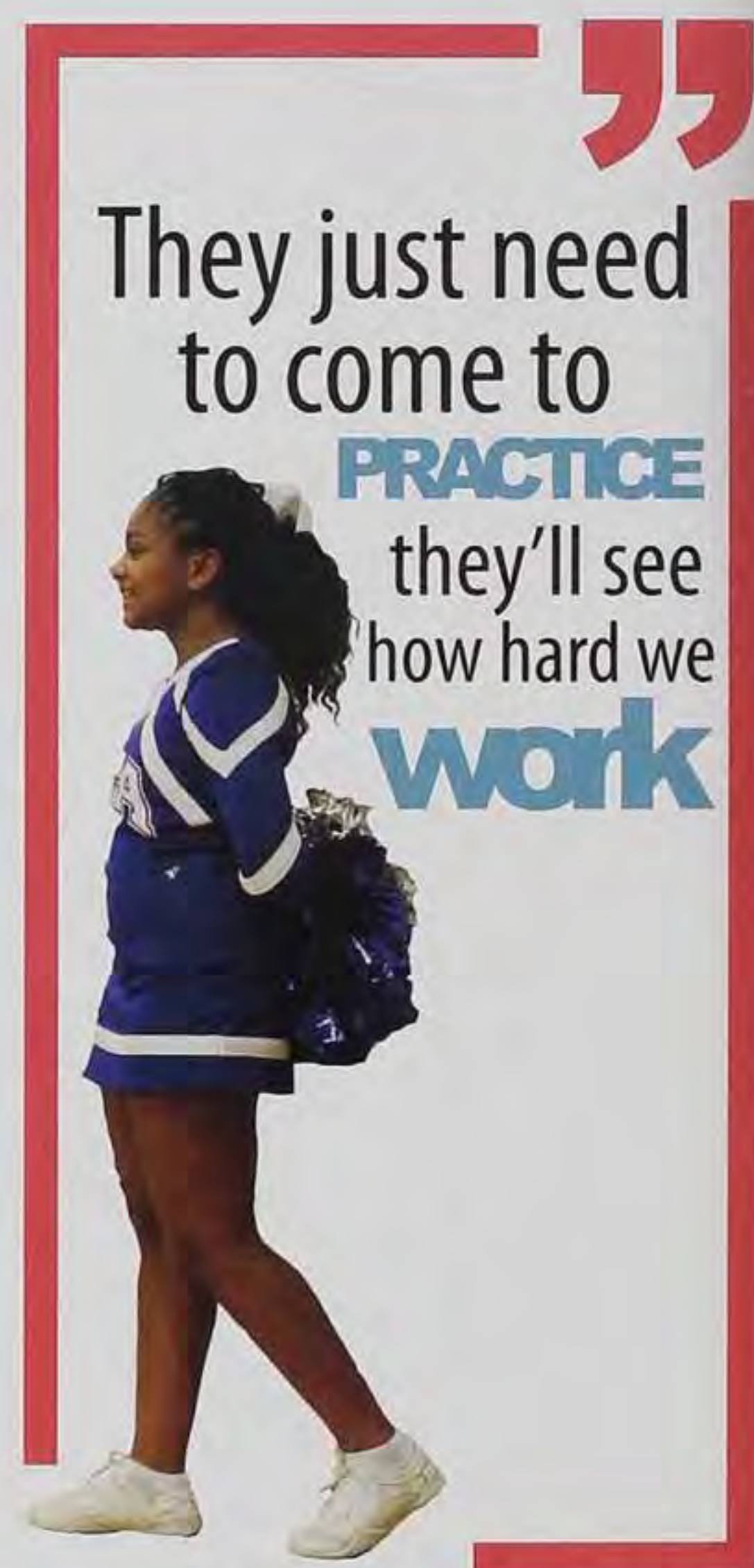
Hannah Rupprecht, sophomore, does a right front hurdler after a cheer. The cheerleaders are required to do at least two jumps a quarter. This was Rupprecht's second year on JV.



Kaler Terry, sophomore, laughs at her friends that were making faces at her. Terry was the cheer captain during the football season. Terry enjoyed being able to be captain for only one season.



Hannah Rupprecht, sophomore, *Jaeda Moore* and *Tori Jessie*, freshmen, cheer for the wildcats during halftime. The cheerleaders arrived to games forty minutes early to practice. Many times they figured out what to do for half time right before the game.



-*Jaeda Moore*, freshman



Emilee Mitchell, freshman, rallies the basketball team to win the game. "I wish people realized that cheer is a sport. It takes a lot of time and motivation," said Mitchell.



Cali Williams, sophomore, finishes a quarter cheer. She was one of the captains this year. Williams both based and flew during this season.



Victoria Smith, freshman, hits an extension. This performance was for their pride night routine which the girls begin to practice months in advance.



Grace Rahal, freshman, gets ready to cradle down from a prep. A cradle is when the bases throw the flyer up and then catch them. The most common way to get down from a stunt is a smush.



Hannah Rupprecht and *Cali Williams*, sophomores, and *Jaeda Moore* and *Emilee Mitchell*, freshmen, load into an extension. An extension is where the bases are holding the flyer above their head. Rupprecht's favorite stunt is a basket toss.

The team celebrates winning the conference title by pushing the coaches in the water. This was an amazing moment for the team. This moment will forever be in the minds of those involved.

Photo Credit: Gregory Galakatos



Sabrina Granata, freshman, was one of the swimmers that came out and made handmade blankets that were then donated to the Ranken Jordan Bridge hospital. The team spent the evening making blankets and watching the movie, *Frozen*, while lounging in the pool area. "My favorite part on the swim team was Friday dance parties and being on the same team as my sister," said Granata.

Lauren Zone, freshman swims during a freestyle race. "My favorite part of being on the varsity swim team is being able to form strong relationships with the girls not only in the freshman class but also in other grades. All the girls on the team make an effort to cheer one another on and are constantly push one another to do the best of their ability," said Zone.



Alyssa Adams, junior, swims her race of the 100 breaststroke. Adams was a powerhouse throughout the season. "My fastest time was 1:20:36. I love the swim season because it is a really fun way to get closer to people, and I love breaststroke because it's challenging but also very rewarding," said Adams.





we're soarin' (butter) flyin'

The varsity swim team has swam past the competition, winning 18 meets out of 20. One exciting moment of the season was when the 200 freestyle relay of Jenna Galakatos, Brittany Johnson, juniors, Sara Boylan, and Mackenzie Wieberg, seniors, made the state time cut at the tri-meet on January 25th against Ursuline and Principia. The state time is 1:45.99, and they finished with an impressive time of 1:43.

"It was the first relay in our team to qualify, and we were all so excited," said Boylan regarding the qualifying meet. "I remember the whole team coming up and giving us hugs and congratulating us. That was the cool thing-- the whole team was excited for

us and was so happy we did well. It was an amazing moment I won't ever forget."

Jenna Galakatos, junior, made state time in two events this season. "I had already made state in the 200 free relay, but I was able to make the cut again in the 200 Medley relay, this one with my sister. I couldn't wait to see my dad and tell him since he loves the sport so much," said Galakatos.

Qualifying for state was a rewarding experience for the girls on the team to be recognized for all of their hard work. "This season was one of the best I've had in all of my eight years of swimming. It's one of the hardest sports ever, but that's what makes it so rewarding," said Boylan.



The team decorated the tree with goggles, caps, and lights to give the pool area a holiday vibe. The team also listens to Christmas music while doing the workout during December.



Grace Skiljan, freshman, takes a break after her free style event in Cape Girardeau. This was a fun meet for the team, and the bus ride to and from Cape was a highlight for many of the swimmers.



Hailey Kittelson, junior, swims the breaststroke. "Swim team is always there for each other, cheering and encouraging. Whether it's in the pool or outside life, the swim team has an unbreakable bond and a sisterhood," said Kittelson.



Victoria Meuret, junior, does a back-tuck dive. She ended the season with an impressive first place finish at conference. "I loved being able to try something new and meet new people! I love every single person on the dive and swim team and wouldn't trade my experience this year for anything," said Meuret.



Lilly Coln, sophomore, swims the 100 fly against the Burroughs Bombers. The cats took home a great victory. WCA also beat the Bombers during conference.



**MACKENZIE
WIEBERG**

24.05

Fastest 50 yd Freestyle

7th at State

59.09

Fastest 100 yd Butterfly

13th at State

54.24

Fastest 100 yd Free

pride & glory

Wrestling is one of the toughest sports at school according to many Westminster students. "Wrestling is a tough sport because it challenges you physically and mentally," said JT Fuller, senior. The wrestling team has had success this year with Charlie McCracken, junior, leading with the best record on the team. McCracken has won 41 matches with only 7 losses.

"I've played many sports over the years," said Fuller, "but mentally no sport has been as difficult as wrestling." But what are the team's reasons for playing one of the hardest sports at school? "I wrestle because it makes me stronger and prepares me for adversity," said Garrett Stoecker, senior.

Another reason students wrestle is because they

were introduced to it by a family member. "The reason I wrestle is because my uncle was a state champion, and my dad wrestled. I basically grew up wrestling," said Clayton Perona, freshman.

"I wrestle because my older brother started wrestling when I was little, so I personally thought it was cool," said McCracken. Another popular reason to wrestle is for the pride that wrestlers feel when they win. According to Lucas Chimento, he takes pride in winning and knowing that all his hard work has paid off. Matthew Thoenen, sophomore, also said the pride and glory that he feels, especially after a pin, is worth all the time and effort that their team puts in at practice.

Charlie McCracken, junior, stands on the winner's platform. McCracken wrestled in Columbia, Missouri, and received 5th place in the state.



Ian Warren, freshman, has wrestled for 3 years. Warren said his favorite part of wrestling is Coach Muehleisen encouraging them by yelling "Knee in the butt!" or "Believe in the five point stance!"

Blake Potter, senior, dislocated his shoulder during his final season at Westminster. "I wrestle for pride and glory," said Potter.

5



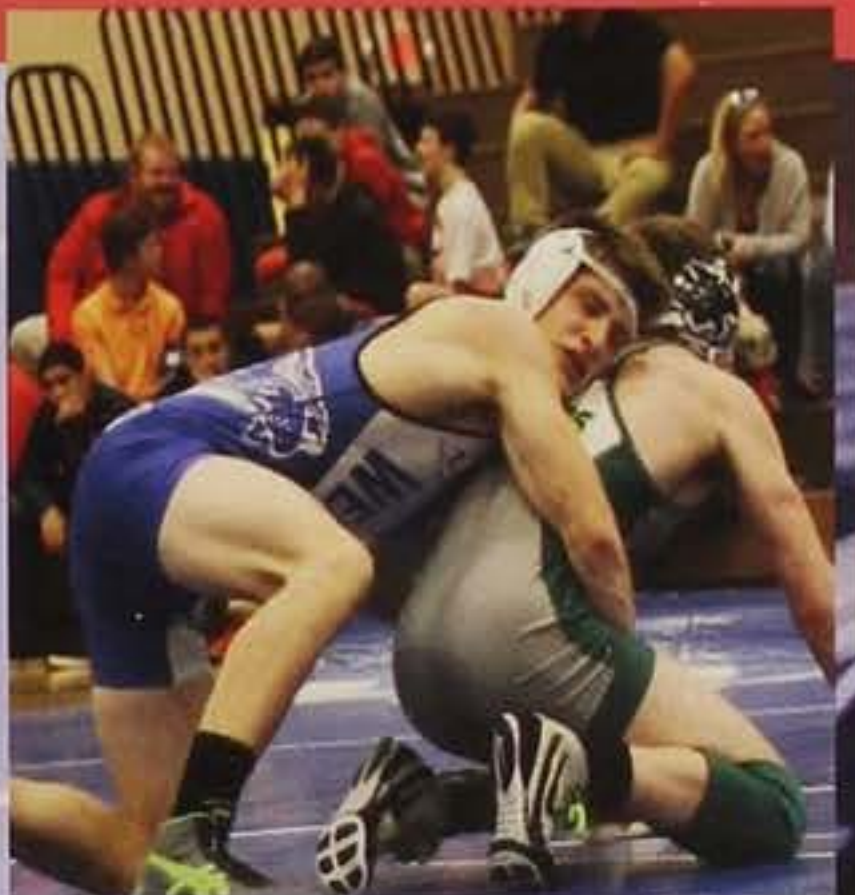
Griffin Anderson, senior, wrestles his last match against Fort Zumwalt South. This is his first year of wrestling. "It was a new experience, but I had great teammates and coaches that pushed me to be the best I could be," said Anderson.

Clayton Perona, freshman, talks to his coach after his match. This is his fifth year of wrestling. Perona has won 18 matches this year.

Garret Stoecker, senior, attempts to get a pin against Whitfield. "I wrestle because it makes me stronger and prepared for adversity," said Stoecker.

Garret Stoecker, Blake Potter, JT Fuller, Lucas Chimento, and Griffin Anderson, seniors, take a picture together on senior night. They have created a tight bond by encouraging and pushing each other. "I liked being with the guys and going through adversity together," said Anderson.

Matthew Thoenen, sophomore, starts a match against Fort Zumwalt South. Thoenen decided to try a new sport this year. "I'm a rookie. I've only played for one year," said Thoenen.



ice ice baby

March 8, 2017, marks an important day in Westminster Hockey history as the team defeated Ladue to become State Champions in the Wickenheiser Cup. The boys worked hard for this opportunity since they first started skating and were grateful to end their season with a victory such as this. Led by first year coach Mike Richards and 8 seniors, the team worked together to play their hearts out on the rink and are proud of what they have accomplished.

The anticipation around the game was almost as exciting as witnessing the game front and center at the Scottrade Center. For days before the championship, students talked about how eager they were to be there to cheer on the team, and the hockey players prepared for the game.

Andrew Tipton, junior, enjoyed every minute of the amazing season. "It's a great group of guys with a lot of seniors, and it's gonna be fun to play the last game with them," said Tipton.

With nerves and enthusiasm, the team entered the rink confident in their abilities to work together and play their best, and they surely did not disappoint. With goals from Jason Kelly,

Nick Callier, and Harry Medler, seniors, and with many saves from goalie Sam Haupfear, sophomore, they were able to win the close game 3-2.

When asking many of the underclassmen on the team what stood out to them from this season, they would of course say the championship game, but they also mentioned the impactful leadership of their seniors. Players like Zach Nall, senior, sought to keep the team zealous and spirited throughout the season, no matter how the scoreboard looked.

"Whenever we are losing or things aren't looking good, I normally try to score and bring us back into the game to bring the team back and give them hope again," said Nall. This kind of leadership is the embodiment of putting the team before yourself. Though the senior leaders would be missed, the underclassmen hoped to carry on their legacy into the next season. Levi Wright, junior, hoped that the team could compete in the Challenge Cup next year and saw the win this year as an inspiration to keep improving.

VARSITY HOCKEY

Harry Medler, senior



19
WINS

9
LOSSES

3
TIES



Tyler Culleton, freshman, swings his stick back in hopes to score a goal. The cats scored three goals against Parkway South. Unfortunately, they lost 6-3 on December 2, 2016.



Jason Kelly, senior, skates down the ice with the puck. Kelly was one of the main scorers this season. Due to his hard work and love of the game, he was given the MVP award at the Wickenheiser Cup Championship.



Joe Schroeder, sophomore, looks to pass the puck to an open teammate. The cats played against Rockwood Summit on January 7, 2016. They scored one goal to end the game in a tie.



Aidan Penberthy, freshman, skates down the ice. Even as a freshman, Penberthy helped the team towards many victories. He was one of two freshman playing varsity this year.



Zach Nall, senior, skates toward the goal with the puck. Nall was a valuable player who scored frequently. Nall played varsity all four years of high school.



Cole McWard, sophomore, skates down the rink. Even as an underclassman, McWard was a primary scorer. His hard work payed off this season.

Jason Kelly, senior, receives the MVP award. Through his hard work and spirit this season, Kelly deserved the award. Kelly was thankful to have had the opportunity to lead his team.

Andrew Tipton, junior, walks into the Scottrade Center. Tipton was excited for the last game of the season. He was ready to play.



Connor Dolan, senior, defends a Ladue player. Dolan played hard during the Wickenheiser Cup championship game. He helped lead his team to victory.

Sam Hauptfear, sophomore, prepares to stop any shots. Hauptfear's constant saves were vital this season. His work ethic inspired other teammates.

Logan Bauer, senior, is ready to start playing. Bauer finished the season strong with the rest of his team. He was grateful to be a part of Westminster Hockey.



middle school sports **movin' on up**

Everybody has their reasons...

*Want to get to know the coaches?
Get out of academic connect?
Make friends?
Learn to play the sport?
Prepare for high school?
Or did your parents make you?*

*No matter the reason for playing,
middle school sports were an essential
part of the Westminster community.*

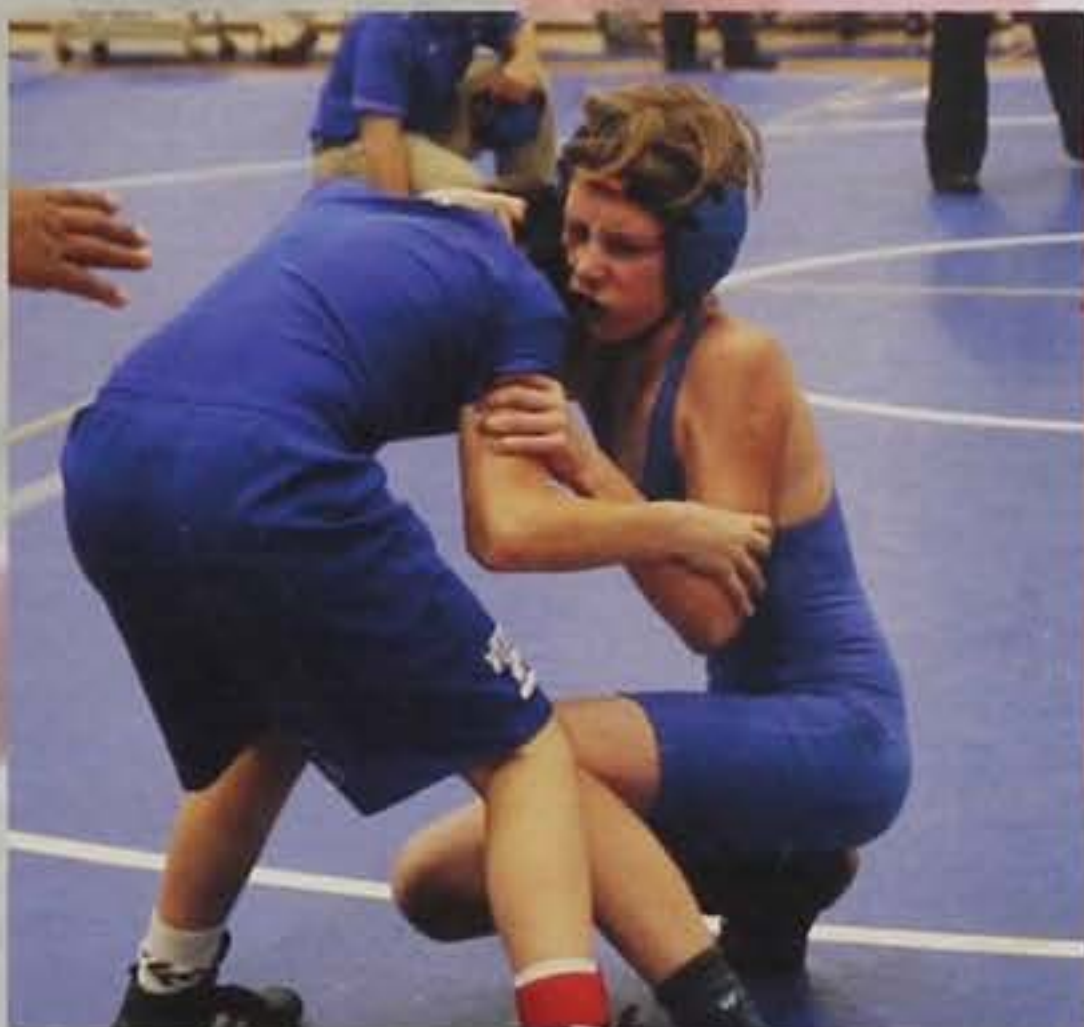
Lochlan Stewart, seventh grade, makes his way around a defensive player during a soccer game. The middle school soccer program only had one team per grade this year, rather than A and B teams.



Peyton Moore, seventh grade, blocks a pass in a crucial moment during a seventh grade basketball game. Most middle school basketball players played to prepare for the competitive high school program.



Isaac Niekamp, seventh grade, wrestles with his opponent at a meet. Because of the shortage of middle school wrestlers in St. Louis, the athletes often had to oppose their own team members.



Ashley Gordon, seventh grade, makes a pass during middle school field hockey practice. Gordon was one of many students who played field hockey for the first time this year.



Savvy Duncan, seventh grade, practices her swing at softball practice. Some middle school softball players played to prepare for high school. Others just wanted to have fun and learn the sport.





WILDCATS		3:44		GUESTS	
19				28	
DOWN	TO GO	BALL ON	QTR		
			3		

Denver Parker, eighth grade, runs the ball thirty yards to score a touchdown for the cats in their first home game. The cats were excited to show off their hard work in their first game. The team ended up winning the close game, which created a positive and exciting start to the season.

getting ready for high school



Miranda Bellamy, seventh grade, serves the ball at a game against Wydown Middle School. "I played to get to know people and also because it's just a really fun sport," said Bellamy. Miranda had a great experience with her team and planned on playing in high school.



Benjamin Van Zee, eighth grade, competes in a wrestling match against Principia. The wrestling team had eight different matches this year, allowing them to compete against the schools they will face in high school. The matches gave them an idea of what the high school season is like.



Chelsey Hawkins, seventh grade, dribbles down the court in a game against Villa. "I love basketball and getting to make friends through doing something you love is really cool," said Hawkins. She looked forward to continuing to play with her teammates in eighth grade and high school.



Jordan Coleman, seventh grade, starts the play by dribbling to half court. Coleman played point guard this year.



Daniel Martin, eighth grade, stays on a steady pace for his long run ahead. Martin liked to compete against his teammates during practice.



Savvy Duncan, seventh grade, fields the ball during practice. Duncan was a shortstop this softball season.



Brett St. John, eighth grade, attempts to score a goal against MICDS. St. John has played soccer for both 7th grade and 8th grade.

A major reason that students play sports in middle school is to get ready to play in high school. Middle school sports mark the beginning of an athlete's high school career. "I am running cross country to train for field hockey in high school," said Kharis Perona, seventh grade.

Also, playing a sport before high school can help to learn the rules of the game. "Middle school sports are really the beginning of your high school career. For me, I had never played football before, so learning the rules has been super helpful," said Harry Ottson, seventh grade. Another football player had similar thoughts. "Playing football in preparation for high school helps improve your skills," said Jackson Selk, eighth grade.

Also, playing middle school sports are helpful if you want to make the JV or varsity teams. "I am playing soccer in middle school to try and make a good team next year," said Luke Laughlin, eighth grade. Another reason to play sports before high school is to gain experience with your team. "You know how to play with your teammates in high school because you played with them in middle school," said Arista Hampton, eighth grade.



Marissa Barnes and **Arista Hampton**, eighth grade, reset at the net for the net point against their opponent. "The purpose of middle school sports is to try to find out our God-given talents at a younger age, so we can pursue them into the plan God has given us," said Barnes.



Kate Orrick, eighth grade, practices setting the ball to her teammate before the game starts. "My love for volleyball grew so much this season, and I really enjoyed competing at a higher level," said Orrick.



Owen Burkemper, seventh grade, sprints toward the finish line at his cross country meet. "Running is something I enjoy doing because it allows me to spend time in nature," said Burkemper.



Grace Clement, eighth grade, takes a shot at goal in their game against Visitation. "The practices were really fun because it wasn't completely serious. You could always find us laughing and joking around," said Clement.



Tioni Saddler, eighth grade, sets the ball to her teammate during warm-ups. Her goal this season was to serve consistently to be ready for high school.



Ashley Lytle, eighth grade, performs a relay start off the blocks at her middle school meet. "I'll always remember our last swim practice because it was really fun and we all got to play our own music," said Lytle.

parents made me do it



Gus Wilkerson, eighth grade, chases down the soccer ball. "This was the first year that I played defense, and playing defense helped me to connect better with the offense. It also helped me open up and see more of the game," said Wilkerson.



Layla Selk, seventh grade, sets the ball over the net 3 times in a row to result in a winning point for the Wildcats.



Sage Schulte, seventh grade, sprints in the first race of the season. "Cross country is probably the only sport I'm actually able to do, but I really enjoyed making friends with people outside my grade," said Schulte.



You should have an open mind when trying new sports since you can always do another sport next year.

-Hugh Muschany, eighth grade



Charis Perona, seventh grade, plays defense before swiping the ball from her opponent. "My favorite memory was when we won our first game on National Field Hockey Day," said Perona.



Luke Burkey, seventh grade, swims the 100 Individual Medley. "The 100 I.M. was not my favorite event, but I still enjoyed getting the chance to swim for my team," said Burkey.



Ellie Callier, **Abby Sicksels**, eighth grade, and **KK Pruitt**, seventh grade, do their team cheer during halftime. "My favorite memory was playing goalie during a scrimmage, and I got hit by a ball, and I landed into the mud," said Callier.

Some say they play middle school sports because it's fun. Others say because they want to make friends. But some play simply because their parents made them. "I mainly played field hockey because my dad made me. He told me to play two sports so field hockey was my second sport," said Ellie Johnson, seventh grade. Playing sports is no doubt a big commitment, but for these middle schoolers their parents had already made the choice for them.

"I didn't want to do swimming because I was going to be really busy and am already am on a swim team in the summer, but my parents made me do it," said Abby Johler, seventh grade. One would imagine that these students would not be too happy about playing a sport because they had to, but in the end they actually enjoyed playing on their teams.

"My parents told me it'd be good for me to make more friends, and it was something to do to get my mind off of school," said Hugh Muschany, eighth grade. Middle school sports are all about the experience and the relationships made throughout the season. So sometimes, parents do know best because in the end, these middle schoolers were glad they played on their sport's teams.

Michala Crooks, seventh grade, rushes in a race at Principia. She appreciates the perks of having friends in cross country. "Cross country gives you some fun competition and leads you to push yourself harder," said Crooks.



making new friends

Advice that is oftentimes given to students when entering a new school is to become involved and join activities in order to meet others with similar interests to oneself. This guidance was taken to heart by some of the middle schoolers this year, as many of them joined an athletic team for the purpose of making friends.

"It's how I made most of my friends in my seventh grade year," said Aidan Kline, eighth grade.

On the other hand, some chose to play sports for the opposite reason: not to make new friends but to spend time with old ones. "I played mostly because my friend was playing, and I wanted to try football," said Jack Wooldridge, seventh grade.

Nicholas Lee, eighth grade, had the same reasoning for joining the lacrosse team. "I played because a lot of other people were too, so I decided to give it a go," said Lee.

For those who chose to join a sport, making new friends in the process was an added bonus. "It was worth it because I love the sport, and I made more friends," said Katie Allen, seventh grade, in reference to joining the volleyball team.



Audrey Storer, eighth grade, returns a shot with a forehand. "I wanted to have a sport because I wanted to move around and have fun at the same time. I don't know what I would do without tennis," said Storer.



Danny Sacco and Andrew Smith, eighth grade, work on bringing the ball down the field. Making friends was very important to many middle school athletes. These friendships helped them work together on and off the field.



Nilee Burney, eighth grade, slams a line drive during softball practice. Teamwork is highly important in softball. Most plays would not work unless the players cooperated, so the players made an effort to form relationships and friendships with each other.



Charlie Allen, eighth grade, finishes a freestyle lap. Between strokes, the kids received a chance to chat with one another. Many friendships were created and grew during these moments.



Gus Wilkerson, eighth grade, finds a grip on his opponent. Although wrestling is an individual sport, the kids are responsible for helping each other learn the moves during practice. It is difficult to learn a new move without a partner that is willing to offer advice.

Jordan Cloeman, Nick Ford, and Matt Buchanan, seventh grade, huddle up to listen to their coach's pep talk during halftime along with the entire basketball team. Having an encouraging coach was really important to many of the players. A good coach made them feel more confident about their game.



Hayden Turley, eighth grade, quickly speeds back up from a jog to a run as he makes his way towards the finish line. With many meets during the season, the students had lots of opportunities to improve their times. Many of the runners did cross country just to stay in shape.



Brooke Highmark, seventh grade, blocks a player from Villa, keeping her away from the basketball while the rest of the team moves in towards the hoop. This December 19th game was early in the season, so the girls were still getting to know their teammates and coaches.



Caleb Moellenhoff, eighth grade, swoops in to get the soccer ball back for his team during a game against Rogers Middle School. Students like Moellenhoff played soccer because they wanted to prepare for high school. Because the high school team was so selective, it was helpful for the players to get to know the coaches early.

connected coaches



William Holt, eighth grade, gives a strong effort during a match. The wrestlers had to endure long meets after school multiple times a week, but many found that it was worth it because they could stay in shape and prepare for high school.



Allie Shreves, eighth grade, prepares to serve the volleyball during a warm up just a few minutes before the match actually begins. Many of the girls chose to play in order to get to know the coaches and prepare for the competitive high school teams.

A coach, like a teacher, can serve as a mentor to students, helping them with their sport but also giving life advice for off the court. One reason some students chose to play a sport in middle school was to get to know the coaches, whether it was to build relationships for high school or just to have someone who has experienced the early teenage years and can teach them from experience.

"Coach Leah is very nice, and she helped me get my jumps. We are working towards my round up back handspring. She is very encouraging she tries to get us to do something," said Tatum Osman, seventh grade, regarding the coach of the cheer and dance team.

Offering words of encouragement and cheering enthusiastically from the sidelines, the middle school coaches were a group of people that loved athletics and desired to share their passions with younger students, some who might be trying a sport for the first time.

"My coaches have been really helpful. Especially for wrestling, it was a new sport to me, and they helped a lot," said Seth Noel, eighth grade, about middle school wrestling coaches Rob Gion and J.D. Perona.

While playing a sport could have been taxing or strenuous, the Westminster coaching staff offered their experience and were one of the reasons that some middle schoolers either chose a particular sport or decided to continue playing after one year.



Caroline Claus, eighth grade, chases after the field hockey ball. The Villa game was a tough one for the middle school team because Villa had such a strong program. Playing in middle school was good practice for girls who wanted to be competitive in high school.



Sarah Cahill, seventh grade, flies while **Marissa Barnes**, **Mia Davis**, eighth grade, and **Layla Selk**, seventh grade, do their last cheer routine for their final game of the year on February 18. Most of the girls on the cheer team cheered because they wanted to make friends.

Lessons of Life

While students learned many things through athletics such as how to hit a ball or score a goal, they could also take away valuable life skills from their time on the field.

One such lesson was how to be diligent and determined. "I mostly learned to work hard," said Hugh Muschany, eighth grade. Sports could teach discipline, which is not only applicable to the athletic fields, but could also be transferred to their time in the classroom.

Moreover, sports taught students to have fun and provided a relaxing alternative to classroom learning. Students were given a chance to try new things, as many

students played sports for the first time in middle school. From this they learned how to take chances, make mistakes, and learn from their failures. Trying something new could pay off in the end, and many students fell in love with their newfound athletic activities. "I had a lot of fun, and now I play on three [field hockey] teams not including the school team because I realized I really like it," said Ashley Gordon, seventh grade.

Whether it be acquiring the ability to work hard or learning how to recover from one's mistakes, the middle school sports teams offered many valuable lessons that could be applied in various areas of life.



Mackenzie Clark, eighth grade, works on serving the ball during practice. The middle schoolers did not have many matches, so they have a lot of practice time to work on improving their skills.



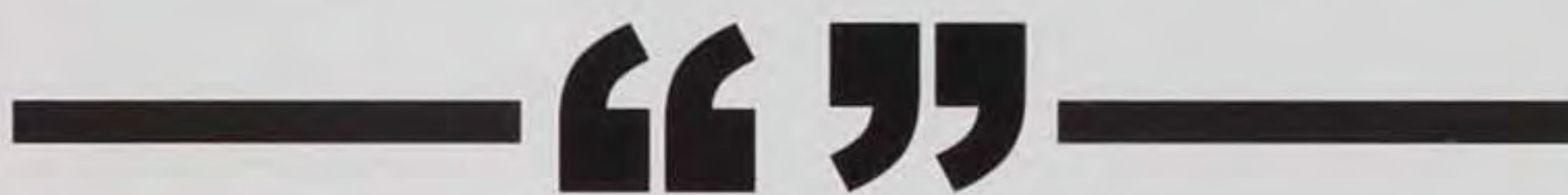
Brooke Highmark, seventh grade, serves the ball over the net during a game. The team played against Victory on October 4. Because volleyball is so competitive at Westminster, many girls joined the team to prepare for high school.



Adam Lyles, seventh grade, dribbles the ball down the court in an attempt to score. Because the high school program is so competitive, playing in middle school is a good opportunity to learn and improve skills. The boys also got to know the high school coaches.



Sarah Cahill, seventh grade, watches the basketball game from the sidelines with the other cheerleaders. Most middle school cheerleaders wanted to make friends on the team. The practices were pretty infrequent, so more girls had time to do cheer in addition to other sports.



Baseball is a big part of my life. I have played it since I was 4 and was allowed to play t-ball.

-Jake McConkey, seventh grade



Ellie Johnson, seventh, prepares to shoot the ball into the goal during the team's warm-up. They played against Visitation Academy. Even though the Visitation's team is strong, the Wildcats still put up a good fight.



Mark Stump, eighth grade, runs toward the ball while guarding a player from the other team. This game was played on September 20th against Rogers Middle School.



Gracie Dark, eighth grade, returns a serve at tennis practice. The middle school tennis team was large, giving students the opportunity to make friends. That was one of the biggest reasons girls played tennis.

Gwyn Raleigh, eighth grade, passes the ball during tennis practice. The typical middle school tennis player joined the team because they wanted to make friends. Other girls wanted to get ready for the competitive high school program.



dis connect^{ed}

Any given middle schooler has two options after school each day: either play a sport or go to academic connect, a required study hall with teacher supervision. Many students opt for the more active option, to play a sport.

However, their motives for playing the sport vary, whether they wanted to make friends, get to know coaches, or just be active after school. Genesis Jones, eighth grade, played soccer, track, and basketball this year. She loved soccer and track, basketball was different. "I don't really like basketball, though. That was strictly to get out of connect. [It was worth it] because I didn't have to do school work and I got to play games on the weekends," said Jones.

Some students felt differently about skipping connect to play a sport. Connect was a good time for students to meet with teachers and get caught up with their schoolwork. "Football took away a lot of connect time, and I definitely had more homework than I do now with four days of connect," said Jack Wooldridge, seventh grade. Even though some students felt this way, many still chose to get active every day.



Griffin Alm, seventh grade, finishes a lap during swim practice. Most of the team members said they swam this year just because they wanted to learn the sport. Others wanted to prepare for the high school team and make friends.

Abbie Terschak, seventh grade, lifts the ball while warming up before a field hockey game. The middle school field hockey players wanted to make friends, get out of connect, and prepare for high school. The growing high school program made the middle schoolers even more excited to play.



Ashley Lytle, eighth grade, makes a pass at field hockey practice. The middle school field hockey program was essential to the growth of the field hockey program as a whole. Girls who played in middle school were guaranteed to succeed in the new high school teams.

Allie Shreves, eighth grade, practices her tennis serve. The seventh and eighth grade teams practiced together every day. This gave the students more opportunities to make friends outside of their grade.

Tanner Brand, seventh grade, makes a pass at the soccer game against Parkway Central. The team had a busy schedule, with 16 total games. The middle school teams had a good season, which was promising for the high school teams.



what's in uniform

Although the plaid skirts and khaki pants made Westminster students appear similar, in reality each student's day at school was vastly different. The older one got, the more flexibility was given related to choosing classes, allowing one to have sculpted their schedule to match his or her interests.

While some students may have chosen to fill their days with the most AP classes possible, others would rather have spent their time in the art room for hours on end or in the gym, taking p.e. just for fun. Each person's experience at Westminster was vastly different, shaped in a large way by how they chose to spend their years here.

in
one
school
year

283

days

9

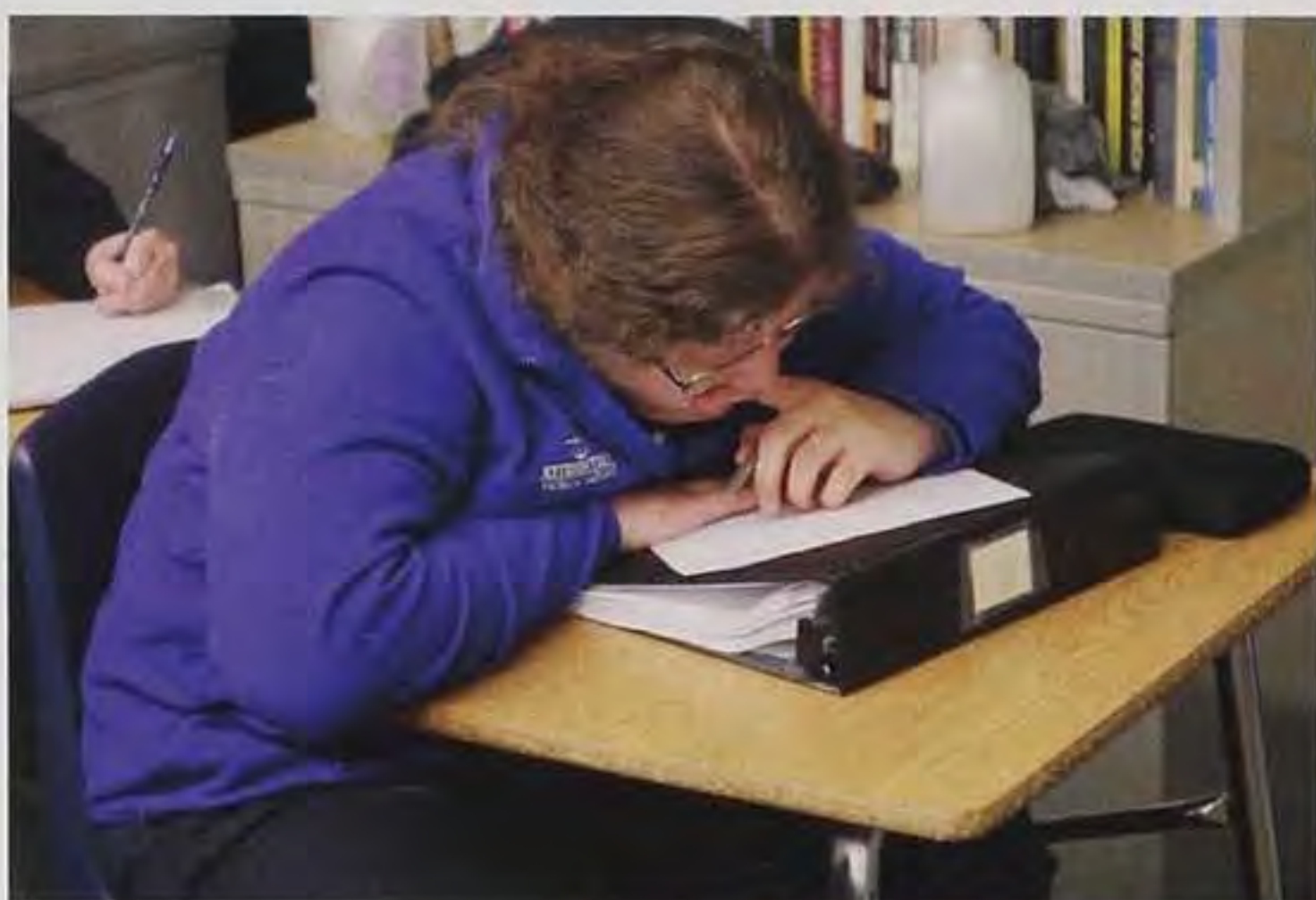
months

40

weeks

7

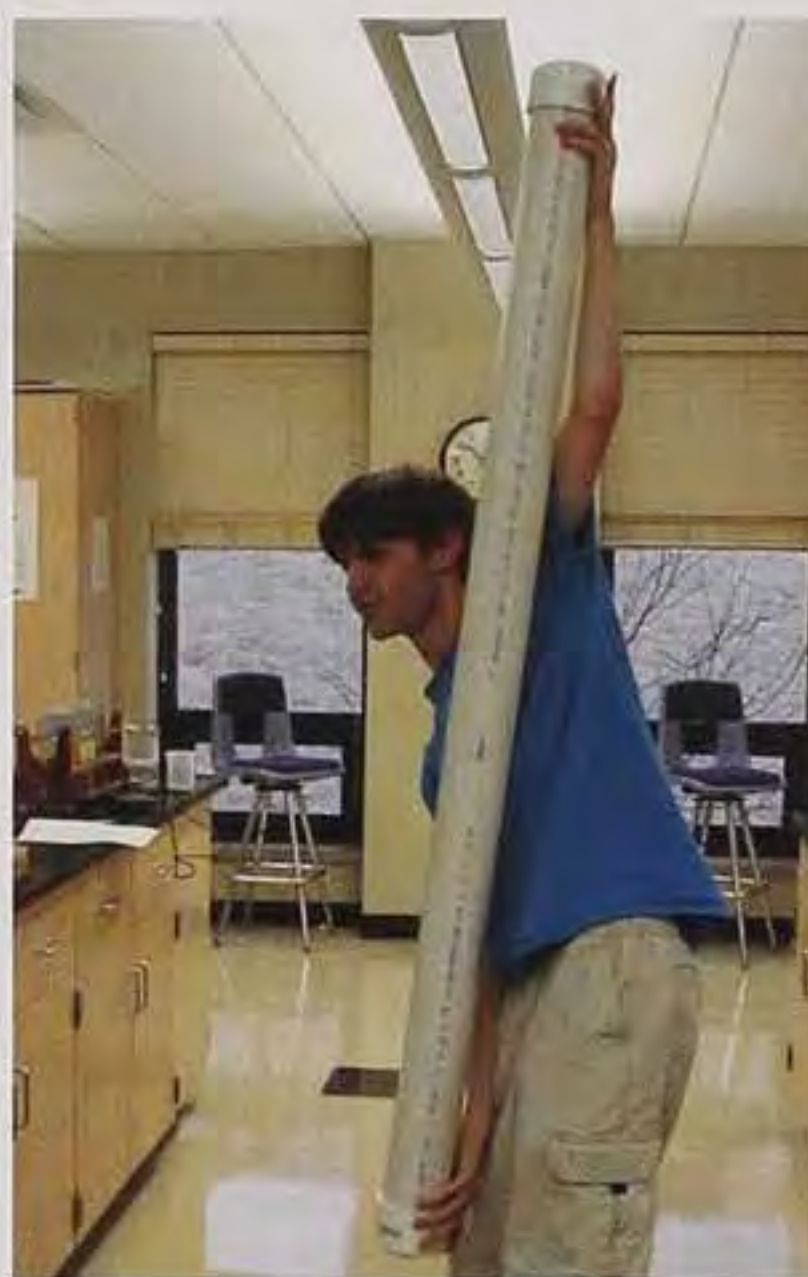
classes



Michelle Morley, senior, works on a problem in BC Calculus class. Morely took this course in addition to AP statistics.



Amanda Berry, sophomore, does an experiment for honors chemistry. "I take a lot of honors classes because I like every subject," said Berry.



Jonathan Nyenhuis, senior, does a lab for AP physics. This lab included shaking a pipe with beads of metal in it and then measuring the heat lost.

Catie George, Bridget James, Carley James, and Chloe Hauptfear, sophomores, work on questions at the Crossing church for the Honors Western Civilizations field trip. They were studying architecture, so the class went to the Cathedral Basilica, The Crossing, and the mall to compare how architecture affects various places of worship.



Teddy Bacon and Ethan Davitt, seniors, work on an AP Biology lab. Davitt took five AP classes this year including two AP science courses.

challenge accepted

To anyone not sure if they should take an AP class: do it. I guarantee you will learn more than you expect, and while the class will be difficult, you will grow as a student and as a person.

-Ethan Davitt, senior

While the idea of an honors or AP class may have frightened some students, for those brave enough to accept the challenge, there were many rewards to these difficult courses.

"I take honors classes because I like the challenge. You are able to go a lot more in depth and learn harder material than in other classes," said Amanda Berry, sophomore.

This challenging atmosphere invigorated some students. "If I do not have to put in effort, I am not having fun," said Ethan Davitt, senior.

Additionally, these harder courses could prepare students for college and their career beyond.

"In my mind, taking AP classes does two things for my future in college," said Davitt. "First, scoring high on the AP test will allow me to skip introductory courses, so that I can quickly enter higher level classes. Second, learning how to study well, developing a work ethic, and being challenged by hard classes will prepare me for success in future difficult courses in college and beyond."

choosing the challenge



Jacob Schloss, seventh grade, does work on his iPad. Schloss worked on a math problem that would later be explained by Jackson Loehr, seventh grade.



Jackson Loehr, seventh grade, works with Jonathan Powers, a first year teacher at WCA hired to launch the gifted program. "My favorite part about Westminster is the diversity and the amount of classes I am able to take," said Loehr.



Jack Baker, seventh grade, takes notes. The small class sizes allow for more one on one time with the teacher. This was helpful when it came to challenging problems.



Angelina Spencer, seventh grade, observes her classmate's math problem on the board. "My favorite class is STEM. You really get to use your brain to make different things and have fun," said Spencer.



Sarah Cahill, seventh grade, listens to Jonathan Powers, gifted program teacher. "I love the teachers at Westminster. They are so encouraging, and I feel like at my old school I didn't have as good of a relationship with my teachers," said Cahill.

DOWN
IN HOMEWORK
U GET
BETTER GRADES

EXCUSE
LIMIT
0

W.A. READING
Middle School Gifted Program
Teacher: [Name]
Classroom: [Name]

By failing to
PREPARE
you are not
PREPARING
to fail.

Westminster Christian Academy seeks to challenge students so that they may better engage the world, and the middle school is no exception. The opportunity to join the gifted program was extended to students who could benefit from an approach that would play to those students' strengths.

"I joined because I thought it would be a fun challenge," said Kirk Briden, seventh grade.

Although for others there was parent pressure involved.

"My parents wanted me to join," said Annessa Shively, eighth grade.

Whatever the reason for choosing to do the gifted program, the challenge of the program played a part.

"It's definitely something different and a challenge," said Shively.

Annessa Shively, eighth grade, looks at the problem on the board. The middle school gifted program started last year as an attempt to challenge the students who were bored in regular classes, especially because there were not as many honors options for middle school.

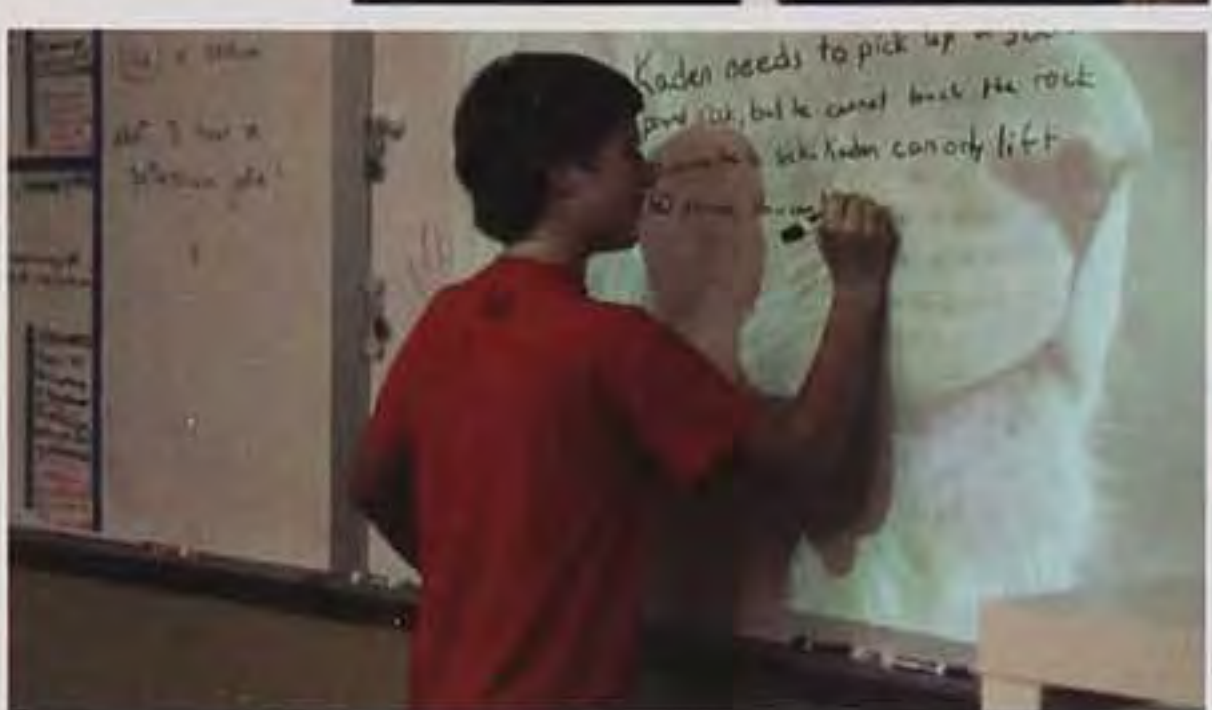
Hayden Turley, eighth grade, takes notes. Everything done in this class uses technology.



Kaden Feeney, eighth grade, observes his classmate's math problem on the board. There were only six people in the eighth grade gifted program.



Kirk Briden, eighth grade, writes a problem on the board. Briden came up with the problem and was critiqued on it.



Abigail Mohler, eighth grade, listens to Kirk Briden explain a math problem. The gifted program contained two units, a history and a math unit.





Kourtney Moten, eighth grade, plays the clarinet in middle school band. "I decided to join because I thought it would be fun to play an instrument. I think it's cool because you get to use God's creation to make music that sounds really good," said Moten.

express yourself



Everyone works together for a specific goal. It is very important to communicate as a group.

-Christian McGee, senior



Tim Wos, eighth grade, focuses on his notes while hitting a snare drum. As a percussion player, he keeps the beat for the rest of the group. "Percussion helps people in the band who are lost," said Wos.



Tom Southwell, senior, and *Jaxon Halsey*, sophomore, act out a skit during improv class. To be in this class, students had to take drama I and II in addition to being recommended by the teacher.



Hunter Freiner, eighth grade, plays the guitar in middle school band. This year there was a separate beginner class for those who had never played an instrument before.



Josh Berglar, *Jake Mckie*, seniors, *Hannah Park*, and *Kyle Farrell*, sophomores, act out an improv skit for the after school review in the fall. "I knew that I wanted to be part of the team when I first saw a show at Westminster when I was in sixth grade. I saw what they did and how quickly the improvisers could think on their feet, and I knew that's something I wanted to do," said Farrell.

Unlike many other classes such as math or English which are required, the majority of the people that took band and orchestra did it because they enjoyed it. For many of these students who had to spend hours practicing their instruments, music became an integral part of their lives.

"Music has made an enormous impact on my life," said Josh Jones, sophomore. "Through music I am able to express emotions I normally couldn't with words or actions. I think the most important impact is that it has caused me to find my way of worshipping. Playing in church or chapel or even everyday for others is an act of worship," said Jones.

For others it was just a nice break in a stressful day. "I

like to play music because it helps me relax," said Alec Bequette, sophomore.

For some they played solely because they saw a sense of beauty when playing their instrument. "I enjoy the time when every instrument plays together to make a harmonic sound. It is very beautiful," said Maxwell Peng, senior.

In essence, for many of those who chose to spend hours of their lives practicing an instrument, it was because they genuinely enjoyed it. While some students expressed themselves through writing, dance, or even athletics, students such as these used their instrument to tell their story.

¡a hola le languages

“ ”

It really makes you test your work ethic because languages don't come easily to everyone.

-Alyssa Preusser, junior

For many students, after the required two years in high school, they stop taking a foreign language. However, there are also many students who become so intrigued with the languages that they continue to take one or even two different language classes.

Learning a different language allows students to be more aware of different cultures.

“I love language because it is the way you connect with one another. As believers we are called to make relationships with the world around

us not limited to those who speak our language,” said Rebekah Warren, junior.

Some students love taking a foreign language so that in the future they can go visit the country. “I’m taking French because I think it is a really beautiful language, and I want to go to France at some point in my life,” said Madison Wilson, sophomore.

No matter the reason for taking these courses, Westminster’s language classes offered a place for students to engage with other cultures and enhance their language skills.

Pamela Mueller, sophomore, has been taking French since seventh grade. “French had the most benefits throughout the business word. Plus, it sounds so beautiful when it is spoken,” said Mueller.

Alyssa Preusser, junior, studies Spanish in preparation for her first semester final. Preusser has taken Spanish all three years of high school.




Rebekah Warren, junior, listens to a lecture in her French class. Warren was one of the juniors in her Spanish 3 honors class. She loved taking French because of how beautiful the language sounded.

Daniel Wang and *Hayden Shively*, juniors, sit in their Spanish class. Both Wang and Shively were in Spanish 4 AP. “I was inspired by my time on the Spain summer seminar to gain awareness about other culture’s perspectives,” said Shively.

Rebekah Warren, junior, sits in her 4th hour Spanish 4 AP class. Warren took both Spanish 4 AP and French 3 honors. "I love that languages allow me to connect with others, and that they give me the opportunity to fully engage in our St. Louis Community," said Warren.





Molly Cook, senior, works on her piece for ceramics. Molly is taking Ap Art History, Ap Studio Art, Oil Painting, Watercolor, and an independent study of ceramics 3 during her senior year.

van gogh's of westminster

While for some students art classes served as a requirement they needed to fulfill to graduate or a calm break from the whirlwind of academics and homework, for a select few they were a reminder of what they were reaching towards and hoped to pursue in the future.

"I'm going into art education. I hope to be a high school art teacher and freelance on the side," said Molly Cook, senior. Another student striving for a future in the artistic world was Sarah Geisz, senior.

"I plan to major in animation," said Geisz. "From that point on, I don't really have anything planned out because I'm open to whatever happens. I think the animation industry and the medium is also very applicable to other forms of art as well."

No matter the future career aspirations, John Sarra, art teacher, sought to foster this love of creativity in his classes.

"I think that Mr. Sarra has challenged me to go beyond what I felt comfortable doing and to continue working on my stuff even after I thought it was done," said Cook.



Lily Fiala, senior, stands in front of her artwork for the art show. The theme for the art show was Island of Misfit Toys, taken from the song in the Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer movie. Mr. Sarra chose this theme because oftentimes artists feel like they do not fit in, but they are not alone.

Julie Park, senior, showcases her artwork from AP studio art class. "I think art is a very cool way to communicate my ideas with others. Even though I am from Korea, I can still communicate with other people through my works without using a language, as art can transcend the boundaries of language," said Park.



Hannah Rose Brown, senior, works on her piece for the showcase. Mr. Sarra was asked to display his work at Missouri Baptist University, and he invited his students to add their art to the exhibition.



Anna Tallman, senior, shows off her skills of painting a flower in oil painting class. One of the most challenging projects was the master study where they had to choose a famous painting and recreate it, which took away stylistic decisions and instead was meant to force the students to apply the techniques they had learned.



Hannah Hickel and Kimi Lehr, juniors, paint in AP art history class. The class was pretending to paint like Michelangelo did on the Sistine Chapel ceiling. "Art history isn't something I knew a lot about, and it's interesting to see different perspectives on a variety of historical events," said Hickel.



Sarah Geisz, senior, works on her new art project. "Art is something that you draw from your interests and your experiences, and without that art is really empty. You can make a beautiful work of art that looks just like a photo, but if it has no meaning to the person who made it or no story behind it, then I feel like it's just empty," said Geisz.

one size does not fit all

“ ”
It helps me stay organized and learn new ways to study for different material.

- *Faith Wickham*, junior

A key aspect of Westminster is its commitment to help students learn, no matter what the path. An average school day presents challenges for students regardless of the fact they are in a typical class, a gifted class, a concepts class, an honors class, or an AP class. For some the road to success includes interest specific courses such as newspaper or Improv. Some chose study skills as one of the seven periods in their schedule.

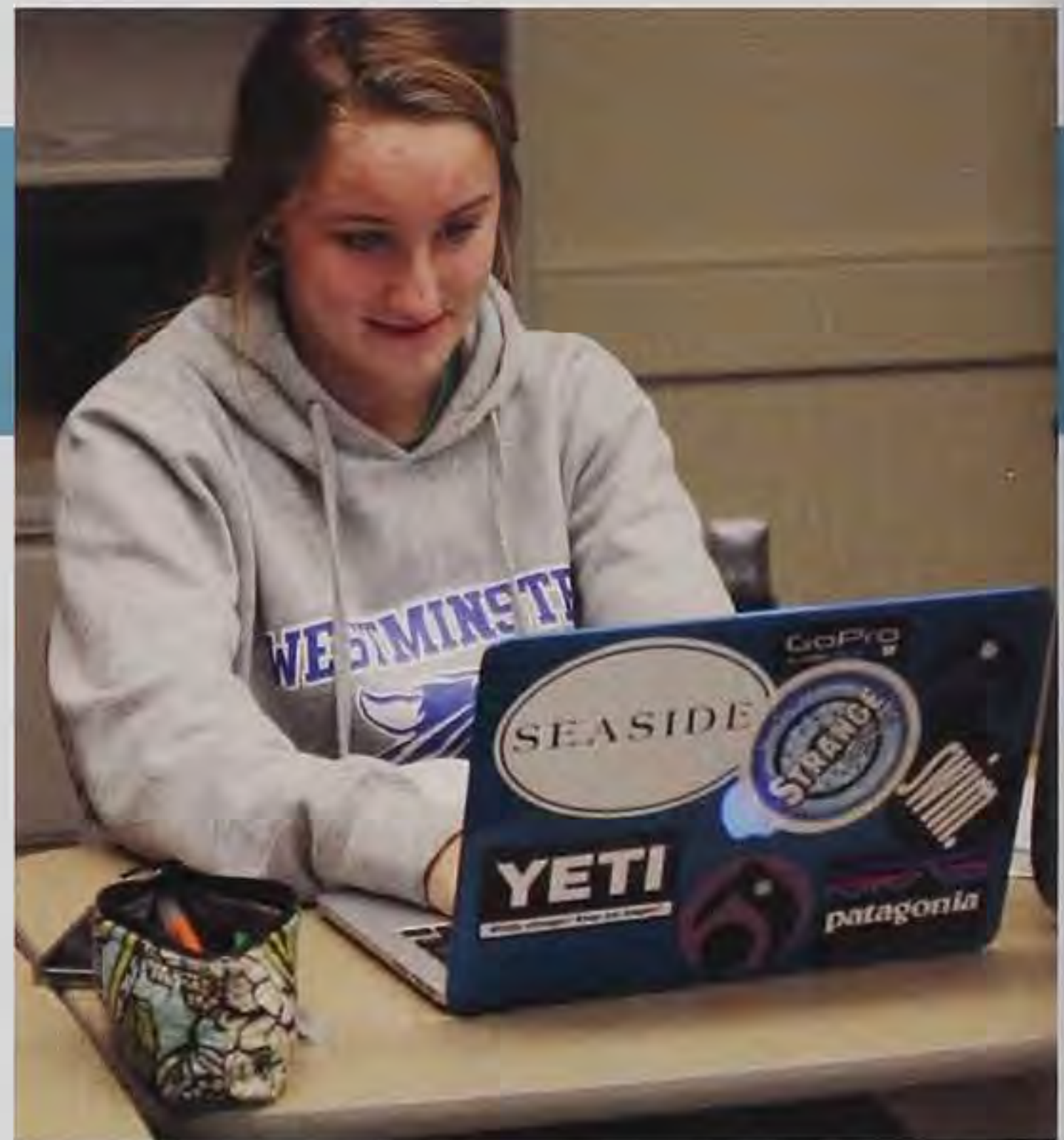
“Study skills is a small class with around eight people in it where the teacher will help you with your school work. For example, if there is an English paper due, the study skills teacher will help us through it and edit it with us. The teacher will also help you study for a test,” said Faith Wickham, junior. Westminster’s learning center is a dedicated part of providing the right environment for every student at WCA.

“Concepts classes typically have a lot less people, and we go at a slower pace than regular classes do. Smaller classes help with attention and getting more help than you would with a teacher who has 20 kids in their class,” said Isabella Ortiz, junior.

Many options and offerings allowed WCA students to make their way through the academic year without having to fit into the same mold.



Caleb Layton, junior, works on a lab for his concepts chemistry class. “The most challenging subject is probably math but not because the problems are hard. What helps me is listening to music because it keeps my mind going and keeps the other distractions out,” said Layton



Kathryn Kramer, junior, works on her English paper during her study skills class. This year Kathryn is taking her first AP class. “Taking an AP class makes me feel very accomplished, but I do feel like I need to work harder than others because school doesn’t come naturally for me. I feel like everything is a little bit more complicated and complex for me, and it takes me longer to process and work through things than a lot of other people,” said Kramer.

Ed Gargano, orchestra teacher, conducts the orchestra at the fine arts fair on March 9. The more traditionally elective departments such as fine arts, business and communication, special services, or P.E. worked hard to provide academic opportunities that fit many different skill sets and interests.



Isabella Ortiz, junior, works on an outline for her English paper during study hall. "My most challenging subject is probably English because I struggle with reading comprehension and writing. I work through it by asking my study skills teacher lots of questions and doing the work in her room so that she can be right there if I need her help," said Ortiz.

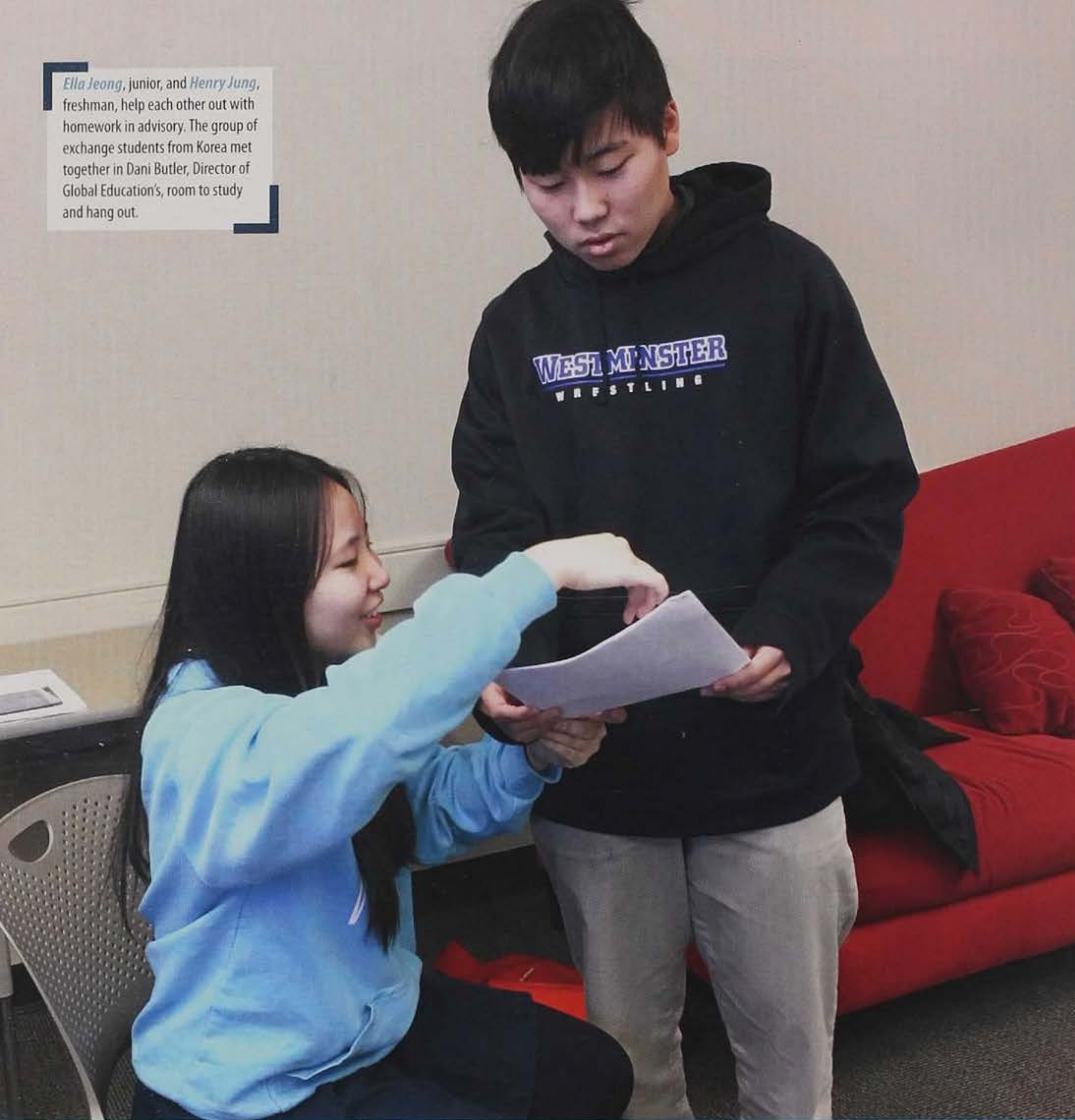


Faith Wickham, junior, takes notes during her concepts Chemistry class. "Chemistry is a challenging class for me, but it helps that we move at a good pace and work through the problems thoroughly," said Wickham.



Gabe Caradonna, sophomore, researches for a story for The Wildcat Roar, Westminster's student newspaper. Caradonna was a first year student at WCA, having transferred from Ladue. Newspaper staff gave him a course outside of the ordinary that fit his interests.

Ella Jeong, junior, and Henry Jung, freshman, help each other out with homework in advisory. The group of exchange students from Korea met together in Dani Butler, Director of Global Education's, room to study and hang out.



Katelyn Jeong, freshman, and Kelly Kwak, sophomore, study for finals together with their friends. They spent the whole week before finals preparing for the big tests.



seeing the world in a new way

Every year a group of exchange students traveled from different countries around the world to go to school at Westminster. Students in ninth through twelfth grades came from Japan, Korea, Spain, and China for the year to see what it is like going to school in America. As the year went by, the students learned about the culture, tried new foods, found new ways to study, and made so many new friends and relationships with people they would not have normally met. "I have come to know many new people that I will remember forever," said Steve Gao, sophomore.

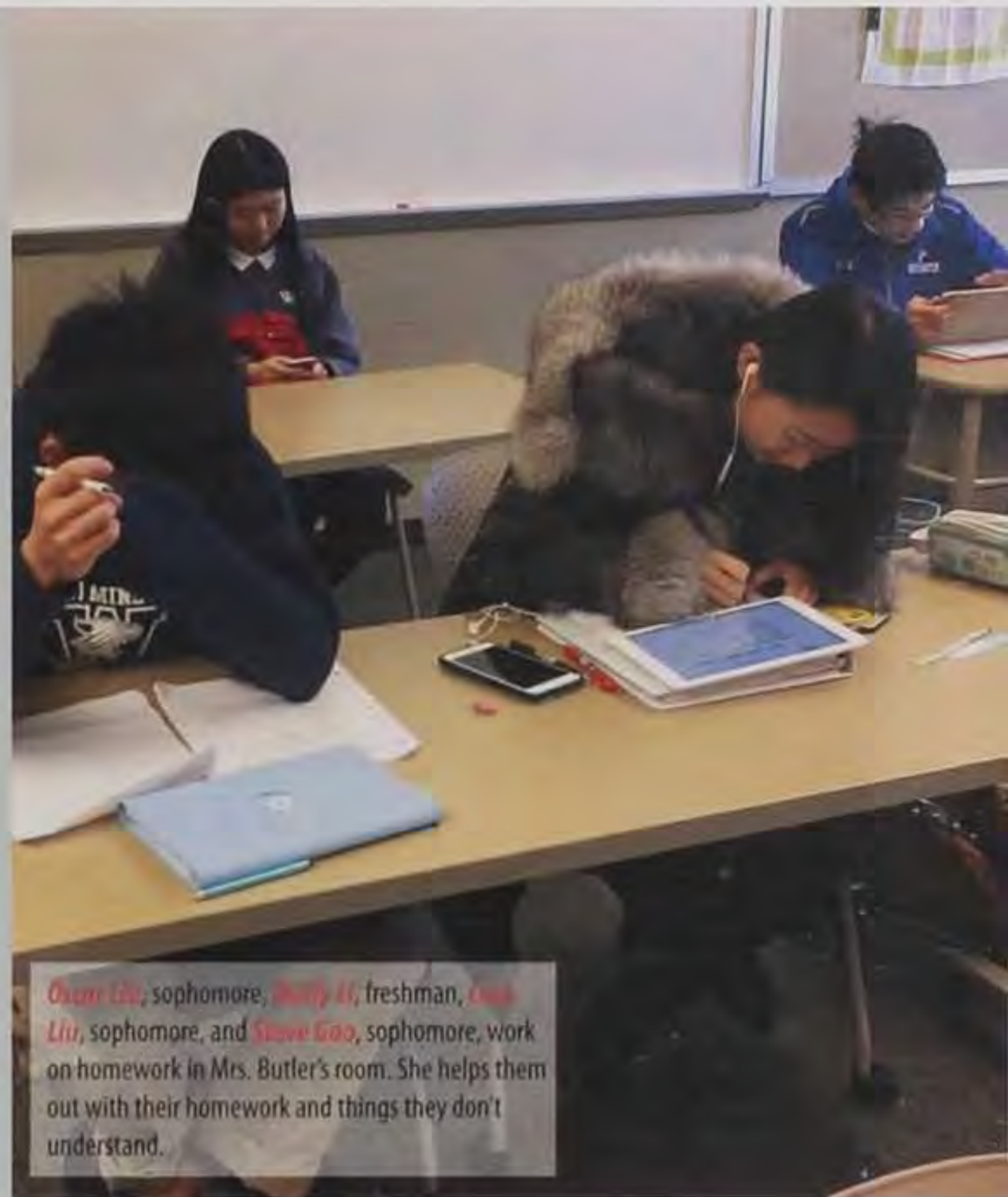
Like any other student, each of the exchange students had different interests and hobbies that they were drawn to. Some enjoyed math and science, and others preferred the music and arts program. "Chemistry was tricky, but I found it to be

interesting", said Gao. Either way, all of the students were enrolled in classes that they were interested in taking and learning more about in the American culture.

The teachers worked with the students to make sure they could understand everything and help them feel comfortable while they were here.

Many of the kids at Westminster reached out to the students from the exchange program and helped them feel at home. They formed friendships and relationships that made the stay here easier and made the atmosphere more fun to be around. "Everyone was so kind and really helped me to be part of the Westminster community. It's such a blessing to have these people around," said Julie Park, senior.

The Westminster community reached out to the exchange students and welcomed them with



Oscar Liu, sophomore, Kelly Li, freshman, Lisa Liu, sophomore, and Steve Gao, sophomore, work on homework in Mrs. Butler's room. She helps them out with their homework and things they don't understand.



Westminster is so fun. I love being here and everyone I have met. I am very thankful I came here this year.

-Kyra Wu, sophomore

I have learned so many new things coming to Westminster Christian Academy. All of the students and teachers here are so welcoming, and I have made all of my friends. I feel at home.

-Keke Duan, sophomore



Keke Duan, junior, celebrates Spirit Week class color day dressed in all pink from head to toe to support her class. Keke said that Spirit Week was so much fun and has been one of her favorite weeks so far at Westminster.

get your adventure on!

“We had this one hike that had a breathtaking view. It was pretty awesome to just stand there and experience God’s creation on these club trips. It’s definitely changed me.”

-Anna Johnson, junior

“Our goal is to honor the Lord by exploring His creation and building relationships that will last well past high school to glorify Him.”

-Rachel Potter, junior

“The main reason I do all these clubs is for the experience and memories! It’s so fun to have all these high school memories with all my classmates.”

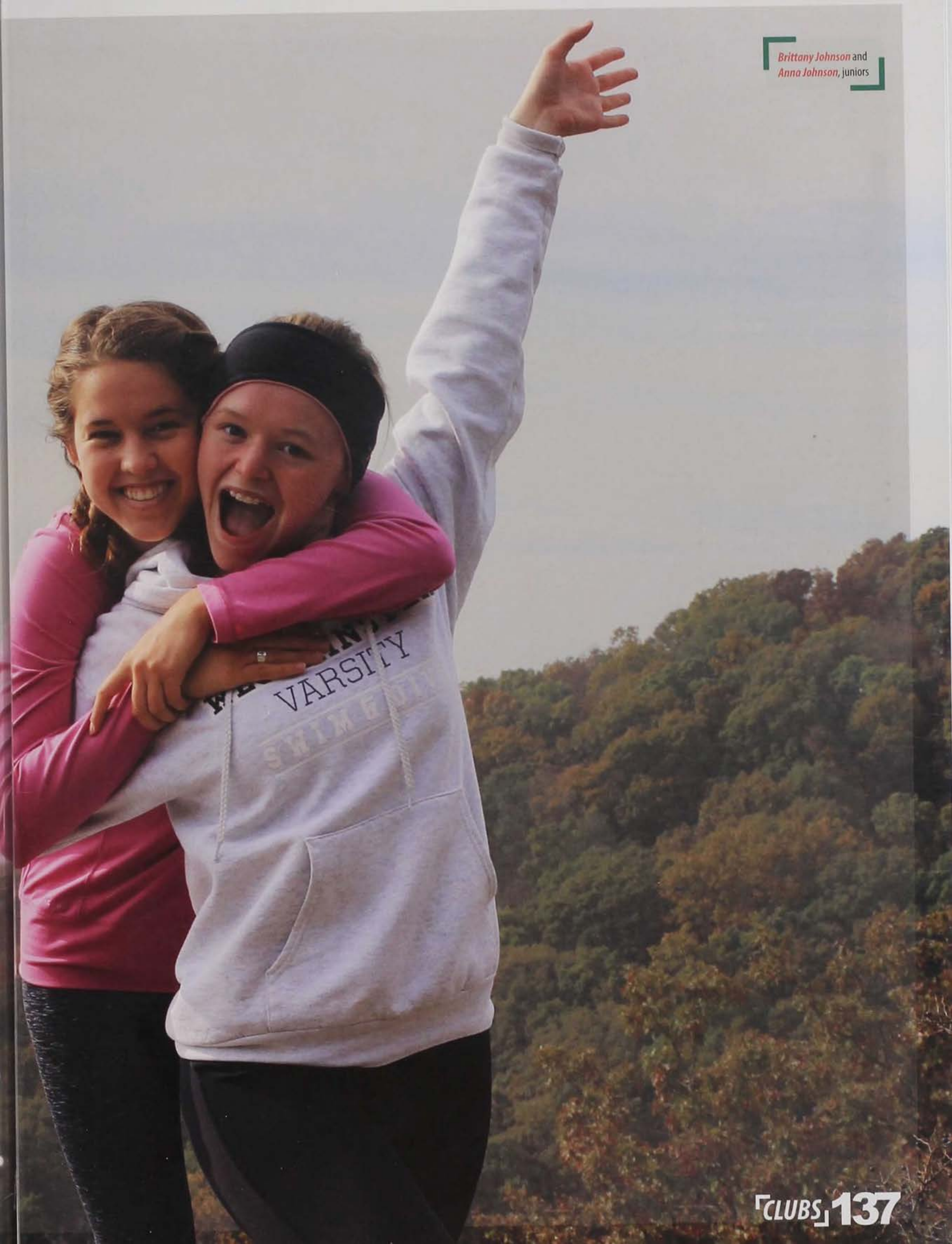
-Brittany Johnson, junior

“I’m the drama club leader because I want to inspire kids to follow their passion of the arts and give them an amazing opportunity to do so.”

-Hannah Eisenbath, junior



Brittany Johnson and
Anna Johnson, juniors



recording and reaching out

led by Han Kim, broadcast journalism teacher, a group of students took up the job of capturing audio and video. Last summer their work went outside the confines of Westminster as they visited Kansas City to produce a pilot of a cooking show called *Surviving on Food Stamps*, hosted by Westminster alumni Sarah Bogan.

The purpose of show was to teach low income families how to make healthy meals while living on food stamps.

"I saw how truly difficult it was to find healthy foods at a price that is affordable," said Victoria Meuret, junior.

"The great thing about this specific video was that we got to help out a single mother in need. Not only did she get a head start on healthier eating for her family, but she also got to see that there are people who care and want to help her. It was truly a ministry rather than a cooking show," said Nikki Breneman, junior.

In addition to learning how to more effectively film and edit a professional quality movie, the students were taken out of their comfort zones and exposed to extreme poverty.

"This trip really made me realize how blessed I am and how I can use my gifts and talents to help others and glorify God," said Haley Counts, junior.



Andrew Van Horn, senior, informs the club members about future events at school that they can sign up to help with. "AV Club enhances the often underestimated audio/visual experience at WCA events and provides an environment that cultures interest in the technical arts. Many members of our club have gone on to pursue careers in videography, audio engineering, and other technical arts," said Van Horn.

“ ”

I learned to not take anything for granted and that I am very privileged. *-Maia Sims, senior*



The students on the Kansas City trip along with volunteers and alumni gather in the kitchen they cooked and filmed in. "I learned how to edit and enhanced knowledge on setting up lights, camera, and audio," said Luke DeGroot, sophomore.



Caleb Layton, junior, captures video during chapel. He wears a headset in order to hear Mr. Kim. There were several kids at each event that were required to get video from different vantage points.



Kayla Hawkins, junior, and Hannah Stevenson, freshman, watch a stream of the three cameras used to record footage during chapel. "You think its gonna be hard when you start AV, but you end up having fun," said Stevenson.



Caleb Adams
 Ahmad Alexander
 Katie Allen
 Meghan Allen
 Griffin Alm
 Josh K. Anderson
 Joshua E. Anderson
 Nathan Bahnak
 Nalini Bailey
 Jack Baker
 Luke Beachy
 Miranda Bellamy
 Ryan Benes
 Luke Bequette
 Ava Berutti
 Corinne Boerner
 Lauren Borchelt
 Cole Bowers
 Nate Bowman
 Tanner Brand
 Ben Broadhurst
 Caleb Bross
 Jacob William Brown
 Matt Buchanan
 Madison Bugh
 Owen Burkemper
 Luke Burkey
 Kaitlyn Butler
 Sarah Cahill
 Henley Campbell
 Landen Cella
 Dyamond Clay
 Jordan Coleman
 Spencer Counts
 Michala Crooks
 Kate Dempsey
 Olivia Diedrich
 Gus Duda
 Savvy Duncan
 Lauren Dunn
 Cooper Edgcombe
 Ava Elias
 Kirk Ellis
 Ashley Enger
 Grace Fentress
 Nick Ford
 Shane Ford
 Anna Fregene
 Peyton French
 Victoria Fuller
 Ian Funk
 Stewart Geisz
 Nicholas George
 Aleem Glass
 Ashley Gordon
 Chelsey Hawkins
 Matthew Heintz
 Ian Henderson
 Brooke Highmark
 Katie Huang
 Jacob Hughes
 Jonathon Hyatt
 Ella Jeong
 Abby Johler
 Ellie Johnson
 Luke Johnston
 Ellie Jones
 Nolan Jones
 Aiden Joy
 Jackson Keane
 Reid Kresko
 Izzy Kusman

follow the leader

Members of the Student Leadership Team had many responsibilities during the school year. The team helped with the annual Carnival, setting up for Christmas Banquet, delivering items during ITSOG, and organizing for the annual Westminster dodgeball tournament.

"We do a lot of the stuff behind the scenes on Student Leadership. It's cool to help in that way," said Rebekah Sems, freshman.

However, another important aspect of being on Student Leadership was participating and helping in "Wee Wildcats."

Members of the Student Leadership Team took time out of their schedule to babysit for teachers' kids, spending time with the children to give teachers time to go Christmas shopping and have a break.

"Each of us had a buddy that we played with, and we became really close," said Lily Duda, freshman. The kids had fun playing games like follow the leader. Leadership was not just making plans; it is about helping others and serving those around you.



Some students from the Student Leadership Team deliver supplies to Thrive after ITSOG. "My favorite thing that I have done on the Student Leadership Team so far is delivering items students collected during ITSOG week to charities all over St. Louis. It was an unforgeable experience seeing how grateful the people were when we delivered the donated items to them," said *Rachel Strottkamp*, junior. Students on the Leadership Team get to help and serve in many ways in the community.

Lily Duda, freshman, loved helping watch teachers' kids during Wee Wildcats. The kids had the opportunity to play lots of different games and get to spend time and bond with the members of Student Leadership.

Rebekah Sems, freshman, loves the different opportunities that being on the Student Leadership Team offers. Sems says that getting to go behind the scenes at different events, such as, Christmas Banquet, ITSOG, and the dodgeball tournament, to name a few, is a unique opportunity that she enjoys being a part of.



Dani Mabry, sophomore, participates in Wee Wildcats. This event was fun for the students and the teachers' kids as they played games and got to know each other.



Morgan Sickels, sophomore, helps out at Wee Wildcats. "They were hilarious and full of energy. We might have had more fun than the kids honestly," said Sickles.



Charlotte Rose Lackey
 Mary Lauer
 Jackson Lawrence
 Lucas Lawson
 Caleb Legters
 Adeline Leonard
 Isaac Lindley
 Jackson Loehr
 Anna Lojka
 Adam Lyles
 Payton Mathews
 Xavier May
 Jake McConkey
 Dennis McDaniel
 Connor McMillin
 McKenna Milberg
 Larry Minner
 Madison Moeller
 Peyton Moore
 Morgan Morici
 Sara Cate Murray
 Arden Neuse
 Isaac Niekamp
 Carter Olszweski
 Tatum Osmon
 Harry Ottsen
 Jacob Park
 Brandon Parker
 Carson Pautz
 Kennedy Pearson
 Kharis Perona
 JRod Polski
 Hailey Pritchett
 KK Pruett
 Katie Reid
 Calvin Ritzema
 Jasmine Sapa
 Jacob Schloss
 Sage Schulte
 Layla Selk
 Daniel Shultz
 Miriam Smith
 Angelina Spencer
 Hunter Stegmann
 Daniel Stengel
 Lochlan Stewart
 Avery Surber
 Abbie Terschak
 Caleb Thompson
 Izzy Trost
 Peter Underwood
 Sam Vestal
 Jack Villa
 RJ Walker
 Sterling Webb
 Lily Wendel
 Alex Wittenauer
 Jack Wooldridge

greater giving

Maddie Volding, Rylie Koester, Haley Myles, Kayla Greene, juniors, and Alyssa Legters, freshman, deliver baby supplies to a local charity after ITSOG. Working with local charities was part of the club's primary goal this year. They successfully worked with the school, local charities, and international charities.



Project Give Well had been an organization at Westminster for five years, and it grew rapidly since its start. While the club began as a single effort to raise money to build a single well in Africa, the club expanded its horizons this year to make a difference on a local, national, and global scale.

"We really wanted to have a more hands on approach to making a difference on a local scale as well as a global one," said Chelsea Caplinger, senior. The club organized cookie drives for the maintenance staff members at school for the first time this year. They wanted to give back to these people for all the incredible work they do to keep the school in best possible condition, which often times goes unnoticed.

Additionally, Project Give Well took part in a variety of local organizations this holiday season. The club organized gift drives, volunteered at homeless shelters, and raised money for these shelters.

Along with the funds benefiting the families and towns in Africa, Project Give Well also began a fund this year to assist a family in Louisiana who fell victim to Hurricane Katrina. They helped this family to pay for their water bills, granting them access to clean water.

"The club is bigger than it has ever been, which is incredible to see," said Lauren Fleming, sophomore. She and the other organization members were optimistic about the difference this club had the opportunity to make and looked forward to seeing its continued growth.



Our focus this year was to help our local community with a more hands-on approach to make a greater global impact.

-Chelsea Caplinger, senior



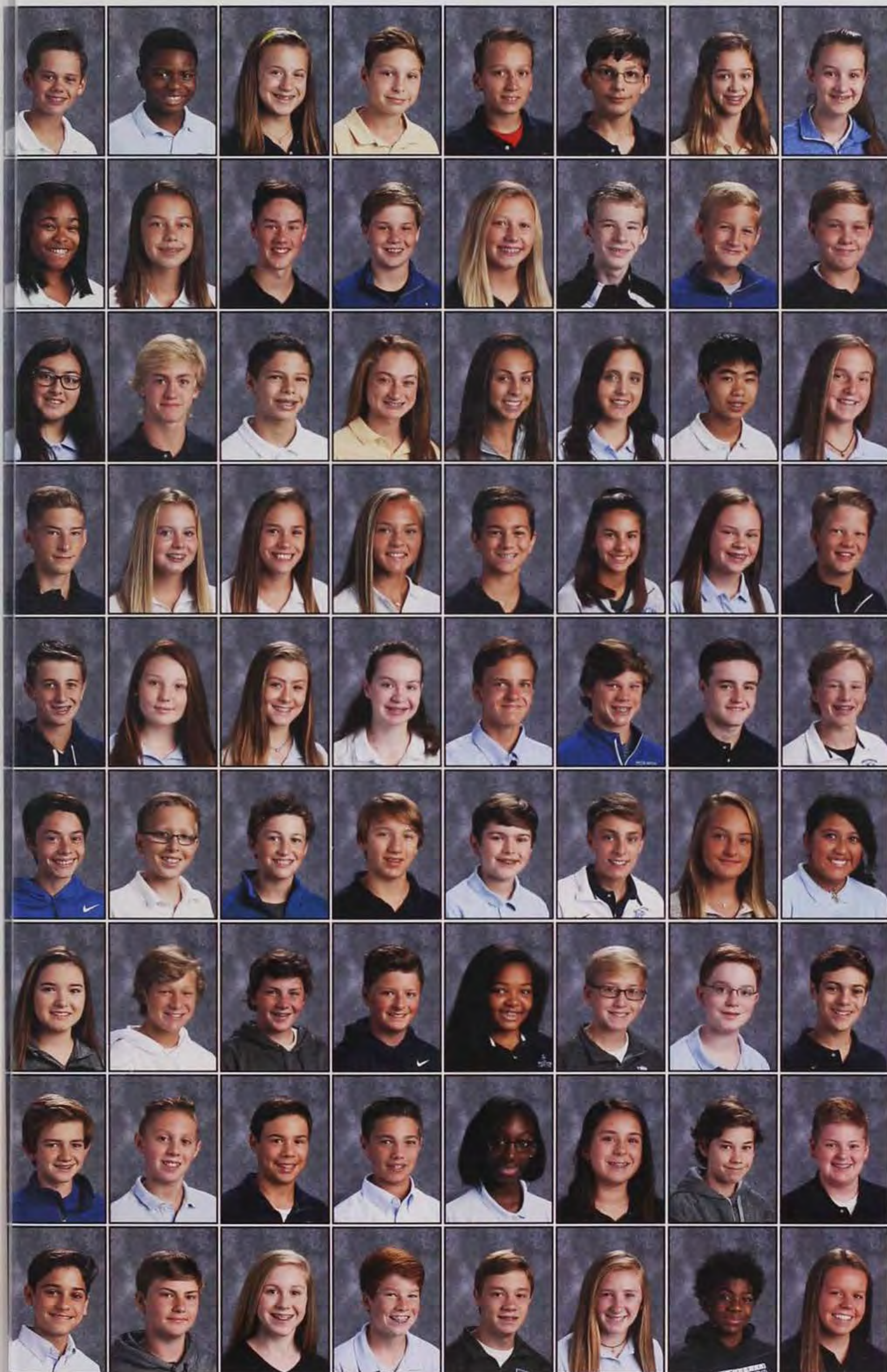
Luke Bequette, seventh grade, helps make Christmas cards for Westminster teachers and staff members. The club wanted to help on a local scale in addition to their global fundraising, so they made an effort to show gratitude to the staff members here at Westminster.



Lauren Fleming, sophomore, and Hope Burkey, freshman, work on one of the many local projects Project Give Well did this year. Students made gifts for Westminster staff, organized Christmas gift drives for the homeless, and volunteered at local soup kitchens this year.

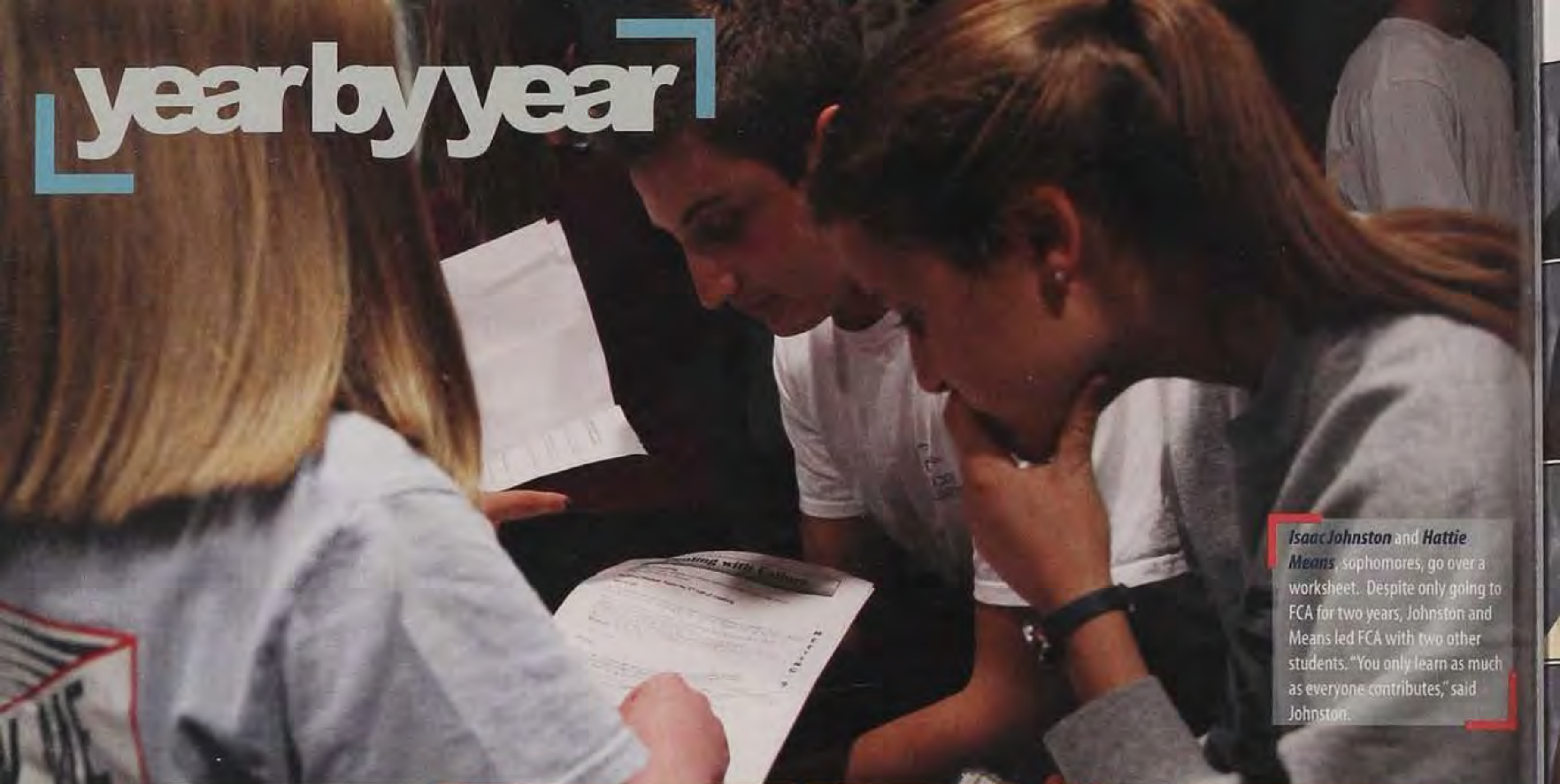


Elena Brown, junior, talking to her peers at a Project Give Well Meeting. Meetings often involved planning school-wide events or working on smaller projects for the local community. The club's main event is their 5k in the spring, which takes months of planning to ensure its success.



A.J. Ackeburg
 Joshua Adamson
 MJ Akins
 Charlie Allen
 Zach Allen
 Sam Anderson
 Grace Andrews
 Moorea Atkins
 Marissa Barnes
 Olivia Bauer
 Cody Bowers
 Kirk Briden
 Marty Briner
 Jacob Rance Brown
 Mark Brugner
 Matthew Burgess
 Emilee Burney
 Ryan Bystrom
 Kevin Caccamo
 Ellie Callier
 Izzy Cancila
 Nicole Chelew
 Austin Chen
 Becca Chimento
 Lincoln Chimento
 Mackenzie Clark
 Caroline Claus
 Grace Clement
 Adam Clements
 Sophia Clifton
 Hailey Colley
 Noah Coomes
 Zachary Dantuono
 Gracie Dark
 Mia Davis
 Josette de Villiers
 Troy Dorsey
 Adam Ebling
 Kaden Feeney
 Sam Fiala
 Jack Freeman
 Hunter Freiner
 Luc Fuller
 Ian Gilbert
 Kyle Graham
 Dominic Grasse
 Winter Gray
 Luisa Grbcich
 Katrina Greene
 Jack Greenlee
 Reed Grimm
 Ryan Gross
 Arista Hampton
 Evan Harris
 Jackson Harris
 Carter Hickel
 William Holt
 Justice Hunt
 Nolan Irby
 Landen Johnson
 Genesis Jones
 Adeline Jowdy
 Nate Kern
 Matthew Kinney
 Aidan Kline
 Max Kraemer
 Katherine Kuroop
 Luke Laughlin
 Nicholas Lee
 Zoe Lintner
 Liam Lloyd
 Ashley Lytle

year by year



Isaac Johnston and Hattie Means, sophomores, go over a worksheet. Despite only going to FCA for two years, Johnston and Means led FCA with two other students. "You only learn as much as everyone contributes," said Johnston.



Maggie Kehr, sophomore, takes a bite out of a pizza. Dinners were usually pizza or cooked at home.



Kinsley Lawrence, freshman, shows off a box of pizza. Lawrence showed up to almost every FCA meeting this year.



Colin Davitt and Caleb Terschak, sophomores, listen to a discussion at Isaac Johnston's house.



Matthew George, freshman, and **Hannah Sturr**, sophomore, play a game of table hockey. "I don't think I'm good at it," said George.

Jordan Haeusser, junior, **Kirsten Davis**, and **Jack Bauer**, seniors, contribute to the group discussion. "I like being with people I don't normally hang out with and socializing with them," said Bauer.



Brendan Grbcich and **Kurt Weinberg**, juniors, chat before an FCA meeting. "Everyone is pretty friendly, and they had a lot of food," said Grbcich. "There's a lot of student leadership in the discussion."



Every Tuesday, high school athletes from all sports took an evening to meet together at a student's house for FCA--the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. They met for dinner, a game, a discussion, and a group activity before heading out at nine.

For returning veterans, FCA was an opportunity for leadership. Elisabeth Sems, senior, who had been going to FCA for four years, was one of the four student leaders. "There hasn't really been a theme this year, but we learned that no matter what's going on, it comes down to the relationship with Christ," said Sems.

This year was Isabella Franco's first year in FCA. "At first I was a little intimidated, but after a while, it was fun," said Franco, freshman. FCA was a way to connect Franco and other freshmen to students from different grades through sports.

Despite the age difference, freshmen and seniors shared something in common-- their love of sports.



Logan Mann
 Daniel Martin
 Henry McCracken
 Morgan McKee
 Ian McKie
 Max Meland
 Emily Melaragno
 Caroline Mentel
 Anna Minichiello
 Owen Minichiello
 Caleb Moellenhoff
 Abigail Moeller
 Cullen Moore
 Ja'Cobe Moore
 Kourtney Moten
 Nicholas Moten
 Will Mueller
 Hugh Muschany
 Seth Noel
 Elizabeth Nolting
 Kristin Nyenhuis
 Margo O'Meara
 Bryce Oliver
 Jessica Orange
 Kate Orrick
 Veronica Ortiz
 Patrick Park
 Denver Parker
 Jalen Payne
 Jack Powers
 Gwyn Raleigh
 Colin Ring
 Avery Rosenberg
 Tioni Saddler
 Jacob Scharr
 Noah Schlueter
 Jackson Schmersahl
 Jackson Selk
 Annessa Shively
 Allie Shreves
 Abby Sickels
 Hannah Skrobonja
 Andrew Smith
 Brett St. John
 Joy Stevens
 Sam Parker Stillman
 Kaitlyn Stilt
 David Stoner
 Audrey Storer
 Joshua Stratton
 Jack Straub
 Mark Stump
 Michael Sturm
 Brandon Swenson
 Alex Tarlas
 Olivia Tedesco
 Isaiah Thompson
 Isaiah Tucker
 Hayden Turley
 Benjamin Van Zee
 Jon Walsh
 Zach Watson
 Gracie Wessels
 Jack Whited
 Gus Wilkerson
 Amelia Williamson
 Cole Willyard
 Tim Wos
 Matteo Zavaglia



Lizzie Vogel, art teacher, gives *Rebekah Shields*, senior, advice about her project. "My favorite part [of art club] is knowing there is always a day I can come in after school and work on stuff for my classes," said Shields.

worktime playtime

This year, the Westminster curriculum offered a new class for the first time: AP Art Studio. "The nice thing about this class is that if you like art, you can take the class and just use the school materials and make whatever you want... You just get to play, basically," said Sarah Geisz, senior.

Many students who took this class used art club as a time to come in after school and get some extra work done on their class projects. "I really need this time because I don't know how else I'm supposed to get these projects done. They take forever," said Geisz.

These students had another unique opportunity to display their art this year. John Sarra, vi-

sual arts department chair, was asked to show his work at Missouri Baptist University. Instead of filling the show with his own art, he said that his students were his work, so he asked that each student in AP Art Studio make a piece for the show. Each student was assigned a specific color and were allowed to create whatever they wanted.

"Everybody is doing an independent piece, but it all has a general ["Colors"] theme, said Rebekah Shields, senior.

Whether they were coming in to work on classwork or just to have fun creating art with their friends, the art room was full of students working with teachers and other students every Wednesday afternoon.



Luke Doiron, senior, poses with his art at the art show at Missouri Baptist University. Doiron's piece, titled "toy," exhibited the show's theme of "Island of Misfit Toys." Doiron was one of eleven students in the AP Art Studio class, which gave him the opportunity to display his art at the show.



Julia Rockwood, sophomore, works on a project for her art class. "This is my first time at art club. I decided to come to art club to work on a project that I have due in two weeks and to get help from teachers," said Rockwood. Lizzie Vogel and John Sarra, art teachers, were often present at art club to help out their students.



Miranda Bellamy, seventh grade, gets messy in the art room after school. The middle school classes did a lot of work with ceramics, so students like Bellamy often took advantage of art club to catch up on those time consuming pieces.



Lydia Abebe
 Hayley Adair
 Noah Adair
 Shelby Adkisson
 Anu Akinyede
 Lexi Jo Alm
 Bennie Anderson
 Mason Andrasko
 Elena Angelin
 MacKenzie Axford
 Nina Bacon
 Peter Barton
 Katherine Bauer
 Carsyn Beachy
 Zach Benes
 Ava Bidner
 Lauren Bohlmann
 Cheyenne Bowden
 Tommy Briner
 David Brown
 Sarah Brown
 Jake Broyles
 Josh Broyles
 Tyler Bryant
 Avery Burkemper
 Hope Burkey
 Chloe Burnham
 Jacob Byerley
 Jack Bystrom
 Ava Cella
 Patrick Chambers
 Josie Christen
 Graham Clawson
 Ruth Connelly
 Caelleb Crutcher
 Tyler Culleton
 Matthew Culligan
 Evie Cunningham
 Izzy Cunningham
 Alex Daiber
 Abrielle Danna
 Annie Davidson
 Toby Davidson
 Kylan Davis
 Lane Davis
 Lindsay Davis
 Aiden Davitt
 Grace Dempsey
 Lea Despotis
 Eli Diedrich
 Maggie Dolan
 Lily Duda
 Pierce Dunne
 Reese Earleywine
 Dylan Elias
 Maggie Ellis
 Hayden Engel
 Luke Engelmeyer
 John Ferguson
 Ella Fiala
 Scout Fleming
 Kyleigh Ford
 Natalie Ford
 Isabella Francois
 Justin Fuller
 Katherine Gaitan
 Lauren Gates
 Matthew George
 Pearson Georges
 Jaela Ginger
 Brendan Gordon
 Sabrina Granata

camping craze

At midnight while most of the world is sleeping, the adventure club was awake and still engaged in the activities at the November campout. "We played glow in the dark capture the flag. It was so fun because we had to run back and forth with only glow sticks to see, and people were tripping on things and falling everywhere," said Allison Thoenen, senior.

"We split into teams based on the color of our glow sticks, and we split the campground in half. We basically had the entire campsite to ourselves, so we were able to be as loud as we wanted," said Emily Jo Barker, senior.

The combination of it being late at night in the dark as well as having the entire campsite to themselves resulted in a night full of adventures. "I crawled under a car to get to the other team's side to rescue my friend from jail," said Barker.

This night was a great addition to an already fun weekend. "It was probably the highlight of the trip for me," said Thoenen.

Izzy Cunningham and Evie Cunningham, freshmen, take in the view from a rock at the Garden of the Gods in Illinois. This November outing was 3 days and 2 nights long.



Caitlin Mundorf, senior, squeezes her way through the rocks at the Garden of the Gods. Mundorf has gone on most of the outings since her freshman year. "I've had so many great memories from Adventure Club. Especially this year, I got to know a lot of underclassmen which has been awesome," said Mundorf.



Ashley Moellenhoff, Allison Eichenlaub, sophomores, *Jessica Santoso, Rylie Koester*, juniors, *Lily Duda*, and *Libby Thomas*, freshmen, explore the rock formations on one of the hikes they took that weekend. The adventure club trips were open to anyone and involved exploring nature, sleeping out under the stars, and building new relationships.

Anna Johnson, junior, slides down a rock at the Little Grand Canyon. Many of the students explored different ways to get to the canyon floor besides taking the stairs. The adventure club outings were a great way to make new relationships with peers but also with the teachers that went on the trips. "I enjoy getting to see the other side of teachers and getting to know them on a personal level," said Johnson.



We believe unplugging should be a priority, and Adventure Club is a way to get kids connecting to nature and each other without the distraction of their schedules or social media.

-Claire Birchenough, teacher sponsor of adventure club



Emily Jo Barker, Lucas Chimento, Caitlin Mundorf, Tiffany Johnson, Hannah Haguewood, seniors, *Charlie Wu*, and *Brittany Johnson*, juniors, explore the Onondaga Caves' lobby before going into the caves on the guided tour. The group had spent the night in the park surrounding the caves before exploring them the morning of September 18.



Reagan Grass
 Trent Grass
 Madison Grega
 Caroline Guempel
 Nick Gustavison
 Joshua Hanson
 Allison Hardin
 Ethan Hare
 Henry Hartshorn
 Sydney Hawkins
 Journee Henry
 Ben Hicks
 Taylor Highmark
 Heidi Hightower
 Tommy Hillgartner
 Katie Hobough
 Ava Hollmann
 Sydney Hott
 Kami Howse
 Alicia Hu
 Emery Iven
 Katelyn Jeong
 Tori Jessie
 Bricyn Johnson
 Charlie Johnson
 Daniel Johnson
 Kate Johnson
 Lance Johnson
 Simon Jones
 Arthur Jordan
 Henry Jung
 Riley Kilgore
 Kevin Kim
 Allie Klutz
 Caroline Kopsky
 Hunter Kramer
 Mason Kugler
 Jake Kyriakos
 Sebastian Lacassie
 Kinsley Lawrence
 Michael Lee
 Alyssa Legters
 Mike Lemp
 Teagan LeVar
 Molly Li
 Ashley Lipe
 Macey Lottmann
 Ashley MacDonald
 Gigi Mahley
 Brock Malcom
 Jack Martin
 Will Mason
 Isaac McGee
 Camryn McMurry
 Riley Merrifield
 Jordan Mette
 Emilee Mitchell
 Jaeda Moore
 Sydney Moore
 Nancy Morcos
 Jacob Moyer
 Sophia Mullen
 Max Nelson
 Brennan Orf
 Hanna Ottsen
 Ben Parres
 Karsten Patrick
 Kelcie Patrick
 Kyleigh Peer
 Aidan Penberthy
 Clayton Perona
 Elle Pierson



Reid St. John, sophomore, explains the lifestyle of the hobbits in the book they are reading. "I joined Bookfest Club because of my love for reading but also because Mr. Burke is literally the best English teacher ever," said St. John.



Hannah Stevenson, freshman, laughs at a comment that Daniel Burke, club sponsor, made about the Lord of the Rings. The Bookfest Club meetings take place on Friday mornings, but they also meet for lunch on Thursdays.

Levi Tucker, sophomore, discusses the summary of the prologue to the Lord of the Rings. Tucker is the president of the Bookfest Club. "So far my favorite [book] has been *The Fellowship of the Ring*," said Tucker.

Sydney Moore, freshman, listens to a comment made by Isabella Francois. They are in the middle of their third book for this year. They hope to read at least five books.



Isabella Francois, freshman, enjoys her lunch while listening to the book discussion. The Bookfest Club chooses their material by looking at the Westminster 100 list and student recommendations.



Ella Polski
 Alyssa Pritchett
 Max Radloff
 Grace Rahal
 Lauryn Rhodes
 Anna Rockwood
 Esten Ronning
 Ethan Rush
 Danny Sacco
 Sophia Sacco
 Josh Scheibe
 Koby Schmer
 Rebekah Sems
 Grace Skiljan
 Victoria Smith
 Nick Steck
 Hannah Stevenson
 Abby Stewart
 Finnegan Stewart
 Ethan Storer
 Katie Stout
 Ben Straub
 Bridget Sullivan
 Claire Summers
 Jamisen Terry
 Libby Thomas
 Charis Thompson
 Madison Tucker
 Rebecca Vassel
 Brayden Wall
 Isabel Warner
 Ian Warren
 Daphne Washington
 Dylan Wells
 Mark West
 Jack Wittenauer
 Lucy Wood
 Davis Worley
 Coco Yu
 Luke Zhang
 Lauren Zone

don't judge a club by its cover

With so many choices of clubs to join, many did not understand the deeper purpose of the Bookfest Club. On the surface, it was merely a book club that had breakfast and lunch together on Thursdays and Fridays, but according to members it was so much more than that.

"Bookfest club is basically a book club, but it is much less about reading books and more about trying to understand the deeper themes and meanings behind each author's writing," said Reid St. John, sophomore. "My favorite part of the club is Friday morning at 7:20 when the group meets for our 'serious' meetings. There is always hot chocolate and good discussions to

wake you up," said St. John.

"I think what makes it different from other book clubs is two main things: the food and the worldview," said Levi Tucker, sophomore, president of the club. The food aspect created a more casual atmosphere, making many feel more comfortable sharing their ideas. Additionally, looking at the books from a Christian perspective added another level of depth to their discussions.

So, in these aspects, the Bookfest Club sought to differentiate themselves from other groups this year. "This isn't just your boring, run-of-the-mill book club. We're the Bookfest Club," said Tucker.

"I think it's two main things: the food and the worldview."

-Levi Tucker, sophomore

Erin King, junior, discusses American elections during a History club meeting one afternoon. King is one of the club's co-leaders along with Amie Lee, junior. "I love pretty much everything about this club! It's always entertaining, and I learn something new every time," said King.



the rest is history

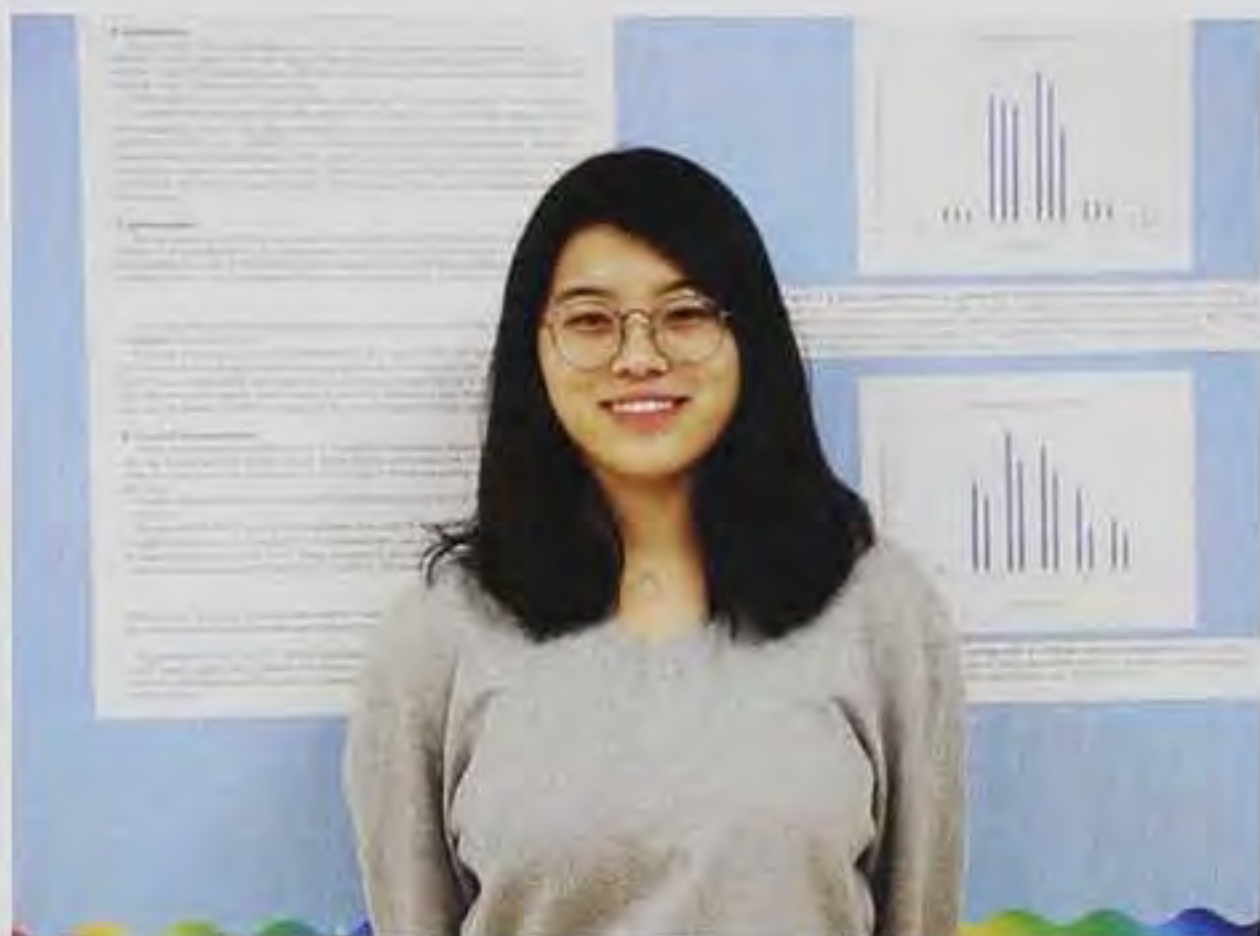


Caroline Hinrichs, junior, explains how the electoral college works. Hinrichs was one of the juniors who spoke at the History Club on November 8th, election day.

The history club was previously led by Westminster graduate Neil Sutherland and former teacher Adam Barbee. After they left, the club needed new leadership, so Erin King and Amie Lee, juniors, stepped up under the guidance of Dan Petke and Ken Boesch, history teachers.

"I really enjoy history, and Mr. Barbee wanted us to lead because we had been involved in the club last year," said King.

"I love the freedom to talk about absolutely anything because everything is history! Whether it be the history of toilets or the battles of Civil War all the way to history of developing genetic engineering, everything is a mark of mankind and the time line of the universe," said Lee. Under its new leadership, the club continues on, and the rest is history.



Amie Lee, junior, was one of the leaders of the history club this year. "I find great joy in talking about culinary history of various cultures and just how much we are connected on a gastronomical level to ancient civilizations across continents. The smallest of connections create the biggest bridge across human history," said Lee.

sign language club



Alyssa Despotis and **Valerie Winkler**, seniors, engage in a conversation in sign language. "Sign Language Club offers a fun and engaging way to learn a new language," said Despotis.



Brie Adams
 Jerram Adams
 Tierra Allen
 Molly Andersen
 Patrick Andrews
 Rachel Arndt
 Thomas Arndt
 Lucas Bak
 Alayna Barthelmas
 Sarah Becker
 Lauren Bell
 Sean Benes
 Alec Bequette
 Abigail Berglar
 Amanda Berry
 Drew Bingham
 Olivia Blatz
 Ann Borchelt
 Zach Brasier
 Allison Broadhurst
 Clair Bross
 Hannah Brown
 Noelle Burkey
 Maxwell Burns
 Claudia Calvo
 Zach Cancila
 Jack Canfield
 Gabe Caradonna
 Alex Chen
 Collin Clark
 Patrick Claus
 Jack Clement
 Sophie Clement
 Campbell Coffee
 Cole Coffee
 Kayla Colley
 Lilly Coln
 Alex Cross
 Caroline Davis
 Colin Davitt
 Luke DeGroot
 Olivia Demetry
 Devon Deverger
 Austin Disper
 Erich Dodge
 Kyle Dolan
 Payton Dunn
 Allison Eichenlaub
 Amanda Enger
 Amanda Espy
 Chandler Estes
 Kyle Farrell
 Mary Grace Fellows
 Emily Fentress
 Luke Fiala
 Trevor Fish
 Hayley Fizer
 Lauren Fleming
 Daniel Fox
 John Fregene
 Steve Gao
 Mark Geisz
 Catie George
 Chris George
 Grace Gevers
 Madi Gipperich
 Alyssa Glass
 Mia Goff
 Emma Gore
 Will Gore
 Katelynn Graham
 Spencer Graham



Jake McKee, senior, Preston Willis and Blake Andrews, juniors, prepare for their next scholar bowl. Preparation for the competitions consists of answering different trivia questions.

What do you know?

The Scholar Bowl consisted of students competing against other students in trivia. The team practiced once a week to prepare for upcoming tournaments.

"I love the annual tournament! It's pretty much an all day event, and you play a lot of rounds against almost every team. There's always a lot of creative questions," said Erin King, junior.

Schools hosted competitions once a week that could last up to two hours. Each week, the teams played against three other schools. The maximum amount of people playing at one time was four per team.

"There's 20 toss up questions that anyone can answer, and if it is answered correctly, your team gets two bonus questions that involve a group answer. For both kinds of questions, if you answer incorrectly, the other team gets a chance to answer. If we're playing against a very good team, the competitions can get pretty heated, but it's always a fun way to spend your afternoon," said King.

For this group of intelligent, motivated students, Scholar Bowl offered an opportunity to test their knowledge in a friendly trivia competition.



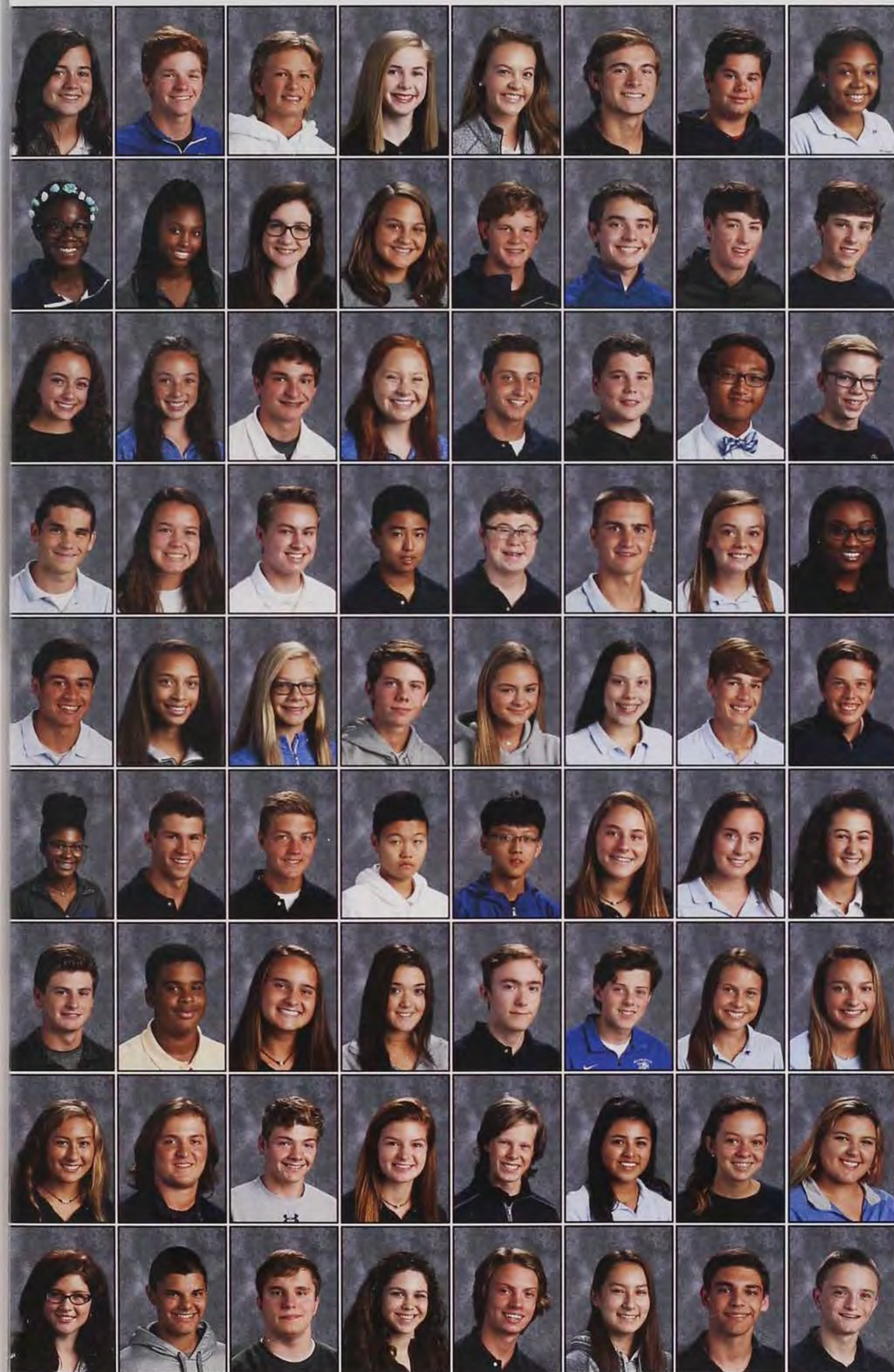
Luke Thuro, senior, works on the new machine. Thuro is in charge of science and engineering club. "My favorite part of science and engineering club was the go-kart building project," said Thuro.



Eyrica Brunk, senior, works during the science and engineering club. This club is mainly made up of members of the robotics team who want something to do in the robotics off-season.



Jack Rahal and Connor Evans, juniors, work on their machine during science and engineering club. The club chose big projects to work together on such as building a go-kart or a t-shirt launcher.



Meredith Grass
 Keaton Greiwe
 Zach Gross
 Emma Gustafson
 Maggie Hackman
 Atlin Hall
 Jaxon Halsey
 Jovana Hampton
 Lexi Hanson
 Bri Harris
 Anna Hassler
 Chloe Hauptfear
 Sam Hauptfear
 Cole Hintz
 Evan Howse
 Tom Isaacs
 Bridget James
 Carley James
 Blake Jewell
 Grace Jöhler
 Isaac Johnston
 George Jones
 Joshua Jones
 Ty Jones
 Matthias Jowdy
 Emma Kaiping
 Aaron Kampmeier
 Kazu Kanda
 Isaac Kaup
 Joey Keane
 Maggie Kehr
 Chloe Kellom
 Andrew Kempen
 Kristen Keys
 Kennedy Kittner
 Trey Klein
 Lexie Kratky
 Jessie Kunkel
 Nathan Laughlin
 Harrison Lawrence
 Kalei Layton
 Will Leonard
 Luke Linam
 Jerry Liu
 Oscar Liu
 Abby Lowe
 Lauren Lucas
 Dani Mabry
 Blaise Matheny
 Chase Mayfield
 Kiley McKee
 Neeve McMillin
 David McMullan
 Cole McWard
 Hattie Means
 Caroline Megown
 Sarah Melaragno
 Joey Migliazzo
 Keenan Miller
 Ashley Moellenhoff
 Davis Moore
 Pamela Mueller
 Kingsley Murray
 Abby Nixon
 Jessica Norman
 Jimmy Obertop
 Grant Osmon
 Hannah Park
 Jack Patterson
 Emily Penner
 Michael Pritchett
 Jack Provin

poli sigh

Poli sci, what was generally seen as just another government class, was so much more to the students involved. These students competed by writing essays and presenting them to a panel of judges made up of lawyers, professors, and other government professionals; then they were required to answer follow up questions about their essays. These sixteen students who chose to give over a large portion of their lives to learning about politics not only memorized numerous court cases and facts about the government, but in the process, they grew and learned so many valuable life lessons through this competition.

"I can now speak in complete sentences without saying 'like' or sounding like an uneducated teenager. Also, I'd like to think I have nerves of steel considering I didn't pee my pants when we were pestered with questions in follow-ups," said Cate Hoogstraten, senior.

Through preparation for the competition, students end up spending copious amounts of time together, and the class has grown to become best friends. "Poli sci means ohana (family)," said Emily Kessel, senior.

Ken Boesch, government teacher, never had a student regret taking the course. "It was probably the best class I ever took, maybe ever will take, and it's become such a big part of my life," said Hoogstraten.



The poli sci class entered a team in the school dodgeball tournament. With the team name of PGA Tour v. Martin, their strategy was to catch their opponents by surprise while yelling court cases at them.

The poli sci class takes a picture during spirit week, recreating the famous painting of George Washington crossing the Delaware. The poli sci kids became best friends over the course of the year and got together many times outside of class such as to watch the election together or for a secret santa holiday party.



@polisigh17

guys don't forget to pack ur pocket constitution!

Let the 2017 polisci class forever be known as the funniest and most beautiful political animals ever

4 months of studying, late nights, mental breakdowns, stress acne, and multiple crushes of confidence later, and we're done!!!

Being one of the only healthy kids left in polisci has me feeling like I'm in an episode of Survivor. #ItsOnlyAMatterOfTime

lowest point in prep for state: making up emergency imaginary court case to fool the judges into thinking we know specifics #AftonvGeorgia



Katherine Venzer, Erin Galakatos, and Tiffany Johnson, seniors, read their unit 5 papers at the state competition. There were 6 units, or groups made up of three students, that each presented on a different topic. Since there were only 16 people in the class this year, two people had to be in two different units. For the first semester, Venzer and Johnson volunteered for this task, so both of them were in unit 2 and unit 5 together.



Eli Avery, Chelsea Caplinger, and Alex Lawrence, seniors, wait for their turn to present to the judges. These three were in unit 6 which dealt with modern political issues such as immigration and parliamentary systems.



*Dave Ragsdale
 Jake Rattan
 Nicholas Reeve
 Sisi Ren
 Olive Robson
 Julia Rockwood
 Hannah Rose
 Alexa Rosenberg
 Rachel Rothrock
 Hannah Rupprecht
 Claire Sanden
 Joe Schroeder
 Evan Seabaugh
 Nathaniel Sems
 Jordan Shaw
 Thomas Shultz
 Morgan Sickels
 Allie Sigman
 Jack Smith
 Joe Southwell
 Reid St. John
 Abigail Staats
 Olivia Strange
 Jacob Sturm
 Hannah Sturr
 Blake Swenson
 Kaler Terry
 Caleb Terschak
 Matthew Thoenen
 Chloe Thomas
 Griffin Thomas
 Zion Thompson
 Michael Tran
 Sophia Trentham
 Levi Tucker
 Will Vestal
 Jordan Vitiello
 Maggie Wessels
 Paige Wibbenmeyer
 Cali Williams
 Sarah-Elizabeth Williams
 Madison Wilson
 Ian Woodard
 Kyra Wu
 Raphaella Zavaglia*



The poli sci class holds up "ones" while showing off the trophy after their state win. "I'm sad that other students won't get to experience the same amazing things I did in this class. If I had to advocate for the school to change one thing, it would be to keep poli sci going," said Cate Hoogstraten, senior.

After twenty-one years of poli sci, Westminster decided to end the program due to the immense cost of the trip to Washington DC. In 2017-2018, seniors would have the opportunity to take regular AP government and possibly compete in a lower level of the We the People program. To those who have invested so much time and effort into this experience, it was heartbreaking to see it end and to know that future students will not be able to participate in this incredible program.

GOODBYE
POLI-SCI

21

YEARS

17

STATE WINS

1

MR. BOESCH

putting the spirit in spirit week

There was a lot of planning and effort put in behind the scenes from a few select students who dedicated every Thursday lunch up until Spirit Week to plan, prepare, make it a successful week. "It's three simple words: have some spirit!" said Brooke Patterson, junior, regarding how to approach Spirit Week.

With this key, planning Spirit Week came a lot easier. But, there were still games to plan, themes to come up with for each day, videos to make, and finally, putting it all together. The Spirit Club put this all together and made sure that all the students who attend WCA had a memorable 2016-2017 Spirit Week. The club was made up of various students from all upper school grades. They met every Thursday at lunch to talk about what would be the most fascinating way to pull off Spirit Week.

"I have had so much fun this semester, but I'm ready for everyone to see what we have put together! It's gonna be a great week, and hopefully everything will go smoothly. And most importantly, everyone will have fun!" said Olivia Demetry, sophomore.

She was ready for spirit week, and she went all out this year and got the grade even more excited. Spirit Week may have been over this year, but the club was already thinking about what they would do next year.

“
Have
some
spirit!”

- Brooke Patterson, junior



Brooke Patterson, Mollie Ottsen, and Kathryn Kramer, juniors, discuss the best dress down day for Monday, the first day of spirit week. They eliminated a few options and write their opinion up on the board.



Neeve McMillin, Sophie Clement, and Abby Lowe, sophomores, talk about different themes for the opening spirit week video as they eat lunch. They put all their ideas together before suggesting it to the class.

Questions & Answers

Q: Why did you join spirit club?

A: I think it's important to be involved in the school, and it's a way to show my creativity. Plus, it's a social thing. All my friends are involved, so it makes it even better. -Neeve McMillin, sophomore

Q: How are you going to put the "spirit" in Spirit Week?

A: I'm going to get everyone pumped and excited for this week. I'm gonna go all out and participate with the costumes too. -Ally Drooger, junior

Q: What is the point of Spirit club?

A: I think it's all about being creative and using your mind to really think of the best game or dress down day. You gotta use your imagination the whole time. -Olivia Demetry, sophomore

Q: How do you think of all the creative ideas?

A: I usually come up with several fun creative ideas with all my friends, and then we combine them to make a couple great ideas. -Emma Gore, sophomore

Q: What do you think this club is all about?

A: Working together as a group to create a fun week for students and teachers is a lot of planning, but once the week is over, it's really accomplishing. I wanted to give new ideas for Spirit Week this year and make sure people were involved and having the best week yet. -Abby Ruckman, junior



Alex Lawrence, senior, expresses his argument for why he thinks we should have a certain theme for spirit week. He was very convincing, and most people changed their mind to his idea. This helped the club pick which out of the few options to stick with for the spirit week themes and which to get rid of.



Alyssa Adams
 Francie Akins
 Levi Alldredge
 Luke Allen
 Taylor Andrasko
 Blake Andrews
 Madison Baber-Greco
 Betsy Bailey
 L.B. Battle
 Lauren Bauer
 Erik Bergman
 Lexi Berra
 Justin Blakey
 Melinda Blum
 Anna Bohlmann
 Kyrrah Booker
 Natalie Bowman
 Kelly Bradley
 David Braton
 Nikki Breneman
 Chad Briden
 Daniel Brown
 Elena Brown
 Natalie Brown
 Rachel Byars
 Alyssa Cannon
 Andy Chen
 Markus Cicka
 Isabelle Clawson
 Abby Cockerham
 Haley Counts
 Dominic Cusumano
 Macie Daniels
 Sam Dare
 Sydney Dark
 Drew Dempsey
 Ally Drooger
 Keke Duan
 Hanna Eisenbath
 Blake Elder
 Avery Engelmeyer
 Connor Evans
 Christopher Faust
 Emma Fiala
 Jerrica Flakes
 Elena Frogge
 Dawson Gaitan
 Jenna Galakatos
 Parker Gelber
 Jacob Giacopelli
 Anna Gierhart
 Emma Gion
 Micah Gooch
 Jake Graham
 Kevin Graham
 Brendan Grbcich
 Kayla Greene
 Bridgette Grimm
 Stephen Gross
 Grace Gundlach
 Clayton Guzdial
 Jordan Haeusser
 Kayla Hawkins
 Kayla Hayes
 Luke Heintz
 Sam Heise
 Hannah Hickel
 Hilary Hightower
 Caroline Hinrichs
 Bethany Holden
 Alec Hollmann
 Amani Holmes

across the board



Reid St. John, sophomore, waits for another player to put down their next Scrabble word. "I decided to join because Scrabble is pretty sweet but also because who doesn't want to sit and listen to Mr. Barr's British accent," said St. John.



Luke Vasel, junior, enjoys a cookie and a game of Scrabble at a Scrabble Club meeting. This year was Vasel's first year participating in the Scrabble and Tea Club. The teacher leader of the Scrabble and Tea club was Peter Barrs.

For many students, busy schedules and overwhelming homework loads made it difficult to find the spare time during the school week to enjoy time with friends and have fun. Students reminisced about the days when they were younger and had the spare time to do relaxing things like sitting down and playing games with a group of friends. The gaming club offered a way for students to relax after a long, stressful day at school and enjoy some friendly competition. With a variety of games, the gaming club provided many different ways for students to show off their competitive sides.

For some students, the gaming club could get pretty intense. This year, one of the club's favorite games was called the Town of Salem. "It's based off of *The Crucible*, and you try to find out which members of the group are witches. It gets pretty heated when people start accusing each other and throwing things across the room," said Kate Hassler, senior. This year senior Jake McKie, senior, president of the gaming club, was the player to beat. "Jake McKie has played a ton of strategy games and knows all the best techniques, so it's always fun to beat him," said Hassler.

Even if it was only for an hour or so once a week, gaming club acts as a great outlet for many students. "I've always loved board games, and I have a ton of friends in the club too! Everyone in the club is super nice and cool," said Hassler.

Bethany Holden, junior, discusses her next word with her friends during a Scrabble and Tea meeting. The Scrabble and Tea met every week throughout the entire year and provided every member with a cup of hot tea.



Lauren Willis, junior, enjoys her tea during a Scrabble and Tea meeting. Willis enjoyed spending time with her friends and relaxing after a long day of school.



Jake McKie, senior, *Patrick Chambers*, freshman, and *Max Kraemer*, eighth grade, enjoy a game of Chrononauts. Jake McKie was the top player to beat in the Gaming Club. "The top competitor is Jake McKie, especially since he's the president and owns most of the games," said Chambers, freshman.

“ ”

Board games are one of the best ways to bond as friends, and it's a great way to unwind after a long day, let loose, and have a fun time!



Kate Hassler, senior



Samantha Huber
 Hallie Hull
 Anna Johnson
 Brittany Johnson
 Ricky Johnson
 Sydney Johnson
 Sam Jun
 Somin Kim
 Erin King
 Chris Kirby
 Hailey Kittelson
 Rylie Koester
 Michael Kolb
 Kathryn Kramer
 Madeline Kugler
 Maggie Kurop
 Kelly Kwak
 Ashley Kyriakos
 Lily Lackey
 Brooke Lang
 Thomas Lauer
 Grant LaValle
 Caleb Layton
 Amie Lee
 Marissa Lee
 Kimi Lehr
 Mikey LeVar
 Micah Lewis
 Alexa Lindgren
 Kayla Liu
 A.J. Lloyd
 Chase Lottmann
 Michael Luedders
 Selina Luo
 Emily Lytle
 Carter McCall
 Charlie McCracken
 Liam McGinty
 Matthew McKinnis
 Georgia McQuillan
 Elizabeth Meeks
 Jonathan Mette
 Victoria Meuret
 George Meyer
 David Montgomery
 Logan Montgomery
 Matthew Moore
 Sophie Moser
 Mary Stuart Murray
 Katie Myers
 Haley Myles
 Abby Nall
 Sam Nichols
 Isabella Ortiz
 Mollie Ottsen
 Jesse Parham
 Evan Parres
 Brooke Patterson
 Jak Patterson
 Sarah Peirick
 Chloe Peistrup
 Paige Penberthy
 Ashley Peterman
 Deanne Pfyl
 Rachel Potter
 Alyssa Preusser
 Sarah Preusser
 Whitney Radloff
 Jack Rahal
 Sydney Rasch
 Hannah Redmond
 Dani Renaud

finding yourself across the world

It opened my heart to wanting to help more people. I will remember it forever.

-Harrison Lawrence, sophomore

Over the summer of 2016, a group of teachers, students, and parents from the sophomore class boarded a plane and flew nearly 2,000 miles to do service work in Haiti. This group of people was set up outside of Westminister, but only people who are associated with the school went. The trip was called "A Mission for Hope," and the team of people who went spent their days talking to, praying and worshiping with, and building relationships together with the Haitian people.

"One of my favorite parts of the trip was playing with all of the kids and seeing God in their eyes. It opened my mind on a whole other level to think about how much we take for granted," said Isaac Johnston, sophomore. The group found themselves thinking less about themselves during the trip and more about the beauty they saw in the eyes of all of the people who lived there even though they have so little.

"The smiles on those kids' faces were priceless. They looked so pure, and that's something you don't see everyday. This trip has definitely shown me how beautiful God's creation really is," said Molly Anderson, sophomore.

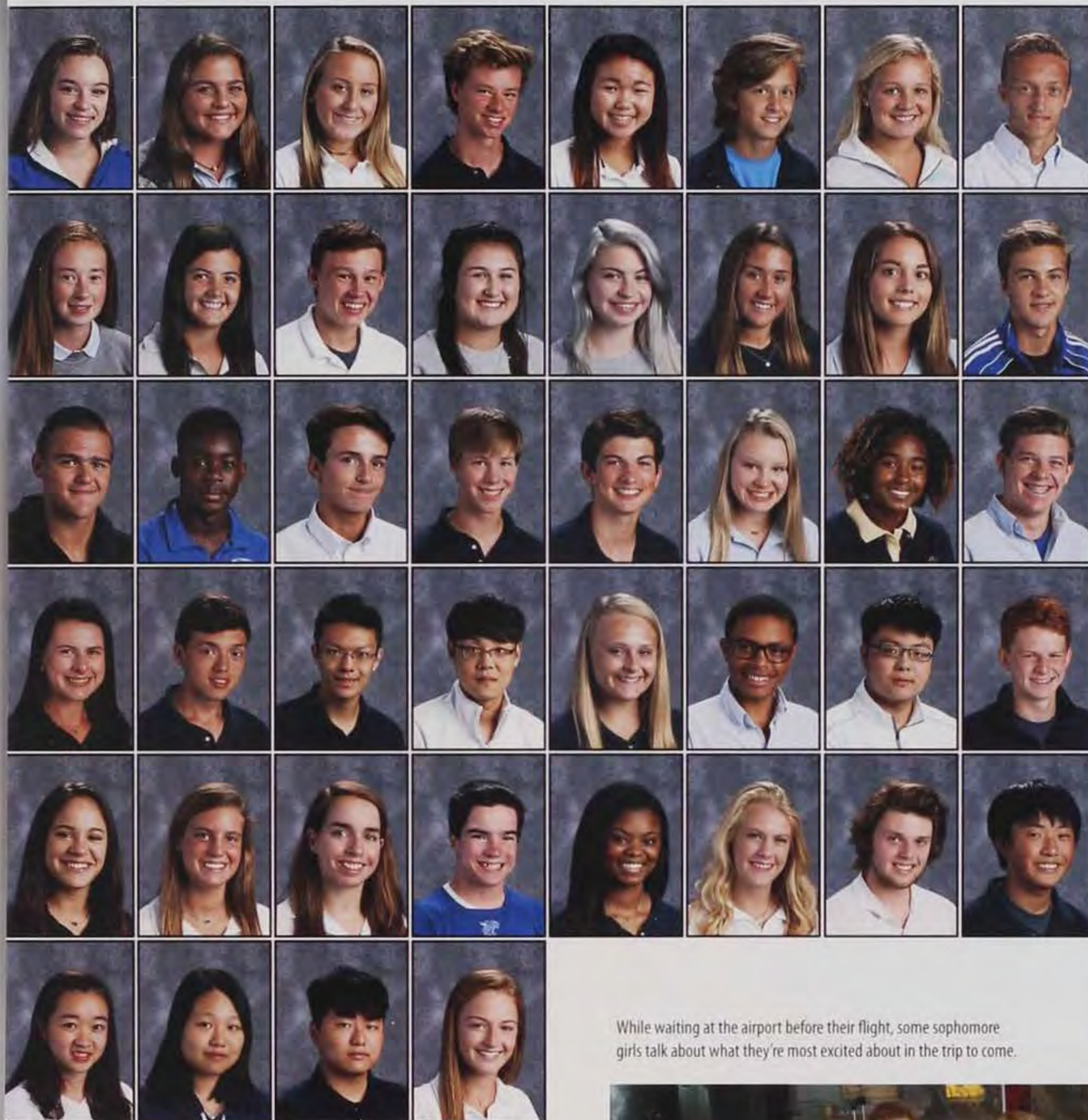
Another thing that the students who went on the trip said was how close the trip brought them together as classmates. "I think we all took away something valuable from that week in Haiti. I've become so much closer to some of the kids in my grade who I hadn't even talked to before the trip. It was definitely a memorable experience, and I think we all came back with valuable life lessons," said Kylie McKee, sophomore.



Kaler Terry, Lauren Lucas, and Caroline Davis, sophomores, paint houses with all their friends and the children in Haiti. Together the group painted over a dozen homes and met so many new people while doing it.

Everyone who went on the trip and some of the people they met gather together in front of one of the buildings that they worked in during the week. All of the children and adults in Haiti told the students they were so thankful for them for coming and hope to see them again soon.





*Kaitlyn Rigdon
 Lily Rohlfing
 Abby Ruckman
 Frankie Sacco
 Jessica Santoso
 Nathan Scharr
 Haley Schmer
 Hayden Shively
 Sarah Shoemaker
 Taylor Siebenman
 Xander Smith
 Christine Steck
 Savanna Steffens
 Emily Stoner
 Rachel Strothkamp
 Trent Tarantino
 Michael Thoenen
 Jeremiah Thompson
 Ryan Timpone
 Andrew Tipton
 Alex Token
 Mollee Trost
 Alexis Turner
 Luke Vasel
 Maddie Volding
 Nathan Walsh
 Chris Wang
 Daniel Wang
 Rebekah Warren
 Sean Webb
 Aaron Wei
 Kurt Weinberg
 Faith Wickham
 Madeline Williams
 Lauren Willis
 Preston Willis
 Jessica Wilson
 Chloe Wimpfheimer
 Levi Wright
 Charlie Wu
 Nicole Xie
 Susan Yi
 Evan Zhu
 Ashley Zone*

While waiting at the airport before their flight, some sophomore girls talk about what they're most excited about in the trip to come.



“ ”

We pushed through the heat and enjoyed every second of our time with all the little kids we met there.

-Morgan Sickels, sophomore



Hattie Means, sophomore, plays with a new friend she connected with over the trip. Hattie wants to go back one day again and help because of how amazing her experiences there were.

it's a beautiful day to save lives



Taylor Siebenman, junior, loves the idea of having a medical club at Westminster. Siebenman is looking to attend medical school after college to pursue a job in the medical field and loves hearing from the doctors that come to speak for the Club.

On November 22, 2016, Taylor Siebenman, junior, brought in her sister, a WCA alumni, to speak for the members of a new club, Medical Club. Brooke Siebenman gave advice about getting in to "PA" ("Physician's Assistant") school. The club members learned about the ups and downs that come along with going through PA school, and Siebenman gave them advice about the application process as well. "I loved having my sister come and getting to hear from her and get advice," said Taylor Siebenman.

On another occasion, Francie Akins, junior, brought in her uncle, Jack Eisenbeis, an Ear Nose and Throat doctor, to speak for the Club. The students that participate in Medical Club were exposed to many different types of doctors and the students got to experience a vast array of different medical field options to help them start thinking about a future occupation.

"Hearing from all the different doctors who specialize in different areas of medicine has really helped me realize I want to go into pediatrics and work with kids," said Emily Stoner, junior.

Erin Galakatos, senior, and *Maggie Kurop*, junior, sit together during a club meeting. "Even if you aren't interested in a specific area, its great to gain exposure," said Galakatos. The Medical Club appeals to a wide variety of students at Westminster and is a great resource for any student interested in going into the medical field.



Taylor Siebenman, Jessica Wilson, Isabella Ortiz, and Lexi Berra, juniors, discuss medical ideas. Berra shares with the group that she cannot look at blood or anything gruesome under any circumstances.

I love being a part of Medical Club because my mom is a pharmacist, and I am looking into going to veterinary school after college.

-*Noelle Burkey*, sophomore



Noelle Burkey and *Caroline Megown*, sophomores, are regular members of the club. A unique opportunity for the club was going to Logan University to operate on cadavers and dissect brains. Another group also got to cut a spinal cord, learning about the different regions of the spine.



Maggie Kurop and *Emily Stoner*, juniors, participate in a Medical Club meeting. Kurop and Stoner along with *Erin Galakatos*, senior, started the club so that they could get students that were interested in medicine all together at WCA to share ideas and help each other. At the first club meeting, the leaders had the members go around the room and say what area of medicine they were interested in, with answers ranging from Neuro Surgery to Pediatric Oncology. The wide variety of interest in medicine was really exciting for the club.



KAREN AABERG
 ROSEMARY ANDERSON
 MOLLY ARVESEN
 JULIA BAGBY
 JANNA BAILEY
 PETER BARRS
 KYLA BASNETT
 MARY BECKER
 CAROL BECKER
 LAURA BERRY
 MIKE BERTTUCCI
 ELIZABETH BIRCHENOUGH
 KATHERINE BOGGS
 EVELYN BOWMAN
 KAREN BOWMAN
 JEN BOYLAN
 STEVE BRADLEY
 LUKE BREEMS
 JOY BRENEMAN
 SUSAN BROWN
 SHERRY BUIS
 DANIEL BURKE
 BRIAN BURKEY
 DANI BUTLER
 GINA BUTTERFIELD
 JAMES BUTZ
 KEN BOESCH
 LINDSAY CARLILE
 LAURA COPELAND
 HANNAH CORWIN
 BRYNDYN CRUTCHER
 KABLE CUNNINGHAM
 MONIQUE CUSUMANO
 LUKE DAVIS
 MIKE DECKER
 MATTHEW DEJONG
 ANNE DEROUSSE
 CHRISTINA DEVERGER
 SARAH DEVRIES
 EMILY DIERKING
 JOAN DUDLEY
 KATHRYN EICHELBERGER
 RACHEL ENDEL
 LUCY ERDMAN
 JAMES FARMER
 TODD FULLER
 MICAH GALL
 JEFF GALL
 ERIC GARGRAVE
 MICHELLE GILBERT
 LARA GOEKE
 NICHOLAS GRAY
 DANIEL GRUHN
 CHRISTINE GUERRA
 DAVID HAAS
 TIMOTHY HALL
 TINA HASSLER
 SUSAN HAVERSTICK
 TERI HAXEL
 CODI HEEFNER
 NILE HEEFNER
 EMILY HILL
 SCOTT HOLLEY
 JONATHAN HORN
 MELISSA HORTON
 RENE HOWSE
 LARRY HUGHES
 MARTHA HYLAND
 STACY ISAACS
 KRISTIN JANSSEN
 REX JANSSEN
 JIMMIE JEFFERY



Jacob Brown, eighth grade, considers a move against *Sam Anderson*, eighth grade. Brown and Anderson were dedicated members of the chess club. In a Westminster tournament, Anderson won all four of his games to clinch fourth place for Westminster.

check mate

Every Wednesday after school, Westminster's chess team met to play a few games and brush up on their skills. Led by Mr. Haas, the team attended two tournaments every week, including one hosted at Westminster, where they took fourth place out of eleven schools. Three students from the chess team also attended the state tournament, where they won five out of 12 games. "Since we only had three students, we had to play at the highest board," said David Haas, the sponsor of the team. "We had to play the best students from every school."

This year was a transition year for Westminster's chess team, as its former president, Joey Albertson, graduated last year and was replaced by David Braton, who has been part of the chess team for three years. "The main problem we had was to find a replacement for the Wednesday and Saturday tournaments," said Braton, junior. "Besides from that, everything has gone smoothly."

The chess team had a lot of middle schoolers join this year to the point where there were more middle school students than high school students on the team. "We have Mr. Jonathan Powers working with the gifted middle school students, and we're planning on having a middle school team," said Haas. "They're pretty good, but they have a lot of work to do," said Braton.



David Braton, junior, observes as his opponent, *Matthew McKinnis*, junior, makes his opening move. "He's a pretty good chess player, but he messes around and tries to do fun openings instead of trying to win," said Braton.



Sydney Moore, freshman, moves a rook up the board. During carnival, the chess club set up a booth where students could play a game against their friends for a few dollars. "I used to be kinda good at chess, but now I'm not," said Moore.



JAMES JENNINGS
 PEGGY JOHNSON
 TERRELL JOHNSON
 ABIGAIL KARSTEN
 IVAN KAWALER
 KENT KEHR
 JILL KEITH
 MARJAN KEMPEN
 ANDREW KERCKHOFF
 HAN KIM
 CHRISTOPHER KNERR
 JAMIE KUHN
 SARA LABARRE
 ANGELA LAUER
 AARON LAYTON
 JAMES LEEKER
 JUAN LEGTERS
 DEBRA LEGTERS
 KAITLIN LEHDE
 MING LI
 HEATHER MARSEE
 DEBRA MASSOT
 GINA MEEKS
 SHELLEY MILLIGAN
 JACOB MOHLER
 MAGGIE MOORE
 TIM MUEHLEISEN
 PAMELA MUNDORF
 ROBERT MURPHY
 SHERIDEN NEWLIN
 ELLEN ORR
 ALLISON PAUTLER
 JD PERONA
 JEANINE PETERS
 DAN PETKE
 MOLLIE PFUETZE
 OLIVIA PIERSON
 KAREN POLLACK
 JONATHAN POWERS
 MADDIE PRENTIS
 NANCY PROVIN
 GENEVIEVE RALSTON
 CHRIS REYNOLDS
 DALE RIBBLE
 JENNIFER RITZEMA
 JULIE ROBERTS
 JENNY ROCKWOOD
 AMY ROFF
 MALLORY ROHLFING
 LISA RUPPRECHT
 JOEL RUPPRECHT
 JOHN SARRA
 SPENCER SAVORY
 DAVID SCHALL
 GREGORY SCHOENBERG
 ALLEN SCHWAMB
 SARA SCHWAMB
 HELEN SCOTT
 LUCILLE SELL
 JANET SELL
 MARK SELL
 ANDREW SHAW
 JEFFREY SHULTZ
 LAUREN SIMPSON
 WARREN SMITH
 AMY ST. JOHN
 ANNE SULLIVAN
 HEIDI THIES
 KAREN THOMPSON
 KEVIN TODD
 RICH VANGILST
 JENN VERMEER

tackling today's headlines

With numerous stories of racial injustice in the headlines this year, the SEED Club was thrust into a controversial role at Westminster. The club faced issues that were important not only to the nation but also to the school on a very personal level. However, instead of hiding from these issues, SEED Club dove right into the heart of these questions in order to educate its members and give people a safe outlet to talk about their opinions. With this new open platform to wrestle with these difficult ideas, SEED Club grew from approximately 10 to 30 people in attendance of weekly meetings.

"I think people are genuinely interested in talking about these racial issues going on in our community and seeing people make an effort to come and deal with these harder questions is amazing," said Haley Myles, junior, one of the leaders of the club.

Myles credits the club's success to the

fact that the club is open and accepting of all opinions instead of expecting one uniform response from all people.

"People haven't been convinced or persuaded to one side because that just isn't going to happen. But SEED club is a place where people want to hear other's perspectives, so they can understand these opinions," said Myles.

The SEED Club also tread into new territory by hosting their first ever Diversity Conference in Memphis, Tennessee. "Memphis was something we had been trying to plan since the beginning of SEED Club, so all the members were super excited when we actually made it happen," said Jack Rahal, junior. The club visited different museums and historical sites to get a better idea of how the Civil Rights movement has evolved culturally over the years. The club hoped to make this an annual event as SEED Club continued to gain traction.



Kyrah Booker, junior, discusses the social issues of the 2016 presidential election. SEED club students were encouraged to discuss all social issues going on in the country. However, all students were asked to listen to opposing opinions and be respectful to their classmates.



Matthew Moore, junior, shares his insights with the rest of the club. Moore was a regular attendee, bringing valuable ideas to the club.



SEED Club leaders, *Haley Myles* and *Jack Rahal*, juniors, lead the group discussion weekly. They often brought outside resources or insights to share with the club. Videos or other media from all perspectives were shown to the club.

“ ”

I love SEED Club because it brings everyone together to talk about important issues that would otherwise go untalked about in school.

-*Kyrah Booker*, junior



ALYSSA VIKESLAND
 ELIZABETH VOGEL
 SCOTT VONDER BRUEGGE
 CRAIG WALSETH
 HOWARD WARREN
 RICKY WEBB
 LORI WEST
 BOGEY
 LISA WESTRICH
 JASON WILKINS
 SANDY WINCHESTER
 JOSH WOFFORD
 ELIZABETH WOODALL
 REBECCA ZYLSTRA



Students enjoy SEED Club's first meeting, a potluck lunch. It allowed club members to get to know each other in a comfortable setting. "It was cool to get to know some of the older kids. I became pretty close with a lot of them, and some are still my good friends," said *Bennie Anderson*, freshman.



Haley Myles, junior, and *Brycin Johnson*, freshman, run the SEED Club booth at carnival. "The carnival was a lot more successful than we thought," said Myles. The club's carnival success contributed to their trip to Memphis in March.



Kayla Hayes, *Jessica Wilson*, *Isabella Ortiz*, and *Christine Steck*, juniors, enjoy the SEED Club potluck lunch at the beginning of the year. Club members agreed that the potluck was a good way of getting to know each other. It create a comfortable environment at SEED Club meetings.



Sydney Hawkins, *Jaeda Moore*, and *Nancy Morcos*, freshmen, get to know each other at a weekly SEED Club meeting. The relationships among members aided in creating a comfortable environment for all students to share their ideas. Even when students disagreed, they were still able to maintain their positive relationships with one another.



Caroline Kopsky and *Carsyn Beachy*, freshmen, organize the potluck lunch. At the beginning of the year, the lunch helped students from different grades or friend groups get to know each other. It also helped to ensure a comfortable environment for each student to speak openly in the SEED Club meetings.

Daphne Washington, freshman, sits with friends watching a video to gain understanding of the topic they were discussing. SEED Club often used different news events, polls, or other resources to examine a social issue. Students used the information to be accurately informed on different social issues.





Moira Wright and Alena Vermillion, seniors, dance with the varsity dance team on pride night. Both girls have been involved in the WCA dance program since their freshman year.

the

complete

works

“I’m excited to go off to college but sad to leave WCA because it has shaped me into the person I am today.”

-Alena Vermillion, senior



Jordan Vitiello and *Amanda Berry*, sophomores, unloads a box of items donated during ITSOG. The student leadership team transported over 26,000 items



Mia Goff, sophomore, paints *Hannah Haguewood*, senior's, face during Carnival. Many students at Carnival were showing their school spirit with blue paw print face paint.



Will Mason, freshman, announces his booth at Carnival. There was some serious competition between class booths to raise the most money.

telltale troubles of seniors

Three seniors were asked to finish the sentence, "you know you're a senior when..." Here are their responses.

When you have senioritis.

Senioritis is a common mental "illness" many seniors face. It's symptoms are laziness, tiredness, not wanting to give effort, not doing homework, and blowing off important assignments to "wing it."

-Kelsey Ginger, senior



When you hate doing homework... or you just don't want to do it.

When you can finally relate to Ferris Bueller.

"Ferris Bueller's Day Off" is a classic movie about a boy who skips school and has a wild day with his friends. Most seniors can relate to this because they don't feel like school is important anymore.

-Sydney Baum, senior



-Bryan Re, senior



Amanda Ahlbrand

Most importantly, thank you God for all of the immeasurable blessings in my life. You have been too good to me. Dad, thank you for teaching me the value of hardwork and loving me so well. Mom, you are my rock. Your humility is untouchable, and you have taught me everything I know. Jeffrey and Kristen, you are the most amazing people I know. Thanks for all of the tough love. Josh, you are the love of my life. I can't believe it took four years for me to figure that out. Olivia, my soulmate, every girl deserves a best friend like you. Thotties, the memories we've made will never be forgotten, and I'll love you guys forever.



Eli Alm

Mom and Dad, I can never thank you enough for your endless love, wisdom, and encouragement. You truly reflect Christ and are my biggest role models. LJ and Grif, you always brighten my day. I love you both so much and cannot wait to see how God continues to work in your lives. My girls, thanks for all the laughs and unforgettable memories. You guys are the best, and I love you very much. I will forever cherish my years at Westminster. I'm grateful to everyone who makes this place so special.



Griffin Andersen

My time at Westminster has been blessed with many awesome experiences. Mom and Dad, thank you for loving and encouraging me through every challenge. I couldn't have done any of this without your undying support. Molly, you always found a way to make me smile. I couldn't have asked for a better sister. Rebekah, I am the luckiest guy in the world to have shared this wonderful experience with you. For the boys: Jake, you're the best guy to watch Blues hockey with. Blake, those late night Steak 'n Shake runs were lit. Dean, Blake, Clayton, Jonny, and Jacob, thanks for the awesome times. Thank you, Westminster!

From,
Griffin Andersen



Eli Avery



Mom and Dad, throughout my life, you have always been there for me. Thank you for supporting me and providing me with a strong foundation to use as I grow up. Ellie and Nina, thank you for always being there when I need it but also for the dumb arguments and jokes that keep us close. To my friends, without you guys, Westminster would have not been the same. We've had a lot of good times over the years and, hopefully, more to come. To Matty B, just thanks for being you. I'm thankful that God has placed all of you in my life as you helped shape who I am today.



Teddy Bacon



First of all, thank you Mom and Dad for sending me to WCA and putting up with me for the past 18 years! Thanks for supporting me in everything I do. Sissy-bear, thanks for being there at anytime of the day or night to facetime. Davie-bear, thanks for responding to my numerous snaps a day and always laughing at my shenanigans. To all my teachers who have impacted my experience here, thank you for what you do for me everyday. To the yearbook staff, thanks for all the memories, Always keep Friday Aloha, and don't work till Monday! Shout out to all my friends who have seen me at my best and worst. I love you all very dearly. Thank you WCA for the five years of adventures you have given me.



Emily Jo Barker



a quick little game

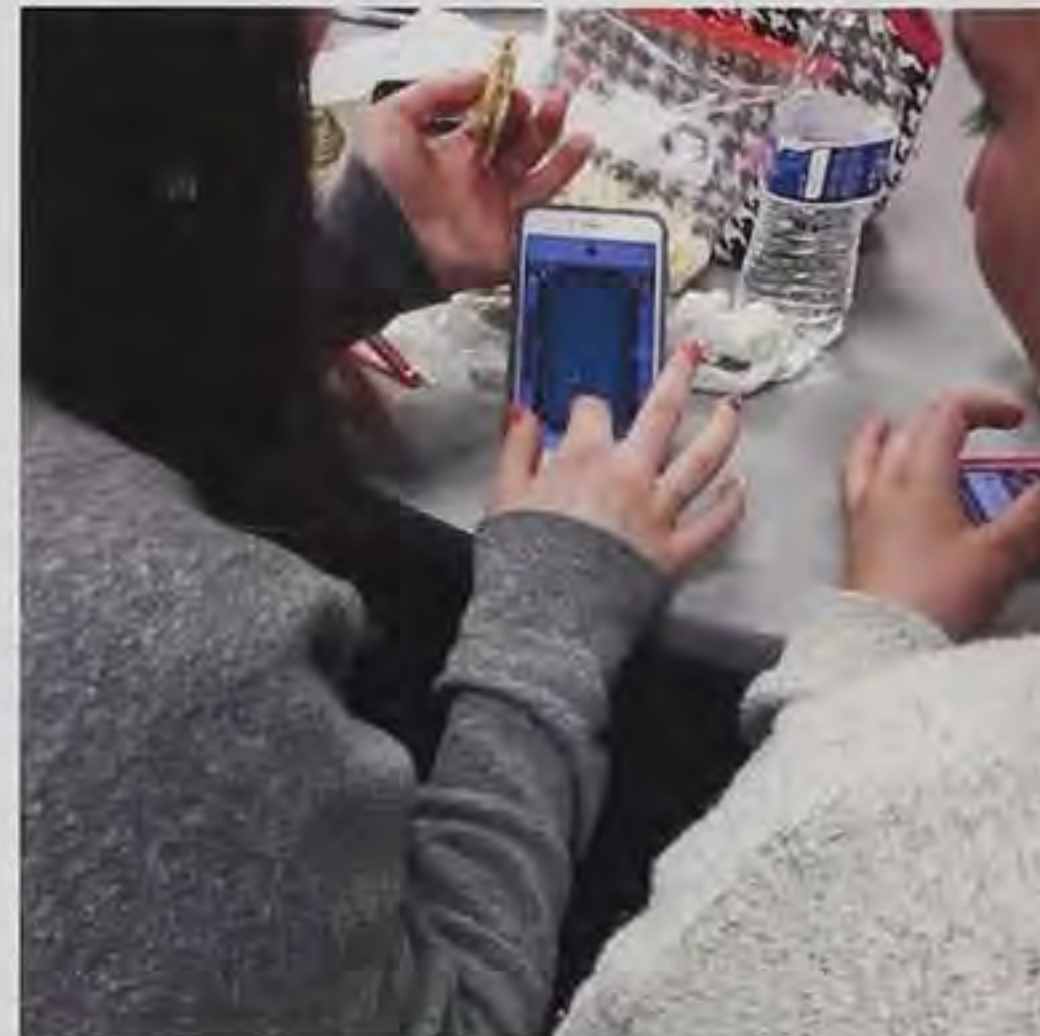
With the release of iOS 10, Apple introduced the feature of being able to download apps and use them in iMessage. One of the available apps that gained popularity with Westminster students was Game Pigeon.

Game Pigeon was an app used in iMessage that allows users to play mini multiplayer games over texting. Many students liked this because it was a good way to entertain themselves when they were bored.

"I like it because it's a fun way to play games with almost anybody," said Madison Wilson, sophomore. Another reason students liked it was because they could compete against their friends in quick little games. According to a survey of 213 students, the game that was most popular with students was 8-ball.



Emma Gion, junior, plays Sea Battle, another well-liked game on Game Pigeon. "I enjoy the concept of a board game but in a modern way," said Gion.



Sabrina Granata and Emilee Mitchell, freshmen, plan and strategize the next move in this game of 8-ball. "[I play] because I like to beat people and I like winning" said Granata.



Pool was one of the more popular games. Students often tilted their phones to see just the right angle to shoot from.

Abbi Barron

Mom and Dad, I do not know how you did it, but you have managed to raise the once goofy and crazy kid I used to be into the amazing person I am today. You have helped me to grow in and understand my faith, and I would not be where I am today without you.

Everyone always says that high school was the best time of their life. As my time at Westminster ends, I can truly affirm that my high school years and memories will forevermore be a wonderful time in my life. To my friends, thank you for adding great memories to my experience at WCA, helping me get through everyday easier, putting up with me all these years. Thank you, Westminster and friends, for six great, memorable years at the academy. You have honestly given me memories that will last forever.



Graci Barron

Thank you to all my family and friends. You have all done an amazing job in helping me to become the young lady that I am today. Mom and Dad, thank you so much for helping in my walk with life and Christ. I don't know many parents who would give up so much just for their child to have a Christian education. Thank you both for putting up with all my silliness and trouble making. I don't know how you both survived those elementary years. Also, thank you to all my friends. I can truly say that you have all made my high school years incredible. These are the years that I will remember forever.





High school has passed by so quickly, and over that time I have had so many wonderful memories. Westminster has been a great place for me to grow over the past four years. I am grateful for all of my teachers and the friends I've made. Thank you to my Mom and Dad for teaching me how to become successful and allowing God to direct my path. Lastly, I want to thank Nick and Alayna for putting up with all of my shenanigans.

Blake Barthelmass



Logan Bauer
 Mom and Dad, thank you for all the opportunities and great experiences you've given me over the years. And thanks for showing me support through all the good times and the bad. I really appreciate it, and I love you both.
 Lauren, you are a great sister and friend. I'm glad we grew to be close friends in the last few years.
 Landon, you are so much fun to be around. Your smile and laugh make me smile and laugh. I'm so glad that you're my brother. Thanks again to you all for being a great family and a support to me.
 I Love you,
 Logan



First off, I would like to thank my mother for everything she did for me. All of the hard work she did in order for me to go to a school as great as Westminster. Westminster was an experience I know I will never forget. I have made some of the greatest friends while being here, and they have stuck by my side since 7th grade. My life has drastically changed through my experiences at Westminster, thankfully they have been for the better. I can't wait to see what life and God have in store for me following high school. My only wish is that I stay in touch with the awesome people that made my high school career unforgettable.

Jack Bauer



Sydney Baum

Family, thanks for all the years of putting up with my shenanigans and for your constant support. Mom, thank you for instilling in me the will to keep fighting. I can only hope to someday have the compassionate heart and confidence that I witness in you everyday. Keep dancing and steer clear of "Murder-U" on channel 22. To all my pals, I love you girls so much. Each and every one of you has shaped me into the person I am today, and I cannot thank you enough. You are all so beautiful, and I will never forget our endless laughs and memories. Don't be shy in paying me a visit next year; I'll be counting on seeing your lovely faces.



“follow my finsta”

Finsta defined:
 fin · sta (noun)
 An extra account some people have on Instagram to post things they wouldn't normally post on their real Instagram account. Most people use their finsta to post random memes, inside jokes, or gifs that would not attract many likes on their normal account.



Hattie Means and Kiley McKee, sophomores, co-own a finsta. "People always get our names wrong at Starbucks, so our username comes from what is written on the cups," said Means and McKee.

@patty_kylie



"I post stuff on my spam that I wouldn't normally post on my regular Instagram account. It's mostly funny pictures of myself as well as inside jokes I have with friends," said Josie Christen, freshman.

@jazziee_spam



"I made a spam because I thought it would be a fun way to post videos of me and my friends having fun," said Zach Cancila, sophomore.

@tekkery



"My username is a pun with my name since a lot of people call me Lay," said Alayna Barthelmass, sophomore.

@s_layyy



"I like having a finsta because it allows me to post more of me and my friends," said Olivia Tedesco, eighth grade.

@olivia._.spamsss

My parents deserve all the glory because without their hard work, I would not have had the opportunity to attend this amazing Christian school. Westminster has been a blessing, giving me a thorough education with a good balance of fun as well. Over my span of six years here, I have opened up and become the godly man that He intended for me to become. Besides this school, my family has shaped me to be a gentleman and to love others as myself. Thank you Mom and Dad so much for all you have provided me! Although I am going off to college now, I can still always come home and be your little boy!

Brandon Beat

120 words can't really convey everything I want to say about my time at Westminster, but I'll do my best. God has blessed me with so many amazing people throughout this journey, and I couldn't be more grateful. To my family and the Kovacs family, thank you for all the craziness that comes with your love and support. Friends, thank you for the constant love and laughter you give me everyday. Bethany, you da best. Lastly, my cheer girls. Thank you for everything. You guys mean the world to me. All the good times we've had (on and off the mat) will be missed more than words can express. "Once a wildcat, always a wildcat."

Hannah Beckman

Josh Berglar

Well here it is... the end of a great six years. It really has been an incredible journey, and I never want to forget it. Here's to my family for encouraging and supporting me. Here's to my friends that have loyally stood by me through thick and thin. Here's to my teachers and coaches that pushed me to prove myself and become a better person. Here's to all the late nights with friends, at games, at practices, getting food, or simply doing my homework. Here's to my improv team; those fifth hour classes and Friday nights will always have a special spot in my heart. To my senior class, it's been memorable. Here's to the end of a chapter,... and the beginning of another.



Rachel Berry

I have loved my years at Westminster and cannot imagine attending anywhere else. Thank you to my amazing parents for giving me the opportunity to go to this incredible school and for being there every step of the way. Amanda, I couldn't have asked for a better sister or a better friend. I hope your high school years are as great as mine were. Lastly, I wouldn't be where I am today without my friends. Thanks for making my six years here unforgettable. I love you all!



Parental Units 1 and 2, I just want to thank you for always being my rock. Daddy, I miss you. It was difficult with you not being around most of the year, but I love you. Mommy, there's not enough words. You're the bestest, and I adore you. Baby Spice, I loooooooooooooooooove you, and you know you're going to miss me as much as I miss you. To all my friends-Olivia, Paris, Molly, Vikki, and Kyrah-I love you. As painfully mushy as it is, I don't know how to express how grateful I am for each and every one of you, and I'm going to miss you all so much.



Sydney Bowden



As I've grown up, I've learned to appreciate relationships and the people in my life more than anything else. I am most thankful for my parents' unconditional love. I know I have taken advantage of how amazing and loving my family is. I truly love and appreciate every single person in my family; they've helped me through so much and have stuck by my side no matter what. The friendships I've had in high school have also been so special to me. I have made so many memories with my best friends (both in Wisconsin and St. Louis) that I will never ever forget. I feel so blessed to have friends and family in my life that care for me as much as they do.



Sara Boylan



an inaugural trip to the booth

On November 8, 2016, many seniors flocked to the nearest polling place to cast a ballot for the first time. "It was pretty exciting but weird since people kept asking me if it was my first time. Some people applauded me for voting while others said that stinks," said Savannah Matthews, senior.

Social media also greatly impacted this election in both negative and positive ways.

"For this election coverage, social media has created false information and anger when it comes to the two candidates. People automatically assume that whatever you read is true," said Katherine Yenzler, senior.

Amidst all the controversy that occurred during this particular election, seniors still got to exercise their new rights as citizens of the US.

Erin Galakatos, senior, takes a selfie after voting for the first time. "Having a president matters in order to have a single representative voted for by the American people themselves that works to fulfill the voters' desires and hopes for the future of America," said Galakatos.



Allison Thoenen, senior, votes for the first time with her family. "Voting is a family affair," said Thoenen.



Katherine Yenzler, senior, takes a selfie after casting her vote before school. Yenzler was on the PoliSci team and also worked on the Chris Koster campaign.



Dean Karanas, senior, shows his support for Donald Trump. "What I look for in a president is someone who is honest and believes in the potential of America," said Karanas.



Bradley Jones and **Alex Kempen**, seniors, don Trump themed clothes on election day. "I'm excited to finally voice my opinion," said Kempen.

Caroline Brands

Thank you to everyone who has been here these past six years. Mom and Dad, thank you for loving and supporting me through these crazy years and never giving up on me. Laura, Alyson, and Laura Rose, thanks for always being there for me and never failing to make me feel better. I'm excited to see where life continues to take us. To all my friends, you guys were always there for me when I needed it most. I'll miss every one of you next year. But most importantly, thank you, Lord, for leading me through these years. Goodbye, Westminster; it's my time to "give the academy a rain check."



Hannah Rose Brown

"Well, I'm not usually one for speeches. So, goodbye." ~Ron Swanson



Sarah Broyles

Words cannot begin to describe how blessed I have been to have such amazing people in my life. Mom and Dad, thank you for always supporting me in everything I do and providing guidance for my future. Em, Jake, and Josh, thanks for keeping things crazy. I don't know what I would do without you guys. Cheer girls, keep on catching that wave! Friends, I'll never be able to replace the memories you've given me, and I can't thank you enough for that! Lord, thank you for your love and peace that has no end. Romans 8:28



Mom and Dad, thank you so much for blessing me and being the most wonderful parents anyone could ever imagine. I'm so grateful for you both, and words will never express how much I love you. I love you both more than Mom loves dessert and Corky loves fashion combined. You are the reason I am who I am. You both have helped me grow in my faith, and I will love you no matter where I am. Matthew, Zoë, Josiah, and Haley, thank you so much for being my best friends. You all have been by my side through everything and are always reliable. You all are my everything.



Eyrica Brunk



Thank you, God, for blessing me with the opportunity to go to Westminster. These past four years have been filled with amazing memories and relationships. I wouldn't be who I am today without the influence of Westminster. Mom, Dad, Josie, & Teddy: thank you for being the best family and always being supportive of me. I love you guys more than you know. To my friends: I'm so thankful for all the memories we've made and so lucky to have all of you in my life. Finally, to all my teammates and coaches: thank you for pushing me every day to be better than yesterday. Some of my best memories have come from competing for Westminster alongside you guys.

Proverbs 3:6
Thank you,
Natalie Bunton



Natalie Bunton



Thank you, God, for blessing me with an opportunity to receive a great education in a welcoming Christian community. Mom, I love you so much, and I appreciate all the sacrifices you've made for me. Thank you for always encouraging me to strive for greatness and showing me that hard work pays off. Grandma, I couldn't have asked for a grandmother more loving, generous, and understanding than you. You're the best. Family, thank you for your support and comfort. I'm so grateful to have the memories of the rough and fun times that we've shared together. I love y'all. Friends, I cherish our friendships dearly. Thank you for remaining true to yourselves and always having my back.

Love,
Nat



Natalie Butler



that's how the cookie crumbles

Dawson Gaitan, junior, shows how much he loves Hollyberry cookies. Gaitan enjoyed having a treat after a long day.

Hollyberry cookies were a treat enjoyed by many students and faculty at Westminster Christian Academy. "Hollyberry cookies have the perfect amount of chocolate in them, and they're not overbearingly chocolaty," said Jordan Mette, freshman. The love of Hollyberry cookies sometimes turned into an obsession for students.

"Hollyberry cookies are different from any other cookie I have ever tasted. They have detail and value, and everyone needs to eat the cookies. They are cookies that need to be eaten by the public," said Micah Lewis, junior. Despite the cookie's popularity, there were some people who did not like them enough to wait.

"In seventh grade I used to eat them, but I do not eat them anymore. The lines are too long, and I always forget to go back by the time the line is short," said Dawson Gaitan, junior. Even with the lines, the Hollyberry cookie continued to be a favorite amongst students.



Micah Lewis, junior, munches on a Hollyberry cookie during his study hall. "I eat the cookies quickly in study hall because I don't want to get caught," said Lewis.



Lexi Hanson, sophomore, enjoys a Hollyberry cookie as she relaxes at the end of the school day. "The cookies are best when you heat it up in the microwave and eat it when it is hot," said Hanson.



Nick Callier

It is hard to believe that the final chapter of high school has arrived and that college is just around the corner. The past four years have been a journey, and it is sad to see them come to an end. Looking back over the years, the first thing that comes to my mind is gratitude. Gratitude to my parents for all the unending love, support, and encouragement they have lent to me for the past four years. Gratitude towards my grandparents for their love and all that they have invested into me. Gratitude to my friends, teachers, and coaches for their support, leadership, and companionship. Lastly and foremost, gratitude to God for his love and guidance throughout high school.



Chelsea Caplinger

Before I move on to my next stage in life, it would not be complete without thanking my friends, family, and teachers. Mom and Dad, thank you for encouraging me to find my voice even when you do not necessarily agree with me. Kirsten, thank you for keeping all my secrets and giving me the best advice. Sammie, thank you for being a ray of sunshine in my life. Emily, thank you for sticking by my side. Alena, thank you for always making me laugh. Katherine, thank you for challenging my beliefs and encouraging free thought. To my fellow seniors, let us be the class that fills the world with love, art, and pride. Let us change the world.



David Cha



Maddy Challenger

Mom and Dad, I love you both. Thank you for all the love and support through these years. I couldn't have done it without you. To Andrew, Lucas, and John, thanks for always being there for me and encouraging me to be my best. Also, thanks for never failing to put a smile on my face. I love you guys. To my friends, thanks for all the laughs and good times. You made high school unforgettable. To all my coaches, thank you for encouraging me to not just be a better athlete but to become stronger in my faith. Philippians 4:13



Abby Charles

Well... looks like I have to write one of these now... Weird... Thank you mom and dad for putting up with late nights and what seemed like endless stress. Thank you, Jesse and Rachel, for making me smile and loving me so well. Thank you, Sarah, for being the kindest friend I could ask for (See you tomorrow, probably). Improv, theater, VDT, and Spirit Week, thank you for memories I will cherish forever. Westminster, you've been good to me. Graduates, time to be world changers. "And who knows that we have come to our royal positions for such a time as this?" Esther 4:14



First, I want to give a shoutout to Jesus for getting me where I am today. He is truly holy. Mom and dad, thanks for putting me in an amazing school and being by my side. Abby, you're my best friend, and I love you immensely. Rachel, you're an amazing role model. Westminster has blessed me in more ways than I can name in 120 words. Teachers like Mr. Mohler and Mrs. Harding have pushed me to be the best student I can. The drama department and robotics team have inspired me and created lifelong friendships. Kristen and Bethany, thank you. You two are my best friends, and I am grateful for your constant support. Here's looking at you, Westminster. Galatians 2:20

Jesse Charles



patience is a virtue



Ashely Kyriakos, junior, responds to a game pigeon message on her phone. This was an app that the newer iPhones had.



Logan Montgomery, junior, checks the Blue Crew twitter page to see what the varsity basketball theme will be. He and many other students who are sports fans often check the twitter feed.



Jerrica Flakes, junior, checks her phone for any new texts before school. Flakes and many other students check their phones at all times to be sure they are connected to everyone else.

There were many reasons that students got new phones during the 2016-2017 school year. "Some students like to show off their new phones to people, but for other students that's probably the only upgrade they're going to get for a long time," said Jerrica Flakes, junior.

While for many having the latest phone was the most important thing, there were students who have learned the talent of patience when it comes to getting an upgrade.

"Wait to buy a new phone until it's cheaper because you don't want to spend too much money on it. You eventually need to learn to be patient once and awhile," said Jacob Giacobelli, junior.

Others students did not want the hassle of dealing with the torrent of shoppers who go to get the newest phone.

"When you walk in to get a new iPhone, the Apple store will probably be flooded with people. Wait until the hype dies down a little bit, so it won't be as hectic," said Katherine Gaitan, freshman.

Despite the advantages of getting the latest phone, many students realized that waiting to get a new phone was the smarter and more mature decision.



I want to thank my parents and grandparents for giving me and my siblings the opportunity to come to a great school. I'm going to miss a lot of friends and family, and I would like to thank them for shaping me into the man I am today. I want to thank my teachers for being patient with me, and I want to thank Miss Moore for believing in me.

Lucas Chimento



Dylan Conway

Thank you, Mom and Craig, for supporting me throughout my high school years. Time flew by, and ya'll were by my side the whole time. I've made many friends who made my experience at Westminster special. The bonds we have formed will never be broken, and I'm thankful for you guys entering my life and making an impact. I appreciate all my past and present teachers who took the time to get to know who I am as a person and where I come from. I've learned a lot over these four years, and I'm looking forward to what God has in store for me in the future.



Molly Cook

After six years, my time at Westminster has come to a bittersweet end. To my family, I'm sorry that I lived at Kaldis. Thank you for all the love and support you have given me through the years. My friends, I am so proud of you and grateful for your unconditional love. To my teachers, thank you. I am so fortunate to call many of you my friends. To the art department, you adopted me 5 years ago and stuck with me ever since. You have been the best mentors, friends, and second family I could ever ask for, and I love you all. "I feel that there is nothing more truly artistic than to love people." - Vincent Van Gogh



Noah Cordray



To my dad and mom, thanks for teaching me how to be a man and for being terrible at keeping secrets from mom. Thank you to Mr. Hughes for being a great teacher and friend who gave me some new perspectives. Thank you to Coach Coleman, who taught me I could go so much farther than I thought. To Mr. Murphy and Mr. Mohler, thanks for being the broest teachers ever. Thank you to Mr. Haas for sticking with me in math and being the nicest dude I know. And lastly, to Eli, Tom, JT, Isaac, Marshall, and all the amazing friends I don't have enough room to write out, thanks for putting up with my shenanigans. It's been real, everyone.



Kurt Culver



Josh Curry



freshmen again!?



I think it will be somewhat similar to being a freshman in high school but new and in a different atmosphere. Also, I'll have way more free time than in high school," said **Griffin Anderson**, senior.

"It will be an adjustment, but I didn't have a bad freshman year," said **Maddy Challenger**, senior.



"It will be more new, and I won't know as many people there," said **Zion Ford**, senior.



"I hope it's not as boring as high school, and I will have a lot more freedom to do whatever I want," said **Ethan Davitt**, senior.

Lexie Dark

Mom and Dad, thank you for giving me the opportunity to attend a school like Westminster. I cannot think of better role models in my life; you have taught me how to work hard, glorify God, and live life to the fullest. Sydney and Grace, thank you for always being there for me even though we may annoy each other sometimes. Friends, thank you for the endless laughs, late night talks, and for always supporting me. Above all, I thank God for placing all these people and experiences in my life to shape who I am today. The friendships, bonds, and experiences I have made throughout these years are unforgettable, and I will cherish them forever.



God has given me such a loving family and incredible friends. I love them so much and cannot imagine life without them. Parents, thank you for guiding me through my time at Westminster. I am so grateful for your wisdom and support. Taylor, your unique outlook on life has helped me keep track of the things that are truly important. Annie, I am so blessed to have you as my sister and best friend. Tommy, you never cease to bring joy to my life. To all my amazing friends, you have made high school so much fun, and the memories that we share are forever. Thank you all for always supporting me and being such a blessing to my life.

Katelyn Davidson



Sammi Davidson

Heavenly Father, thank you for the opportunities you've given me. I will forever praise your name. Dad, thank you for being my protector and shoulder to lean on. Mom, thank you for being my advocate and best friend. I love you both to the moon and back. Toby and Trey, thank you for teaching me patience and joy. Alena, thank you for being a precious, genuine friend. Your smile and your sweetness fill my heart with happiness. Chelsea, thank you for being my confidant. I can always count on you for excitement and adventure. Emily, thank you for being loyal and always telling me like it is. You always stand up for what is right. WCA, thank you for the memories. Peace out.



Amanda Davis

To everyone who has been by my side throughout high school, I cannot thank you enough. Mom, thank you for becoming my best friend not just my mother. Dad, thank you for your support and paying my tuition. Robert, thank you for being a protective older brother, and Steven, thank you for always believing I could be better. To my friends, thank you for always being by my side when I needed you most, and I will never forget the impact you've had on my life. To my teachers and paras, thank you for helping me get through school and for inspiring me to grow as a person.



Kirsten Davis

I can't believe that my four years at Westminster are coming to an end. Time has flown by, and it seems like yesterday that I was starting my freshman year. Thank you to my Mom and Dad for all of your love and support and for being my biggest fans; I love you. Thank you to all of my teachers and coaches for supporting me and helping me to achieve my goals. Thank you to my friends who have made these years memorable, and I hope that we remain close throughout the years. Finally, to Caroline and Harper, I will miss you next year. I love you!



Ethan Davitt

"Water. Earth. Fire. Air. Long ago, the four nations lived together in harmony. Then everything changed when the Fire Nation attacked. Only the Avatar, master of all four elements, could stop them. But when the world needed him most, he vanished. A hundred years passed, and my brother and I discovered the new Avatar, an airbender named Aang. Although his airbending skills are great, he still has a lot to learn before he's ready to save anyone. But I believe Aang can save the world." I want to thank my parents, my brothers, my friends, and my teachers for being my Kataras and my Sokkas and believing in me even when I was nowhere near as promising as Aang.



"You have to fill the water bottle just below the tag for it to land," said **Zach Allen**, eighth grade.

"I flip them before class everyday, no joke," said **Sophia Sacco**, freshman.

flip of the wrist

I like flipping water bottles at lunch with my friends. It's very entertaining," said **Thomas Arndt**, sophomore.

"The key to flipping a water bottle is flicking your wrist," said **Gus Duda**, seventh grade.



Water bottle flipping became so popular it was banned from lunch for all students including **Noah Schlueter**, **Aidan Kline**, **Andrew Smith**, **Austin Chen**, **Luke Laughlin**, and **Hugh Muschany**

Cliff DeGroot



Luke Demetry





My years at Westminster have been filled with many joyous memories and incredible people. I'm so blessed to have been able to attend such a great school. Mom and Dad, thank you for always loving, supporting, and encouraging me throughout the years. Lea, thank you for being a great sister and for always making me laugh. Friends, thank you for making my high school experience unforgettable. Teachers, thank you for helping me grow as a student and individual. Although I'm excited for what the future brings, I will never forget my years at Westminster.

Alyssa Despotis



Luke Doiron



Connor Dotan
Thank you mom & dad for everything you have done for me. You both have always supported me no matter what and I am extremely appreciative. Kyle: you are a funny brother and I enjoy having you around my friends! Maggie: thanks for being a great sister and one of my biggest fans! To all my teachers & Coaches (Legters, Canfield & Van Gilst) for believing in me & pushing me to be the best I can be. Lastly I want to thank my friends. These last six years have been the best of my life. MIZ



Sydney Driscoll
Thank you to my friends and family for making these last four years wonderfully crazy. I wouldn't change a bit even if I could. Thank you to Mr. Sarra for believing in me more than anyone I've ever met and for giving me advice on how to kick flip. I'll never be as cool as you. Thank you to Mr. Barrs for teaching me and laughing with me when I lost my passport in France. I'll miss my classmates and teachers incredibly.



Pokémon Go came over the past summer, and it was a huge sensation. The majority of students had the app at some point, whether or not they played in their childhood or just wanted to see what all the hype was about. The game encouraged many people to get out of the house and exercise with friends.

Two students, Jack Whited, eighth grader, and Jackson Loehr, seventh grader, certainly caught them all by reaching the highest level recorded at WCA. Both reached level 40, which was the furthest level possible at the time.

Although the excitement wore down once the school year began, and over half the school did not play anymore by Thanksgiving, that did not mean students couldn't play if they wanted to.

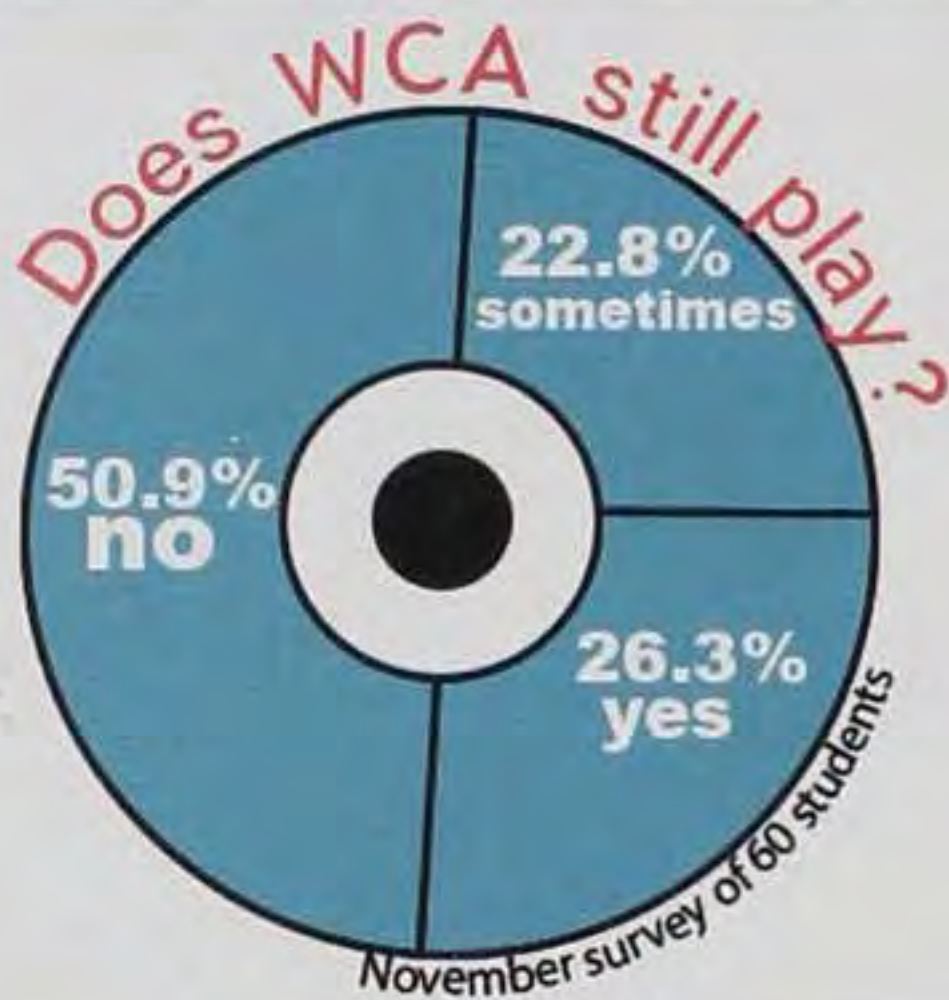
Pokémon went



Jack Whited, eighth grade, happens to be tied for highest level reached on Pokémon Go at WCA. To some students, that was impressive and something to be proud of.



This past halloween, Abby Johler, seventh grade, dressed up as the Charizard pokémon after the extensive revival of the popular Nintendo video game. She was just one of the few students that still played Pokémon Go after the school year had started.



Nick Steck, freshman, was caught staring down at his phone and capturing a Pokémon by Jordan Mette, freshman. For a while, anyone could know if they were seeing a Pokémon Go player in public like she is here.



Dawson Egan

Wayne Elemann

Mom and Dad: Thanks for always pushing me to exceed my own expectations. For believing in me, even when I couldn't believe in myself. Thanks for all the love and laughter we have shared over these past four years, but most of all thank you for showing me what to value in life. Thank you for giving me a good Christian environment to grow up in and thank you for always being there for me. These next few years will be an all new experience, but I think you have equipped me with the wisdom and integrity to make it through. I'll try not to get in to too much trouble.



Jesse
Esparza-Burr



Rachel Farrell

Wow, the time has truly flown by since I first ventured within The Academy. I'm eternally thankful to everyone for supporting me throughout life's grand adventure. Mom and Dad, thank you for your unwavering support, encouragement, and love. Kyle, you're such an amazing brother, and I count you as one of my best friends. Friends, thanks for always making me laugh and enjoying the little things in life. Family, thanks for teaching me the importance of relationships; I've been beyond blessed to be close to you all. Cats, thanks for the cuddles. God, thank you for guiding my life how it's meant to be, however that turns out. I love you all. Make sure to smile today :)



Lily Fata
Here's to the good times!



Zion Ford

It's hard to believe that this six year journey is now coming to an end. Needless to say, I'm happy we're finally free. God has blessed me with an amazing family that provides the best opportunities for me. I know for a fact that I would not have made it this far without the help they've given me through the years. Mom, thank you so much for loving me unconditionally through the years. G Mom, thank you so much for being the supportive backbone you are and always making sure my goals are accomplished. Thank you all for the encouragement and advice that restored my hope at my low points; I couldn't have done it without you. I love you all.



laying it on the line



Kennedy Kittner, sophomore, stands with her backpack one day as lunch begins, and she gets in line.

6

LIKE

33

Don't Care

37

HATE

Near the end of first quarter, a new rule was instituted for the lunch line, requiring that students leave their backpacks outside the café or at a table while they stood in line to receive their meal. For some students, it was a relief that the line would now move faster, and there would be less shoving. Some did not even feel affected at all and think the subject should be dropped already. However, other students saw this rule as unnecessary.

"I think the backpacks rule is stupid," said Bethany Holden, junior.

In addition to being just another disputed rule, some students saw this as a way to make getting their lunch harder. "I just think it's inconvenient," said Betsy Bailey, junior.

No matter one's opinion on this issue, this new rule added controversy to the lunch hour.



"It doesn't help the line move faster, and it creates more congestion because there are backpacks all over the floor. This also looks very unprofessional to visitors," said *Isabella Francois*, freshman, proudly wearing her backpack.



Taylor Highmark, Grace Skiljan, and Rebekah Sems, freshmen, happily wait in the lunch line without their backpacks for their paninis.



Taylor French

Thank you to all the people who made my Westminster experience what it was - memorable. Mom and Dad, I know I don't say it enough, but I want to thank you for everything you have done for me. I don't know where I would be without you guys standing by my side for these past 17 years. Peyton, I know we annoy each other a lot, but I just want to say that you are an incredible kid inside and out. Don't ever change. Friends, thank you all for giving me the memories and laughs that I will never forget. I am who I am today because of this school and these people, and I will forever be thankful.



JT Fuller

I'd like to thank my parents for making me go to school and pushing me to work hard. I want to thank my siblings for giving me competition on being the favorite child. I want to thank all my coaches for teaching me discipline. I want thank Tom for a list of memories that we don't need to mention. You kindle the spark in my life. Thank you, Eli, for converting me to scientology (not really). Isaac, thanks for introducing me to wink 91 Kurt, thanks for taking me to quick trip. Matthew, thanks for being smart. Thank you to Marshall for teaching his ways. Finally, to the true OG teachers, you know who you are.



Erin Galakatos

To Westminster and all my friends, thanks for being my home for the past four years and helping me grow every day. Mom and Dad, props to you for putting up with me and helping me achieve everything I want to. I love you both. Matt and John, thanks for continuously making fun of me; I wouldn't want it any other way. Kelly, Jenna, and Kara, thanks for always being there and not killing me for stealing all your clothes. Sav, Teddy, and Logan, I'm grateful I got to experience the highest of highs and lowest of lows of highschool with you. Volleyball team, you are my bestfriends and make the fall time the best time. I'm thankful for my years as a Wildcat!



Sarah Geisz

"See you space cowboy" - Cowboy Bebop 1998



Mom, Dad, and Hannah, thanks for your constant love and support. You're always by my side, and I could not have done it without you. Anna and Moira, thanks for putting up with me for all these years. You're my best friends and mean the world to me. VDT, I'm so blessed to have been a part of such an amazing group of people. You all are the weirdest people I know. Stay awesome, and keep dancing for the Lord and each other. Friends, thanks for all the laughs and memories. I love you all more than you know. Thanks for making my high school years something to remember.



Holly Gilmore



I would like to thank God for giving me a chance to go to Westminster for the past six years. Dad, thanks for being very supportive of me through these very interesting years. To both of my grandparents, thanks for being there for me and giving me very important life lessons that I will cherish forever. To my lovable and crazy cousins, thanks for being the best cousins I could ever ask for. To my CRAZY friends, thank you for putting up with my craziness and weirdness. To my PC group, I love you guys dearly, and I'm really going to miss you all. You guys are the best. Lastly, to the boys swim team, thanks for making this the best senior year ever even though you guys might've been a headache.



Kelsey Ginger



the "grand" cafe

Some students chose to eat their lunch in the Grand Entry or the Commons. This gave them alternate places to spend part of their day at school.



Chloe Kellom, Kayla Colley, Kristen Keys, Kalei Layton, Jovana Hampton, and Brie Adams, sophomores, eat lunch in the grand entry. "We like sitting outside the cafe since there's too many people in the cafe, and we want to be able to hear each other. It's more fun because we get to sit on the floor as opposed to sitting in desks all day," said Layton.



Graci Barron, Sydney Baum, Abbi Barron, Alyssa Despotis, Brooke Lemp, and Rachel Farrell, seniors eat lunch in the grand entry. "Eating in the grand entry gives me plenty of space to spread out and study," said Abbi Barron.



Dawson Gaitan, Stephen Gross, Jacob Giacomelli, and Christopher Faust, juniors, eat lunch under the staircase.

Sydney Rasch, Rachel Potter, Maddie Volding, and Alyssa Adams, juniors, eat lunch under the staircase. "It's too crowded and loud in the Cafe, so we like to sit at the high tables or on the floor," said Adams.



“ ”

We're closer to the vending machines, and it's quieter with more space.

-Stephen Gross, sophomore

Sofia Granata

First and foremost, thank you, God, for your unconditional love and my countless blessings. Mom and Dad, thank you for teaching me about God's plan for my life and always being there for me. You two are my rock, and I am beyond grateful for the both of you. Sabrina, I don't know what I would do without your uplifting personality and humor. Thank you for never failing to put a smile on my face. Grandma, Nonno, and Nonna, thank you all for teaching me to work hard and put 100% into anything I do. Friends, I am so thankful I have become so close with so many of you and have made some unforgettable memories. I love you all!

Clayton Grass

Thank you, Mom and Dad, for supporting me throughout my high school years. Thank you, coaches, for pushing me to my limits so that I could get better. Finally thank you to my friends for sticking with me these past four years. It's been an exciting and fun four years. Adios, Westminster.



It's weird to be ending a journey that started what seems like yesterday. Amazing friends made school an avenue for tons of memories, like when Jimmy was scared out of his mind of the "Babadook" catching him and Jarrett and I laughed at his pain. My parents pushed me to always be exceptional, and it definitely shaped my character and competitive edge in academics and athletics into what it will be in college. My siblings assisted me in growing in maturity and having a blast. Katrina, Kayla, Devin, Mom, and Dad, I love you all! Anna, you are the most amazing person I've ever met. Thanks for making my years something to cherish, and so the scheme begins.
¡Adios Westminster!



Austin Greene



I want to thank my friends and family for their love and support through high school. I am very blessed for the opportunities that WCA has granted me, and I wouldn't take back anything. To my family, you mean the world to me. I love you more than I can explain. To my cousins, I'm very blessed to have gone to school with you for the past 13 years. I will miss seeing you in the halls! To my friends, I love you all. Thank you for the past four years and the many to come. I cherish the memories I have with you all and can't wait for the many more to come.



Tori Griewe



Chase Griesedieck

Thanks to my loving parents who have always been there when I need them. Dad Your humbleness and generosity inspires me. I hope I can be half the man that you are. Mom- You have provided endless support and encouragement. Julie- Thanks for being the best sister I could ask for. Eddie- Thanks for being the best brother I could ask for. I'm happy I had the experience of attending Westminster for the last six years and grateful for all the relationships I formed.



Julie Griesedieck

Mom and dad, I don't tell you two enough how thankful I am for you, I'll miss you next year. Your constant love and support means so much to me. Eddie and Chase, thanks for being the best brothers. I'm lucky to have you two. Jay and Carrie, thank you for everything. Tennis girls, thanks for making my last season the best #gorams. France and summer sem will always be my favorite memories. To my friends, the highs and lows have only brought us closer, so thanks for four good years of unforgettable memories I'll cherish forever.



Stands and Kneels

Dyllan Conway, Steve Webb, seniors, and L.B. Battle, junior, kneel during the National Anthem at the October 1st football game while Mike Decker, coach, Austin Greene, senior, Chad Briden, and Luke Vasel, juniors, support them. "At Westminster, everyone always talks about the importance of a united community, but when serious issues arise, everyone takes sides against each other. The football team has been my family for the past three years, and we were not going to let a little disagreement divide our family. Although we have different views, our only job that day was to represent our faith on and off the field; I am proud to call Dyllan my brother in Christ and will always stand beside my team," said Greene.

Josh Pottebaum, senior, stands in front of the varsity football team as the National Anthem is being played.



After the nationalized refusal of professional football player Colin Kaepernick to stand during the national anthem, some Westminster students chose to follow his example and stand up for their beliefs. Sydney Bowden, senior, was the first to follow Kaepernick's example when she knelt during her varsity volleyball game. That action spurred some of the toughest conversations for the WCA community all year.

"I felt like a hypocrite because I thought [Kaepernick] is right, but I'm not doing anything about it. It's a peaceful protest, and it was kind of my way of finally speaking out," said Bowden.

The next week, five football players and managers followed Bowden's lead as they too knelt during the national anthem.

"I feel like with us being a part of the football team they understood more than the volleyball team did. I think we were just put in a better position than she was because when she did it no one really came around her to support her," said Dyllan Conway, senior.

"I saw a lot of injustice throughout the American culture, and it seems to have been getting worse as they years have gone by. It seems like we took a big jump forward in the past, but now we've taken little steps back every day," said Steve Webb, senior.

While these students all had good intentions in kneeling to stand up for their beliefs, many were offended by their protest and saw it as disrespectful to the flag and to veterans.

"To me the flag stands for everyone and

everything I've ever known with my father being in the military," said Nicole Schneider, senior. "It's the days where he went into work at midnight, and there was an air raid the next day. It was the days when there was a person who was lost at sea, and they couldn't find him for three days. It's the days when he went to the hospital because someone that he worked with—someone that I know—had been ejected out of an airplane that ripped in half. So that's what it stands for to me. It stands for all those people and all they've done and all the people that his sacrifice has helped. It stands for everything my family has ever done," said Schneider.

Many hurtful comments were directed towards the black students in response to their actions. "There was a lot of anger I couldn't really fathom because it wasn't a personal attack on anybody, but people took it and made it extreme," said Bowden. "I endured verbal abuse, and that was not fun. I was angry because people weren't listening to me, and they just wanted to say I was wrong and not understand, which is frustrating."

All in all, that's mainly what the black students wanted: to be listened to. This peaceful protest was to make their voices heard and to open up the eyes of the Westminster community to the oppression they and other black people are facing. "I don't want to let people take my voice away. It wasn't for myself, but I protested to show a lot of black kids that they can do the same thing too. They do have a voice, and they do matter," said Bowden.



Thank you, Westminster, for the incredible education that has prepared me to change the world for Jesus Christ. I have been so blessed by true friendships with students, teachers, parents, and the school community. These high school friends and experiences have shaped me into the person I am today and will enable me to achieve anything I put my mind and heart into. Mom and Dad, thank you for your love and support. Once a Wildcat, always a Wildcat!

Emma Hackman



I realize how incredibly blessed I am to have been able to attend Westminster Christian Academy. Thank you, God, for placing this opportunity in my life to grow not only in myself but in you. Thank you, Mom and Dad, for the love and support throughout these past six years. Holleigh, thanks for putting up with me, and I will be the first to admit that I'm going to miss seeing your smiling (and yet sometimes annoying) face everyday next year. I am so thankful for all of my friends and the faculty who I have gotten to know and relate with. Lastly, I would like to thank Westminster in itself for providing the most memorable years of my life (so far).

Hannah Haguewood



Kate Hassler

First off, Mom and Dad, you mean the world to me. From raising me to be kind to giving me a great Christian education to helping me overcome life's hardships, I sincerely can't thank you enough. Thank you to all my bandmates who have supported me in the jazz, concert, and chapel bands; you guys rock! Thank you to all my teachers and the rest of the wonderful Westminster staff. You guys have shaped so many people's lives, including my own! Of course, I can't forget all the amazing friends that I've made and all the shenanigans we've gotten into. I thank God for each and every one of you, and these next years are going to be an amazing adventure!



Olivia Henderson

Praise God I made it through. Thanks to my parents for pushing me to be my best through your love and support. To my choir family, thanks for putting up with me throughout these last four years. I am not sure I would have made it through without you all. To Sydney, Morgan, Anna, and Twenty One Pilots, thanks for keeping me grounded throughout all the chaos of high school. Lastly, a quote from Bendon Urie: "Heroes always get remembered, but you know legends never die." Westminster... it's been real.



You know, I'd like to say it went fast, but it really didn't. And that's probably the best part. The years I've gone here have taught and formed me in so many ways that all I can do now is quickly thank everyone who guided and shaped me. Cate and JT, thanks for breaking me out of my comfort zone and becoming my friends. Mrs. Harding and the robotics team, thanks for preparing me with so many skills and trusting me with such responsibility. Dr. Shaw, I finally completed the Hoekzema cycle so you don't have to worry about anyone else falling asleep in your class. My family, thanks for putting up with me and helping me throughout it all.



Matthew Hoekzema



To my mom and dad, you are the best parents I could ever ask for, and I truly wouldn't be the girl I am today without you both. Willy, I can't wait to see the amazing plans God has for you, and I will miss you and our silent morning drives more than ever. To every one of my friends, I love and cherish our friendships and don't know how I would have gotten through high school without you all. I have some amazing memories that will forever be in my heart. Thank you to everyone who has made an impact on my life and who has helped me through my many ups and downs. It has been the best four years ever.



Olivia Holt



pet peeves

The little things that get on our nerves.

When someone constantly taps you



-Brie Adams, sophomore

When people knock me in the head with their backpacks because I'm short. So tall people.



-Olivia Henderson, senior

People who walk by and hit me accidentally and don't say sorry



-Somin Kim, junior

Overpriced food



-Simon Jones, freshman

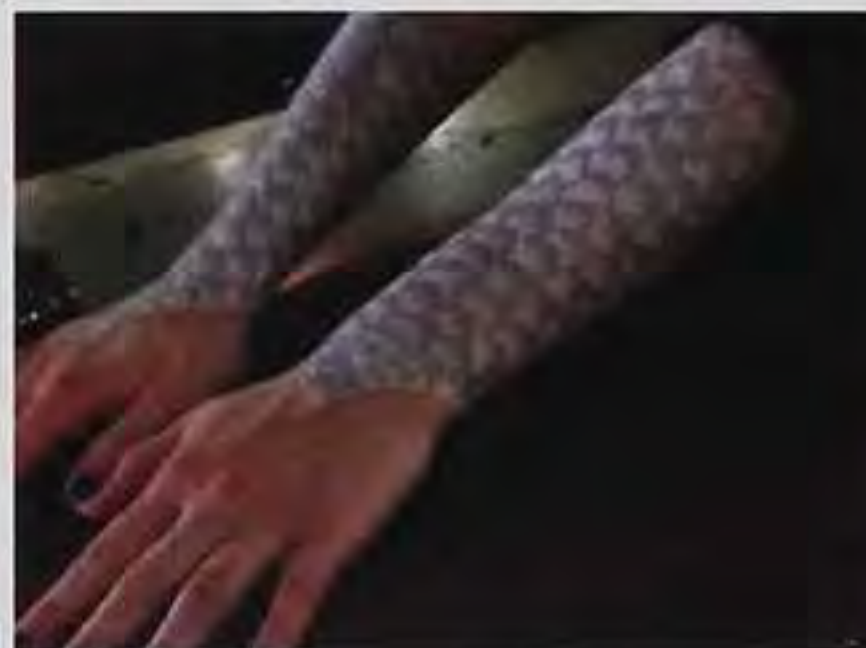
Gate Hoogstraten

Although the last six years have flown by, I couldn't have done it without my closest friends, family, and mentors by my side. Every little girl needs a powerful woman to look up to, and I am forever grateful that mine was my mother. Mom, thank you for always being strong for me and our family and for your amazing cooking; your culinary creations will be greatly missed in college. As for my dad, I couldn't ask for a better person to share common interests with. Thank you for being my wisest, toughest, yet most loving confidant. To my friends, thank you for the never-ending love and support, and I'll take the stories we made with me wherever I go.



Paris Hubler

Contrary to popular belief, I was paying attention in class.





Gabby James

"Dad: Thank you for your weirdness and for always making me laugh. Your words of support and advice are truly invaluable. Mom: Thank you for being my best friend and always hanging out with me. You are a truly inspirational woman in every way possible. Bridget & Carley: Thank you for not only being amazing sisters but the best friends in the world. Thank you for all of the laughs and car jam sessions. I love you guys so much and could not have made it here without you. Boomer & Scout: Thank you for your de-stressing capabilities and unconditional love. Thank you for your morning greetings and evening snuggles. I love you more than most humans." Thank you so much!



Tiffany Johnson

I could not have made it here without those that I love. Christ, thank you for being my rock. Mom and Dad, thank you for loving and supporting me no matter what. My fantastic friends, thank you for loving my quirks and being there for me, always. Brittany, thank you for making me laugh and always being what I need. Mikey, thank you for inspiring me with your kindness and goodness; you will grow up to do wonderful things. I will always deeply cherish my memories of Westminster: the good and the bad. My time at WCA has produced extreme growth, and I thank all of its students and staff for allowing me to do that.



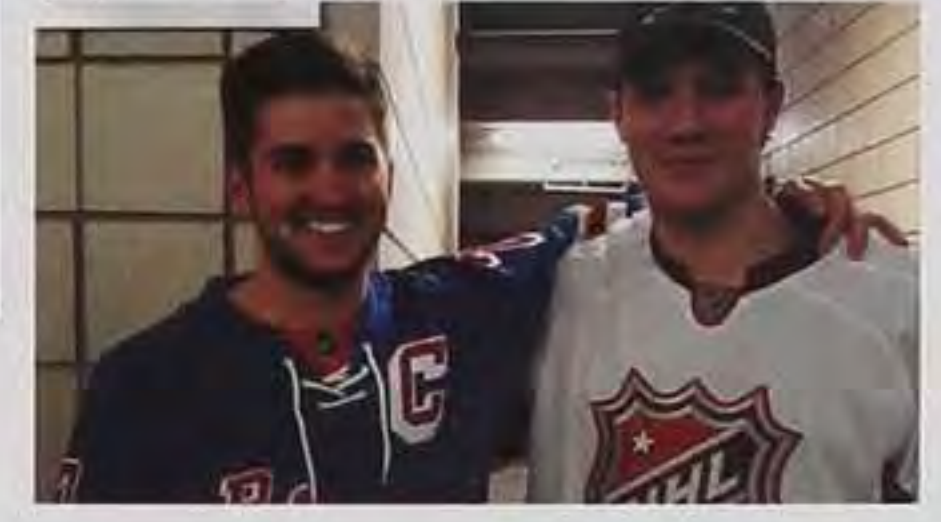
Alvia Johnston

Time sure does fly. Thank you, Jesus, for blessing me more than I deserve and for loving me through it all. Mom and Dad, I couldn't ask for better parents to look up to. Thank you for showing me what living life full of grace and love looks like. Isaac and Luke, thank you for being the best brothers I could ask for. I love you two more than you know. Teachers and Coaches, thank you for taking the time to invest in me and pushing me to be the best I can be. Friends, thanks for being there for me through it all and making life more fun. I will never forget all of the memories. #soblessed



Bradley Jones

Mom and Dad, thank you for everything you've done to get me to this point in my life. Thank you for giving up you guys' time to take me to hockey practices. Thank you for not just pushing me to be a better hockey player but a better person too. Alex and George, the times we've spent playing on the Nintendo 64 have been my favorite part. Sitting around and laughing with you guys has been a real blessing. To all of you guys.... love you.



tunes of 2016



Andrew Van Horn, senior, listens to music as he gazes over his sheet music. Horn often studied with music.

out of 120 students...

30%

"Closer" by The Chainsmokers

27%

"Heathens" by Twenty One Pilots

20%

"Juju On That Beat" by Jay Hilfigerrr

In a poll regarding students' favorite songs to listen to in the car, the winner was "Closer" by The Chainsmokers. "I love 'Closer!' It's really unique and a lot different than other songs," said Hayley Adair, freshman.

Other top songs included "Heathens" by Twenty One Pilots, "Juju On That Beat" by Jay Hilfigerrr, "Ride" by Twenty One Pilots, "Treat You Better" by Shawn Mendes, and "Stressed Out" by Twenty One Pilots.



Even while reading Fahrenheit 451, Emilee Mitchell, freshman, listened to her music.



Sarah Brown, Cheyenne Bowden, and Scout Fleming, freshmen, crowded around Tori Jessie, freshman, while she showed them a favorite song of hers.



Halle Kaiping

I am so thankful for my family and friends who helped me get through high school. I love you all so much, and I never could have done it without you. I thank God for the opportunity to attend such an amazing school with such amazing people. I have been blessed with incredible teachers and coaches, and I am going to miss every one of them. It is because of their endless support and encouragement that I am who I am today. These four years went by too fast. WCA, you will be missed!



Dean Karanas

I am blessed to have a dad and mom who did everything in their power to help me succeed. I can never thank them enough. I am grateful to Westminster Christian Academy, my teachers, coaches, and staff for all you have done for me. Thank you to Mrs. Marybeth Nilsen and everyone who has helped me grow and learn. Thank you, God, for your gift of grace and for being in my life.



Sidney Keane

I have been blessed to have attended Westminster for six years. It has shaped me into the person I am today. Thank you to my mom and dad for allowing me to learn and grow in such a special environment. Thank you for always being there to assist and support me through the good and the bad. I am also thankful for the friendships that have come out of my years at Westminster. I will forever cherish my friends and will miss everyone so much.



Jason Kelly

First, I would like to thank my arms for being by my side. I would also like to thank my Mom and Dad for not killing me for being annoying. In all seriousness though I have enjoyed my time at Westminster. I have made some great friends. I have enjoyed playing hockey for my school and actually having Friday night games. I'd like to thank my brother for being a great role model. Even away at college, I can always count on you. Mom and Dad, you're the two most wonderful people on earth, and many of my friends like you better than they like me. I have come to grips with that and have moved on. Thank you, Westminster.



Alex Kempen

The past four years of my life have been filled with long lasting friendships and memories. To my mom and dad, thank you for always loving me and supporting me. To all my friends, thank you for always making me feel welcome and accepting me for who I am. I am excited to see what God has in store for me next. Thank you, Westminster; go wildcats.



David Kerckhoff

Thank you, Jesus. You always have always loved, taught, challenged, and provided for me. I can go into the future boldly only because you are with me. Mom, Dad, and Kathryn, you have taught me, loved me, and inspired me. I may have to say goodbye to Westminster, but I will never have to say goodbye to you. To my greatest of teachers - Talley, Mohler, Knerr, Smith, and Wilkins - thank you for your ideas, examples, and influence on me. Friends, you have made living life at The Academy a pleasure. To all those I have played music with, rock on! Music reminds us of meaning. To all the soccer brothers over the many years, it has been an absolute pleasure.



gemmis

Eyrica Brunk, senior



Ever since I was a kid, my family and close friends called me "Kate-o-Potato" because it rhymes, and it eventually evolved from there into just Potato. I think it suits me well.

potato



Kate Hassler, senior



It's between my boyfriend and I. He calls me Gemmis because it means gem, and I'm a gem to him.

little poptart

Jesse Charles, senior



I brought a poptart to Mr. Warren's APUSH class everyday from the beginning of the year. One day he started calling me Little Poptart, and it stuck.

re(nick)name me

Emily Kessel

Thank you, Lord, for providing me with six valuable years of immense joy through Westminster and the people in my life. Mom and Dad, you guys are truly the best; thank you so much for the solid and loving support you give me. Zak and Alex, I cannot imagine better big brothers, and I thank God that He made us a family. Teachers, thank you for shaping me through wisdom and encouragement over the years. Friends, I love you all, and thank you for the time spent together and the memories we made; I will cherish them forever. Psalm 46:10 "Be still, and know that I am God."

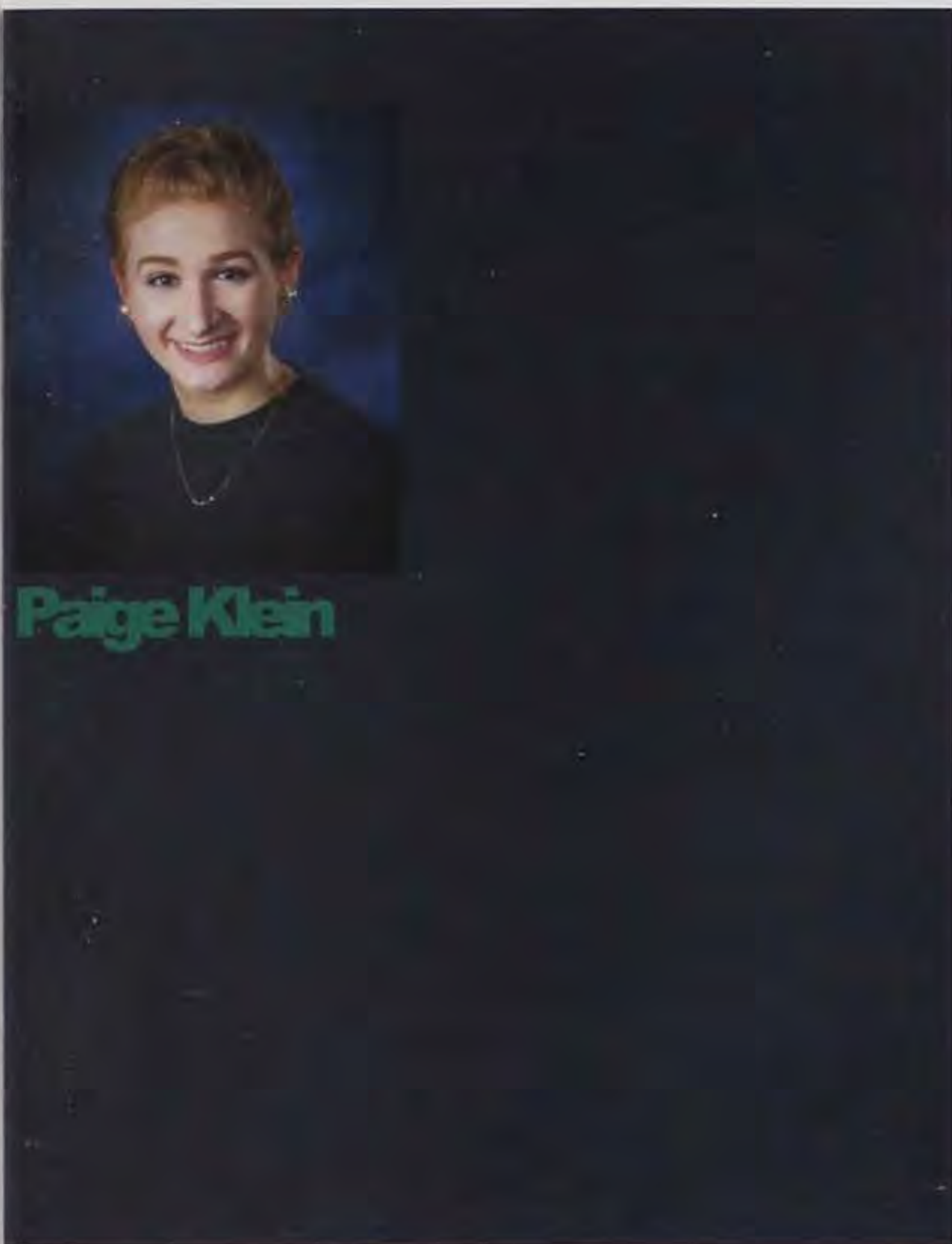


Jean Klein

I have been incredibly blessed to have an amazing family and friends whom I love deeply. Here's to you guys: Mom and Dad, thank you so much for always loving and supporting me and my goals. Thank you for pushing me for success and never letting me quit. To my big sis and brother, thank you for making life always fun, and I'm thankful that you both have always had my back. To my friends, thanks for the amazing adventures and memories. I can't wait to see what the Lord has planned for our lives. I love you guys. Psalm 34:8



Paige Klein



Madi Koetting

These past six years have been quite an amazing journey. To my family, you guys are my role models, and you have showed me every day what it is like to live life for Christ. To my friends, thank you for the support you've shown me, and I cherish all the memories we have made. I honestly could not have survived high school without my Lord and Savior, and I am incredibly grateful for the friends and family he has blessed me with. "Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand." Proverbs 19:21



MaryKate Kopsky

High school, it's been a blast! The past four years have been some of the best. Golf, swimming, and lacrosse have taught me so much and given me memories I will never forget. I will miss all of my coaches, teammates, and friends. Mom & Dad, thank you for being great role models in my life. I would not be where I am today without you. Claire & Caroline, you guys are my best buds, and I look up to you everyday. Keep being you! To those still at Westminster, cherish the time you have together because high school does not last forever. Thank you, Westminster, for countless memories!



Andrea Lacassie

I truly thank God for all the people he has brought into my life and all the opportunities he has given me. Thank you so much, Mom and Dad, for all your advice and for always staying by my side. Sebastian, thank you for always being there to make me laugh, especially when I was feeling down. Thank you to all my friends for all the fun memories that I will always cherish. These past two years at Westminster Christian Academy have been a great blessing to my life. I have met amazing and talented friends and teachers that have made a huge impact on my life.



Find your scene get the green

students tell us how they found the right job for them



“ chick-fil-a

I wanted a job there because it's a Christian foundation, and working with them I would feel more comfortable. I called them, and they told me to come in the next day for an interview.

Chloe Thomas, sophomore

“ golf caddy

Some friends at my church were doing it and recommended it. They said it was good money, so I decided to try it.

Ian Warren, freshman



“ starbucks barista

I work at the cafe in Barnes and Noble, and we sell Starbucks products. I got the job because I had previous experience in the food industry. Normally, Barnes and Noble only hires people over 18, but because of my experience, I was hired. I applied to a lot of local coffee shops and places by my house. You have to settle for a pretty bad job and get the experience as a first job before you can move up to get a better one.

Chelsea Caplinger, senior



“ andy's

My friends worked there, and I went on their website and filled out the application. I wanted to do it, so I could put it on my college resume and have the experience.

Alyssa Adams, junior




Thank you Jesus for being my strength and my song. Thank you for my beautiful family and the wonderful friends that I have. Dad, Mom, Oluwaranti, Oreofe, and Nehemiah: I would not be here without your love and support. I am so grateful for you all. My friends: You are amazing. Thank you for standing with me in both the good times and the bad. You will always be close to my heart. WCA teachers: Thank you. You have taught me so much - not just educationally, but you have also taught me valuable lessons that I can use in everyday life. Psalm 100:5 - For the LORD is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting and His faithfulness to all generations.

Morayo Ladejolla-Oginni




Mom and Dad, thank you for your love, wisdom, and support. You taught me to trust God, stand firm, and "have courage and be kind." You have always believed in me, and I love you so much. Timmy and Daniel, thanks for being such incredible siblings. Kohl, thank you for filling my life with fun and laughter. To all of my friends, you will always hold a special place in my heart. To my teachers, thank you for your encouragement and guidance that helped me become the person that I am today. Thank you God for all Your blessings to me and my family, for the strength You give me, and for all the people you have put in my life.

Becca Lai





**Alex
Lawrence**

I would like to thank God for the blessing it has been to attend Westminster. Coming to this school has been the best decision of my life. Mom and Dad, thank you for all that you have taught me, for your unwavering love, and for raising me Right. Harrison, Jackson, and Quin - thank you for being three of the best friends I could ever have asked for. I love you all and wouldn't trade you for anything. I am so grateful for every amazing relationship I have made at this school. I will miss my friends, teachers, coaches, and teammates more than I can describe in words, but I know that the memories we have made will last a lifetime.



Chris Lee

Wow, it seems like it was only yesterday when I stepped onto this campus as a middle schooler. I will never forget those countless trips to the theatre and practice rooms. Mom & Dad, I thank you so much for all your love and sacrifice. I have to thank my entire family for being so supportive of my passion. All my theatre people, y'all inspire me everyday, and thank you for all the memories. Thanks to all my amazing teachers-Birchenough, Haas, Schwamb, and Butz. I would not be where I am today without the incredible guidance I got. Goodbye, Westminster- I will really miss living in Missouri.



Brooke Lemp

Winnie the Pooh once said, "How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard." I have been extremely blessed these past four years with friends that will never leave me, family members that will always love me, coaches that will always encourage me, and teachers that will always inspire me. I've truly been blessed beyond my expectations and will never forget the wonderful years Westminster has given me.



**Samantha
Lombardo**

Dear Mom, Dad, and the good Lord above, Thank you for supporting me through these chaotic years. You have been with me through every obstacle and failure, instilling within me the skills I needed to succeed. Thank you for supporting me in the pursuit of my dreams and telling me that anything is possible. Much Love, Sam



Love at first crush

CLASS OF 2017 MIDDLE SCHOOL

Josh Pottebaum & Savannah Mathews

This relationship lasted about two years and was about as serious as a young high school relationship could be. "Our relationship summarized in two words would be public and dramatic," said Mathews. Everyone knew about these two, and their friends always wanted to know the latest

news about their relationship. Now, as friends, these two look back at their relationship as being very immature.



Dean Karanas & Madi Koetting

This relationship started at the WCA carnival in 8th grade, and the rest was history. "We were good friends for a long time and dated for almost two years," said Karanas. They also attended CB together their freshman year. Notable memories from this experience included

going to the Blues game and to the movies. Looking back, they laugh as they thought their relationship was very serious at the time.



Cooper Moore & Alivia Johnston

This relationship lasted a solid three months in 8th grade. "If you call saying I love you over text after two months serious, then sure it was pretty serious," said Johnston. They spent a lot of time texting and saw each other very little.



The past four years have been filled with great memories. Thank you, Mom and Dad, for guiding and supporting me. To my siblings, I'll always love you. I am also thankful for all the great coaches and teachers that have made my Westminster experience enjoyable. Lastly, I would like to thank all of my friends and teammates for making all of high school the best.



Andrew Looby



Hannah Lovel

Thank you mom and dad for everything you have done for me. Thank you for giving me the ability to experience life in new ways and presenting me with so many opportunities. I appreciate everything you do. Maddie and Benji, ahhhmmmm. I'm so happy I get to go through life with you two by my side. I have learned so much from both of you. Thanks for the memories Westminster. Vote for Pedro.





Looking back, I never thought I would end up where I am today. However, I am so grateful to be where I am. Thank you to all my friends and family that have pushed me to my best abilities. My past six years at Westminster have presented me with many challenges but also many joys. Being at Westminster has given me a chance to grow in my walk with God and also struggle with it. The only advice I have to incoming students is to not be afraid to go out of their comfort zone. Try out for the school plays and go to all the football games because before you know it you're a senior walking toward your diploma.

Lauren Lowe



First, I would like to thank God for the innumerable blessings in my life, one of the greatest being the opportunity to attend Westminster. I will cherish these past years forever. Mom, thank you for always supporting me and being my rock through some of the hardest times in my life. Dad, thank you for embedding a love for the Lord in my heart at such a young age. The time that we shared together was precious. Kendall, thank you for being the best big sister and always setting an example I could admire. To all my friends, these six years have been some of the best of my life, and the memories we've made will never be forgotten.

Caffe MacDonal



Vikki MacKoul

I am so thankful for the last six years at The Academy. I've been given so many opportunities that I could not have had anywhere else. I want to thank my parents for giving me the chance to learn and grow in Christ and also every one of the AMAZING friends I have made on my journey. Some of the most impactful people in my life have been my teachers and coaches who truly became my friends and have encouraged me to go beyond what I ever thought I could. I am excited to see what God has in store for me. I love you all so much, and I can not imagine what life would have been without you!



Jayla Malloyd

First, I want to thank God for the opportunities he has given me through these four years and my parents for teaching me how to be a strong young woman. To all my sisters and my brother Kenny, I love you idiots from the bottom of my heart. Granny and Papa, you all are my rocks. To all my friends, thanks for the endless nights of laughing so hard I couldn't breathe and for standing by me through thick and thin. Jeremiah 29:11



you can say that again

Students share famous catch phrases their peers will remember in the future.



I love Christmas!

-Taylor Siebenman, junior

Siebenman has been saying this for as long as she can remember. She said this as an exclamation at the end of things that make her happy even if they have nothing to do with Christmas!

A life well loved is a life well gived.

-Tiffany Johnson, senior


Johnson had only had this quote since October. She likes it because it reminds her to enjoy even the challenges in life and to always be gentle and kind to others.



Am I right, ladies?

-Kathryn Kramer, junior


Kramer began saying this on the cross country team. She made this comment when she told a joke, and she was the only one who laughed.



What are you going to do?






-Jimmy Obertop, sophomore

Obertop had been saying his quote this year around friends, and they have started to adopt it as their own. They asked this question in reference to homework or after a hard test when there is nothing else they can do.



Words cannot describe how blessed my life is. I am thankful for everyone who has supported and loved me. I would like to thank my parents for all the love they have given. To my siblings, I promise to always be there for you. I can't wait to watch you all grow up! I would like to thank my friends who never fail to make me laugh. And lastly, I want to thank my teammates. Whether it was field hockey or lacrosse, I knew my team had my back no matter what. We are all much more than a team. We are family.

Alayna Marusiadis

I've been incredibly blessed with loving friends and family. Thank you, Jesus, for giving me people to love and support me these last four years. Mom, thanks for loving me unconditionally and always believing in me. Will, you're the best little brother I could ask for, and I can't wait to see what God has in store for you. Syd and Tay, you know me better than anybody else. Thanks for keeping me sane and for always being there when I needed you most. My friends, thanks for making me laugh until I cry. You'll always be in my heart. Lacrosse team, thanks for always pushing me to be my best. Class of 2017, thanks for the memories.

Christina Mason







Savannah Mathews

The Lord has blessed me with the most amazing friends and family. Mom and Dad, yes, your baby girl has finally grown up. Thanks for your constant love and support. Without your guys' guidance I would've been lost. Sis, you've been such a guiding light for me. Thank you for being the beautiful person you are inside and out. P, finish Westminster well and carry on the Mathews legacy. I am so proud of who you've become. Rin, high school has been quite the journey for us, thank you for sticking by me though it all. The girls, ya'll we did it! I love you guys so much. Class of 2017 and Westminster, thanks for making high school so memorable. It's been fun.



Christian McGhee

As I reflect over my past 18 years on the earth, I see a community surrounded by God's grace. I am grateful to my family for illustrating that hard work pays off. Even through the midst of trials, they trusted in God, and he came through for them. My parents struggled with losing 5 babies to miscarriages. Since they had believed in God, I was born. Although I was born 3 months premature at 2 pounds 4 ounces and 14 1/2 inches long, I am a testament to their faith. As life presents challenges, I hope to follow their example of faith. God has blessed me with many talents, and with all of them I want to honor him.



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Jake McKie



These past six years at Westminster have been the best few years of my life. I will miss all of the friends that I have made these years. I would like to thank everyone who made my life a great adventure. The Boys: You guys always seem to keep me laughing and having fun. Thanks for always staying by my side and keeping me sane. The Girls: Thanks for always keeping life interesting and putting up with us guys. Mike and B: Thanks for being the best siblings in the world. Mom and Dad: Thanks for everything you do it means the world to me. Jak: Thanks for being the best bro I could ever ask for.



Harry Medler



it has to be in here somewhere

A lot could be told about a person from their storage places. Some students were neat, while others did not see the five minute passing period as enough time to organize their ample amount of books and supplies. Others used their lockers to distinguish themselves. Westminster had a collection of all types.



JT Fuller, senior, sits proudly next to his messy locker. Mr. Mohler was getting rid of old textbooks, and Fuller wanted to take them. He first put them in his friend's locker as a prank, but then his friend put them in Fuller's as revenge. Fuller never felt the urge to remove them.



Proving lack of neatness might run in the family, Justin Fuller, freshman, displays the disarray that is his backpack. "It got this way by always putting things in and never taking them out," said Fuller.



Michael Thoenen, junior, sees his locker not only as a storage place but a recycling bin. "I like Arnold Palmer, and I'm too lazy to throw anything away," explained Thoenen.



Josh Theus, senior, decided to do something a bit different to decorate his locker. Andrew Van Horn asked to use Josh's locker, and Josh said he would do it only under the condition that he can transform Van Horn's into a shrine to Rabbi Davis. He fulfilled his promise.



Maddie Mercer

Time flies, and I am so blessed to have attended Westminster for five years. Throughout my time here, I have built so many friendships that will last a lifetime and relationships with people that have grown and changed me for the better. I'm so grateful for all the faculty and staff that have helped make my education and everyday life at school the best it possibly could be! I want to thank my Mom, Dad, and my whole family for supporting, loving, and encouraging me to grow into the best person I can be. Westminster has truly prepared me for the next crucial years of my life to come. I'm forever grateful for all the memories; what an amazing five years. Thanks for everything!



Jordan Merkel

First off, I would like to thank God for protecting me and watching over me through these amazing years at Westminster. Mom, you are the most wonderful woman I know, and I am so thankful to have you. Dad, you are what I strive to be like when I grow up, and you are the best dad I could've asked for. To the boys, there is no one else that I would have picked to go through high school with, and I am extremely thankful for all of you. You guys made these high school years fantastic. You stay classy, WCA.



Mom and dad, I am so blessed to have you both. Thanks for teaching me how to be a woman of Christ and loving me unconditionally. Emily, Allison, and Craig, you are definitely the weirdest/craziest people I know. I couldn't ask for better siblings. I love you all so much. Moira and Holly, thanks for being my best friends and never letting me down. I don't know what I would do without you guys. I love you both! Austin, thanks for being so incredible and always putting up with my sass.



Anna Mitchell



Tomas Mitchem

I'm not really sure where the time went. My years at WCA have been unforgettable. I would like to thank my teachers for pushing me to the best of my abilities. I made a group of friends that would last a lifetime. I want to thank my family for all their support. I could not have done it without the help of my brother, Parker. He helped me get on my feet my first year at WCA. Playing sports gave me memories I will never forget. My career at the Academy has been a success with the help of the Lord, family, friends, and late start!



The past 4 years have been such a learning experience for me. God has blessed me so much through my family, friends, and baseball. My parents have always supported me throughout my time in high school even when it wasn't the best of times. You've always been my biggest supporters, wanting me to do my best in sports or school. My brothers Alec and Ben have been the best role models I could have. I have learned so much from you guys and I will always be thankful for the advice you continue to give me. I want to thank my friends for being idiots with me throughout high school. You guys were always there when I wanted to hang out to watch a Blues game or just sit around and play video games. Through my years at Westminster I have become so much closer to my family and friends and it has been a wonderful experience that I will never forget.



Jake Mitchell



High school has gone by so fast. I am so thankful that I had the opportunity to go to Westminster. Thank you to my parents for sending me to such a great school. I have made so many memories over the years with friends who I will miss so much. From CB, JSB, football games, and more; I will never forget any of it. I have enjoyed playing golf all four years of school and cheering my freshman and senior years. Thank you to my teams and coaches for making the sport even better. Although I look forward to the future, I will cherish all the memories I have made in these past four years.



Casey Moeslein



childhood tv shows



This was the best show to watch after school with my siblings!

- Cali Williams, sophomore

I loved watching The Suite Life of Zack and Cody while I was doing homework.

- Claire Sanden, sophomore



I loved watching Wizards of Waverly Place with all my friends!

- Amanda Enger, sophomore



Hannah Montana was my favorite show growing up!

- Emma Gore, sophomore

I'd like to thank God for giving me such incredible friends. Mom, thank you for all that you did for me. I would not have been able to get through high school without the constant support that you gave me. You were always willing to go the extra mile for me, and you don't know how much I appreciate that. Dad, thank you for shaping me into the man that I am today. You always encouraged me to do my best in school and all other walks of life. You were always there to support me with whatever I had going on. You both truly are my heroes, and I cannot thank you enough for what you both have done for me.



Chris Moore



Cooper Moore

Family: Mom and Dad, words simply cannot describe how much I love you guys. Your unconditional love for God and others has been an example for me to live by. You guys never fail to serve me and support my every decision. Thank you. To the rest of the family, through your lives and experiences, I have learned more than I could even fathom. Thanks for encouraging me and loving on me. Bro's: keep being Spoogy. You guys never stop making me laugh. Whether that's through being plane old stupid or weird, you made high school the most fun experience so far. WCA: I could not have asked for better teachers throughout the year. You created an environment in which learning was enjoyable and kept me wanting to learn more. And to all the coaches, especially football, you have made me a wiser man through leading by example and by sacrificing your time so that I would benefit from it. You pushed me to the best of my ability and I will forever be thankful. To all other friends, thanks for making my experience amazing, and for accepting me for who I am.



Michelle Morley

Looking back on my high school experiences, I thank God for the people I know and love. My friends-Kayla, Lauren, Nichole, Amanda, and Sarah-I will cherish the laughs we have shared. My family friends, Tom, and sponsors, thank you for changing my life and giving me opportunities to be successful. As for a dear family member, Cindy, thank you for taking time to care and show me how to love others for God. As for my crazy family, Dad, Mom, and Christina, I love you and thank you for caring for me through all my faults. I also want to thank my teachers, Generation Club, Robotics, and Imo's for all the lessons I have learned to become who I am today.



Zach Nail

I am incredibly thankful for Westminster, and I can't think of a better place to spend the entirety of my high school career. I love the relationships I have created here, both with friends and teachers, and I believe these relationships will last a lifetime. Thank you teachers for challenging me to think deeper about my faith and for helping me make my faith my own. Thank you friends for making the past four years the best four years of my life. But most of all, thank you mom and dad for giving me the opportunity to attend such an amazing school. Westminster was truly a life changing experience that I will remember for the rest of my life.



It's hard to believe that it has been six years. I'm incredibly thankful to everyone who has stuck with me through it all. Thank you Elena, for being my best friend, constantly being a source of laughter, and being the sister I never had. Also, thanks Madi for sticking with me from 7th-12th grade ;). Thank you to my older brothers for at times being overly protective but always loving me and giving me advice. Thank you to my youth group, for being my second family and showing me who I am in Christ. Lastly, thank you to my mom and dad for showing me unconditional love and support and for always lifting me up when I was down. I could have never made it through these six years without each and everyone of you. Much love ☺

Caitlin Mundorf



Kalista Nelson

To my family, thank you for allowing me to attend such a great school and supporting me every step of the way. I know sometimes I might not show it, but I appreciate everything. I love you guys.



Westminster's best cb proposals

With the anticipation of Thanksgiving Break among students comes the excitement of Christmas Banquet as well. One popular tradition at Westminster was to come up with the most creative way to ask someone to be their date. Students continually became more savvy and complex every year, attempting to outdo those in years' past. This year, some students went above and beyond with posters, animals, and other treats to win over their dates.

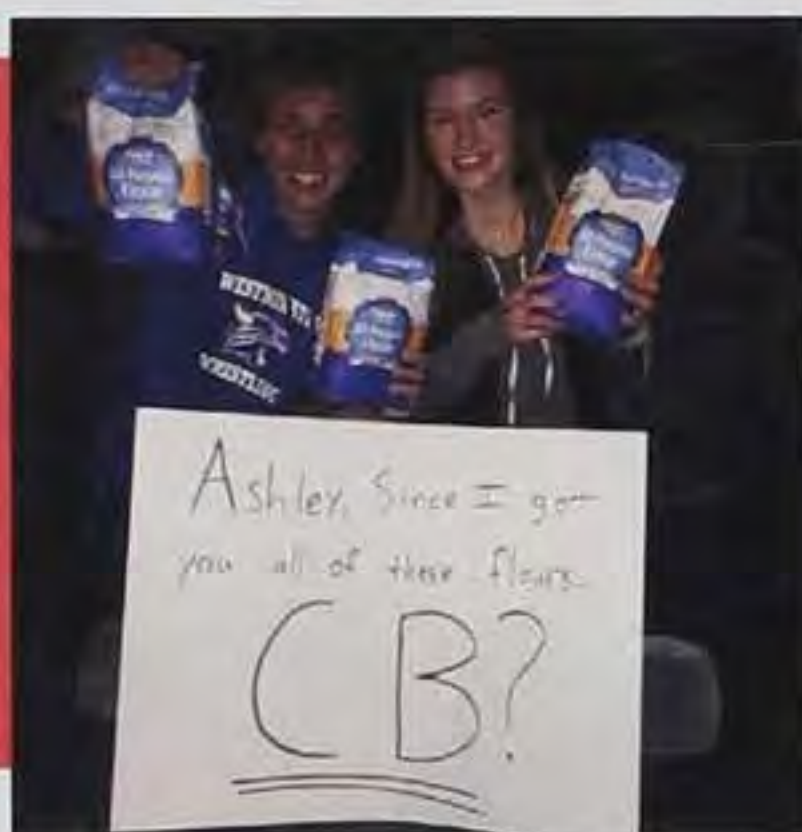
"Even though I knew he was gonna ask me, he totally surprised me when he came to my house with ding dongs and roses," said **Lexi Jo Alm**, freshman, about her CB date, **Josh Brayles**, freshman.



Koby Schmer, freshman, asked **Anna Rockwood**, freshman, by surprising her with a decorated poster and a box of doughnuts. "I didn't come up with the idea on my own," said Schmer, "but she still thought it was funny, so I guess I did pretty well."



Matthew Thoenen, sophomore, asks **Ashley Moellenhoff**, sophomore, after a Westminster ice hockey game at Kirkwood. "I saw the idea online and thought it was funny, so I waited by her car and surprised her after the game," said Thoenen.



Luke Heintz, junior, asked **Mollie Ottson**, junior, by riding a horse up to Ottson's house with a giant poster and a rose in his mouth. "I'm kind of known in our grade for big CB askings, so I knew this year I would have to step it up," said Heintz.



It's been a crazy couple of years. I constantly thank God for the ways he's blessed me, not only by blessing me with amazing friends and a wonderful family, but also by giving me the ability to attend Westminster. Thank you to all my friends for being my second family. Thank you, Mom and Dad, for all the encouragement, help, and the healthy fear that you've given me over these last couple years. A special thanks to my siblings who keep me sane and drive me nuts at the same time. And to all my friends: always remember that it's called a garbage can, not a garbage cannot.



Sarah Nolting



"The aim and final end of all music should be none other than the glory of God and the refreshment of the soul." J.S. Bach



Jonathan Nyenhuis



Matt Ottsen

Mom and Dad, thank you for putting up with me and being great role models and encouragers. Words cannot even describe how much you have done for me. You've always been there for me. Maddie, Mollie, Hanna, and Harry, you are the weirdest family members anyone could ask for, and there is never a dull moment when we're together. Will, Connor, Ted, Brandon, Jack, Nick, Jason, Looby, Alex, and the girls, here's to good times. You guys are the best.



Julie Park

First, I would like to thank God for staying with me through my journey. Secondly, thank you to my parents and little sister for all you have done for me. Because of you guys, I was able to experience the Westminster community where I found so much opportunity and met amazing friends and teachers. Plus, thank you to the Wibbenmeyer family! You guys are the nicest host family ever! Lastly, I truly enjoyed every moment with all you guys at Westminster, and I will never forget the memories we made together.



I'm grateful to God and my family for giving me the opportunity to excel, grow, and enjoy Westminster. Mom and Dad, thank you for helping me grow as individual from your wisdom. I'm grateful for the sacrifices you guys have made and for setting the example on how to walk with Christ. Hannah, Joshua, and Jacob, try not to miss me too much next year. I'm going to miss not being able to spend time with you guys every day. I can't wait to see where God will lead you in all of your journeys. Friends, thanks for all the memories and laughs you have given me throughout the years. High school was great, but veni, vidi, vici. Now it's on to the next chapter.

Rebecca Park



Mom and Dad, thank you for always trusting and believing in me. I could not have made it through high school without your many sacrifices. B-mike, you da real MVP. I hope your next five years at Westminster will be fun. Birdy Mama and Birdy Papa, thank you for giving me the opportunity to obtain a great education. To the rest of my friends and family, I would not be the person I am today without each and every one of you, so thank you.



Jonny Parker

“I’ve heard it a hundred times”

“Back in Idaho...”

Almost every teacher has a catchphrase or a quirky response to students. Soon, it catches on to the students and starts to be heard in both the classrooms and the hallways. Here are some of the slogans that were heard this year.

“Bump on a pickle”

-Dr. Gall



Chad Briden, junior, stands with Jeff Gall, history teacher. “It’s a sarcastic insult,” says Francie Akins, junior. “If someone comes in late or doesn’t do their homework, he calls them that.”



Francie Akins, junior, and Emma Gustafson, sophomore always laugh when Mr. Vonder Bruegge cracks a your mom joke. “I don’t have anything else to say,” said Mr. Vonder Bruegge.

“Your mom!”

-Mr. Vonder Bruegge



Justin Blakey and Blake Andrews, juniors, are both in AP chemistry with Dr. Shaw this year. “He’s just an old man reminiscing about his younger days,” said Andrews.

Maxwell Peng

The past two years at Westminster have been a real pleasure. The wonderful experience increased my ability to learn and also brought me so much joy. Although I have stayed up very late for homework, and I have felt homesick during the night, the period of time here was one of the most unique ones in my life so far. The teachers were nice and humorous. The students were cool and energetic. The robotics team was so much fun. The jazz band was unforgettable. Last but not least, thank you, God, for giving me this excellent opportunity at WCA, and thank you, my beloved ones.



Luke Peters

I want to thank my parents for all that they have done. They have given so much to me and were always helping guide and direct me. I couldn’t imagine what my life would look like if I hadn’t gone to Westminster for the past six years. I have made so many friends that I will never forget and hope to stay in touch with. I would also like to thank God for all the work He has done in my life and the lessons I have learned. I am grateful for my time at Westminster but look forward to what is to come.



Isaac Pleus

Mom and Dad, thank you for letting me go to Westminster and helping me even when I was ungrateful. I'd like to thank the group of friends I made for being the most loyal I've ever had. You guys taught me a lot and made me nearly die from laughing on numerous occasions. A big thank you goes to the school for helping me grow in my faith. I'd like to thank the teachers that saw the best in me and gave encouragement to ask questions and engage. Also, shout out to my teammates and coaches for putting me in the best shape of my life. What I learned at WCA will surely remain with me.



Jesus, thank you for all you have done in the past four years and for loving me unconditionally. Mom and Dad, thanks for the love, taking care of me, and not kicking me out of the house during the this-is-not-a-phase phase. Kate, thanks for being my buddy and singing "Sisters" from White Christmas with me on a regular basis. Friends, y'all have loved me and made me laugh, and I just hope I've done the same for you. Teachers, you guys are the best. Thanks for putting up with me and taking the time to invest in my messy maturing process. Peace out. "It is for freedom that Christ has set me free." Galatians 5:1

Kristen Pogue



God, thank you for the tremendous blessings and opportunities you've put in my life. I wouldn't trade my time at Westminster for the world. Thank you to my incredible family for always supporting me. Mom, thank you for shaping me into the man I am today, pouring into my life like no one else. Cooper, Logan, and the rest of my incredible friends, thank you for the countless memories and fun times. Saturdays are for the boys! Amanda, thank you for your unconditional love, laughs, and pushing me to the best of my abilities. Everyone, live life to the fullest, and make the most of the incredible privileges God blesses you with. Don't settle with being average; be great!



Josh Pottebaum



First, I'd like to thank God for everything he has blessed me with, including my loving family and my close friends. Next, I'd like to thank my Mom and Dad for putting up with me for 18 years and for providing me with every opportunity to be successful. I'd like to thank coach Muehleisen and Grandpa Muehleisen for teaching me how to face adversity and to embrace the process. My time at Westminster has provided some of the best memories of my life, and I will never forget the amazing students and teachers I met along the way. I can't believe that high school is over. Thank you Mom, Dad, Rachel, and God for helping me through it.



Blake Potter



espresso yourself

Every day before and after school, especially on Thursday mornings, the Starbucks at Mason and Clayton was hopping with WCA students. What were the drinks that lured these student in?



Emily Fentress, sophomore, sips on a caramel frappuccino. "Caramel frappuccinos are my go-to order, but during the winter I usually order a peppermint mocha. Seasonal drinks are the best," said Fentress.



Mark Stump, eighth grade, enjoys his iced vanilla latte one Thursday morning. Lattes were a popular choice for students, racking up seven orders at just one Starbucks on one morning.



Maggie Kurop, Sydney Johnson, and Kelly Bradley, juniors, enjoy their coffees on a sweatpants day. "My regular order is a chai tea latte," said Johnson. Each of the girls had a different design on their cup, just three of the 13 distinct cups Starbucks made this year.

Kyrstin Pritchett

God, thank you for blessing me with the opportunity to go to Westminster and for loving me unconditionally. Dad, I have always been your little girl, and I forever will be. You have showed me true selflessness and humility through your life. Mom, I would not be the person I am today without your guidance. You have showed me what it truly means to live for Christ. To my siblings, without you my life would be dull, and know I love you all. To my teammates, thank you for all the incredible experiences. My passion grew because of you. My friends, thank you for your continuous love and sarcasm. Your friendship helped me strengthen my relationship with Christ.



Brian Re



"I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else."
- C.S. Lewis



Jacob Reeve



Erica Riderhour

Mom and Dad, thank you for everything you have done for me. Thank you for your wisdom and guidance. You guys have pushed me to be the best I can be. I don't know where I would be without you guys. Nick, thank you for all the fun times growing up. You're the best big brother a sister could ask for, and I will always look up to you. To all my friends, thanks for being there and always making high school fun. I would not have made it through high school without you. Cheerleaders, you made me laugh uncontrollably and made cheering so fun. High school went by too fast, but I'm excited for the next chapter in my life.



Hailey Rupprecht

It seems like just yesterday I was walking into The Academy for the first time- oh how time flies. I want to thank Jesus for blessing my life with so many wonderful people. Thanks, Mom and Dad, for letting me go to this amazing school and giving me so many opportunities. Hannah Banana, you're the best sister a person could ask for; I love you so much! Don't get too excited when I leave. Teachers, thanks for caring about us and being so genuinely passionate about teaching. Friends, you've made high school bearable, even enjoyable, and I can't thank you enough for always being there for me; I love you all so much! John 16:33



Hannah Sabadell

I've been given an amazing life that I owe to a few people. Here's to you guys. Mom and Dad, you've always been there for me. You both inspire me to be the best version of myself that I can be, and I'm truly thankful. To Brendan, thanks for being someone I can look up to and talk to about anything...you mean a lot to me. To my friends who have been with me through thick and thin, thank you for caring so much. And God, you've led me to amazing discoveries, and I hope to find more on my path to you. Jeremiah 29:11



magical memories revisited

Fans have been enjoying the Harry Potter books ever since the first release in 1997. After the seventh one came out, everyone thought that was the end of the adventures of Harry and his friends. On the contrary, this past summer *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* was released as the newest installment in the beloved children's series.

"I was very shocked that JK Rowling was writing another book," said Alexandra Yeager, senior. Most fans shared this same reaction at hearing news of the book. "I thought the series was officially over, but I guess there's always room to add on," said Hayley Fizer, sophomore.

While anticipation for the release was high, there were mixed reactions after reading the new book. "I enjoyed the storyline of the new book, but it failed to impress me. The book is written more like a fanfiction than a JK Rowling novel which was disappointing, but overall I'm glad it was published," said Rachel Farrell, senior.

Overall, fans had a positive reaction towards the eighth book in the series, written as a play and taking place with Harry as an adult. What came as an initial shock turned into a dive into old childhood memories. "It was fantastic in the sense I was able to venture back into my childhood to continue the tales of the golden trio," said Farrell.



Alexandra Yeager and Rachel Farrell, seniors, look through their newly purchased Harry Potter books. "I like the Harry Potter books because they're full of magic," said Yeager. "They keep you interested, and I love the characters and the whole story line."



Hayley Fizer, sophomore, went with friends from another school to the midnight book release at Barnes and Noble. "The store held a costume party with prizes at one point during the night," said Fizer. "In the middle of the store, the employees sorted you into your Hogwarts house and gave you some scavenger hunts to complete."



Abby Johler, Miriam Smith, and Angelina Spencer, seventh grade, dress up as Harry Potter characters. Smith had a Harry Potter themed birthday party complete with costumes and Honeydukes wizard candy.



Lea Despotis, freshman, wears her Hogwarts robe while holding up the new book. "I first started the series in seventh grade, and ever since then, it has been part of me," said Despotis. "I cannot express how much the books taught me about friendship, love, and bravery. Always."



Weston Schad

First, I would like to thank God for allowing me to attend Westminster. Secondly, I want to thank my mom and dad for always being by my side and supporting me. Looking back over the last four years, I cannot replace the memories I've made or the relationships I've had with teachers and friends.







Nicole Schneider

High school has been a great experience, and I've had some wonderful opportunities! God has truly blessed me with so many amazing teachers and mentors who have helped me in so many ways! Mom, Dad, and Michael, you are the best! You have supported me and encouraged me no matter what! The future is a mystery, but as my mom would say, "Miss where you've been, love where you're at, and look forward to where you are going!"

Romans 3:23-24 ...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.





Ben Schuler



Logan Sells

Mom and Dad, I can not thank you enough for everything you have done for me. I hope I wasn't too difficult along the way, but I want to let you guys know that I love you. You have made me in to the man I am today. To my fellow Move Makers, I love you boys and thank you for all the memories I will never forget. I will miss you guys and can not wait to see what you spooxies will accomplish. And Mrs. Kempen, Erin, and Olivia, thank you for putting up with me and helping me through everything.



Elisabeth Sems

Mom and Dad, thank you for leading by example and always believing in me. I love you more than you will ever know. Benjer, Thanny, David, and Josiah, thanks for making me tough and teaching me how to throw a football with spiral. You guys are the best! Rebekah, you're my best friend. Thanks for making me laugh until I cry. I love you so much! Volleyball team, you guys made fall the best part of high school. Keep playing for Him! "My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever." (Psalm 73:26)



Michael Shaw

I have a lot of work to do in my life. I have a lot of goals to accomplish in my life. That is a stressful thought, but there are those who make the tough times enjoyable. And one could argue that finding those people is what makes life worth living.



coming to grips

“It’s been **Better** than my **Expectations**”



Every year students come into school with expectations, hopes, and goals. For many students, these expectations revolve around friendships and social groups. “My expectations were to make as many friends as I could and to try and go out to people who weren’t really fully like me,” said Mark Brugner, eighth grade.

From the perspective of a new seventh grader, the expectations of who your friends will be comes from past experience. “I came with one friend, so I was expecting to just hang out with her. It took a little bit to find my friends, but now we have a tight group,” said Abby Johler, seventh grade.

Chris George, sophomore, had similar expectations. “My hope was that I would stay with my friend group,” said George. Although these expectations can be fearful, a few students decided that they would make the most of it.

“The shock for me is coming to grips that my senior friends are going to leave, and then next year I am going to be in that place for my younger friends. I am expecting and planning on spending time with them and making the most of it all,” said Lauren Willis, junior.

“Senior year has been great. You get to enjoy people. At first it’s weird because we’re the top dogs now, and then you get used to it and are able to enjoy it,” said Rebecca Park, senior. In the end, reality proved some of these students’ expectations false.



Rebekah Shields

To my parents, thank you for being so weird and always supporting and loving me. To Camryn, catch you on the flip side of the noodle bar homie g slice! To all my siblings, who would I even be without you guys??? To KatUrine, thanks for always being there for me and for being my second family—love you always. To Mr. Sarra, thanks for making me become a better person/artist in high school. I couldn’t have done it without you. To the rest of the very important people in my life who were not mentioned, you’re all very important, and I love you.



Alyssa Shildes

I will be forever grateful that my God blessed me with so many unforgettable experiences and incredible people during my time in high school. Mom, thank you for supporting me everyday unconditionally. You are a true superhero and are the strongest woman I know. Dad, thanks for being my buddy and confidant since day one. I strive to be as good of a person as you are when I am older. Zach, you are so crazy talented, and I’m glad that I can call you one of my best friends. To my friends, thank you for loving me well and making everyday interesting. You guys impacted me more than you will ever know. I will cherish our memories forever. Carpe Diem, pals.



Maia Sims

I have been extremely blessed by God to have loving parents who helped me and pushed me through school and made sure I was able to do everything I love. VDT, thanks for leaving me with hilarious and amazing memories; I am truly going to miss being apart of this amazing team. Westminster has truly impacted my life in these last 2 years in a way I can not describe, and I will miss everyone so much!



Julia Snodgrass



My time at Westminster has been an absolute blessing for me. Thank you so much comrades who cheered me up every day. Thank you family who supported me continually. Most importantly, thank you Paw Paw for providing the opportunity for me to get a uniquely Christian education in which I could spend my volatile adolescent years in the company of fellow Christians who guided me through the challenges. I cannot express how much all of this has meant to me, but it has truly been an honor for me to attend Westminster.

Tom Southwell



Paige Starfall

Family, it's been nice getting to know you the past 17 years. You are very cool people; I guess I had to get it from somewhere. Sorry for being mean when I get hungry. Please do not watch Prison Break without me. And thanks for nagging me; it kinda worked. Friends, I love you all despite all my sarcastic and sassy comments. I'm thankful for all the good times. Teachers, thanks for everything. I am so grateful for Westminster, and you all have been such an important part of that. Romans 8:38-39



senior sayings

“ ”

If you survive through honors chemistry, then you are already winning at life.

- Hallie Kaiping, senior



They laughed at Louie Armstrong when he said he was going to the moon, but now he's up there laughing at them.



- Jordan Merkel, senior

I learned that a relationship with God is not going to come easy, especially in a place like WCA where our beliefs are hardly ever questioned. I want to encourage the underclassmen to actively pursue Jesus. Also, Jesus is cool.



- Jesse Charles, senior

You can totally take 5 AP classes and survive (if you don't care about sleep).



- Rachel Berry, senior

“ ”



Josh Steiner

Devan Stewart

I thank God for blessing my life. Here's a special thanks to my parents for everything that you have been in my life and always believing in me. I might not show it often, but I greatly appreciate all you have done for me. Thanks to my amazing friends and coaches that have helped me become the person I am today. I am an individual of few words. Just always remember one thing... add me on snapchat bowdowndj12



Zach Stinehagen



Garrett Stoecker

Eucatastrophe: a sudden and favorable resolution of events in a story; a happy ending. The word eucatastrophe is unknown to the masses, yet light to wanderers. If I said to a bloke, "I want a Eucatastrophe for breakfast," he would either scoff and forget the comment or indulge and develop a fond taste for this breakfast delight. Opportunity and bits of magic knock on triangular doors and crawl through the ceiling cracks of life. Not all result in a eucatastrophe, but who'd wish upon that? As chips are to salsa, faith is to living, and for that, I am grateful for. Thanks to all those who bring such a breakfast delight into my life. I will leave no scraps.



Bethany Stone

Who knew that six years could go by so fast. I'm so blessed to have had so many amazing people by my side. Mom and Dad, thanks for giving me the opportunity to go to Westminster and for always supporting me. Siblings, thanks for always keeping things crazy and loving me no matter what. Friends, thanks for all the amazing times full of fun and laughter. Hannah, thanks for being the best friend anyone could ask for. I couldn't have made it through high school without you. Cheer girls, I could not ask for a more amazing team. I love you guys and will miss ya'll so much. Thanks, high school, for the unforgettable memories, and I can't wait to see what is in store for the future.



Ben Sullivan

My years at Westminster have been a memorable ride. I could not have made it through such a place without the constant support of my parents. They have had my back since day one, and for that I am forever grateful. My relationship with God has really flourished these last 4 years, and my teachers played a big part in that. I will never forget any of my teachers and the life lessons they taught me. I also want to thank my best friends, the Move Makers. To Tan, Fridge, and Crust, you boys made everyday life a show. That constant, hysterical entertainment is something I will never forget. Until next time boys, AMF.



Asia at the Food Trucks



Kinsley Lawrence and **Nina Bacon**, freshmen, enjoy the numerous food trucks. "My favorite food truck was Destinations Dessert because I like their cupcakes," said Lawrence.



Lauren Bell, **Emily Fentress**, and **Emma Gustafson**, sophomores, try out the new food trucks. "I really enjoyed the nachos from the Global Quesadilla Company," said Fentress.



Journee Henry, **Alicia Hu**, and **Grace Dempsey**, freshmen, hang out after eating from the food trucks.

Benefit The Center For Head Injury Services



Nick Suter

Mom and dad, thank you so much for all your love and support! I have really enjoyed my years at Westminster. I've made some great friendships!

Thank you to all of my teachers who helped me through. Special thanks to my baseball coaches for allowing me to play for such a great organization.

To my PC guys, I've enjoyed spending my Tuesday mornings with you. To Mrs. Copeland, thanks for putting up with me and my sports bags!



Sara Swan

I will forever be grateful for my time at Westminster. I would like to thank my family for always being there for me and supporting everything I do. I thank God for the opportunities He has put in my path. Throughout these past years, I have made so many friends, some now I consider family. You all have made such an impact on my life. Even though it will be hard to say goodbye to WCA, I am beyond excited to see what my future holds.



Psalm 118:24 The Lord has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad. I have been blessed to be a member of the Westminster Christian Academy community. will cherish the memories of my thoughtful and encouraging family, friends and teachers and all those who have set forth a Christian example for me especially my parents, grandparents, Susan Nolkemper, Bob Johnson, Hannah Jayne, Rene Howse, Rebecca Zylstra, Evelyn Bowman, Julie Roberts, Joy Breneman, Carol Becker and Lisa Appelbaum Thank you all



Anna Tallman



Alison Thoenen

Four years of hard work finally paid off! I never thought time would fly as fast as it has. Mom and Dad, thank you for supporting me these past four years in all my decisions and for all the sacrifices you made to ensure I grew up to be compassionate and full of Jesus. Lauren, thank you for being a great role model to me of what it looks like to be beautiful inside and out. Little bros, you two are complete knuckleheads and two of my dearest friends. I know that God has huge plans for you both. To all the friends I've made over the years, I will forever hold dear our memories together. You all made high school worth the ride. I'll miss the fun we had, but from here we all have greater things awaiting us. "In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Philippians 1:4-6



Joshua Theus

Thank you, Mom and Dad. Your undying care and support for me is so appreciated. I can never thank you enough. I also have to seriously thank ALL the teachers I have had throughout the years. Thank you, Mr. Kim, for leading me for the past four years. Thank you, Coach Schoenberg, for teaching me to always strive for a better self. Thank you, Mrs. Arvesen, for caring about me when I needed it most. Thank you, Mr. Mohler, for challenging me to always be thoughtful. Thank you, Mr. Breems, for being my lifting buddy! To my dear friends: I can never thank y'all enough, and I can't wait until I see each one of you again! #Blueman2k16win Joshua 1:9



I want to thank all the people who have poured into my life these past four years, especially teachers like Mr. Knerr, Mr. Smith, Mr. Murphy, and Mr. Wilkins who have greatly influenced me. I want to thank Coach Peterson and the football team for teaching me life lessons through the game. I'm thankful for my family and the lasting friendships I've made here. Although part of me is sad to end high school, I look forward to see what God has in store for us. Psalm 121:1-3.



Jimmy Thomas



good eats

Study Session



"I love going to Saint Louis Bread Co to study because of the relaxed and calming environment," said **Lexi Berra**, junior.

Midnight Munchies



"Steak 'n Shake is a fun place where you can meet up with friends because it is the only place open late at night," said **Chloe Peistrup**, junior with **Allie Sigman**, sophomore.

Breakfast Buddies



"I like going to City Coffee House and Creperie because it's very cute and small, and it makes me feel like I'm at home talking to my friends," said **Katie Myers**, with **Kathryn Kramer**, juniors.

Luke Thuro

First of all, I would like to thank my amazing parents and family for keeping on me and putting up with my constant procrastination and my teachers for their great influence on my life. I would also like to acknowledge the WCA Robotics Team, 4256 Cyborg Cats, for being a huge part of my high school experience. I made many great friends on the team, and the mentors there have influenced the trajectory of my life greatly. Thanks, Luke.

Madelyn Trost

Looking back over the past five years, I'm incredibly grateful to God for every experience, good or bad, that has made me who I am. Thank you, Mom, for not only being my number one supporter but also a friend. Thanks for always keeping things interesting, Bell. Thank you, Dad. Thanks for always being there for me, Abby. I'm so incredibly blessed and thankful to all of my friends and family. Thanks to my furry family: Winston, Hayes, and Blaise. Finally, I'm thankful for every single day that may have been mundane, boring, and even stressful. Slow down, and appreciate the little things because as Pam Beasley says, "There's a lot of beauty in ordinary things."

Alexis Tuggle

Dear beautiful Mom, thank you so much for being there for me. You have sacrificed a lot of your time for me and never complained about it. There is never a dull moment with you and Indigo. I look up to you and everything you have done for me. You always kept encouraging me no matter what. You are always my mother but forever my friend. I love you, Mom! Thanks Tyson, Tiffany, and the boys for bringing energetic joy and unending laughs. Thanks, Deshawn, for being there for me when dealing with school stuff. Last but not least, thanks to my best friend, Jayla Malloyd, for being there for me no matter what and always having good advice even when you didn't know what to say. I still appreciate the effort. Thank you to everyone that I have come in contact and that has changed me!



God, thanks for orchestrating everything and bringing me through everything in high school. Mom and Dad, thanks for being so supportive and loving all throughout high school. Rachel and Tori, you guys are amazing sisters, and I don't think I would have made it through high school without you. Friends, thanks for being awesome and fun to be around. Teachers, thank you for being role models and encouraging me in my work. Westminster has been an ultimately rewarding experience, and I'm very thankful that I attended school there.

Jen

Jen Urban



Andrew Van Horn



Wow, I could have sworn that I was starting seventh grade the last time I blinked. Family, thank you for the never-ending support you have given me since the second I was born. Friends, thank you for providing me with the best memes and goofiest lunchtime conversations. Jonathan, even though you moved away, thanks for all the awesome times we had sleeping over at your house. Teachers, thank you for guiding me through my years at Westminster, through both the good and bad times. And most importantly, thank you, Lord, for blessing me with my family, Westminster, and all of my amazing teachers and friends. Come at me adulthood! I'm ready for you!

Joshua Vander Vekle



all glow up

This year, one of the hot commodities was “glow ups,” in other words, how much someone has changed from middle school to high school. Sometimes the change is not as evident, but in other cases, it’s very prominent in many ways. The glow ups are posted anywhere from Instagram to twitter or just exchanged between friends for a laugh.

Luke Demetry, senior, three years ago poses for a selfie showing off his pink shirt. Three years later, Demetry and his girlfriend, Olivia Patrick, pose for a picture right before they go to Kirkwood High school for a dance.



Before and after makes a big difference for **Claire Sanden**, sophomore. On the left, Claire is 9 years old and having a great time slip and sliding in her backyard. And on the right, 7 years later, she’s in her backyard yet again, but this time a little different.

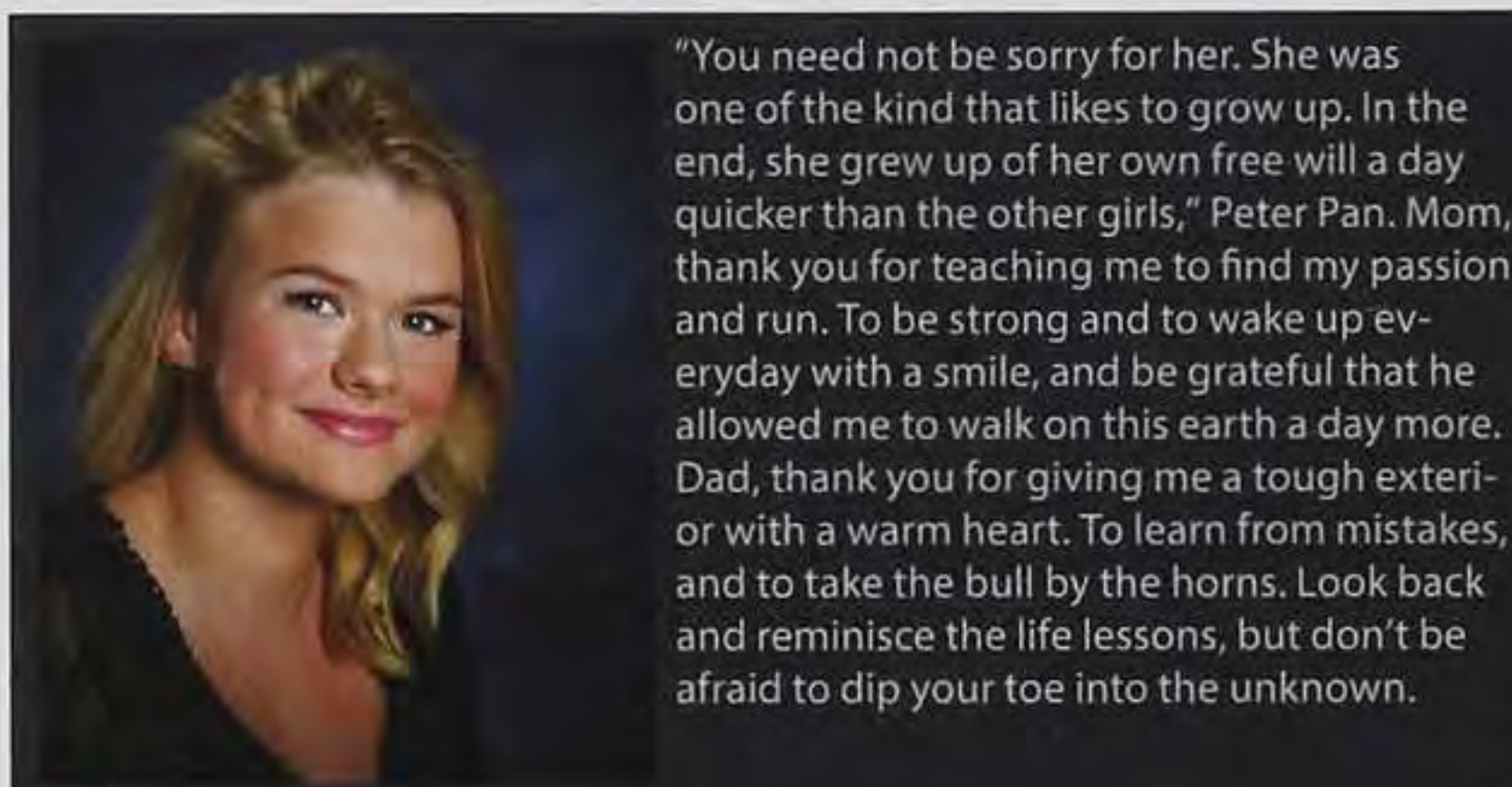
“Looking back at this picture always makes me laugh because of how different I look now. All I can say is thank the Lord things have changed!” -**Claire Sanden, sophomore**

Ya, I’d say I’ve changed a lot since middle school. Hopefully for the better.

-**Luke Demetry, senior**



On the left, following the 2012 trend, the duck face, **Sophie Clement**, now a sophomore, takes a selfie and posts it on Instagram. Now, on the right, Sophie is with her sister, Grace Clement, eighth grade, in Chicago. “I’m super embarrassed about my old Instagram, but I’m glad I’m out of that phase now,” said Sophie about her glow up.



Carmen Verbeke

“You need not be sorry for her. She was one of the kind that likes to grow up. In the end, she grew up of her own free will a day quicker than the other girls,” Peter Pan. Mom, thank you for teaching me to find my passion and run. To be strong and to wake up everyday with a smile, and be grateful that he allowed me to walk on this earth a day more. Dad, thank you for giving me a tough exterior with a warm heart. To learn from mistakes, and to take the bull by the horns. Look back and reminisce the life lessons, but don’t be afraid to dip your toe into the unknown.



Alena Vermillion

I can’t believe it’s over. Six long years of Westminster, and I’ve finally made it through to the end. Thank you, Mom and Dad, for the opportunity to attend Westminster. You’ve always encouraged, supported, and believed in me, and for that I am grateful. Ross and Davis, though you’re not home often, thanks for giving me advice on how to deal with life. I miss you guys. Friends, I am blessed to call you as my friends. We share great memories, and I hope we continue to make new memories in the future. VDT, you’re weird,... but I love it. Thanks for dealing with my awkwardness and helping me become the best dancer I can be. Keep werkin’ hard!





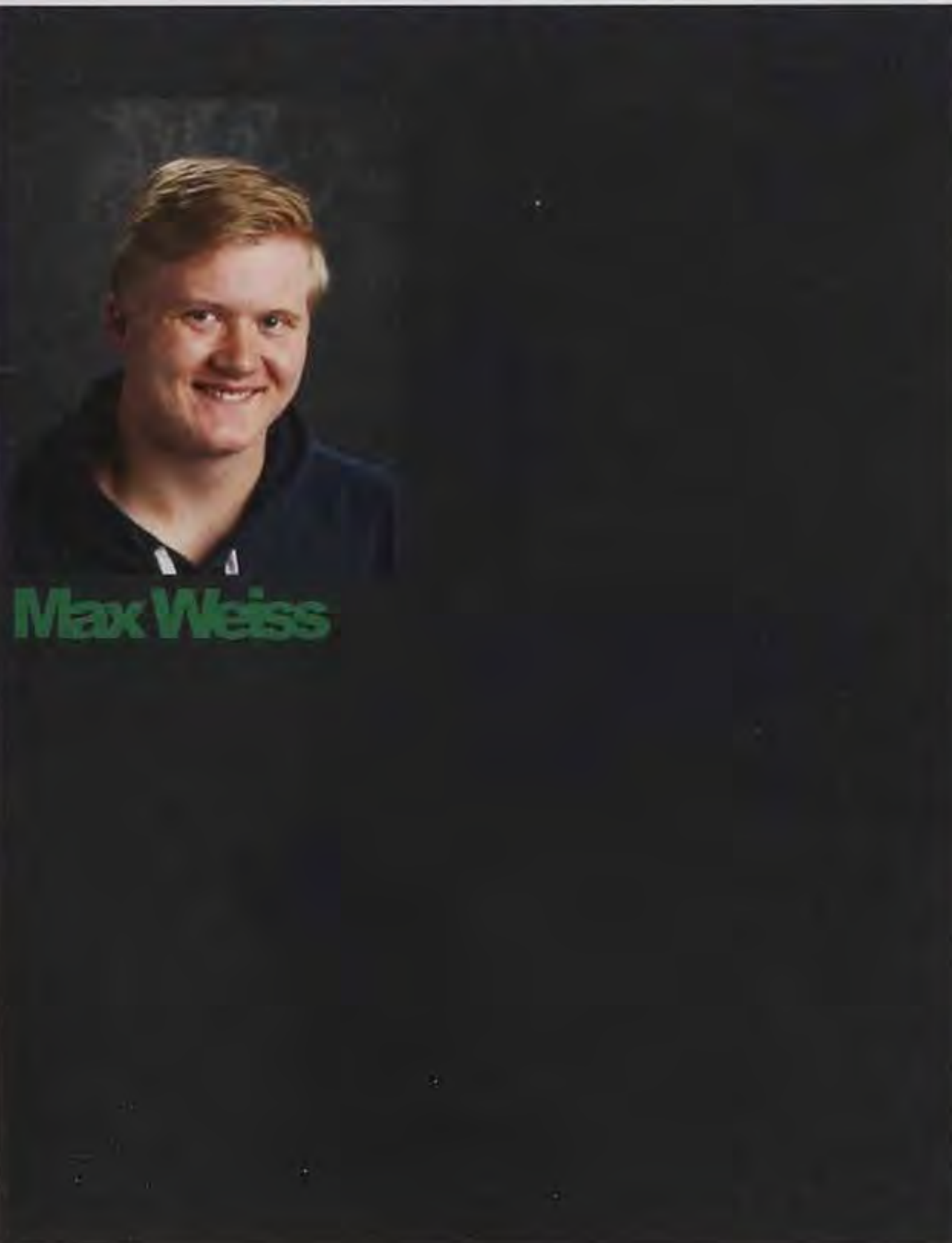
Sydney Walker

Throughout my high school experience, I have learned many things and want to thank those who have helped me in the process. I want to thank my parents for their unconditional support and encouragement. I thank my soccer team for making me a better person on and off the field. I thank my friends for the many joyful memories. All these things have helped shape me into the individual I am today, and I thank WCA and those in my life for it.



Steve Webb

Thank you Westminster for a great four years of high school. I have loved every moment from my first CB to my last JSB. I also want to thank my friends for making my experience a great one. To my coaches I will always appreciate the life lessons you all taught me and the way you all pushed me to be a better athlete. Also, I want to thank my parents for sending me to Westminster. It was probably the best thing that could have ever happened to me. I will always love my Westminster family! #longlive26



Max Weiss

Westminster, it was a fast four years! I enjoyed all the great memories. Mom and Dad, thank you for always being by my side whenever I needed you. And, for loving me even when I felt unlovable! I don't know where I would be without you. Luke, thanks for always keeping my life entertaining! Being my partner/bro through life! I am grateful for the great coaches and teachers who helped me through my journey at Westminster. I will truly miss all of the fun times I shared with my best friends here! I cannot wait to see what God has in store for my future!



Will Wetzel



six is a serious number

six-word memoir about your high school experience so far...



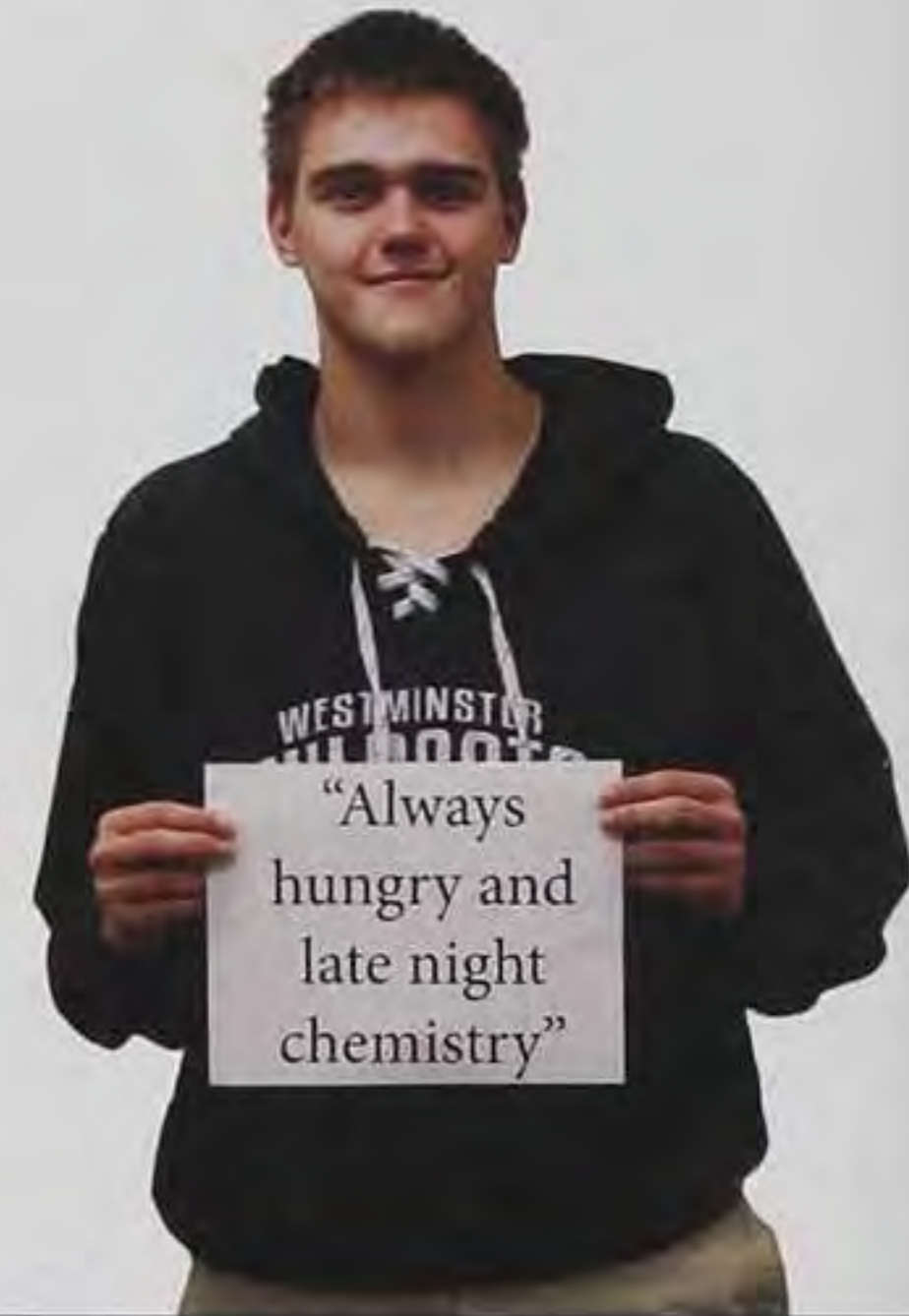
- Rebekah Warren, junior



- Brooke Lemp, senior



- Mary Stuart Murray, junior



- Michael Thoenen, junior

Mackenzie Wieberg

Family, thank you for the unconditional love and support through everything throughout my life. Mom, thank you for all that you do for for me. I truly appreciate it, and I wouldn't be the person I am today without you. Friends, thanks for all the high school memories. They will last a lifetime. Thank you for always being there for me and making high school fun! Teachers and coaches, thank you for your guidance and lessons you have taught me throughout my life. Westminster, thank you for giving me an education, but most importantly, thank you for allowing me to meet all of these great people who I will forever cherish. God, thank you for placing all of these people in my life and blessing me with all I have. Peace out.



Valerie Winkler

To my wonderful parents, thank you for teaching me how to adapt to and overcome any situation and, more importantly, teaching me about Christ. I love you so much, and [in my opinion] you've done a great job.

To Twilight, the little furry thing that slunk (slank?) into my life in third grade, I'm gonna miss you, mi gatita. Don't worry, there will be a scavenger hunt of treats waiting for you.

To my friends, thank you for putting up with my craziness and supporting me no matter what. You all are the sisters and brothers I have never had but always wanted, and I can't thank God enough for placing you all in my life. <Romans 5:1-10>



Emma Winter

What a journey this has been! I can only thank God for holding me up and leading me the entire way. Mommy, thanks for being my rock, my go-to-gal, and my best friend. You are such a Godly woman, and I can't imagine going through life without you. Thank you for your daily prayer and constant motivation. Daddy, you have been my "Boy Hero" since day one. Thank you for all the support you give me and the interest you take in my life. You are my comic relief; you always make me smile when I'm having a bad day. To the rest of my family, thank you for loving me and believing in me. Thank you to all of my wonderful, God loving teachers. You are the reason I am who I am today. Thank you for your kindness, friendship, and support throughout my good days and bad days. Thank you to the rest of my WCA community for being there when the going got tough and teaching me what it means to be a family. I am so thankful for my experiences, and I have reason to believe life can only get better!



I'd like to thank my family for supporting me all throughout high school and for being weird with me always. Mom & Dad, thanks for everything. You know I'll be coming home from college just about every weekend. Malaina, even though sometimes I can't deal with your sass, you're a great sister. VDT, you gals are the weirdest group of people; that's why I love you. Keep dancing for an audience of One. Trio, I have no idea where I'd be without you. Thanks putting up with me. Katherine, I know you're going to do big things. Don't forget about me when you're some big shot lawyer. A big shout out also goes to my teachers, who made sure I didn't fail. Thanks for a great 4 years.



Moira Wright



Bryce Xie

Thanks to my family that gave me chance to come to here. I am proud that I was a basketball and football player at Westminster. All of my teammates gave me a lot of support. Thanks for all the teachers that I had. They helped me, whenever I had questions on language or about academics. Thanks to my host family for always standing behind me.



God, thank you for giving me strength to get through high school and blessing me with such amazing people! Mom and Dad, thank you for your love, support, and guidance throughout the years. Mackenzie and Brendan, thank you for being the coolest older sibs that I could ever ask for, and I love you! Twins, thank you for being the most awesome smiley younger sibs, and I love you! Friends, I thank each and every one of you for your impact in my life, and I love you guys! Teachers, thank you for your teaching and encouragement, and you guys rock! Words can't describe how much love for you all and the many memories that we shared on this journey called life! I will never forget you guys!



Alexandra Yeager





Celebrating the Wildcat's victory, the Westminster community and Blue Crew all gathered together to support their team, and cheer them on till the end.

got lights? we'll travel



Amanda Ahlbrand, Olivia Holt, Callie MacDonald, and Julie Griesedieck, seniors, celebrate their last Friday night football game with homemade signs to support their team. The girls never missed a game, and did everything they could to enjoy their last games in the blue crew as a Wildcat.



Dressed head to toe for the "USA theme," Alivia Johnston, Mackenzie Wieberg, MarkKate Kopsky, and Hannah Haguewood, seniors, support the Wildcats at the last night game against Borgia. The wildcats took a win this night, which brought them into the semi-finals.



Katherine Yentzer

Mom and Dad, thank you for always believing in me. You guys are my best friends, and there's no way I would've gotten through high school without you. Elizabeth, thank you for reminding me to always be strong. To all of my teachers, thank you for inspiring me and challenging me to be the best that I can be. Von, thank you for helping me find my voice. Mrs. Johnson, thank you for showing me what true leadership is. Chelsea, thank you for being my support when things got hard and for constantly encouraging me. Moira, thanks for making high school as fun as possible and for always making me smile. And Rebekah, thank you for being my person; I know the world has great adventures in store for us. Here's to the end of a great six years class of 2017. Let's hope the next six years are even better.



Kristine Zhang

I'm so thankful for all the wonderful people God has placed in my life and the opportunities I have been given. Thank you, Mom and Dad, for supporting me to study abroad and always encouraging me to pursue my dream. Thank you to my host family for being my second home. I'm blessed to be your "adopted" daughter. Spending half of my high school life at Westminster is truly an amazing experience. It is hard to watch my high school come to a close, but the wonderful memories will never be forgotten. I'm also so excited to see what God has planned for me in the future.



Kristine Zhang (ChengXin Zhang)



I would like to thank my family for their support and love they always show me. Also, the unforgettable "SQUAD" memories and a special thank you to my little bro Logan Bauer for always being there for me.



It's so great to see the Blue Crew get together and cheer on the Wildcats at the Friday night games. It's cool to be in a different atmosphere under the lights instead of going to game in the middle of the afternoon.

-Austin Disper, sophomore



Chloe Thomas and Hattie Means, sophomores, bundle up at the All-American football game under the lights at Borgia Highschool. After the Wildcats won, the girls could be more proud of their team.

Emily Barker

Emily,
 You have brought many smiles, laughs and great memories to our family. You are not a cookie cutter type girl. You've coined the word "Emilyism." We have learned never to underestimate your mind. It's always spinning with creative ideas or planning your next adventure. God continually stretches you to your limits and then takes you one step further. We can't wait to see where your next adventure takes you. We love you!!
 Mom & Dad



Brandon Beat

To our loving son who's matured into a man that carries himself with dignity. Allow your honest foundation and faith to guide your future decisions. Surround yourself with people of good character and be thankful for all blessings given to you. Life on this earth can be short, so live strong, trust God, contribute compassionately, and be a model for all that witness your behavior. We love you and will always treasure all our memories. XOMom and Dad
 Philippians 4:6-8



Hannah Beckman

Hannah B,
 You are one of God's greatest gifts - a wonderful daughter, devoted friend, dedicated scholar and the life of the party! We love you so much and couldn't be more proud.
 1 Timothy 4:12
 Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.
 All Our Love,
 Dad, Mom & Celeste



Caroline Brands

"Our precious gift- you were then, and always will be, our Sweet Caroline! We are proud of all you've accomplished. We are proud of who you are; cheerful, captivating, hopeful and strong! You are trusting Jesus, and that's best of all! We pray continually for you, Ephesians 3: 16-19. Know and love Him more and more! Love, Mom and Dad"



Chase Griesedieck

Dear Chase, We are so thankful for you and so proud of the young man that you are becoming. You have faced challenges and adversity with determination and maturity. You have set your goals high and worked hard to achieve them. We look forward to seeing where God will lead you in the day, months, and years ahead. Love always, Mom and Dad



Jule Griesedieck

Dear Jules, What a beautiful young woman you are growing into (both inside and out!)...a free spirit, yet a goal directed individual. You are confident in who God has made you to be. We are so proud of you and look forward to your future with great anticipation of how the Lord will continue to work in your life. Love always, Mom and Dad



Matthew Hoekzema

Matthew, we are very proud of the young man you have become. You are gifted in many ways, particularly in the ability to laugh and enjoy life. God has blessed you with a curious mind. We know God will use your talents for His glory and your joy as you follow His path. "For you shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace..." Isaiah 55:12. Love from us all, Mom, Dad, Andrew, Bethany, Hannah, James and Violet.



Jillian Klein

Jillian - We thank God for you! The joy that you bring to our family is amazing! We are proud of you and your desire to serve God with your talents. Your confidence, fearlessness, compassion and work ethic stand out as gifts. We trust that you will use them to glorify God. We love how you make us laugh with your wit and expressions including the "chicken thing." We are always praying for you and love you forever. Mom & Dad



Madi Koetting

Madi,
 In just a few quick years, you have grown into a beautiful, kind, loving and hard working young lady. Your dad and I are grateful that God has blessed us with you as our daughter! As you venture out into the next phase of life, remember that God is your strength and is always there when you call on His name. He has great things planned for you and we are excited to see how God will continue to grow, mature and shape you in the years ahead!



Christina Mason

Nina,
 You are truly a gift from God and I am honored to call you my daughter. I know you to be a woman of faith, a wonderful listener, nonjudgmental, empathetic and incredibly insightful. You are confident, beautiful, smart and willing to stand up for yourself. I love that our God created you with an old soul. Will and I are your biggest fans and love you so much. Thanks for making us laugh!
 Romans 5:1-5



Love, Mom & Will

Anna Mitchell

Anna, when did you go from being the baby of the family to such an amazing young woman? You are beautiful inside and out. Your motivation to excel impresses us daily, your kindness always shines through, and your sense of humor keeps us constantly entertained! But above all, you have a deep love and commitment to your heavenly Father. We can't wait to see what wonderful things He has in store for you! Make it a great day. Love YOU!



Jonny Parker

Jonny, Congratulations on six accomplished years at Westminster. Words could never express the gratification we encapsulate as your parents. We are consistently humbled by the display of your hard work, dedication, perseverance, and consideration of others. These commendable traits, coupled with your faith, will light your path towards fulfillment of any dream you may have. Our hearts swell with pride as you start this new chapter. Your future shall be as glorious as you!
Love Always - Mom and Dad



Kyrstin Pritchett

Ki Ki, Words cannot describe the amount of pride and love we have for you. God abundantly blessed us with you, our forever miracle girl! You add joy and happiness to our every day! Your smile and strength of character are an inspiration! We cannot wait to see God's plans for you as you continue on your life journey! With the love of Christ and your forever family, you will never walk alone!! Love you always - Dad, Mom, Anthony, Mike, Alyssa, Hailey.



Hailey Rupprecht

Hailey, it has been an amazing 18 years watching you grow into the woman God created you to be. We love your laughter, passion, sarcasm, strength, loyalty, grace, and beauty-inside and out. Keep your eyes on Him. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 "My grace is sufficient for you... Delight in weakness in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong." We love you and are so proud of you!
Dad, Mom, Travis, Scott and Hannah



Michael Shaw

Mikey, our miracle baby! Look what God has done! You, so full of His love, His gifts, have brought joy and blessed my heart, our home and countless others. I'll miss my late-nite chat buddy but the next chapter must begin. Pursue your dreams, God's given you the passion; share His love, He's given you a vision; and be who you were created to be, I am so proud! --Mom
To my wonderful son, Michael, Be strong always.
--Dad
Well done!
We love you!!! Mom, Dad, and Jordan



Jennifer Urban

Jennifer, You are full of surprises! God blessed you more than we could ask or imagine (Eph3:20) our advice, keep aiming toward the prize (Corin9:24, Phil 3:14). Look to the Perfect Parent; be humble & ask for prayer. Undeniably you were made for special works which God has prepared for you. Rest in His Love n Grace. Surely you, dear daughter, will make a GIGANTIC IMPACT on this world. Run to the prize is in His hands.

Love ya', Sugar-Plum, Dad n' Mom



Joshua Vander Vekle

But God! "When everything looks like it's over, when there's no hope-But God! God does something. He turns it all around. We were helpless. But God showed his great love for us by sending Jesus." Joshua, we love you thiiiiisss much! We are amazed at your perseverance and proud of all the challenges you've overcome. We're thankful for the grace you've been shown at WCA and delight in seeing you practice that same grace. Love Mom, Dad Anneka



Sara Boylan

We are proud of the strong, spirited, creative, smart, and faithful young woman you have become and we will love you always. Continue to walk with the Lord, use the talents he gave you, and you will go far.
Love, Mom and Dad.



Alexandra Yeager

Sweet Alexandra, Smiling and laughing were your favorite things to do the first few years of life. God has infused you with His gift of JOY. Remember the joy of the Lord is your strength. Nehemiah 8:10 Thanks for being YOU and for bringing our family such joy. We love and adore you,
Mom and Dad



JT Fuller



Jonathan,

It's been fun watching you grow up to become the great young man you are today. God has so much more planned for your future. We Love you and are Proud of you.

Mom, Dad, Justin, Megan & Bogey.

Christina Mason



To us, you are joy, laughter and fun. You are outgoing, discerning, one of integrity, a fact-finder, a motivator, a decision maker and one of strong perception. This is our "Nina". We love you! Gpa and Gma

Tiffany Johnson

Tiffany,

We are so proud of the beautiful young woman that you have become. Your thirst for knowledge and truth is amazing! We know that God has a master plan mapped out for your life using your talents and abilities. We can not wait to see what this next chapter will bring.

Love you always,

Mom and Dad



Garrett Stoecker

Garrett,

We pray that you live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be bold and courageous; put Jesus first in all of your life adventures. You are loving, loyal, creative and Godly. Proud of you and love you!

Mom & Dad



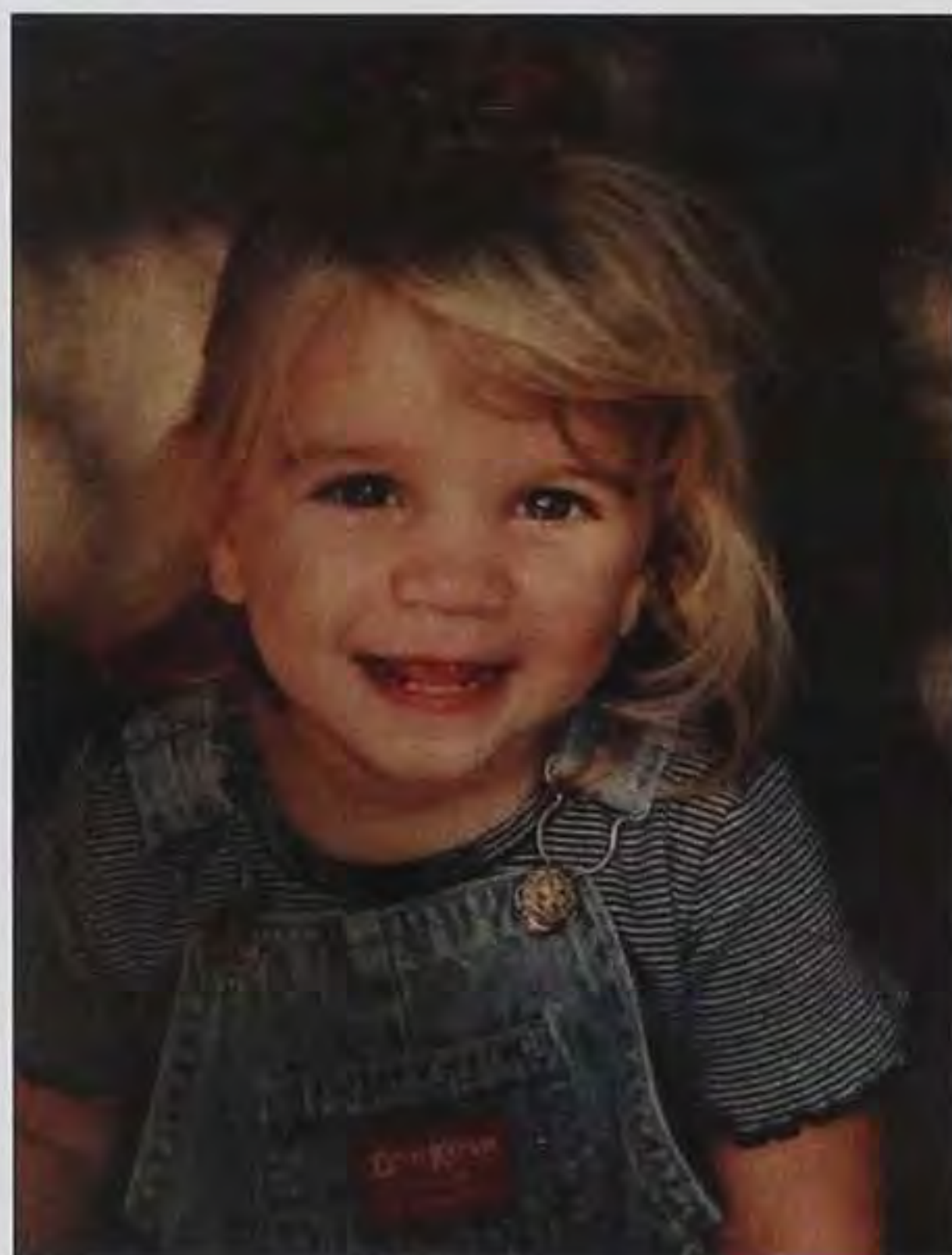
Amanda Ahlbrand

Amanda,

You're a special gift from God, and the best Christmas gift that Dad and I ever received. Words can't describe how much joy you have brought into our lives. Always, rely on God and stay true to your beliefs and convictions. Go through life being humble and kind and you will have a life full of joy.

We will always be here for you,

Mom, Dad, Jeffrey, Kristen, Buddy and Tucker



Griffin Andersen

We are so proud of you! You are such a wonderful person who has filled our home with so much love, laughter, and kindness, and we are so excited to see what the Lord has planned for you as you begin your next big adventure in life. Have fun, laugh a lot, be patient with yourself, stay close to Jesus, and remember to always let your little light shine wherever you go! We love you, Finny!

Love, Mom, Dad & Molly



Luke Thuro

God blessed us with a wonderful son and brother.

You've taught us to live life more fully, love completely, and learn lots about tractors!

We are very proud of the young man you have become.

We look forward to what God has in store for you.

With Love,
Mom, Dad & Libby
Mark 4:11



Hannah Brown



Hannah- Your laughter is a delight to hear and your smile brightens the dreariest of days. We are so very proud of you! Love, Mom & Dad

Charlie Zone

Charlie-We couldn't be more proud of you. Your passion and heart for others is to be admired. We can't wait to watch your amazing journey ahead and the perfect plan God has for your life. Love you!! Mom and Dad



Samantha Davidson

Sammie –
 You are such a blessing
 to our family. You are
 always able to see
 the good in life and in
 other people. You are
 thoughtful but fearless,
 humble but bold, deter-
 mined but delightful.
 We are incredibly proud
 of you and look forward
 to seeing where the
 Lord leads you. You
 amaze us!
 Love – Mom, Dad, Toby,
 and Trey



Kelsey Ginger

Congratulation Kelsey on your success at Westmin-
 ster Christian Academy. I am so proud of you on
 the accomplishments you have made completed at
 WCA. God and the world have so much in store for
 you in the future. You have been a true blessing to
 me, your Grandparents, and the rest of your family.
 Love you.
 Love,
 Dad.

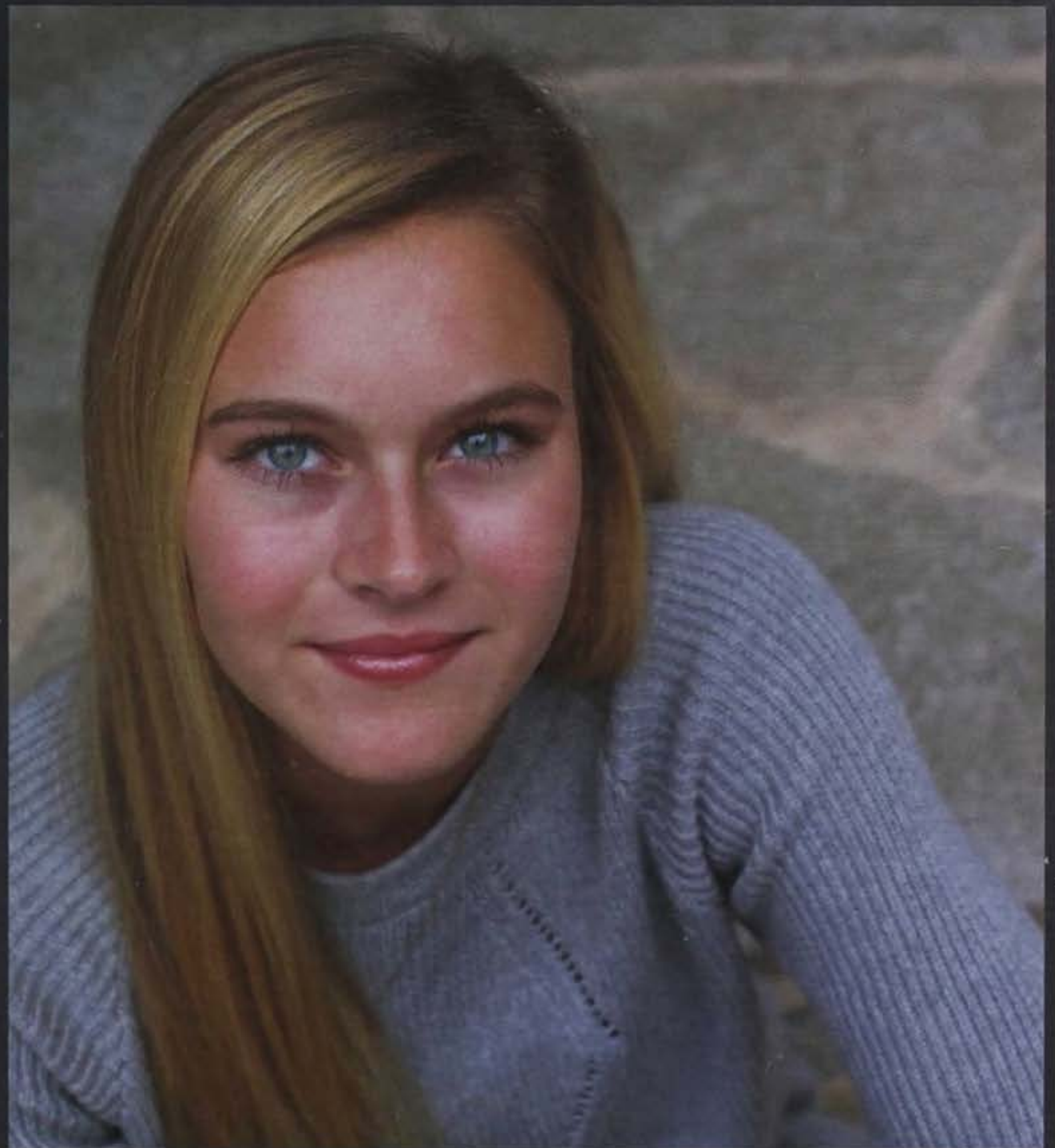


Teddy Bacon



Teddy, your intelligence and sense of
 humor mixed with your kindness and
 your heart for the Lord are a blessing
 to us all! We will miss you!
 Love,
 Mom & Dad

Elli Jo Alm



Dear Elli Jo,

How is it possible that you are graduating? Just yesterday you were born, a tiny girl in a little Minnesota lake town. A few hours ago we dropped you off at kindergarten with a backpack that was nearly as large as you. Minutes ago we watched you dance, competing across the country. Seconds ago you started high school.

We are proud of the young woman you have become, your good judgement, your beautiful heart of faith, and your hard work through school. Time goes by quickly... and we've loved every moment with you.

Mom and Dad
Proverbs 3:5-6



Brandon Beat



Bravo B! You are ready to launch into the next great adventure. Over the years, you have filled our house with critters, sports and a bunch of buddies. These will be missed, but your trusted friendships, heartfelt kindness and gentle character will serve you well. We are proud of your academic accomplishments, creative projects and ability to keep the family conversation going. Faith, Family and Friends are a key part of your life and will only grow stronger in your future. We are extremely proud and excited to see the path God has planned for you. Love, Mom, Dad, Courtney.



Abbi and Graci Barron



Jeremiah 29:11-12

Abbi: You are determined, courageous and so much fun! Be in community always....God did not make you an island.

Graci: You are hopeful and mindful of others!!! Be anxious for nothing....Trust in the Lord always.

God has a great plan for your life!!! We LOVE being your parents! And, we are so excited to continue as your life long cheerleaders!!!! Love Always, Mom and Dad



Hannah Haguewood

Hannah,

We are so proud of you and the beautiful person you have become. May the doors of life's journey bring you happiness and success. Always stay true to your heart, believe in yourself, be open to new experiences, make good choices, be proud of all your accomplishments and remember... singing and dancing will always make things better (do the "Dougie"). May the Light of Christ always shine bright in you.

All our love,

Mom, Dad and Holleigh



Kate Hassler

Congratulations, Kate! We love you so much and are so proud of the sweet, tender-hearted, hilarious, caring, rock star God has blessed us with. You've got this!!



Jillan Klein



We love you so much and are so proud of you. God has the best plan for you so continue to follow Him and ask for wisdom. Mom & Dad

Brooke Lemp



Words can't describe what a blessing you are. Your unique gift is making everyone around you better. You'll always be our princess. God has great plans for you!
Love,
Mom & Dad

Jack Bauer

Dear Jack,

From the very beginning you have been a source of joy and light. Your presence in our home will be sorely missed, but I know your heart is big enough to share with the world.

Love you forever,

Mom and Olivia



Chelsea Caplinger



Dear Chelsea,
You are my sunshine! We are so proud of you and have enjoyed watching you grow into an amazing young woman. Your smile is radiant, your laugh is bubbly, your love is deep, and your passion for life is contagious. We are so excited to see you continue to pursue your dreams and execute God's great plans! Set the pace and enjoy the journey.
We love you forever,
Mom and Dad



Chelsea,
Watching you grow into the woman you've become and seeing you pursue your passions and find your voice makes me so proud of you. I'm sorry I haven't been at your side every day but just know that I love you, miss you, and am so proud of you. You amaze me every day and inspire me to find my passions too.
I love you,
Kirsten



Lucas Chimento



Calm, Steady – Your cool demeanor carries you through tough times.
 Adventuresome, Outdoorsman – You love a challenge and the outdoors.
 Capable, Tenacious, Determined – You accomplish what you seek.
 Clever, Gifted – We knew you were smart, but wow!
 Wrestler, Mentally Tough, Leader – Those who do, know what's required.
 Loyal Friend, Encourager – There when needed most.
 Patriotic and Strong – Willing to protect and serve others.
 Persistent Dog Owner – Bronco. Nuff Said.
 K7 Kamper, Humble Christian – You know God's grace and mercy.

Lucas, you make us proud. We know God will use you in mighty ways.

Love you bud,
 Mom, Dad, Jacob, Lincoln, Becca,



Sydney Baum



Precious Baby Syd,

You have filled our home with joy, since you came into our lives. You are strong, kind, compassionate, with a tender loving heart. We know God has great things planned for you as you continue your life journey. We love you UP TO THE MOON, are so proud of you, and with tear stained eyes, know it is time for you not just to fly, but to SOAR!

Love, Mom, Dad, Lauren, Emily & Goose

Isaiah 40:31

Hannah Lovell

Hannah, we love your gentle spirit and we look forward to watching you continue to show your many talents. Laugh often and make a difference!

Love, Mom, Dad, Madeline, and Ben



Cooper Moore

Coop-dawg,

You've made life so easy for us: the only drama you created was on the football field, and we enjoyed every minute of that. You have made good choices: you looked out for your classmates' well-being, you put "we before I" on the football team, and you have loved your family well. We are so grateful for you, Cooper.

Love, Mom and Dad

Proverbs 22:1 "A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold."



Morayo Adenrele Ladejola-Oginni



Dearest Morayo,

You are indeed a great blessing to our family. You are a gentle, kind and compassionate young lady. It is a joy to have such a virtuous and godly young lady as our daughter. Always keep your relationship with God strong. Nothing shall be impossible for you as you daily depend on God's word.

Love always,
Mommy and Daddy

Zach Nail



Zach,
We are so proud of the young man that you have become and we look forward to what God continues to do in your life.
Love,
Mom and Dad



Rachel Berry



Sweetie,

You are a joy and a blessing! It has been a privilege to watch you grow into a beautiful young woman and see how God is using you and your passions to further His Kingdom. We are so proud of you and your accomplishments and excited to see what new adventures God has planned for you. We are going to miss your giggles and chuckles. Go Comma Queen!

Love,
Mom, Dad, and Amanda



Katelyn Davidson



Dear Katelyn,
You are so very special to us and you astonish with your beautiful smile, your infectious laughter and your endless determination.
We are nearing a time when one season of your life has come to a close and a new time is beginning. For every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1
We will miss you more than words can express, yet we delight in all that our Lord has in store for you, sweetheart.
You will always be our joy, and we are eternally thankful that He gave you to us. Stay close to Jesus and trust Him with your life.
He loves you even more than we do!
All our love,
Mom, Dad, Taylor, Annie and Tommy

Kirsten Davis



Kirsten,

It seems like just yesterday we were bringing you home from the hospital, and now here you are, graduating from high school and in a few months, off to college. We could not be more proud of the intelligent, kind, compassionate, talented young woman that you have become. We are blessed and honored to be your parents, and will miss you beyond words, when you go away to school. Keep chasing your dreams, and we will be there every step of the way supporting you. You will do great things! We love you more than anything!

Dad, Mom, Caroline, and Harper



Jonathan Nyenhuis



To Jonathan Nyenhuis,
Thank you for blessing our
home with your music,
wisdom, and
discernment. We are hon-
ored to be your parents.
Love, Mom and Dad

"Now we have received,
not the spirit of the world,
but the Spirit who
is from God, so that we
may know the things
freely given to us by God."
1 Corinthians 2:12

Matt Ottsen



Matt, who would have thought way back then? Heading off to college to play D1 baseball. We are so proud of you! You have grown up into a wonderful and mature Christian young man. We can't wait to see what God has planned next for you.

Love, your family

"I can do everything through him who gives me strength."
Philippians 4:13

Rebecca Park

Rebecca this day has
come too soon. We are
encouraged to be with
you on your journey.
May your hopes give
you love, kindness, joy
and the warm that you
bring in our lives.

Dad + Mom



EDs

There's a first time for everything.

Emily Jo, Yenster, and Hoogs.

We've never had 4 year veterans at the helm of
both WCA publications at the same time. That's a lot
of experience. No wonder things went so well.

Have I told you lately?

Thanks for making my job a joy. I will miss you
all tons.

v



Foundation and Yearbook staffs. You make life fun.
You make my job a blast! Couldn't have done it
without you all.

v

Alison Thoenen

We are so proud of you. We love your sassy personality, and crazy fun approach to life. God gave us a tremendous blessing in you. Much Love. Dad and Mom. 1 Timothy 4:12



Alexis Tuggle



Alexis,
You have truly been more than a blessing and inspiration for all things that are good. Remember to be bold, courageous, and your best.
II Timothy 1:7

Love,
Your Mother

Alexis Tuggle

Alexis,
I've loved you since before your first breath. I'm so proud of the beautiful young lady you are and for the amazing woman you will become.
- Godmother Lakisha



Alena Vermillion

"Alena,
When God blessed us with you, our family was complete. He led us to the ends of the Earth to find you - Our beloved, sweet, happy daughter.
Love,
Mom and Dad"



Wayne Ellerman



Wayne: We knew you were a great kid from the time that you were born. We cannot wait to see what blessings the future holds for you. Remember to put God first, surround yourself with people just like you and love others unconditionally. Keep your bible verse close: Phillipians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. The next season of your journey awaits, we hope and pray that it is filled with only the best for you. Love you baby, Mom and Dad



Austin Greene

Austin Michael- We LOVE you more than words can possibly express! God had a big plan choosing you for our first born son. You have been just that, a protector for Kayla, Katrina & Devin, a leader, an encourager, an involved caring son who keeps family first. You are a blessing to me, truly. I cannot imagine not having you as a daily sounding board & loving supporter, always ready to step in & help. THANK YOU for deciding everyday to be a good Godly man, knowing your responsibilities are real & using His gifts. We could not be more proud of you Austin. We will be there with you through all of lifes' storms. You are ready! Make impact. Never forget how LOVED you are son. -Mom & Dad



Sydney Bowden

The words of Maya Angelou speak volumes of the young woman you are. "You may write me down in history with your bitter, twisted lies. You may tread me in the very dirt, but still, like dust, I'll rise... Just like moons and like suns, with the certainty of tides, Just like hopes springing high, Still I'll rise... Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave, I am the dream and the hope of the slave. I rise."

Love Mommy & Daddy



Emma Winter

Emma, you were born dancing and entertaining us. You are inquisitive, intelligent, and energetic. You love the arts, books, music, adventures and family. I have never heard you say an unkind word. You have a deep faith and goodness about you, always polite, loving, and authentic. The future is yours! It has and will continue to be a joy to watch. All our love, Mimi - Pawpaw



Charlie Zone



Thanks for always being there for me and home will definitely be different without you. Ashley

Chunk- Thanks for always making life a lot more interesting. I am going to miss our car jams and crazy adventures. Going to miss you lots! Lauren

Sarah Broyles

Sarah Beth,

I cannot put into words how amazing you are and how your heart for God is so far ahead of your age. You are beautiful inside and out and are an amazing sister to Emily, Jake and Josh.

Love You Always,
Mom, Dad, Emily, Jake and Josh!



Eyrica Brunk

Eyrica, fearfully and wonderfully made, the Lord brought you to us. We are so blessed. Thank you for the warm, bright, funny, interesting person you are; for your faith; for your heart for others. Tender love, Mom and Dad.



Olivia Holt

Our precious Olivia / Sissy / Livi,
What a special gift you are to your family and friends! ... as Dad would say, "such a sweet girl" ...
Watching you grow, overcome challenges and mature through the years has been such a blessing.
We know you are prepared to go into the world and do good things, so with mixed emotions we send you off to follow your heart and God's perfect plan.
Your outgoing, good-natured, confident, and bubbly spirit will take you far!
With much love always,
Mom, Dad and William
p.s. Keep singing!



Gabrielle James

Gabby,

We have been blessed since the day you entered our world. It is hard to believe it is already time for you to graduate. Time has flown by! Never lose that fun, carefree side of yourself. Keep smiling, using your creativity, and singing... loudly. We could not be more proud of the young lady you are today, with your strong faith, amazing work ethic and friendly spirit. Stay true to who you are and continue to walk with God. He has big plans for you and we look forward to seeing your future unfold. We love you more than words can express.

Love, Mom and Dad



Natafie Bunton

To our Natalie, we have so enjoyed watching you make your way, following your own path and you have entertained and amazed us every step of the way! We are so proud of you in all that you have persevered over and succeeded in and are so anxious to see all that you have yet to accomplish. Our lives have been blessed by your sweetness, your kindness and your beautiful energy; you and your larger-than-life smile will be missed!

With all of our love,
Dad, Mom, Josie and Teddy



Maddie Challenger

Madeline,
We are very proud of you and blessed to be your parents. You have grown into a beautiful, kind, strong, compassionate, thoughtful, and loyal young woman. Our prayer for you is that you continue to walk Gods walk and are not afraid to use the gifts that God has given you to expand His kingdom. You have what it takes to succeed, and don't forget, your family is behind you all the way. Joshua 1:9 ; Thessalonians 5:16-18



Lexie Dark

Lexie
You have worked hard and made good choices. We are so proud of you! We can't wait to see what God has planned for you!
Love Dad & Mom



Amanda Davis

Amanda,
We thank God every day for gifting us with the best daughter in the whole world. There are no words for how much we love you.
Mom and Dad



Alvia Johnston

Alvia we love your grace and grit! You are a gift to all of us. Your confidence is in our God and you stand up for what is right and trust God with the results in your life. You take care of I-man and Cheeks and are the best example we could have ever hoped for. You lead with love and we admire you and will ALWAYS love you. Looking forward to the great things God has in store for you.

Love,
Dad, Mom, I-man and Cheeks



Dean Karanas

Dean, we can hardly believe your time at Westminster has come to a close. We are so proud of your courage and accomplishments. Our lives are richer because of you. So go, be strong, and be happy. With all our love, Dad, Mom, and Beasley



Ethan Davitt

Ethan, When it comes to working hard, no one can touch you! We love the man you've become.
Dad, Mom, Mason, Colin and Aiden
2 Thessalonians 1:11-12
Proverbs 2:1-11



Alyssa Despotis

To our Sweet Alyssa,

We admire your kindness, motivation and achievements. We are very proud of you and wish you all of God's Blessings through life's journey.

With Love,
Mother, Dad and Lea



Rachel Farrell



Rachel,
We love you very much
and are so proud of you
and all of your accom-
plishments. We are so
blessed to have such
a wonderful daughter
who has brought so
much joy into our lives.
May God continue to
guide and bless you:
Isaiah 40:31.
Love,
Dad, Mom, & Kyle



Taylor French

Our Dearest Taylor,

You have grown into a beautiful, talented, and caring young woman. We are blessed to have you as a daughter, sister, and friend. We have had so much fun watching you play sports, growing in your relationship with God, and giving back to others. Keep reaching for the stars and thanking God for all of his blessings. The world is your canvas-it's time to paint your picture! Never forget that you are loved so much.

Dad, Mom, and Peyton



Jason
Kelly



Jabo,
You are the light of our lives! Your energy and humor have filled our world with such amazing joy! Your sweet heart and irreverent inappropriate wit make every moment with you a never-ending adventure. You've been an inspiration, staying true to who you are! Through challenges of youth you've stood tall and made us proud of your choices! In those moments you struggled you took the high road and rose above! We love that no matter what, you're our lovey cuddly baby boy with that silly unpredictable twinkle in your eye! You inspire us always!
Love,
Popski and Momma

Alex Lawrence

Alex – you have developed into such an amazing young man, you have wisdom beyond your years, you're an awesome big brother, son and friend. It has been with great joy to be a part of your foundation and we are anxious to see the path God has laid out for you to impact His Kingdom! You bring much love, laughter and happiness into our lives. Thank you for making our job easy – we love you so much! Love, Mom & Dad

But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.
Matt 6:33



Erin Galakatos



Erin,

We are so very PROUD of the strong, confident, beautiful, faithful and kind young woman you have become!

We LOVE you!

Dad, Mom, Matt, Kelly, Jenna, Kara, and John

Holly Gilmore

Holly,
You are a blessing from God. You are thoughtful, hard working, kind, beautiful, graceful and loving. You are a wonderful daughter. We are so proud of you and can't wait to see what God has in store for you as you begin your journey after high school. Congratulations! We love you, Mom and Dad



Sofia Granata

Sofia, you are a true gift from God, we are so proud of you and the joy it's been watching you grow into the amazing person you have become. As you start the next chapter of your life we can't wait to see what God has planned for you next, always remember you are loved more than words can say. Mom, Dad and Sabrina, Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Prov. 3:5



Clayton Grass

Clayton,

We are forever grateful that God chose us as your family. As you leave home on your next adventure, follow your heart and always trust in God to direct your path. All our love ~ Mom, Dad, Trent, Dominic, Drake, Bella and Chloe



Samantha Lombardo

Sam,
It has been amazing watching you grow in to the beautiful and talented young lady you are. We are blessed to have you as our daughter. You have given us so much joy and happiness. May God always guide you and may you always be a light in this world. We love you schmickle!
Mom and Dad



**Kalista
Nelson**

Kalista means most beautiful and that is what you are. We have enjoyed watching you grow into a wonderful, caring and joyful person. Always remember who and whose you are and you can accomplish anything that you put your mind to. We look forward to the great things that God has in store for you.

Love Nana and Poppy

Kalista, you are my blessing and I am proud of you. I can't wait to see what your future holds. You will be the best at whatever you chose to do. Continue to make us proud!

Love Always, Mom

Philippians 4:13



Victoria Griewe

Tori,

It's been an absolute pleasure to raise such a strong young lady. Your love for God and family is infectious and your passion to serve others couldn't make us more proud.

You have an incredibly free spirit that has no limit of comedy at the most unusual times. We will miss your quick wit and 9pm dance parties! We love your random text that tell us how much you love and appreciate us. Good luck in college, we know you'll do great.



God Bless,

Mom, Dad and Keaton



Paris Hubler

Peanut Butter, you are such an amazing young woman! We are so proud of you and very excited to watch your future unfold! Thank you for brightening our lives!! We love you to the moon and back! Love Mom and Dad



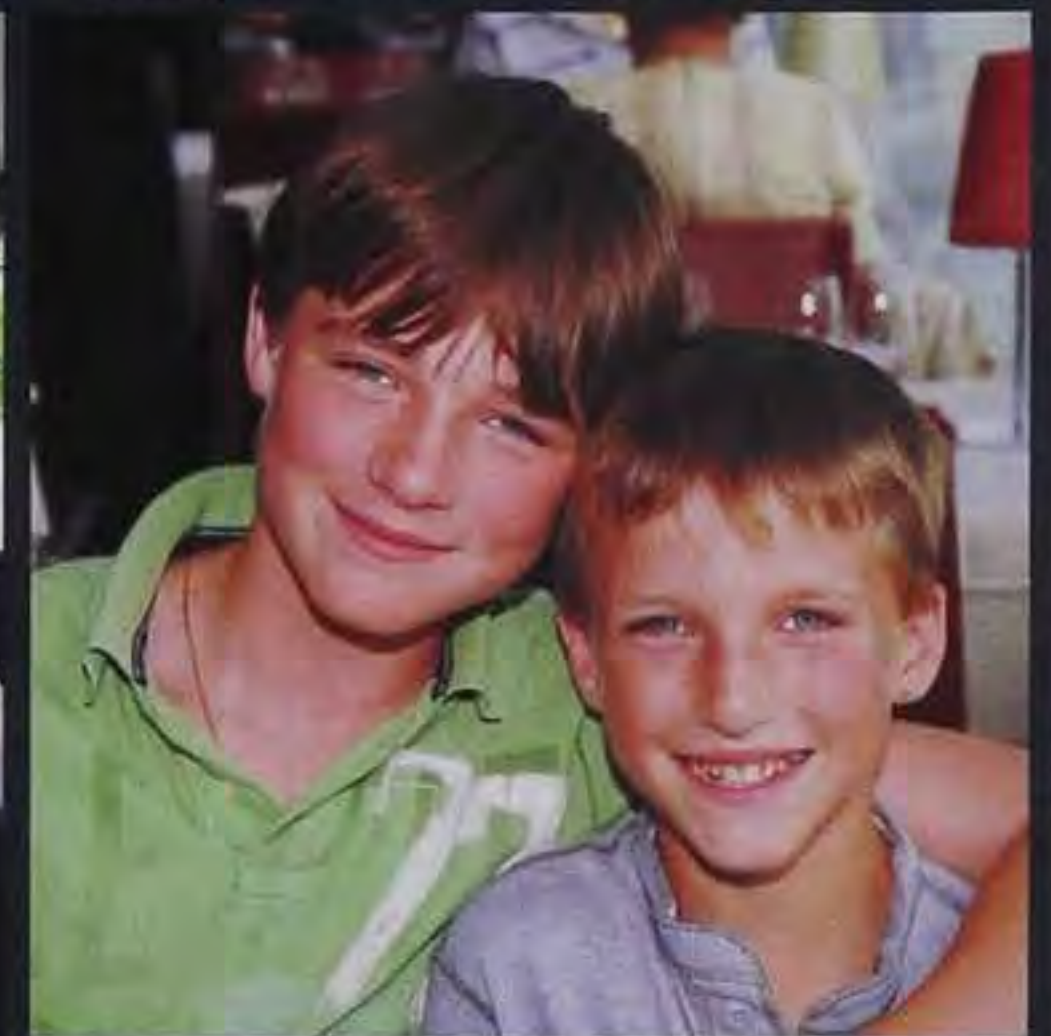
Hallie Kaiping

Hallie,
We love you and are so proud of all
you have accomplished, and can't
wait to see what God has in store
for your future.
Dad, Mom and Emma



Jason Kelly

Dear Bugey,
You're the best person I could
have asked for as a brother. Your
kindness and care for others is
admirable. Your wit and intelli-
gence is astonishing, so much so
it occasionally calls for a spit take.
You're one of the most impressive
people I've ever met and couldn't
be more proud of who you are and
what you do. I love you Bugs!
Ryan



Logan Sells

Logan,

Mom and Dad are very proud of your success at Westminster. That said, what we are most proud of is the kind-hearted person you've become.

Your ability to be both "man of character" and a "man that is a character" is a rare and wonderful combination...being good and being memorable will serve you well in all facets of life.

You are one of a kind son, and we look forward to sharing what's ahead in your life. We know it will be memorable!

Love, Mom and Dad



Alyssa Shikles

Alyssa,
We are blessed to have you as our daughter and cherish the memories of watching you grow up and hearing our house filled with your music, singing and laughter. You have grown into a beautiful, godly young woman that has been blessed with many talents. We know God has great things planned for your future and look forward to watching how God will use you to bless others and glorify Him. We will miss you dearly when you head off to college, but know that we are always with you in heart and spirit. Thanks for being such a wonderful daughter and sister.

We will love you always!
Mom, Dad, and Zach



Alex Kempen

Alex,
Dad and I are so proud of the Godly man that you have become. You bring so much joy and laughter into our family. We are proud of you & love you and can't wait to see what God has in store for you. No matter how far away from home you are, remember that you are forever in our hearts and prayers. Love you always, mom & dad



Emily Kessel

Emily,
Your courage, boldness, determination, intelligence, humor, compassion, and incredible beauty have captivated our hearts forever. We are extremely proud of you and thankful for the warmth and energy you bring to our home and others. Watching as you seek to fit into God's plan and your heart for the Lord has been an amazing privilege. We will always be cheering you on as you continue to run the race! We love you, Duckie! Mom & Dad 1 Tim 4:12



MaryKate Kopsky

MaryKate,

You are such a blessing to our family and have brought so much joy by just being you and completely going for it on every athletic field. Keep playing your game throughout your life!

Always remember how precious you are to Him!

Love you so much!

Mom, Dad, Claire and Caroline



Andrea Lacassie

Andreita,

We are very proud to be your parents! We love you with all our heart!!

Since you were little, you have been a kind and thoughtful girl. Always smiling and bringing joy to others.

We are thankful for the opportunity to be a part of your life and can't wait to see what God has planned for you!

Brother: Andrea I hope that God will bless you on your next journey to college and that he will always watch over you! I love you!!

Love,

Mom, Dad and Sebastian



Julia Snodgrass

We are so proud of you, Julianna and cannot wait for you to embark on the next chapter of your life. Stay true to who you are and never compromise that. We love you.



Emma Winter

Emma,
Be still my heart, for where by curly
top baby used to be stands a beauti-
ful, sweet, kind, godly young woman.
We could not be more proud. Our
prayer is that beyond a doubt, you
will find solace knowing that we
love you unconditionally, we are
your biggest fans, and that we are
absolutely crazy about you. But most
of all, that you will have the most
peaceful feeling that exists, knowing
God's hand is on you to guide and
direct you. And remember, if God
lined up all the little girls in the
world and told us to pick just one, we
would always pick you! All our love,
Mom, Dad, & Caleb



Callie MacDonald

Callie,
It's wonderful to see how far you've come! You have been blessed to accomplish so much at Westminster in academics, sports and leadership. Most of all, I know you have a strong faith that will keep you centered and on the perfect path. Stay curious, continue to be diligent and keep the Lord at the center of your life and you will do amazing things. I'm blessed to be your mom and love you with all my heart! Mom



Maddie Mercer

"It's hard to believe we are at high school graduation point in Maddie's life. It seems only yesterday I was carrying her in a sling and walking for hours on the treadmill to keep her from crying... Maddie had a bad case of colic.

Maddie has overcome much adversity in her young life to reach this point and we are so very proud that our daughter is not only graduating from a wonderful high school but is also moving on to college. I am so proud of the fine young woman Maddie has become and I know that I owe a lot of that to the many wonderful people that have surrounded her in her life but none more important than the Westminster Families, Faculty and the strong Christian background that I know will influence her moral compass as she heads to the next phase of her life. We love you very much Maddie and we will always be there for you.

Love
Mom & Dad



Jordan Merkel

Jordan,
We are so proud of the awesome and thoughtful young man you have become. You have such a kind and caring heart and are such a blessing to your friends and family. We know that God has a special plan for your life and we are so excited to see where he leads you. We love you very much and will really miss you when you go off to college. Never forget how blessed you are.
Love -- Mom, Dad and Bailey



Jacob Mitchell

Jacob, You have been a huge blessing to our family and we are so proud of the young man you have become. Looking forward to seeing how the Lord uses you in the future. Love,
Mom and Dad

Psalm 91:1



Alexandra Yeager



Alexandra,
We feel so blessed that God gave you to us. When we think of you, immediately the character traits of kindness, tenderheartedness, compassion and encouragement come to mind. You love others so well and have a servant's heart. As you embark on this next chapter in your life, always keep Christ in the center and you will be a success. Remember, "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. And give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18), know that we love and adore you completely and are proud to call you our daughter.
Love, Mom, Dad, Mackenzie, Brendan, Alexandra, Kat and Ginny



Katherine Yenzer



Dear Katherine (Little Bear),

Thomas Jefferson said, "Do you want to know who you are? Don't ask. Act! Action will delineate and define you."

Your actions have shown you to be a thoughtful, strong, intelligent, independent, driven, confident, dedicated, and passionate young woman. You are a loyal friend and an amazing big sister. We are a lifetimes worth of proud of you every day!

We couldn't be more excited to watch you as you continue on your journey, and as you do, here is a bit of advice that might be helpful (and familiar):

1. Never let tragedy stop your progress.
2. Know when to "talk less, smile more" and when NOT to do so.
3. Tell the truth, even when it's hard.
4. Don't throw away your shot!

We love you more!

Mom, Dad, and Elizabeth



Tomas Mitchem



Tomas,

So proud of how much you have matured in these past couple years. It has been a blessing to be able to call you my brother. I have no doubt in my mind that you will be successful no matter where you end up. Keep up the good work as start the next chapter in your life. Cant wait to see what the future holds for you. Love you buddy.

Parker

Casey Moeslein



Beautiful, loving, generous, and strong, are a few words to describe Casey.

A ray of sunshine and an optimistic voice leading the way through her strong faith and love for her family and friends. God blessed us when you were born and we are so grateful that He gave us a daughter with such high moral standards. You flourish in the most difficult of circumstances, always challenging yourself taking the path less traveled. We are so excited to see what lies ahead for you.

Dad, Mom and Courtney



Moore Family

Thanks, Westminster. You've been good to us.

Pictured: Abigail Gross (aka. Date-night babysitter), Margaret Moore Matheny ('12), Sarah Moore ('07), Parker Moore ('11), Cooper Moore ('17), Ellie Moore Allen ('08), Tate Matheny ('12), Brett Allen ('08), Brookie Kramer Moore ('82), John Moore (past WCA Board President). Not pictured because she is in Paris: Caroline Moore ('14)



Caitlin Mundorf

Caitlin Joy, you are the joy of our family. We are so blessed to have had the privilege of raising you for the past 18 years. Your quick laugh, strong work ethic and amazing sense of humor has inspired and encouraged us. Never forget, "... you are God's masterpiece. He created you anew in Christ Jesus, so you can do good things he planned for us long ago."



Sarah Nolting

Sarah-
Dad and I have delighted in you from your first moment. Your magnetic grin makes us smile involuntarily. Since you started walking and talking, everyone was "just a friend I haven't met yet." We will miss the daily sound of your singing in our home but we could not be more proud of you and we look forward to seeing God's plan for your life.
Love,
Mom and Dad



Luke Peters

Luke, We love you and are so proud of you. You have overcome much and excelled. Kirk and Westminster have provided you with a great foundation for the rest of your life. We are excited to see what God has in store for you. You have brought us much joy, laughter and love. Proverbs 3: 5-6. Go get em Clark!



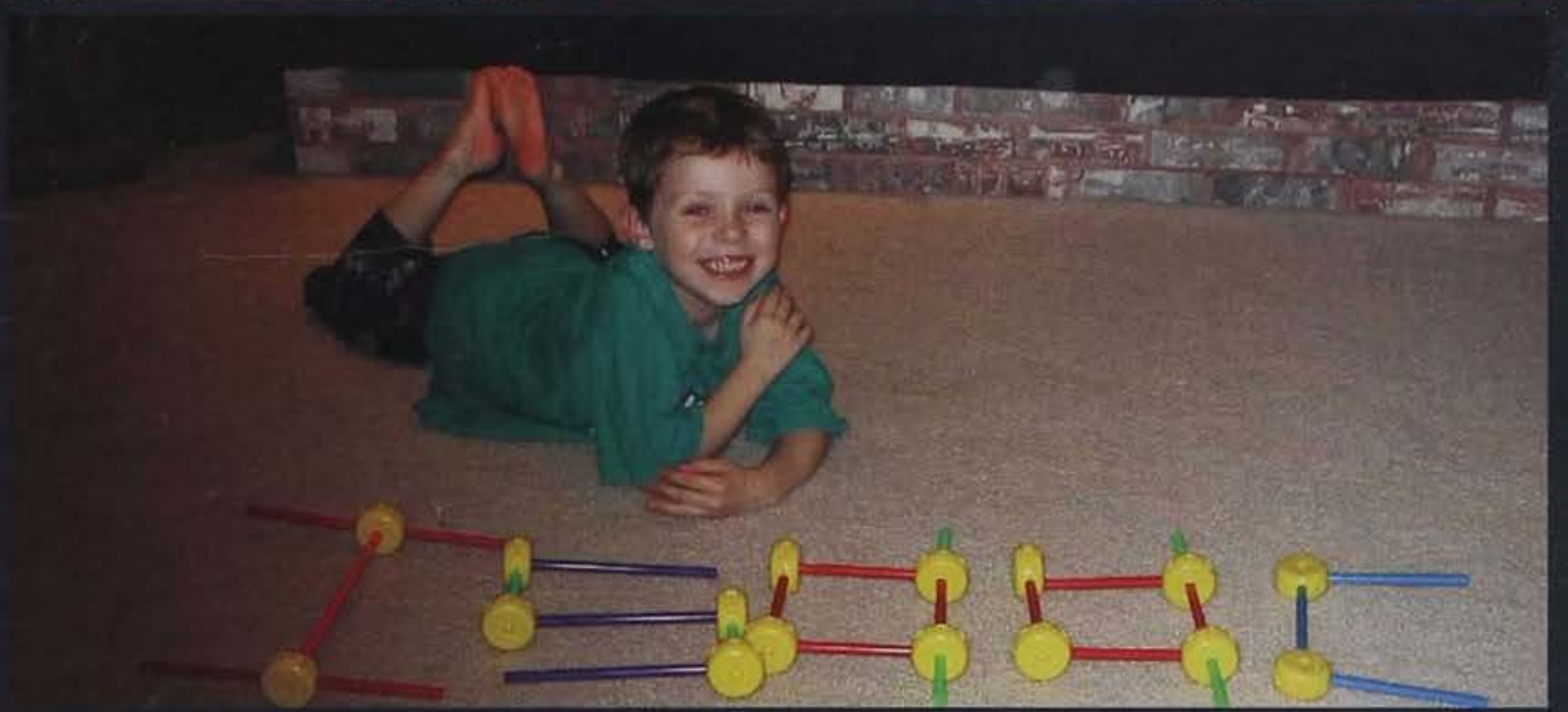
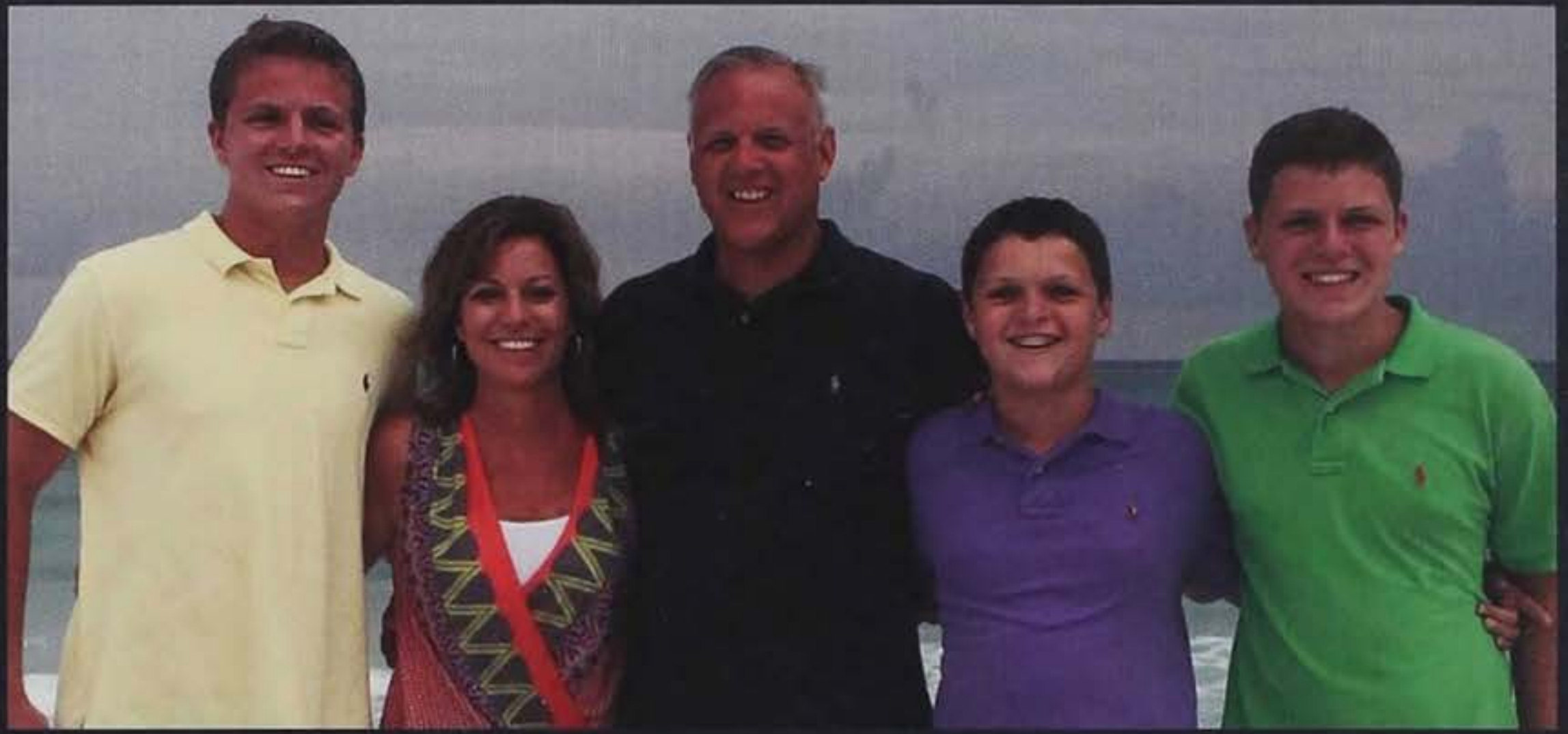
Isaac Pleus

Isaac means "laughter" and you find humor in any situation; whether, photo bombing a picture or making a sly joke. We hope that sense of humor, along with your faith, continue to be your compass. Your heart is full of kindness, let it shine for others. You amaze us with your perseverance and we are proud of all of your accomplishments.

Love,

Mom, Dad, Tyler and Ryan

I can do all this through Him, who gives me strength. Philip-
pians 4:13



Kristin Pogue



What a joy it has been watching you grow from our sweet, blue-eyed baby girl to a beautiful, compassionate, talented, godly woman of faith. We Love You!
Dad, Mom and Kate



Blake Potter



Blake,
We are so thankful God chose us to be your parents. You are such a kindhearted, thoughtful person, always full of compassion for others. We could not be more proud of the man you have become. You are smart, witty, and you constantly make us laugh.
We love you,
Mom, Dad, and Rachel
1 Corinthians 16:13-14
Be on your guard: stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. Do everything in love.



Jacob Reeve

Jacob,
We love you so much and are excited to see what God will do in your life as you reach your potential in His grace.



Erica Ridenhour

Erica,

What a blessing it's been watching you grow into the young woman you are today - joyful, confident and beautiful with a great sense of humor and a truly loving heart! We can't wait to see what great things God has planned for you!

Love,
Dad, Mom and Nick



Nicole Schneider

Sweet Nicole,

You are truly a gift from God! We are extremely proud of your accomplishments and more importantly blessed that you live by the principles of your faith. You're an amazing young woman with a unique blend of compassion, dedication and loyalty in every aspect of your life. Thank you for sharing your journey with us!

We Love You, Mom, Dad and Michael

Proverbs 3:5-6
Romans 12:2
Numbers 6:24-26



Hannah Sabadell

Hannah,
You will forever be our glass half-full little girl. Your optimism and caring heart are truly unique. You have shown us the meaning of grace and joy, and we couldn't be more proud of the young woman you have become. We love you dearly, and are excited to see the plans that God has in store for you.
Mom, Dad, & Brendan



Ben Schuler

We feel so blessed and proud to have you for a son, Ben. Your innate level of compassion and kindness towards others coupled with your strong moral compass are gifts from God. Regardless of the career path you choose, your gifts will enable you to have a positive impact in the lives of everyone you meet down the road. We can't wait to see what the future holds for you! We love you Ben!



Elisabeth Sims

Congratulations Elisabeth! Our little brown-eyed girl has become a beautiful, smart, strong and godly leader. You have made us so proud! Keep your eyes on the Lord, and He will make your paths clear and straight.

We love you so very much,
Mom, Dad, B, N, R, D & J

"Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord Himself, is the Rock eternal."
Isaiah 26:4



Maia Sims

Maia,

Your sweet and adventurous personality has been a joy to experience for the past 18 years. We are blessed to be a part of God's plan for you.

Love, Your Family



Tom Southwell

What a precious gift you are to me! You bring much joy to all those around you! May you aim high and soar through life!

Wounds heal and scars fade but through them character grows. You are never alone as you are surrounded by your family who loves you so very much!

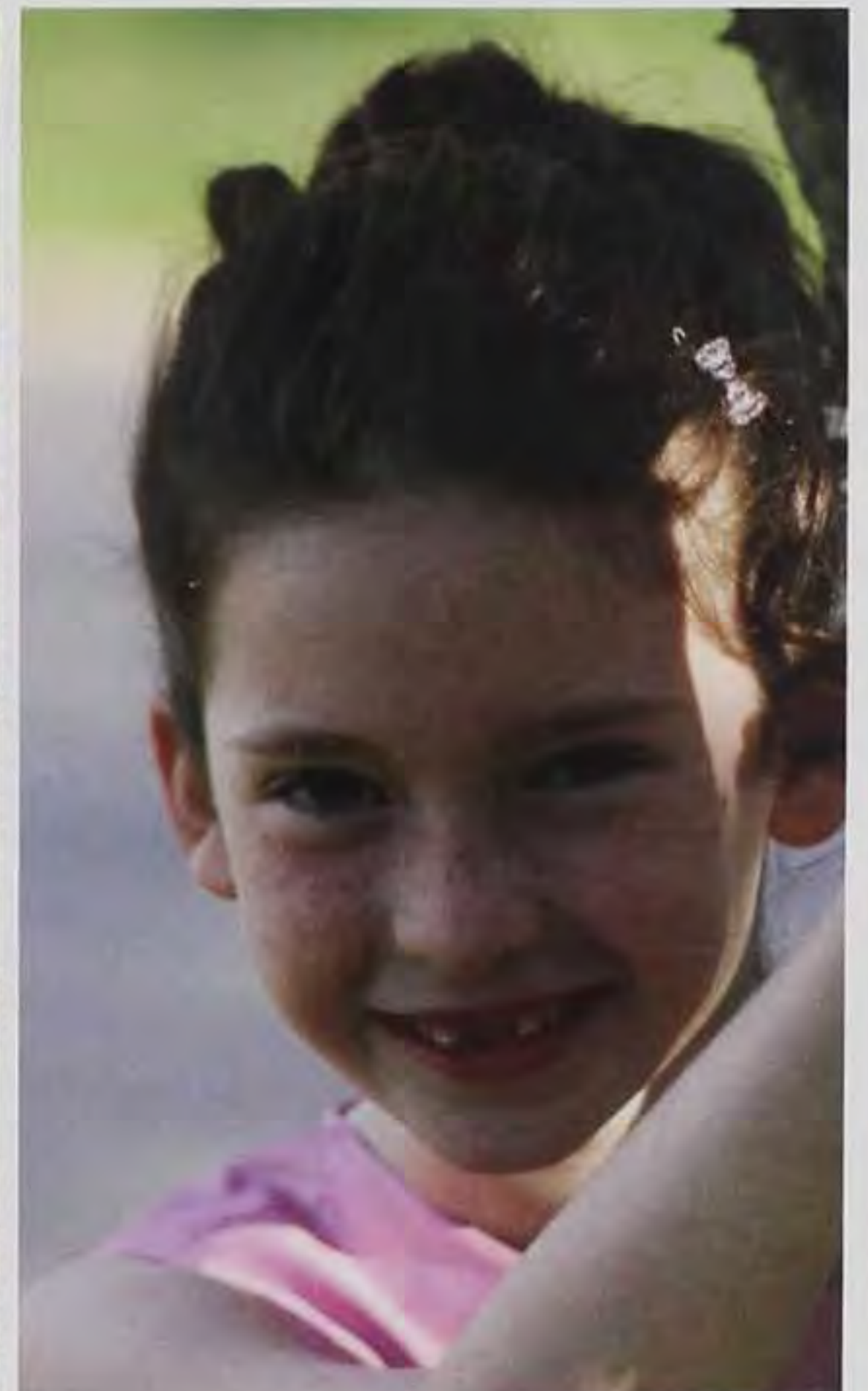


Paige Stanfil

Paige – What a blessing to be your parents. We have cherished this time together and are very proud of you and your hard work. Trust God and walk with Him always.

CRAZY ABOUT YOU!

Mom and Dad



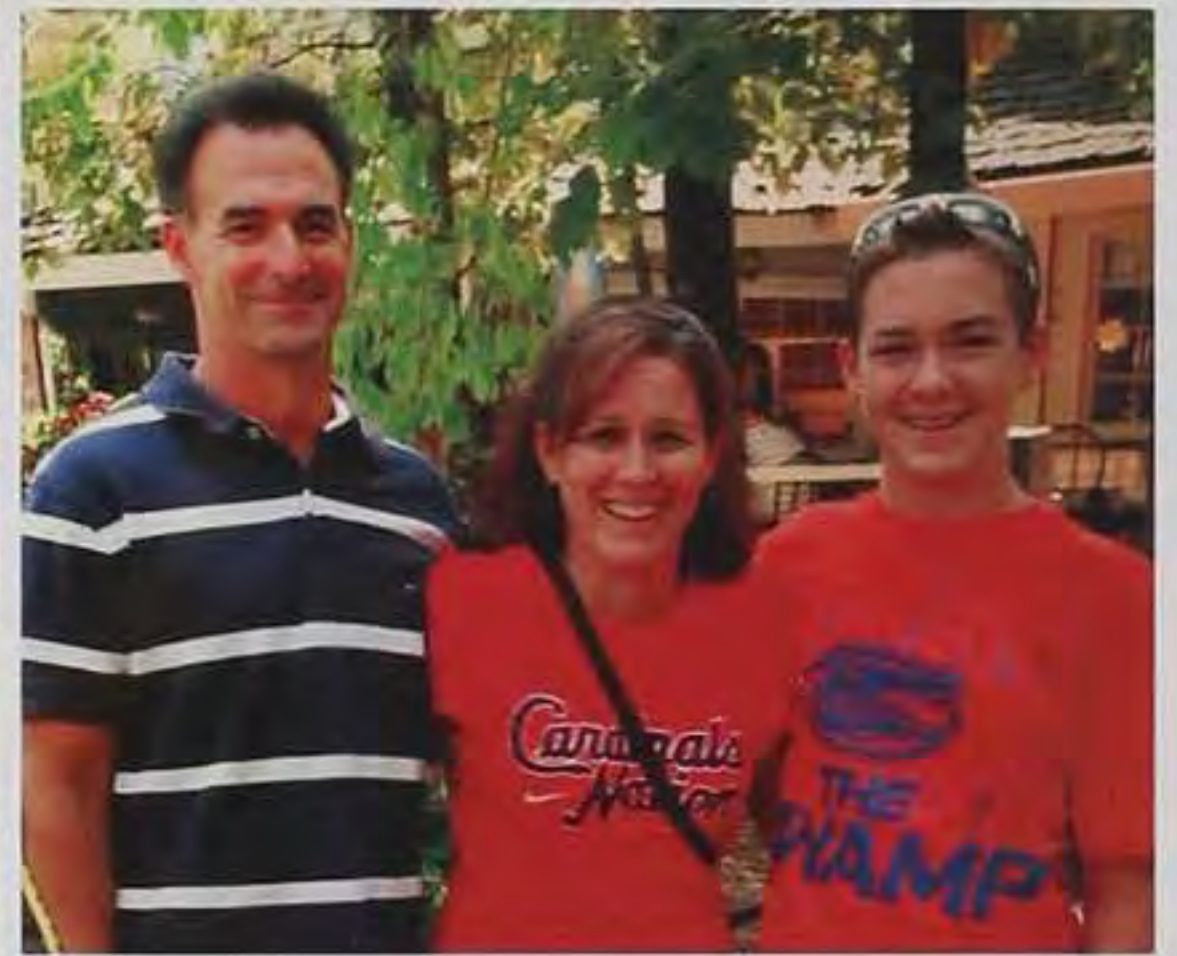
Nick Suter

CONGRATULATIONS NICK!

You are truly a gift from God!

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28

We love you! Mom & Dad



Josh Theus

Joshua, "Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses commanded you . . . that you may have good success wherever you go."



Madalyn Trost



Madelyn Blake Trost

One cold, icy night in December 1998, I was fortunate to welcome into the world someone who would become my best friend. I have been blessed to watch you grow every day of your life from the black haired, red faced infant to the beautiful blonde that you are today. My prayer is that you absolutely never settle and honor God by living out your dreams. And remember "what good are wings, without the courage to fly" -Atticus Love, Momma & Isabella



Will Wetzel

Will,
You have been a tremendous blessing to us! You are so funny, sweet and sincere with a heart of gold. We are very proud of the man you have become.
Love, Mom and Dad



Mackenzie Wieberg

Mackenzie,

God has truly gifted our family with an incredible daughter. You bring joy and comfort to all those around you. May you continue to be blessed in all that you do.

Love, Mom, Tom and Brandt
Mackenzie,



Valerie Winkler



Valerie,

You are a blessing from God and have made our lives so much richer. Words can't express our love for you.

We've watched you grow from an adorable baby into a beautiful, confident Christian woman.

We look forward to watching the Lord's plans for you unfold (Jeremiah 29:11).

No matter life's trials, always remember to pray (recall the snow in May) and to use the little grey cells that God has knitted in you. Bon!

Love,
Mom and Dad



Moira Wright

Moira,

Words cannot begin to express how proud we are of you and the young lady you have become. Your name literally means "wished for" and that's exactly what you are, our wish come true! You have a love for others springing from the love of Christ, that inspires us daily. Our hope for you is that you continue to be the amazing person you were created to be. Love you so much! #lomi #blessed

Dad, Mom, and Malaina



Alexandra Yeager

Alex, It has been so fun having you as a sister. You bring such sweetness and kindness to our lives. Seems like yesterday you were putting paper in your nose and swallowing quarters. We love you so much!

Mackenzie, Brendan, Kat and Ginny



Logan Bauer

Logan,

You've worked hard over the years, and we're so proud of you! There is no doubt that you can do all things through Christ who gives you strength. We are excited to see where you go next with the talents and gifts God has given you.

Love,

Mom, Dad, Lauren and Landon



Connor Dolan

It has been such a blessing watching you grow into the man that you are today! You have amazed us with your faithfulness and dedication to everything that you do. You have brought us so much joy, put smiles on our faces and made us proud.

We LOVE you! Dad, Mom, Kyle and Maggie



Cliff DeGroot

Mitch is back boys!



Savannah Mathews

Nanny~
 You are so ready to take this next step in your journey, and we are so excited to see what God has in store.
 Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord."

He has prepared you in many ways:
 ~ The discipline of the thousands of hours you spent on the dance floor.
 ~ The knowledge to push yourself to excel academically.
 ~ The experiences of Kanakuk.
 ~ A love of humor... "Small Lips" and "Twinkle Fingers"
 ~ The understanding of the value of true friendship.

"You're off to Great Places! Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting, So... get on your way!"

You are deeply and unconditionally loved,
 Dad, Mom, Sis and Payton



Political Events

officer snyder's funeral

Emma Winter, senior, and Zion Thompson and Evan Howse, sophomores, stand on the bridge overlooking the funeral procession of Officer Snyder.

October 14, 2016



That day was going to be a day to remember and a day in St. Louis History. I was sad for the community, but it was cool to see everyone go out and support the police.

-Emma Winter, senior

Social Media

instagram live

It's making instagram like snapchat by having a way you can say your story instead of just posting pictures. I have seen a lot of friends use it, and I think it's a really cool idea.

December 12, 2016



-Kristine Zhang, senior

snapchat group chat

It's like the imessage group chats, but everyone uses snapchat so much more. I like talking to many people at once, so instead of taking a picture and having to send it to seven or eight people separately, I can just send it to them all at the same time.

December 13, 2016



-David Stoner, eighth grade

Celebrities

carrie fisher

She can't play Princess Leia anymore, so I don't know how they're going to continue the series. I like Star Wars, and my name is Luke, so people make a lot of jokes about that.

December 27, 2016



-Luke Burkey, seventh grade

beyonce

Beyonce getting pregnant with twins was a big event. I like her because she's a good singer, and I think people are excited because having more kids would mean two tiny little Beyonces running around.

February 1, 2017



-Madison Bugh, seventh grade

September 26- October 119, 2016

Jake Kyriakos freshman presidential debates

Each debate was a little bit different, but they were always teaming up on each other and against each other. Each of them had their different opinions, and I thought it was cool to watch.



November 8, 2017

Peter Barton freshman election

Donald Trump winning the election. I was just surprised because I didn't think he would win. Hilary won the popular vote, and I didn't think he had a very strong following.



January 9, 2017

Joy Stevens seventh grade governor's ball

I decided to go [to the Governor's Ball] because one I was proud of my cousin who is the governors assistant, and also it would be a memorable moment in life for me. The most memorable moment would be getting to shake governor Grieten's hand.



Grace Andrews, Joy Stevens, seventh, and Parker Briden, alumni

January 15, 2017

cash me outside

It's so catchy, and it's a popular thing. It's what the popular kids say, so people say it to be popular. People say it to mess around, to fight, or to be rude.



-Cole Bowers, eighth grade

June 21, 2016

bitmojis fad

I like using them with my friends because there's a lot of options, and it's funny.



-Elizabeth Meeks, junior

memes

My favorite meme is probably the baby memes. It's just really funny.



-Nicholas Moten, eighth grade

February 12, 2017

the grammys

I watched it and love how a whole bunch of artists came out. Ed Sheeran is one of my favorite artists, so it was fun to see him perform.



-Kate Dempsey, seventh grade

November 2, 2016

diary of a wimpy kid

They recast Diary of a Wimpy Kid, and it was a pretty big event. They recast a lot of people and changed the original cast. A lot of people are making a huge joke about it.



-Madison Grega, freshman

November 2, 2016

brangelina

Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie broke up. I think that was a pretty big deal maybe because there's so much drama. Their breakup went viral.



-Audrey Storer, eighth grade

strange firsts

We all know that feeling where you are in a situation for the first time, and it is weird or you ended up loving it. These new students at Westminster found some of our traditions and lack of some events strange. Everything from the time school starts to spirit week is a new experience for these students.

Some students from non-Christian schools got to experience a new type of classroom with religion in it. "I would probably say just that it's a Christian school. Just having everyone talk about God and stuff is kind of cool. It is a positive change because in science they teach that God made the world, and at my old school, they would always talk about evolution and stuff, so it's kind of nice to have them talk about what I actually believe," said Kingsley Murray, sophomore.

Other students liked how Westminster combined education and technology. "You get to use technology a lot more with the iPads and everything. It's a lot easier to do stuff because you're not writing everything on paper, and you can have it all in one place on your iPad," said Justice Hunt, eighth grade.

"I like the ipads. It makes doing homework a lot easier, and turning it in is easy. You can always go back to it and see what you did instead of having paper copies," said Teagan LeVar, freshman.

Whatever the first new experience at Westminster, it helped to define the year in the small details it was made of.



Claire Summers and Allie Klutz, freshmen, hangout after school on one of the first days of school. They were both new students this year and became fast friends.

new
STUDENTS

103

total new students

28

middle school*

75

high school

*eighth grade only since all of seventh grade is new

chapel



Having a chapel every Wednesday is different coming from a public school. It gives us a break from school and gives us a time to relax and think about other stuff than all schoolwork. You feel more connected to people because you know where you're all at with religion, so it's not as awkward to talk about.

-Gabe Caradonna, sophomore

uniforms



We didn't have uniforms [at my old school]. We had no dress code, so that's a big difference. I like it, but I kind of miss the clothes I used to wear.

-Kyleigh Ford, freshman

Seth Noel

eighth grade

education

The education is better I guess. It's more focused and quieter. Also, I would say the football games and spirit week are cool. I like the atmosphere because everyone's kind of on the same page and has school spirit.

Claire Summers

freshman

spirit week

Spirit week was really fun. I had no idea it was going to be that crazy. In middle school everyone wants to be the cool person, so I didn't really do spirit week. When I came here and realized spirit week was a big thing, I got really into it. I really liked spirit week.

Annie Davidson

freshman

clubs

I really liked all the clubs that you can be involved in and the diversity of the clubs

late start



I like late start. It gives you more time to do homework you forgot, or you can sleep in and actually eat breakfast. You can also stay up later and do more fun stuff, knowing you can catch up on sleep.

-Jacob Moyer, freshman

pc groups



I like PC groups because my old school had nothing like that. It was nice to get to know people and make friends.

-Trent Gross, freshman

Jerry Liu

sophomore

teachers

The teachers are very friendly and helpful. Although the teacher is not my teacher, if I ask a question, they will still answer me.



It's more of a community than my old school. We do stuff like spirit week, and it's a lot smaller and more close knit.

-Emily Melaragno, eighth grade

how do you want to be remembered?



I want to be known for me being a good friend, always smiling, and having a can-do attitude all the time and never giving up.

-Jake McConkey, seventh

Me and my family made care packages for impoverished people and gave them to them.

-Carter Olszweski, seventh

Since I was 9, I have attended Culver Summer camp, a 6 week military style camp in Northern Indiana. Since it is military, we do have inspections, wear uniforms, and march. But, there are tons of other amazing things to do like water ski, paddle board, horseback riding, photography, athletics, and many other classes. Culver focuses a lot on leadership, and this coming summer I am going back with the position responsible for over 200 girls. Through Culver, I have met many friends from over 40 different countries. This summer, I am returning for my 8th and final summer at Culver!

-Ann Borchelt, sophomore



When I was in 7th grade, we were a week into the school year. I was

sitting outside, and I threw a pretzel across to another table. I landed the pretzel in someone's smoothie king. For the rest of the week I was known as the "Legend." *-Matthew Burgess, eighth*

I almost always wear giant hair bows in my hair, and that's just what I'm known for in my grade.

-Savvy Duncan, seventh



I can wiggle my ears. I can also lift my left eyebrow to the beat of "Eye of the Tiger." I also know the entire musical score of "Les Miserables." I'm pretty cool like that. *clicks tongue* *puts on glasses* *glasses fall off face*

-Elizabeth Nolting, eighth

[I was on the] Missouri Olympic Development team for soccer for 16/17 season.

-Finnegan Stewart, freshman



I lived all over the world. 3rd culture kid.

-Josh Theus, senior



I lived in China.

-Aidan Kline, eighth

I'm lit and goofy like Kevin Hart.

-Alexis Tuggle, senior

I lift weights while I study. It helps me concentrate harder.

-Jeremiah Thompson, junior



[I have hunted and] killed a lot of ducks and doves.

-Joseph Schroeder, sophomore



I don't think I'm that unique, but if there's something I want to be remembered for, it's making people smile.

-Kurt Culver, senior



I'm always analyzing/annotating/making changes to whatever music I come across, be it classical stuff for my lessons, or theater music, or hymn arrangements for when I play in churches.

-Alex Cross, sophomore



I went to the junior Olympics for taekwondo and got eight gold medals.

-Nick Gustavison, freshman

I won a pentathlon when I was in 6th grade.

-Annessa Shively, eighth grade



This year the Westminster community will remember many diverse events and moments, but we will all look back on a few of the same things, one of them being the first ever Varsity Hockey Team state win. "Being on the first team to win state is a real honor. I will remember that game for the rest of my life. I will also always have a strong connection to my teammates no matter how old I get because winning state, especially for the school's first time, is an unforgettable experience," said Zach Nall, senior.

Another memory that will be remembered is the Spirit Week upset by the sophomores who almost stole the win from the seniors by winning lip sync and boys poms. "It was seriously such a shock at first when we heard 'sophomores!' Everyone just kind of froze for a minute, and then we all just totally freaked and went crazy," said Maggie Hackman, sophomore, leader of sophomore lip sync.

This year we have changed administration and will welcome a new head master next year. We have changed traditions like eliminating blue man stomp from spirit week and moving the variety show to the spring, while ultimately ended up being canceled.

The seniors were also let out of school two weeks later than any other senior class. "If I could doing anything but two more weeks of strength and conditioning, that would be great," said Jake McKie, senior.

Although these moments were different for each individual, the individual's moments were just as important.

These are just a few of the details that have defined this year.

I started my own small business called CutiePots!

-Allison Thoenen, senior

I've hosted a secret Smash Brothers tournament in the band room during finals week for the past four years now!

-Kate Hassler, senior



No girls like me.

-Justin Fuller, freshman



I'm the guy who put flames on his minivan.

-Michael Thoenen, junior

Dear WCA,

Throughout the course of this year, we have had many ups and downs. Each of your experiences was different, and we tried to capture all of them. Oftentimes it was the little things that left the largest impact. The goals scored, the late nights

Sam Vestal, seventh grade

Joshua Adamson, eighth grade

Amelia Williamson, eighth grade

Alex Wittenauer, seventh grade



Haley Adair, freshman

Peter Barton, freshman

Lauren Lowe, senior

Hailey Counts, junior

Avery Burkemper, freshman

Anna Bollmann, junior

Sean Benes, sophomore

Pearson Georges, freshman

Ruth Connely, freshman

Alex Daiber, freshman

Daniel Brown, junior

Jaxon Halsey, sophomore

Harry Ottsen, seventh grade

Marty Briner, eighth grade

David Brown, freshman

Lucas Bak, sophomore

Josh Hanson

Paige Wibbenmeyer

Tom Isaacs, sophomore

Shane Ford, seventh grade

studying, the dances perfected: these occurrences of daily life affected us as much as the larger events.

These are the details that make up Westminster.

te Kern, 8th grade

Jacob Brown, seventh grade

Noah adair, freshman

Lauren Dunn, seventh grade



Spencer counts, seventh grade

Caroline Guempel, freshman

Cole Coffee, sophomore

Isabel Warner, freshman

Matthew Culligan, freshman

Sam Anderson, eighth grade

Natalie Butler, senior

Landen Cella, seventh grade

Zach Watson, eighth grade

Dylan Elias, freshman

Aleem Glass, seventh grade

Lauren Bohmann, freshman

Brendan Gordon, freshman

Allison Broadhurst, sophomore

Stewart Geisz, seventh grade

Troy Dorsey, eighth grade



Varsity Women's Volleyball



Varsity Men's Soccer



Varsity Women's Cheer



Freshman Women's Volleyball



JV Women's Cheer



Women's Cross Country



JV Women's Field Hockey



Varsity Women's Field Hockey



JV & Varsity Men's Football



Varsity Dance Team



Men's Cross Country



C Men's Soccer



Varsity Girls Tennis



C Women's Field Hockey



Varsity Women's Softball



JV Women's Volleyball



JV Men's Soccer



Varsity Women's Swimming



Varsity Men's Wrestling



Men's JV Basketball



Varsity Men's Basketball



JV Women's Basketball



Varsity Women's Basketball



Women's Golf



Varsity Men's Swim Team



Men's Varsity Hockey



Freshmen Men's Basketball



JV Girls Tennis



Eighth Grade Men's Football



Seventh Grade Men's Football



Middle School Women's Field Hockey



Middle School Cross Country



Eighth Grade Women's Volleyball



Seventh Grade Women's A Volleyball



Middle School Men's Swimming



Seventh Grade Women's B Volleyball



Middle School Women's Tennis



Middle School Women's Swimming



Middle School Men's Wrestling



Seventh Grade Men's B Basketball



Eighth Grade Men's B Basketball



Eighth Grade Men's A Basketball



Eighth Grade Women's Basketball



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Middle School Cheer and Dance



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Caleb Adams, seventh grade



Ava Berutti, seventh grade



Ellie Johnson, seventh grade

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Meghan Allen, seventh grade

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Caleb Gross, seventh grade



Lindsay Davis, freshman



Anu Akinyede, freshman



Zach Gross, sophomore



Alex Lawrence, Chelsea Caplinger, Eli Avery, seniors



Jack Bystorm, Grade



Trent Tarantino, junior



Lance Johnson, eighth grade



Sydney Johnson, junior



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Emma Kaiping and Claudia Calvo, sophomores
Allie Kluttz, freshman

Lexie Kratky sophomore



Calvin Ritzema seventh grade



Mason Kugler, freshman



Jessie Kunkel, sophomore



Maggie Kurup, junior



Joshua Hanson freshman



Sebastian Lacassie, freshman



Sam Jun, junior





Caleb Legters seventh grade



Isaiah Tucker eighth grade



Kyle Graham eighth grade



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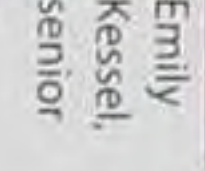


Dyaamond Clay, seventh grade

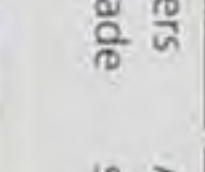


Lily Coln, sophomore

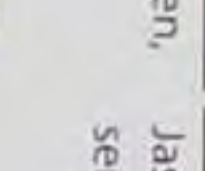
Emily Kessel, senior



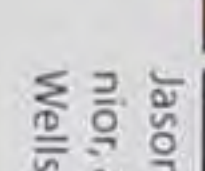
Jack Powers, eighth grade



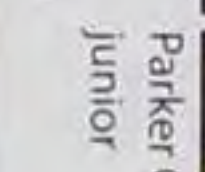
Alex Kempen, senior



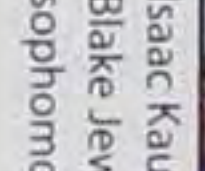
Jason Kelly, senior



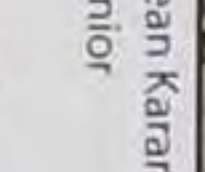
Jason Kelly, senior, and Dyllan Wells, freshman



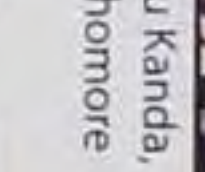
Parker Gelber, junior



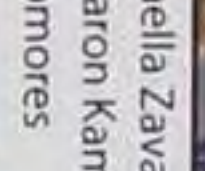
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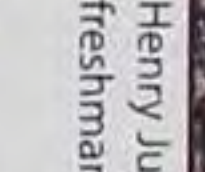
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Samantha Lombardo, senior



Andrew Looby, senior



Jack Provin, sophomore



Vikki Mackoul, senior



Gigi Mahley, freshman



Ethan Storer, freshman



Jayla Malloy, senior

Alayna Marusioidis and Katherine Yenzer, seniors

Will Mason, freshman

Blaise Matheny, sophomore

Zach Stinehagen, senior

Chase Mayfield, sophomore

Jake McConkey, seventh grade

Isaac McGee, freshman

Mollie Ottsen, Francie Akins, juniors, Emma Gustafson, sophomore





Jonathan Mette, junior, Abby Charles, senior



Hattie Means, Hannah Sturr, sophomores



Jacob Scharr, eighth grade



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Mike Lemp, freshman



Jordan Mette, freshman



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Jessica Orange, eighth grade



Brennan Orf, freshman



Grant Osmon, freshman



Sheriden Newlin, senior



Matt Ottsen, senior



Jonathan Nyenhuis, seinor



Patrick Park, eighth grade



Luke Fiala, sophomore



Ben Parres, freshman



Evan Parres, junior



David Brown, freshman



Aidan Penberthy, freshman



Clayton Perona, freshman





Kristie Pogue, Hannah Sabadell, and Tori Greiwe, seniors



Sam Nichols junior



Ashley Peterman junior



Deanne Pfyl junior



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JRod Polski seventh grade

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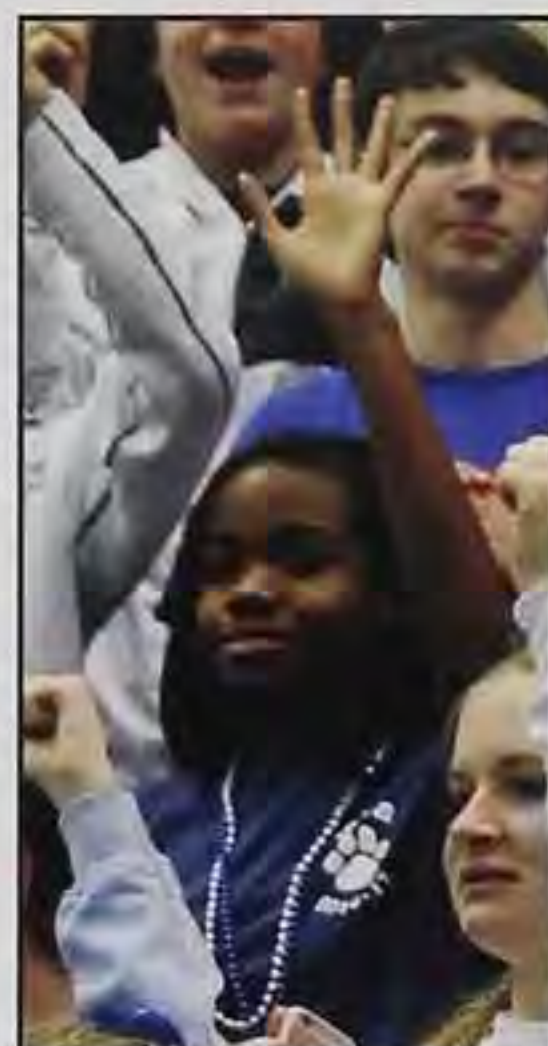
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Julia Rockwood, sophomore

Esten Ronning, freshman

Ethan Rush, freshman

Jacob Scharr, eighth grade

Josh Scheibe, eighth grade

Jackson Schmersal, freshman

Ben Schuler, senior





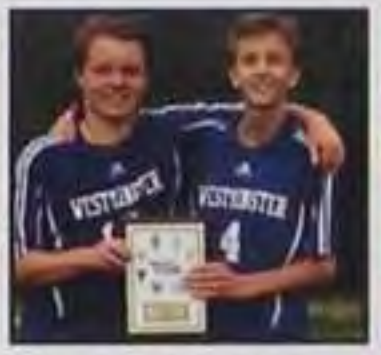
JT Fuller, senior



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Sam Heise, junior



Chase Lottmann and Nathan Scharr, juniors



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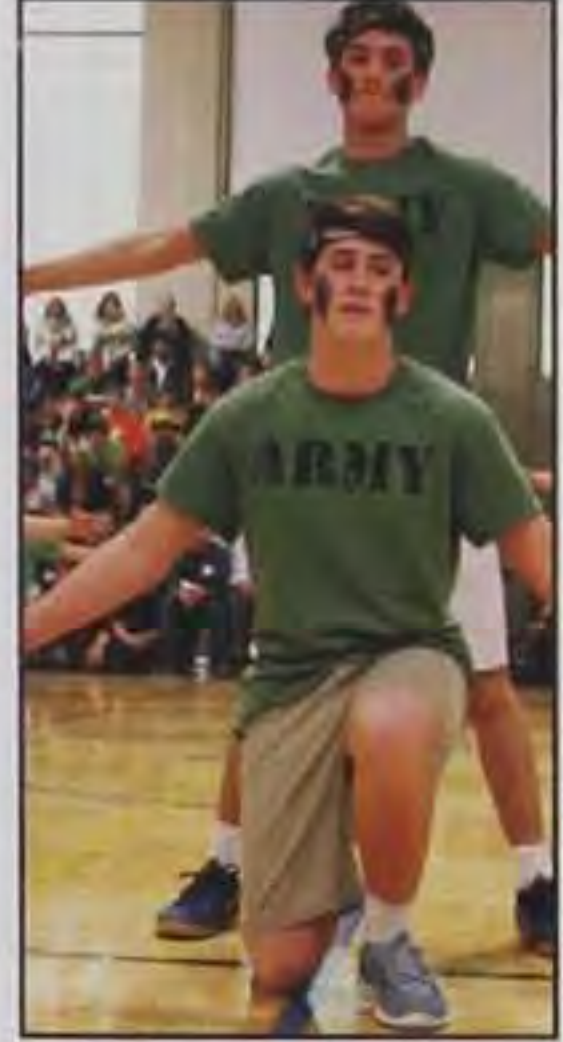
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- Alyssa Shikles senior
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Joshua Stratton, eighth grade



Mark Stump, eighth grade



Jacob Sturm, sophomore



Alex Kempen, senior



Avery Suter, seventh grade

Sara Swan and Olivia Henderson, Nick Suter, seniors

Alex Tarlas, eighth grade

Natalie Bunton, senior

Abigail Berglar, sophomore

Alex Wittenauer, seventh grade

Senior Class

Allison Thoenen and Jake Mitchell, seniors





Victoria Fuller seventh grade



Victoria Smith junior



Xander Smith junior



Brett St. John eighth grade



Charlie Zone, senior



Hunter Stegmann seventh grade



Julia Snodgrass senior



Daniel Stengel seventh grade



Joy Stevens eighth grade



Hannah Stevenson, freshman



Drew Bingham sophomore



Brendan Gordan and Michael Lee freshmen



Kaitlyn Stilt eighth grade



A.J. Ackerburg eighth grade



Allie Sigman sophomore



Maia Sims senior



Jackson Harris seventh grade



Thomas Shultz freshman



David Stoner, eighth grade and Emily Stoner, junior



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Madison Tucker, freshman



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Caleb Thompson and Sam Vestal, seventh grade



Emily Jo Barker, Rachel Berry, MacKenzie Wieberg, senior editors

Jacob Hughes seventh grade
Maggie Wessels sophomore
Dylan Elias freshman
Gus Wilkerson, eighth grade
Amelia Williamson, eighth grade
Cole Williard eighth grade
Peyton French seventh grade
Emma Winter, senior
Jack Wooldridge seventh grade
Charlie Zone senior
Matteo Zavaglia, eighth grade



yearbook colophon

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the *spring* supplement



MaryKate Kopsky, senior

Blake Andrews, Blake Elder, juniors,
and *Matthias Jowdy*, sophomore



Caleb Thompson, Jordan Coleman, Ben Broadhurst, Sam Vestal, and Luke Johnston, seventh grade



Caroline Guempel, freshman

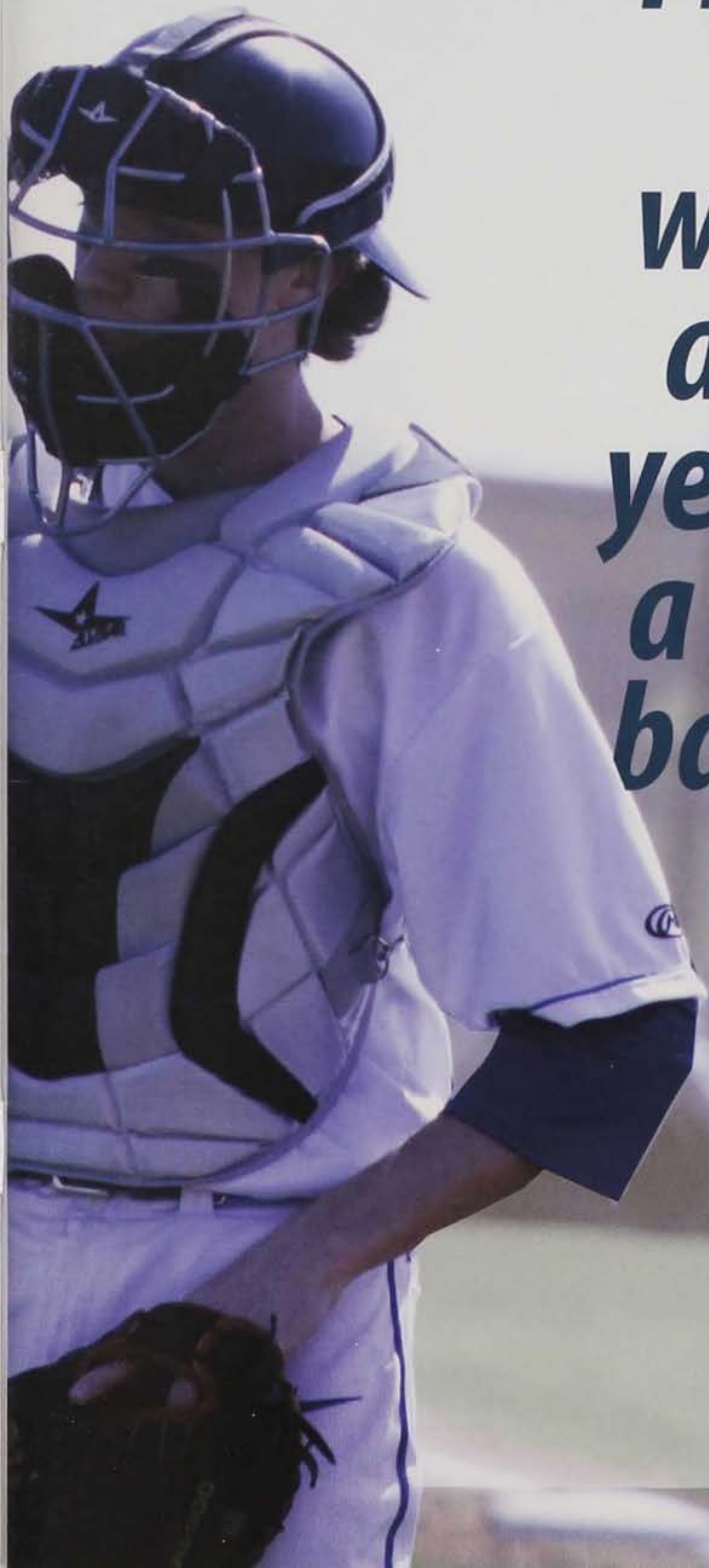
Evan Howse and Collin Clark, sophomores talk while they head back to the dugout. Howse was one of the JV baseball team's pitchers, and Clark was the catcher. The two were a dynamic duo the whole season.



the finishing touches

I like the spring because the weather is nice, and the school year is coming to a close. Also, it's baseball season.

-Evan Howse, sophomore



Thomas Arndt, sophomore, serves in a JV volleyball match. This was Arndt's first year playing volleyball. He primarily played back row.



Haley Schmer, Emily Stoner, and Brittany Johnson, juniors, wait outside to sign up for Senior Service. Juniors arrived as early as 4am. Senior Service sign-ups were first come first serve.



Sarah Nolting, senior, plays the granny who shows up in Tevye's nightmare. "I had a really fun time just singing, and it's been great to get to know people," said Nolting.
Olivia Henderson, senior, is a part of the chorus. "It was a lot of fun. As a senior graduating, it was my last show, but by the end we became a family, all 50 of us," said Henderson.
Josh Jones, sophomore, plays the fiddler on the roof. "It was very interesting because it was my first time acting, and it was interesting to have a new perspective on music," said Jones.



Tom Southwell, senior, plays Tevye, a traditional Jewish father, while *Natalie Brown*, junior, plays Golde, a traditional Jewish mother, and *Jessica Wilson*, junior, plays Fruma Sarah. Southwell and Brown experienced Tevye's nightmare and realized they had picked the wrong suitor for their eldest daughter, Motel; they quickly changed their minds afterwards. "Being Golde has been really challenging for me. Doing it with Tom has been a blessing because we work really well together and are able to bounce idea off each other to make the show better," said Brown.

tradition vs new ideas

Society has always experienced a sort of battle between tradition and new ideas. Usually the older members of society desire to keep customs the same as they have always been, but those that are younger see the flaws and want to enact a change. This struggle was seen in the play, *Fiddler on the Roof*, which centered around a man named Tevye and his five daughters.

"Tevye wants to keep the Jewish tradition that they've had for as long as they've lived; however, all of his daughters along with a lot of the people in the village are beginning to adopt more open ideas from the outside world," said Grant Osmon, sophomore.

For those viewing this play, the actors hoped they would be able to see this theme in their own lives. "There is a time and a place for tradition, but there is also a time and a place for change. I'd say that's our big thing," said Mark Geisz, sophomore.

Set in early twentieth century Russia, traditional values were constantly clashing with the new ideas of the time. "Times are always changing, and it's very important to both remember the traditions of your people and other people while at the same time looking to the future. It's very important to have both tradition and new ideas and recognize that both of them will constantly be there," said Osmon.

Overall, the actors were eager to share this show with the audience. "I love doing every school musical, but I just love this show for all the qualities it has," said Abby Cockerham, junior.



Abby Charles, Michael Shaw, Josh Berglar, seniors, Ricky Johnson, junior, and Mark Geisz, sophomore, are bottle dancers that danced for the wedding scene. "It was the most difficult and rewarding dance number that I have ever been a part of," said Charles.



Sean Webb, junior, plays the rabbi's son, Mendel. "Being the rabbi's son was a cool experience for me; it was cool not to play the youngest character for once, and it was also cool being the antagonist, not always being the nice character," said Webb.

Jake McKie, senior, plays Lazar Wolf, the town butcher. "In my last production, I was surprisingly pleased to play a smaller part because I get to see my friends as stars and have more time to perfect my role," said McKie.



Vikki Mackoul, senior, plays Yente, the matchmaker. "It was a really good experience to help me step outside of my comfort zone, and it really stretched me as an actress," said Mackoul.

Josh Berglar, senior, plays the Constable. He had to implement the law even when it hurt people. "It was really fun get to do a Russian accent and to be the antagonist of the show; it was a different type of character to play," said Berglar.



Kharis Perona and Mary Lauer, seventh grade, play the daughters of Tevye and Golde, while Kyle Farrell, sophomore, plays the rabbi. Although Farrell had few lines, each one was full of humor.

the "untraditional" couples

"Chava and Fyedka"

Ricky Johnson and Elena Brown, juniors.



"Tzeitel and Motel"

Abby Cockerham, and Jonathan Mette, juniors.



"Perchik and Hodel"

Kristin Pogue, and Chris Lee, seniors.





Lance Johnson, freshman, sings a part of his poem and plays his guitar. This was Johnson's first year participating in the Poetry Slam, and he was one of two people that chose to write an original song to perform instead of reading in the traditional manner.

Sydney Bowden, senior, reads her poem to the audience. Her poem focused on racism and people's views towards African Americans.



Caroline Megown, sophomore, shares her unique poem about Club Penguin. Megown participated in the open round of the Poetry Slam, and her poem received many laughs from the audience.



Isabel Warner, freshman, reads her poem titled "Passion" to the audience. This was Warner's first year participating in the Poetry Slam, and she competed in the open round. The open round was for poets who only wanted to read one poem, while students in the closed round read at least two.



Carmen Verbeke, senior, shares her second poem of the night with the audience. Verbeke participated in the closed round of the Poetry Slam. "The most challenging part is getting honest feedback, and sometimes the type of poem you write is not the high school style poetry that is expected," said Verbeke.



Winners of the open round

1st

Morayo Oginni, senior



2nd

Ava Hollmann, freshman



3rd

Hanna Eisenbath, junior



it's personal



Amie Lee, junior, shares her second poem titled "Cosmic Brilliance." "This poem's motif is the inherent brilliance emitted by stars and the inevitable end of such cosmic beings in a silent vortex of inescapable compulsion—a black hole," said Lee. Lee won the closed round of the Poetry Slam.



Kayla Hawkins, junior, reads her second poem during the closed round. This was Hawkins' third year participating in the Poetry Slam. "The style I use most often is free verse poetry," said Hawkins.



Josh Berglar, senior, shares his poem with the audience. This was Berglar's first year participating in the Poetry Slam. "I stuck to pretty emotional, objective poems. They were both very real and about real, objective things with my raw emotions mixed into them," said Berglar.



Valerie Winkler, senior, sings her poem called "IDK" to the audience. Winkler's poem was about college and her uncertainty towards her future. Winkler participated in the open round of the Poetry Slam.

Over the past nine years, an annual Poetry Slam has become a tradition at Westminster. Brave students got up in front of several hundred people and shared their personal poems with the audience. For many students, sharing their poems was not an easy thing to do and required immense amounts of bravery and strength.

"The most challenging aspect of sharing poems would definitely have to be 'vulnerability.' Poems encompass my flow of consciousness, and most, if not all, of the words hold a certain piece of my soul in them. The fragility of words being used to impart my emotions to the audience has always been nerve-wracking," said Amie Lee, junior, winner of the closed round of the Poetry Slam. One of Lee's poems called "Those Who Love Time" explored the life-long struggle of coming to terms with finite time while living within fluid time. She hoped to capture how the beauty of time lies within its linear existence and the human desire to capture passing time.

"Performing is absolutely terrifying, and the most challenging part of sharing my poems. Sharing my poems is similar to pouring out my heart and then being forced to serve it on a platter for others to judge. The kind of fear and anxiety wrapped up in that is, in my opinion, understandable. I spend most of my time before performances trying to distract myself and not psych myself out. Sometimes I actually shake while on stage. I'm so thankful that my lessening stage fright is not visible and that I have improved in one of my favorite crafts," said Kayla Hawkins, junior.

Despite it being extremely nerve-wracking for most of the poets to share their work, they feel like it provides a unique opportunity to share what they are passionate about. "People get to learn more about me and my views on things when they hear or read my poetry. Performing in a poetry slam is an easy way to get my views across and give people a new way to see or think about ideas and subjects that are important to me," said Kayla Hawkins, junior.

Faith Wickham, junior, pours a cup of coffee. Wickham was one of three students to work the coffee shop on Thursday mornings. "It was a lot of fun being a part of the planning process and getting to see the outcome was awesome," said Wickham.



Michael Kolb, junior, looks over a list of everything that was sold. The workers made sure to write down everything they sold that morning. It was very important that they kept specific track of what was bought, so they knew which drinks were popular.



Pamela Mueller, sophomore, works the Pawprint coffee shop. Muller was in charge of handing out breakfast sandwiches to students. Many students enjoyed the coffee, but they also liked how they sold breakfast sandwiches and other food.



Taylor Siebenman and **Lexi Berra**, juniors, enjoy their cup of coffee. The coffee shop was a great way to give students some energy. "I'm a bit of an insomniac when getting to come to school, and having coffee right there is amazing," said Siebenman.



Christine Steck, junior, gets ready to fill her coffee with vanilla syrup. Steck was one of the many students to enjoy Pawprint coffee when it was opened. "I love how quick and easy it is to get coffee now because I don't always have time to go to Starbucks before school," said Steck.



Sofia Granata, Alivia Johnston, and Sarah Broyles, seniors, work the coffee shop one morning. Granata, Johnston, and Broyles were three of the seniors who helped make the coffee shop possible. "I have gained a greater knowledge of the subject that has prepared me for a future in the business world," said Broyles.



Jessica Wilson, junior, pays for her cup of coffee. Wilson was known for her flavorful drinks she made for herself and her friends. "I really liked Pawprint because it was really affordable and really good," said Wilson.

DRINKS

Iced Coffee

\$2.00

Hot Coffee

\$2.00

Hot or Iced Tea

\$2.00

Hot Chocolate

\$3.25

freshly brewed

Over the past four years Jonathan Horn, entrepreneurship teacher, has tried to implement the idea of having a coffee shop on campus. This way it would be easy for students to buy coffee who don't have time to go to Starbucks before school. While it had not always been an easy process, his idea was finally coming true.

"Next year is when we will formally launch Pawprint Coffee. It will be open in the morning and be run through 4th hour," said Horn, Business and Communications department chair. So where did this process all begin? The idea first came from a group of students a year ago who tried to start a breakfast option for students. However, it was not very successful. Even though it did not thrive, the students still had a desire to develop some type of breakfast or coffee shop.

"The class last semester really did most of the basic work, so when we started working on it this semester, we were already put on the path to success," said Tori Greiwe, senior. While it hasn't been the easiest process, the students in the

entrepreneurship class have learned how to manage their time well. From running around trying to get things in place or simply just talking through the process in class, it has been a learning experience for all the students.

"My favorite part of this process has been learning what it actually entails to start up a business," said Sarah Broyles, senior.

Second semester students have been able to take the ideas from first semester and take action to their ideas. "This semester we have taken their business plan and brought it to life. We have gone to Kaldi's, gone through the design process, and advertised our brand," said Broyles.

"We just ordered an espresso machine, and we will be able to offer many of the drinks we buy at Starbucks and Kaldi's for fifty percent of the price," said Horn. Despite some of the obstacles Mr. Horn and the entrepreneurship class had to face, they were so excited to continue to bring the coffee shop to life next year.

batter batter dance?

The varsity baseball team took its annual spring break trip to Vero Beach, Florida, where they competed against other high schools and trained for the upcoming season. This year, the team pulled off four wins, starting off with a perfect record. But for the boys, one of the highlights of their trip was not on the field. "Varsity Idol," as the team called it, consisted of the varsity newcomers singing and dancing...in front of everyone and in embarrassing costumes.

After the news guys joined the team, they had no idea what was coming for them. While in Vero Beach, the seniors picked out songs for them to sing and dance to for their "initiation," hoping to embarrass them.

Not thrilled about the experience, the newcomers shared

their thoughts. "I thought it was fun for them to get to know me, but a lot of it was very funny and weird," said Michael Kolb, junior. Most of them were completely embarrassed and laughed a lot, said Evan Howse, sophomore, but the seniors found it amusing. "It was disturbing to watch my teammates dance," said Matt Ottsen, senior.

Despite the embarrassing event, the boys agreed that the trip was fun and that they were looking forward to the season after a great start. "I'm excited to see how far we can go this year because we have a really good team," said Logan Sells, senior. Howse also shared that he was looking forward to hopefully winning state this year. Overall, the strange bonding experience over spring break was an exciting start to a memorable year.

Varsity BASEBALL



20

WINS

01

LOSSES

00

TIES

Kevin Graham, junior

*Scores as of April 19



DJ Stewart, senior, pitches against the Priory Rebels. Stewart was one of the main pitchers for the Wildcats, and he played short stop as well. On April 11, Stewart led his team to a win against their opponents. Stewart was a standout for the team and received a lot of interest from MLB scouts who could often be seen at games.



Michael Kolb, junior, stood in the outfield as the other team batted. The Wildcats played Priory at Westminster, and they won 10-0 adding to their 17-1 record at that point in the season. Kolb played outfield but also got the chance to pitch for his team.



Jimmy Obertop, sophomore, warms up with the pitcher before an inning. Obertop started as a first time varsity player. He primarily played catcher for the Wildcats.



Connor Dolan, senior, hits for his team against Priory. Dolan had a total of 13 hits for his team in the first 17 games. He was also one of the 10 seniors on Varsity in the 2017 season.



Nathaniel Sems, sophomore, gets a hit down the first base line. Sems played middle infield for the Wildcats and added a total of eight runs in sixteen games for Westminster. He was one of the five sophomores to make the varsity roster this year.



The boys get together after their last preseason game. They won 7-3 against a high school from Florida. The whole baseball team traveled to Vero beach during spring break.



Weston Schad, senior, prepares for a ground ball down the baseline. Schad played first base for Westminster. He hit 3 home runs for the Wildcats as well throughout the first 17 games.

father KNOWS best

Something every sports player may feel is the crushing pressure to perform, execute, and play to the best of their abilities, but Nicholas Moten, eighth grade, felt this pressure on another level. Moten's dad was Westminster's eighth grade baseball coach, and Nicholas not only had him as a dad but as an instructor.

"There's always some pressure when I play because I know I have to play my best, or he won't start me, even though he is my dad. He does it that way because he wants the best team that will win," said Moten. A person would imagine that many would back down under this overwhelming pressure to be the best, but Moten handles it differently.

"I like this pressure because it has helped me play better during games. It also helps that I know what my dad expects from me because he has coached me all my life," said Moten. Teammates have also seen a difference in how their Coach treats his son but said he was a quality coach overall.

"You can tell that Coach cares about all of us, but he does favor his son just a little bit. I think that would be the natural response for any family member," said Henry McCracken, eighth grade. The coach may have been a bit biased about one of the players because they were related, but they still came together at the end of the day as a team to win.

During practice I'm working hard in order to make the team better.

-Collin Clark, sophomore.



Jackson Schmersahl, eighth grade, squats in ready position to throw a runner out who attempted to steal second base. "I usually play first base because it's the position I've always been good at and been assigned to," Schmersahl.



Nicholas Moten, eighth grade, pops out a fly when up to bat. "Something I've learned from my dad being the coach is to give 110% when I am playing because you never know who is watching," said Moten.



Zachary Dantuono, eighth grade, pitches a fastball against John Burroughs. Dantuono pitched for four straight innings and struck out six batters during the game against their rival.



Ryan Benes, seventh grade, rounds second base after hitting a triple. During their game against Principia, Benes added two runs to the scoreboard.





Joey Keane, sophomore, stares down an opponent before delivering a pitch. He was the closing pitcher of the game and succeeded in helping prevent any runs from being scored in the closing innings.



Collin Clark, sophomore, watches a pop up he just hit. This was a game against Orchard Farms. "We've had about ten rain outs. We have to practice in the blue gym when that happens," said Clark.



Jaxon Halsey, sophomore, gets a lead off third. Jaxon wanted to be more than just a member on the bench. "When I don't start, I want to work hard to prove I can play," said Halsey.



Koby Schmer, freshman, prepares to return a ball back to the pitcher. As a catcher, kids on the team were dependent on him to make good throws. "The pressure in baseball goes away as I get older," said Schmer.



Ben Hicks, freshman, watches the opposing team. "I guess the hardest part of baseball is hitting because a good batting average is .300, so even if you're good, you'll get out a lot," said Hicks.

Michael Thoenen, junior, begins the hand off of the baton. Track members generally ran two to three events at each meet. Meets were typically 6 hours long with lots of time waiting for each event.



big preparations

Sports fall into 3 month seasons, fall, winter, and spring. For people in track, though, they trained all year long for a 3 month season.

"It's more mental than physical. It's really hard to get past the mental block when you are really tired, and all you're saying to yourself is 'I don't want to do this.' You have to push through and say I can do this because eventually you will get better. It takes dedication not only in season but offseason. I train with the coaches in the off season. I train all summer, and then I will train four months in advance before track starts," said Brendan Grbcich, junior.

The team ran six days a week and lifted for four days a week, spending countless hours prepping for a sport that only lasted three months.

"All the energy you put into it you are going to get out of it. Sometimes in other sports it depends on the other person, but in track it's all you. If you run your hardest, it's only against yourself," said Alyssa Despotis, senior.

In track in order to get anything out of it, runners must put in energy all year long. All sports require a commitment to the team, but track required a commitment to the self all year long.



Chris Kirby, junior, is handed the baton from a fellow teammate, Alex Daiber, freshmen. At track meets there were several events happening at one time.



Chloe Whimphiemer, junior, warms up for track. She ran track for three years. She enjoyed hanging out with friends while still being involved in a sport.



Lily Lackey, junior, waits with Lexi Hanson, sophomore, for her event. Lackey did track since her freshmen year. She enjoyed being able to use track to stay in shape.



Nick Gustavison, freshman, comes around the bend of the track. He was running a relay with three other teammates. This was Gustavison's first year on the track team.



Devon Deverger
-sophomore

4 days

Lifting

6 days

Running

3

Month Season



Nathan Laughlin, sophomore, high-fives his teammates before the start of the game at Pattonville. The boys, unfortunately, lost the game, but they played with great heart. They were proud of the way they worked together as a team.



Colin Davitt, sophomore, jumps to block the ball. Davitt played a great game against Pattonville. He enjoyed his first year playing Varsity.



Matthew Hoekzema, senior, practices his serve before the game. Hoekzema was a big contributor to the team. He worked hard during the season.



Mason Andrasko, freshman, gets ready to block the ball. "I am looking forward to being a strong and competitive team," said Andrasko. He was the only freshman on Varsity this year and definitely pulled his own weight.



Johnny Parker, senior, peppers with **Blake Potter**, senior. Parker has enjoyed his time playing Westminster volleyball. He made many friendships through playing on the team.



In a game of literal ups and downs, the defenders get low in a ready serve-receive stance. "I love volleyball and enjoy the competitiveness of the sport," said Ethan Davitt, senior.

Wayne Eilermann, senior, waits at the net for the serve. "It's important to be a leader, not a boss," said Eilermann. Eilermann has truly been a strong leader this year to his younger teammates and helped the team defeat Bayless in two sets.

Blake Jewell, sophomore, gets ready to pass the ball. This season was Jewell's first year on Varsity. He enjoyed playing with the team.



The team gets in a huddle before their first game against Parkway South. The boys lost the game but still fought hard against the team. They learned from their loss and hoped to play even better as the season progressed.

I made great friendships through WCA VOLLEYBALL.

Ethan Davitt, senior

leaving a legacy

The four returning men's volleyball players had a special bond that could not be denied. From freshman to senior year, they enjoyed encouraging and being able to push each other to play their best. Even though they would go their separate ways following the season, they would never forget what volleyball taught them.

"I am looking forward to being able to wrap up my high school volleyball career playing with the same guys for four years," said Wayne Eilermann, senior.

There were also some players that chose to join the team this year for the first time. "It's my first year playing.

I like that there's a lot of seniors because I knew a lot of people coming in, but I also would have liked the opportunity to play with more underclassmen. There's about five seniors, so half of the team is seniors," said Blake Barthelmass, senior.

However, with a team made up of so many seniors, next year they will lose many of their good players.

"There are a lot of seniors on the team, so they might struggle a little once we graduate. There's some good younger players, but since there are so many seniors leaving, it will definitely affect the team," said Ethan Davitt, senior.



Hannah Skrobonja, eighth grade, runs in a relay. "[When I run track] I can do what I love with my friends and challenge myself with different events," said Skrobonja. As the last runner in the relay race, Skrobonja ran the baton to the finish line.

get set prep

While some students ran track for the challenge or because they enjoyed running, others on the track team were running in preparation for other sports. "I do it to keep in shape for soccer," said Liam Lloyd, eighth grade. Lloyd competed in the 400m which is equal to sprinting one lap around the track.

Track and field built on the skills of running, jumping, and throwing. "It helps me stay in shape and faster for basketball in the

offseason," said Caleb Moellenhoff, eighth grade, after a practice.

Running track helped athletes get their stamina up, improve speed, and stay active. According to Hayden Turley, eighth grade, he ran track because it is a challenging sport, and it helped him to train for cross country.

"I do [track] to get faster, so I can get past defenders better in lacrosse," said Kharis Perona, seventh grade.



There's nothing like the feeling of flying through the air.

-Timmy Vos, eighth grade



the long jumpers

Denver Parker, eighth grade, made the record long jump this year of 16 feet and 11.5 inches.

Daniel Shultz, seventh grade.

Timmy Vos, seventh grade

Josh Anderson, seventh grade



Jon Walsh, eighth grade, receives the baton during a relay race. The athletes could not turn around when they received the baton in order to have a quick transition. The relay race was Walsh's favorite event.



Hannah Skrobonja, Arista Hampton, Jon Walsh, Cody Bowers, eighth grade, and **JRod Polski**, seventh grade, recover together after all sprinting during their last event. They enjoyed hanging out and joking around with each other between events.



Sara Cate Murray, seventh grade, waits for the start of the relay. She started the race and then handed the baton off to the next runner on her team.

new and never before



The JV volleyball team collaborates during a time-out. The team had to come up with several strategies to accommodate the skill levels of each player. Their hard work payed off because they ended with a fairly successful season.

I played because this is my year of trying new things

-Hayden Engel, freshman



Nick Reeve, sophomore, jumps up to block the ball alongside his teammate. The team won their first game in the set against their opponent, Francis Howell Central. As a captain, Reeve carried his team through many difficult and competitive games.

Daniel Johnson, freshman, watches his toss as he serves. Teamwork was a key part of their season as they faced many challenging teams. With first year players like Johnson, teamwork was the only way to success.

Jacob Moyer, freshman, serves the ball into play. This was Moyer's second year playing the sport. "I play to relieve stress and hang out with friends," said Moyer.



Nathan Laughlin, sophomore, serves the ball to begin a point. The team also took each set one point at a time to achieve success in their season.

Alec Bequette, sophomore, serves the ball into the court. "Overall, this year's team seems a lot more focused, so I think we can see a lot of improvement," said Bequette. Focus was also a key part of the season with many new players.

The JV men's volleyball team was one like never before. Almost every player only had two years of experience or less. So, understandably, it might be assumed that the team's record was not the greatest. However, that assumption proved to be incorrect. The team won several games in the season and worked through the difficulties of the different skill levels of each player. Of course, they won some games and lost others. The team lost their first game but came off strong with several successful and winning games afterwards.

Practice wasn't the easiest, though, since all players were at a different spot in their careers. "Sometimes it can feel slow at practice when we have to explain things several times, but it's nice to know that more people are becoming interested," said Alec Bequette, sophomore.

Others on the team agreed. Matthew Thoenen,

sophomore, said that it was difficult playing on a team where most of his teammates had never played before.

However, many of the first year players disagreed. "No, it's not too difficult because I am that player, so I'm tolerant," said Patrick Claus, sophomore.

Another first year player had similar thoughts, stating that the inexperienced team did not bother him. "It's not very challenging because I'm one of them," said Jacob Moyer, freshman.

Finally, one more player told the truth about playing with first-years. "At first it was difficult because we had no idea what we were doing, but as the season progressed, it hasn't been as bad because we've learned to work together," said Hayden Engel, freshman.

Overall, the JV volleyball team learned to work together in a situation like never before.

PLAYER SPOTLIGHT:
KIRSTEN DAVIS

Position:

MIDFIELD

Committed: Texas Tech Soccer

We had the game marked on the calendar since before the **season** even started. We were **confident** because we had won the day before, and we were ready for the game! We were **determined to win!**



#22



Running to the ball *Kyristin Pritchett*, senior, takes a goal kick. Pritchett has played on the varsity team all four years in high school. "We worked on changing our formation to better compete against Viz," said Pritchett.



Diving to catch a ball, *Taylor French*, senior, makes a save at the Principia game. French has been a valuable player to the defense as a goal keeper on the varsity team. "We had confidence to win the game and had worked hard to get to the point we were at," said French.



finally a win

For the Varsity soccer team, beating Visitation was a top goal. Early in the season on March 24, the Varsity team faced their biggest rival. For many years the soccer team has played hard against this team but has not come out on top. This game was a nail biter, and the Cats held them 0-0 until the end when the game went into overtime. Kirsten Davis scored the game winning goal with a pass from her teammate, Sydney Walker.

Being the second game of the season, Visitation was a good match up for the Cats. Seniors who have been on the team for the past four years had been longing for a win against the Vivettes.

"Before the game we all got together in the locker room and talked about how we should play as a team, and we talked about our goals we strived for that game. Before we went out

onto the field, we prayed for each other and the other team," said Riley Merryfield, freshman.

The team had a determined attitude to win during the game.

"We had to win this, and if we didn't, then I would go nuts," said Sophia Sacco, freshman.

Even though the game came down to the penalty kicks, the girls still had it in them to play to win.

"My job was to stop their forwards, so that was my focus, to do my best to keep them off the scoreboard the entire game," said Natalie Bunton, senior.

Each player was dedicated to this game and was ready to defeat their opponent.

Their coach prepared them well at the start of the season giving players confidence throughout the game.

"I had confidence in the team because I knew that we are all talented players

who play with a lot of love for the game," said Molly Andersen, sophomore.

"Our team is well rounded and better than ever before. Every year the games have been close, but I could feel this was our year to finally beat them," said Sarah Shoemaker, junior.

This defeat will be one for the soccer program to remember for years to come.



Sarah Shoemaker, junior, stays in front of her opponent out. Shoemaker is a strong midfielder for the Cats and has recorded many goals for the team this season.

“ ”

No matter how far we go this year in districts or state, I'm thankful for the friendships and the funny memories we have made.

-*Paige Stanfill*, senior

Sydney Walker, senior, dribbles the ball down the field in a game against Parkway West. Walker has had lots of experience playing soccer over the years. "We stayed focused and determined as a team and in return we were able to pull off a great win against Visitation," said Walker.



Rachel Arndt, sophomore, dribbles the ball down field in the Parkway North game. "Staying focused during the game wasn't hard because we wanted to win so badly that we never had the chance to be distracted," said Arndt.

Molly Andersen, sophomore, runs towards the ball in order to score a goal in the Parkway West game on April 7. "We focused on giving it our all and leaving all we had left out on the field," said Andersen.



player spotlight:

Lily Cohn
sophomore



Position:

Center Defense

#12

Before a game I sit and get my mind off of school, and I focus on the game. I go over in my head what I need to focus on as I play.

Libby Thomas, freshman, chases after the soccer ball. Thomas was the first freshman team player to score a goal, as the previous goals were all scored by the JV players that join their games to give them enough people to play.

Alyssa Pritchett, freshman, sprints to get the ball from the Oakville team. Pritchett was new to the freshman team this year but she has put in a lot of effort and given the team her all.



Sarah Melaragno, sophomore, runs after the ball during the JV soccer game. This was Melaragno's first game after being out with an injury for the beginning of the season.

Eleven

With only eleven girls on the C team this year, they had to have subs from the JV team and were often short players.

"We don't have enough players because we only have eleven or so actual freshman playing on the freshman team, so we have some JV girls come down and volunteer to play with us. It's different ones every time," said Nancy Morcos, freshman.

Constantly changing the players affected the team dynamic as well. "We're constantly having different people come with us which makes it harder for our team, but it just makes it more fun," said Sydney Hott, freshman.

Having such a small team allowed the team to have more attention from the coach, but it also caused them to become exhausted during the games. "For practice I like it because you like know everyone. It's not as chaotic, but during the games there's not as many subs, and everyone gets really tired," said Maggie Dolan, freshman.

Overall, the small team was helpful because it allowed them to play with more experienced athletes and to learn from their skills.



Morgan Sickels, sophomore, runs to kick the ball. This game was played against Villa. "My favorite memory was when before one of our games we all went to Bread Co to hang out and jam," said Sickels.

not the typical team

The typical middle school team plays a sport to get to know each other or get out of middle school connect, sometimes even just for the fun of it. But not the middle school girls soccer team.

"We are on this team to excel and get better at this sport. Even though we are a middle school team, I would take us pretty seriously. We all love this sport, and we do it because we are passionate about it," said Becca Chimento, eighth grade. Like Becca said, the team took soccer seriously but also had fun during all the drills and scrimmages no matter what.



Madison Moeller and Nalini Bailey, seventh grade, run together to win the ball. It was a tight game with a close score, but the girls pulled it off and tied.

"Coach pushes us, and we sometimes are tired, but it's all worth it. We are all here to get better and not mess around, but somehow we still laugh and joke and have fun. This team is one I've never had before. This season is special; I can tell," said Zoe Lintner, eighth grade. The middle school girls soccer team beat the stereotype of using sports as an excuse and showed their passion instead.



I had a broken arm but played anyways. I was just really determined to stay in the game, so coach let me stay in. It was kind of hard but still super fun.

-Annessa Shively, eighth grade



Lily Wendel, seventh grade, runs for a kick at their first game of the season. The game was so intense and close. At first, the Wildcats were tied, and then Affton made a goal with four minuets left in the game, making the score 4-3. Then, Avery Surber, seventh grade, made a goal with twenty seconds left, tying the game 4-4.

player spotlights:

- MADISON MOELLER, seventh grade



#9

- BECCA CHIMENTO, eighth grade



#4

- ANNA PREGINE, seventh grade



#10

- AVERY SURBER, seventh grade



#2

the rain never bothered me anyway



Ofentimes, the games athletes remember are when they win a state title or beat their biggest rival. While this might have been true for the varsity lacrosse team, another memorable game for them was special for a vastly different reason: rain. Their game against Clayton high school was delayed for an hour due to the inclement weather, but they eventually played anyways.

"It was pouring which made an already intense game even more so. We had just beaten them in a tournament game, so they were hungry for the win," said Caroline Brands, senior.

In a sport where coordination is key, the rain made this game all the more difficult. "Everyone was slipping and sliding all over the place. The ball became ten times harder to catch which might sound awful, but it was actually kind of fun. It kind of leveled the playing field for all teams," said Taylor Siebenman, junior.

Westminster came out victorious in this matchup, not letting a little rain deter them from the win. "We ended up winning by ten goals, and it was really cool to see how our team overcame the adversity and bad weather and still played our hearts out and got a win," said Christina Mason, senior.

Whitney Radloff, junior looks for a teammate to pass the ball. "I think lacrosse is really fun and takes a lot of quick strategic thinking, and the people on the team are always a blast," said Radloff.



Dani Mabry, sophomore, runs toward the goal in an effort to score. The varsity team played against O'Fallon high school. After a tough game, Westminster lost 11-8.



Alyssa Shikles, senior, shoots an eight-meter shot. The free shot was awarded when the player was fouled. All the players except the goalie were required to move out of the way for the player to take a shot on goal or pass to a teammate.



Macie Daniels, junior, looks for the open pass. The team played Clayton high school after a rain delay and won 15-6.

“Our team motto has become ‘attitude and effort’ because our coach always tells us that those are the only things we can control on the field.”

-Caroline Brands, senior




Samantha Huber, junior, runs through the defense toward Clayton's goal. "We have a running joke about Sam Huber being a mythical creature because she is so fast. She travels so fast; it's like teleporting. She even made two girls on the other team run into each other," said Taylor Siebenman, junior.



Jordan Haeusser, junior, fights off the defenders as she makes her way toward the goal. This was her second year starting on varsity.



MaryKate Kopsky, senior, runs to the goal. "My favorite part of lacrosse is going to practice after school everyday and being with my teammates who make me a better person and a better player," said Kopsky.



Patrick Andrews, sophomore, goes up head-to-head as a defender to the opposing team. Andrews stood out this season with a record number of blocks and saves that lead them to victory. The team put all of their players in the positions that they were strongest in, in order to have a successful season.

stick it to the man



Ben Straub, freshman, protects his side while keeping an eye out on the space around him. It was Ben's first year on the Varsity team, and he played as though he had been on it for years.



Joey Migliazzo, sophomore, circles around the goal, looking for someone who could get an open shot. "Lacrosse season is my favorite season. I always look forward to that time of year," said Migliazzo.



Griffin Thomas, sophomore, checks his surroundings for someone to pass to. Thomas played a big part in the defense for the year, stopping the other team from scoring.



Spencer Graham, sophomore, cradles the ball down the field anticipating a shot on goal. His teammates did everything they could to keep the defenders off, so he could travel with ease down the field.

As many people may know, lacrosse is no gentle sport. With slashes, sliding, and intense checks to the stick and body, it is rather one of the most physical sports that high school has to offer. Since it is such a rough game, there are many rules, guidelines, and regulations to it, but when played correctly, lacrosse is very high-energy and exciting to play.

For some, the idea of standing in front of a net anticipating a full force shot to be taken on you would be scary, but it is no problem for starting goalie, Ethan Hare.

"Being in the net is fun, but you gotta stay on your feet to be able to block every shot taken on goal. When there are big guys

shooting up against me, I do everything I can to get in front of it to block the shot," said Hare, freshman.

Like many sports, in lacrosse there was no getting away from the hard contact no matter what position you play. Whether it was goalie, midfield, offense, or defense, there was always the potential for the ball to come their way.

"I like playing midfield because I get the best of both worlds. I get great opportunities to score and also chances to lay some big hits on the opponent when necessary," said Atlin Hall, sophomore.

"You gotta be tough to play this sport and even though it's hard sometimes, we man-up and give it all we've got," said Hall.

the best of the best



#20

Luke Fiala, sophomore



#2

Dean Karanas, senior



#1

Trey Klein, sophomore

Emma Gore, sophomore, takes the ball behind the net and looks for an open player. Gore was one of the captains of the JV team this year. Gore was one of the team's top scorers.



double header

For most athletes, games meant a break from practice, sometimes a bus ride to another school, or not getting home until seven or later from games. However, it was different for the lacrosse C team who played all of their games on Saturday mornings as double headers.

"I think we do [double headers] because that is the only or best time for our games," said Rebekah Sems, freshman.

Playing two games in a row took a lot of stamina and could be difficult due to the large amounts of running required in lacrosse. "Two games in a row make us really tired, especially midfield, and subbing is pretty constant," said Journee Henry, freshman.

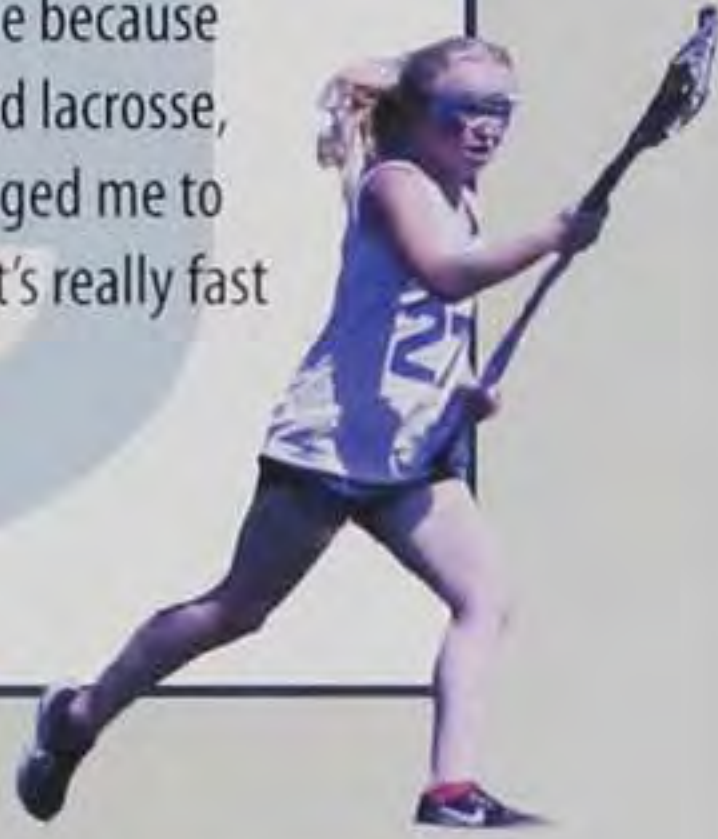
Furthermore, players had differing opinions on these game times, seeing positive and negative aspects to the double headers. "Saturday games are fun because they're early in the morning and after playing, I feel really accomplished, and I have the rest of the day to do whatever I need. Waking up isn't the best, though," said Henry.

While they could offer a worthy alternative to weekday games, such as not intruding on homework time, many of the girls still wished for a schedule more similar to other sports teams. "I like having Saturday games, but sometimes I wish our games were a little more spread out, so we could have a few games after school as well," said Sems.

future stars

Kharis Perona seventh grade

I started in 5th grade because my family had played lacrosse, so they just encouraged me to play. I like it because it's really fast paced.



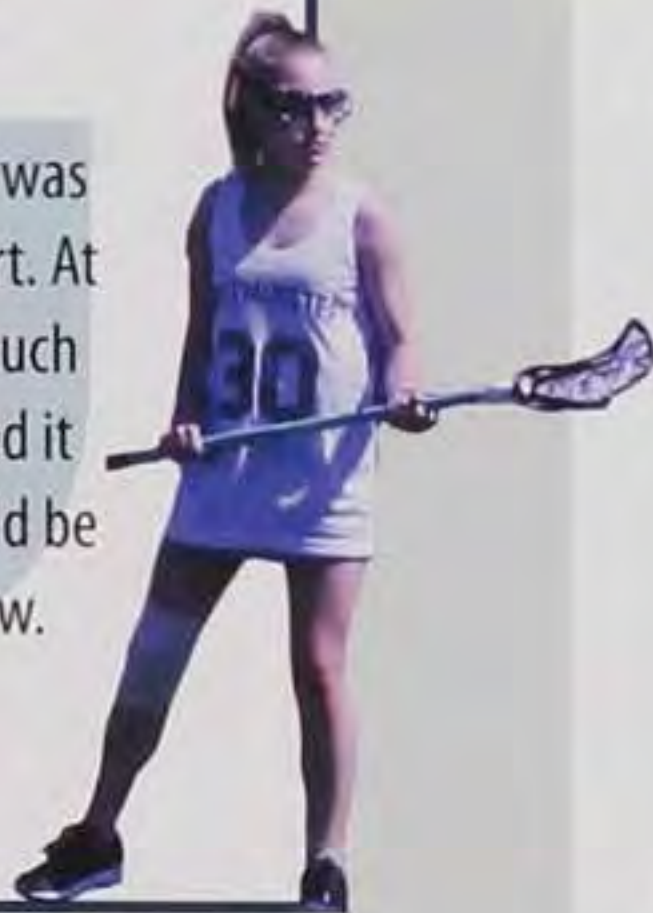
Gwyn Raleigh eighth grade

I play midfield because you do most of the running, and you get to pass the most. You also get to do the faceoffs.



Winter Gray eighth grade

I started playing because I was really interested in the sport. At first I didn't really know much about it. I had never played it before, so I thought it would be cool to try something new.



Olive Robson, sophomore, sets up behind the goal so she can start a play. Robson was a starter at low attack. The Wildcats played MICDS on April 12th and came out with a defeat.



Josie Christen, sophomore, runs the ball down the field to set up a play. Christen was one of the team's top scorers this year. "We could always count on Josie to bolt down the field and give us the winning goal," said Hailey Kittelson, junior.



Bridget Sullivan, freshman, attacks the goal at an attempt to score a point. Bridget scored on this run. "Bridget always brings laughter to the team with her witty jokes and fun-loving spirit" said Hailey Kittelson, junior.



Alyssa Preusser, junior, runs the ball down the field to an attempt to score. Preusser was one of the JV captains. She has played lacrosse since her freshman year.



Rachel Rothrock, sophomore, weaves through a defender in order to get to the goal. Rothrock was one of the team's top scorers this year. The wildcats played O'Fallon high school and won with a score of 5-2.

“**Once I got over being scared of the ball, being goalie was a lot more fun.**”

-**Sabrina Granata**, freshman

Sam Jun, junior, and Cooper Moore, senior, do their handshake at a match at Westborough. Long matches gave the players opportunities to chat with their teammates. They were able to make and strengthen friendships with people from other grades.



Logan Montgomery, junior, drives the ball during an early April practice. When their matches were cancelled, they would often try to find an open course to practice on. "The season is short, so we try to play as much as we can," said Montgomery.



Tom Isaacs, sophomore, chips the ball during practice. Isaacs was one of only two underclassmen on the varsity team. "I like having a mix of new and old players on the team. We all work well together," said Isaacs.



Lane Davis, freshman, tees off at Westborough. Davis was the youngest player on varsity. Although he did not have any high school experience, he proved himself to be a strong asset to the team.

tee up for the title

Every high school golf team has one goal in mind each year: state. Last year, Westminster's team made it to sectionals, and a few players were only a few strokes away from going to state, but unfortunately, they ended up losing the match.

This season, the team was hoping to redeem themselves and make it all the way. "I bet we'll make it to state this year. I don't know how we'll do, but we'll make it," said Logan Montgomery, junior. The team members felt pretty confident about where they stood for the season. "I think we all have the potential to make it as long as we keep practicing and staying relaxed in the big tournaments," said Tom Isaacs, sophomore. With only

four returning players and four new team members, there was a good mix of grades and experience levels on the team. "Working with new players is great because we have a lot of new talent and potential for years ahead. The team dynamics are really strong, and we could definitely go far if we keep doing what we're doing and keep our competitive mindset," said Isaacs.

Even though the season was short, the matches, practices, and Friday afternoon devotions left a heavy impact on the boys. They were able to improve on their golf skills while growing as a team. "It's going to be a powerful season. I'm excited to see where we end up at the end of the year," said Cooper Moore, senior.



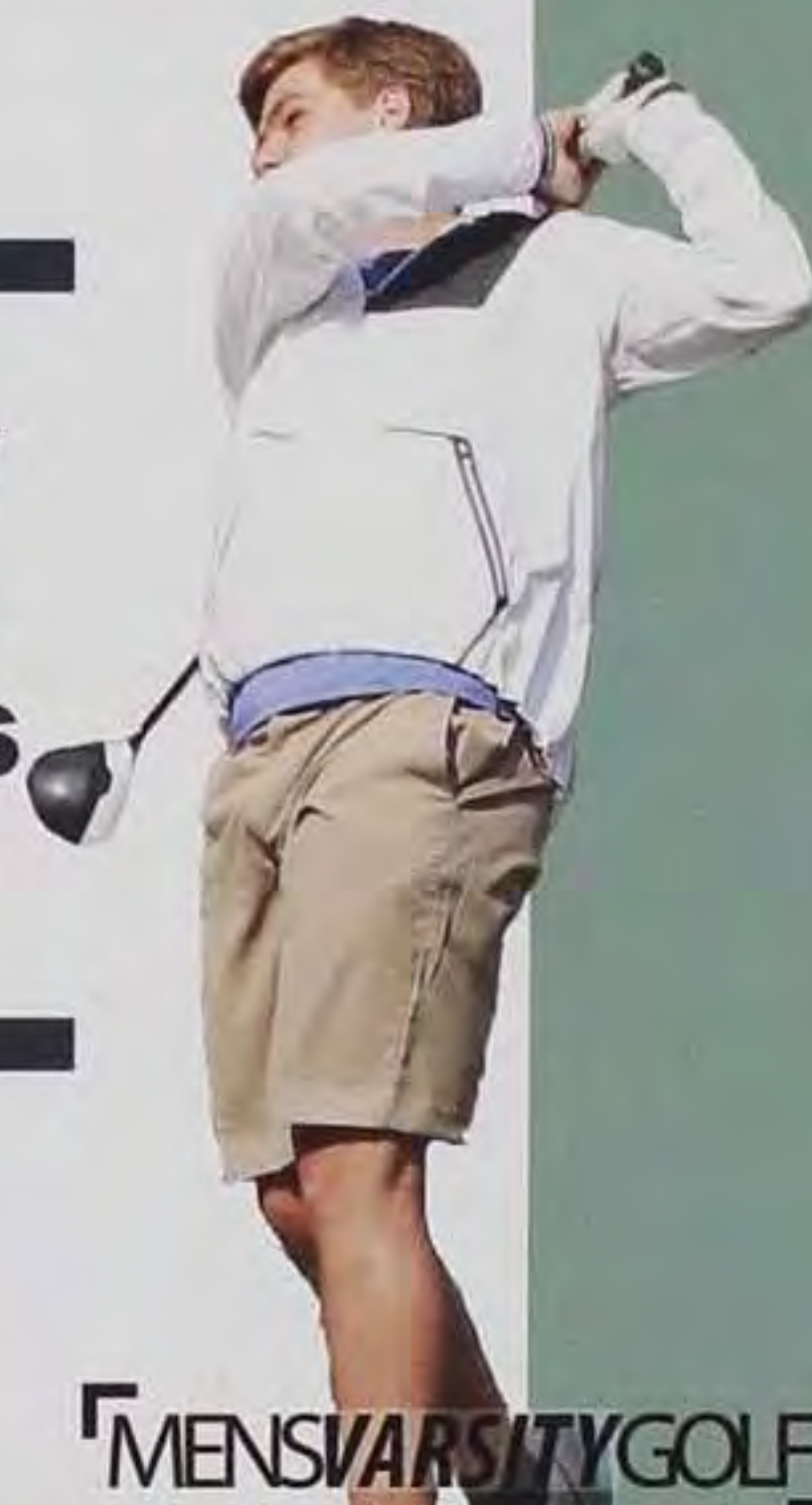
Zach Nall, senior, lines up his shot at the Creve Coeur golf course. Nall was one of only three seniors on the team. The upperclassmen provided good leadership for the younger players.

Jordan Merkel, senior, tees off at practice on April 6th. Because there was so much rain in April, many golf matches were cancelled. The team took advantage of these free afternoons to get in some practice time.

“ ”

This season has been really up and down because of all the rain, but it's still been as fun a season as any so far.

-Chad Briden, junior



Lucas Bak, sophomore, watches his teammates take their turns while he waits for his to come. The sport of golf was one that involved a lot of watching opponents and planning the best way to hit the ball.



Noah Adair, freshman, lines up his shot on the 10th hole of the match against MICDS in the last match before Easter break. "Whenever we play MICDS, the pressure is on to show them what we got," said Adair.



a generational sport

Most sports end when you leave campus; however, golf is not one of those sports. Golf is a sport that is centered on relaxation and companionship.

"There is nothing better than being able to go out onto the course and just have fun with my friends and family," said Hunter Stegmann, seventh grade. For many the joy of playing golf with their loved ones is what instigated their interest in golf. "I decided to play golf just because my dad always played golf, so he got me started. I just really enjoyed it from then on," said Stegmann.

A good first experience is the most important thing when it comes to playing sports willingly. "The first time I ever really played golf I was with my family, and because of that great first experience, I fell in love with the sport," said Kirk Briden, eighth grade.

"I started playing golf when I was six with my dad, and I just got really into it after that," said Nick Ford, seventh grade. Many of boy golfers discovered their fascination with the sport because their parents introduced it to them. Therefore, golf was a sport that passed continuously from one generation to the next.



Hunter Stegman, seventh grade, gets down to make sure that his putt is in line with the whole at the Middle schools boys' last practice before the first match. "Practices are just as much fun as the actual matches because the team gets to hang out with each other and just chill," said Stegman.

Golf
is my
relaxation



Matthew George, freshman.



Luke Burkey, seventh grade, watches his teammates practice at their last clinic of the preseason preparation. "I enjoy the clinics because that way the team can all come together and help each other get better," said Burkey.



Jackson Lawrence, seventh grade, watches his ball roll toward the hole with great anticipation. "Watching the ball move slowly towards the hole is one of the most exciting things in golf because you don't know if you got it right until it's in the hole," said Lawrence.



Jack Wooldridge, seventh grade, lines up his shot to putt the ball perfectly. He and the rest of middle school team practiced their putting skills as often as they could.



Alex Kempen, senior, prepares to putt the ball in a match against MICDS in the middle of the season. "To me golf is a way to relax and at the same time a way to hang out with my friends while still representing my school," said Kempen.

Kurt Weinberg, junior, returns a hit with a forehand. Although he was a swing player, Weinberg played most of his matches in varsity. "I don't really know any of the sophomores," said Weinberg.



swing sets

Almost all sports have a varsity team and a JV team, but some athletes play for both. Swing players got a chance to play at the varsity level, and they also got to work with the whole team. This year's tennis team had six full-time varsity players and eight swing players. "There's a lot of people of the same ability," said Erik Bergman, junior. Bergman was a swing player this year and played with varsity half of the time.

Grade levels were not a factor in determining priority for who was on varsity and who was on swing since two sophomores played on the varsity level.

"I played JV last year, but I've been top six this whole year," said David Ragsdale, sophomore. Ragsdale was officially considered as a swing player, but he never played with JV this year.

One of the main reasons there were so many swing players was the equal level of competition during challenge matches. Challenge matches, which were played between all the players on the team, determined who was on varsity. So many students performed on the same level, but only ten players could play on varsity at the same time. Nick Gray, head coach, chose to switch out four players from the swing team each match, so everybody got some varsity-level playing time.



Tomás Mitchem, senior, plays in the Metro League tournament on April 12. Mitchem and his partner, Teddy Bacon, won this set.



David Ragsdale, sophomore, runs back for an overhead during practice. This year was Ragsdale's first year on varsity tennis.



Griffin Anderson, senior

2

wins

6

losses

5

seniors

*Scores as of April 19



Teddy Bacon, senior, gets ready as *David Montgomery*, junior, serves during a doubles match. Bacon has been Montgomery's primary doubles partner this year.



Luke Peters, senior, rushes to return a hit during a singles match against Whitfield. All but one senior made it onto the varsity team this year.



Cole Coffee and *Campbell Coffee*, sophomores, meet up at the net after finishing up a doubles match. The Coffee brothers both played on swing and were doubles partners.

“ ”

The competition is really close between juniors and seniors.

-Kurt Weinberg, junior

competitive & courageous

Ian Gilbert
eighth grade

The coaches are really supportive, and they push you to work hard and try your hardest even if you're not very good at tennis. It makes it a lot more fun.



Ian McKie
eighth grade

I like that you can get other people in your grade involved and even get to know some seventh graders too. Anyone can play.



Aidan Kline
eighth grade

Tennis requires a lot of athleticism, and I like the fast pace of the matches. My friends and I also like playing against each other in practice to see who's better.



Will Mason, freshman, volleys the ball during a practice early in the season. For a volley, the player would stay close to the net and tap the ball over



Sebastian LaCassie, freshman, might look like he is doing a dance move during practice. However, this was how players signaled that a ball had gone out of bounds. The player would yell "out" and hold up their pointer finger.

double or nothing



Although tennis is not a contact sport, it is still physically demanding and fun.

When the mens JV tennis team had a "game," this meant that the boys would go through a series of rounds of matches. The team took a tough loss against Marquette on March 28th, but this loss was motivational for the rest of the season.

"Losing against Marquette was very motivating for Caleb Terschak and I. It made us want to win the next match even more, and it was also a good opportunity for us to learn how to play together," said Will Mason, freshman.

During matches throughout the season, the tennis team got the opportunity to play doubles with many different players. This was fun and unusual because

generally in tennis, all players have a single partner for doubles that they stick with throughout the season. On JV the players had the opportunity to switch around and get to play with many different team members. Although the boys were ranked on skill, this did not stop them from having fun and being a team.

One player that really stood out this year was Will Vestal, sophomore. Vestal transferred from Lindbergh this past year and was eager to try tennis at WCA. The team was under the leadership of Laurie Franz and Mr. Rupprecht.

"Coach Rupprecht is a bro", said Vestal. Tennis is a sport that requires agility, speed, strength, and heart. The team encompassed these words and were a powerhouse this season.



Maxwell Peng, senior, says the highlight of his season was a personal victory against Clayton on March 29th. "I usually play doubles with my friend, Jerry Liu, and we have a lot of fun together," said Peng. Peng has improved his tennis skills a lot by being on the JV tennis team.

Josh Scheibe, freshman, plays "around the world" during their practice on March 24th. The JV tennis team took time to prepare for matches during practice.

— “ ” —

This is my second year playing, and I can already see improvements.

- *Maxwell Peng*, senior

Will Vestal, sophomore, prepares to serve the ball. Vestal transferred to Westminster from Lindbergh and was excited to play tennis this year.

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Sophomore

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Food trucks on the plaza make for a perfect spring afternoon after school.



Grace Andrews, Eighth



Caroline Guempel and Mackenzie Axford, Freshman



Lauren Willis, Junior



Abby Stewart and Bridget Sullivan, Freshmen

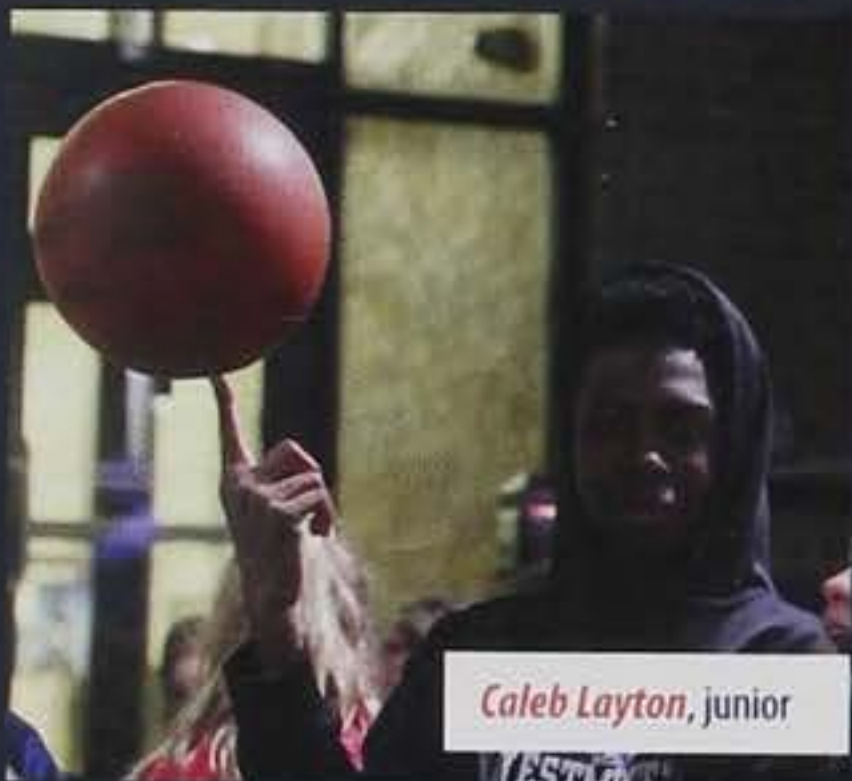


Veronica Ortiz, Eighth



Carsyn Beachy and Rebekah Sems, freshmen

of all the best



Caleb Layton, junior



Ashley Moellenhoff, sophomore, and Caleb Moellenhoff, eighth grade



Tierra Allen and Noelle Burkey, sophomores



Aidan Kline, eighth



Hannah Sturr, Molly Andersen, Kiley McKee, and Hattie Means, sophomores



Luke Vasel, junior



Liam Lloyd, eighth grade



Matthew Moore, junior

