



The Bagpiper

March 8, 2024

Reporting Freeman's news since 2009

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2024-2025 calendar has big changes for students

By Jay Parr
Staff writer

A balanced calendar or “fixed schedule” will be established for our breaks and semester end dates starting with the 2024-25 school year.

It may sound a bit complicated, but it really isn't that confusing at all.

“So the balanced calendar is where you take the 180 school days of our current year school calendar, and you just spread them out a little bit more than what they are currently in the calendar,” Superintendent Randy Russell said.

Although the balanced calendar feels like a huge change, there are really only a few adjustments being made for next year.

“So for next year, we're going to start school just a few days earlier in August,” Russell said. “We're not going to have school during Thanksgiving week, and we're

going to have the semester end right before Christmas Break instead of January. Those are the three changes.”

The other question on the minds of students and staff is what is going to happen in future years? The admin is already working on the calendar for the 2025-26 school year.

“Yes, so we're going to survey the staff and the students,” Russell said. “We're going to look at maybe adding a late winter break, or maybe even a break between spring break and Memorial Day weekend.”

Although there are small changes being made overall, they impact members of our community differently. The district is considering those impacts on Freeman families as they look ahead.

“I would say a big con is that it is different,” Russell said. “It's a change and sometimes change is hard. I would say that another con is it will probably make people think differently. So if they've been comfortable with what they've been doing, they're probably going to have to do things a little differently.”

The changes to the schedule aren't all bad though.

“I think having the week off of Thanksgiving is a big plus, since we already get low attendance,” Russell said. “Overall, there's pros and cons to both sides.”

Around 50 students answered a *Bagpiper* survey asking what they knew about the calendar, and if they were in favor of the upcoming plans. Around half of the students said that they didn't have enough information to respond whether or not they were in favor of a balanced calendar.

Along with our votes, there were quite a bit of negative responses from the question “What do you know about the balanced calendar?” Student responses included concerns about the decrease to their summer vacation to how would it effect FHS's sports schedules lining up with other schools.

Junior Colton Wells said he's “not a fan personally because people have very busy summers. The sports side of things already takes up a lot of summer time.”

Although sports dates and schedules not lining up may sound like a reasonable problem, the sports schedules are, in fact, not going to be any different. They will line up with all of the other schools. Start and end times are set by the WIAA not the district.

There are various aspects, and opinions, on the upcoming plans. Some are for it, some are against it, and some simply just don't know. The only thing to do next is to simply just see how the next upcoming year goes.

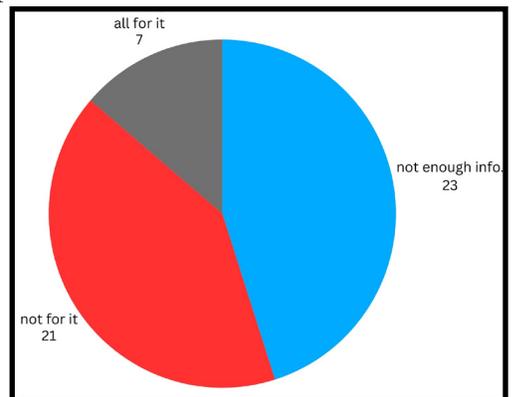
“You would know, really in June or July, what the calendar would be like for sure for the next year,” Dr. Russell said. “In our case, the 24-25 calendar has already been set.”

| FREEMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT #358 2024 - 2025 School Calendar | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Significant Dates | | | | | |
| August 19 | Staff Orientation/Open House | August 20 | Professional Development | August 21 | First Day of School |
| August 26 | First Day of Kindergarten | August 30 | No School | September 2 | Labor Day Holiday - No School |
| September 25 | Late Start PD | October 7 | Professional Development - No School | October 24 - 25 | Conferences - No School |
| October 30 | Late Start PD | November 11 | Veterans' Day Observed - No School | November 25 - 29 | Thanksgiving Holiday - No School |
| December 4 | Late Start PD | December 20 | End of Semester | December 23 - January 3 | Winter Break - No School |
| January 20 | Martin Luther King Jr. Day - No School | February 5 | Late Start PD | February 14 | Professional Development - No School |
| February 17 | Presidents' Day Holiday - No School | March 12 | Late Start PD | March 14 | Snow Make-up Day - No School |
| April 3 - 4 | Conferences - No School | April 7 - 11 | Spring Vacation - No School | April 28 | Professional Development - No School |
| May 7 | Late Start PD | May 23 | Snow Make-up Day - No School | May 26 | Memorial Day Holiday - No School |
| June 7 | High School Graduation | June 10 | 8th Grade Promotion | June 11 | Last Day of School - Early Release |

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Last spring, the school board approved the first of three phases in FSD's move to a balanced calendar.

A pie chart graph of students survey responded on whether or not they are all for the balanced calendar.

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Lack of snow delays local ski resorts

By Madelyn Cordova
Staff Writer

Lack of winter precipitation and warmer climate has caused many issues this ski season. Local ski resorts had to delay openings and shut down runs.

This lack of snow has affected many skiers' plans for the season. One person in particular, freshman Lila Kadzejs, loves skiing.

"Skiing takes up 90% of my life in the winter," Kadzejs said. "So not being able to ski really affects me."

Kadzejs was very upset at the quality of Schweitzer Mountain.

"This is probably the worst year of skiing I've ever seen," she said.

Agreeing with Kadzejs, senior Ian Watson has been disappointed with Silver Mountain's ski quality.

"Last year was definitely better," Watson said.

The lack of snow on

the ski hill has kept both students from skiing as much as they had planned.

Recently however, the Spokane area has received some late snow fall.

Even with the increased snow, conditions are still not as good as they were this time last year.

"Yeah, there was way more snow," Watson said about Silver Mountain.

Hopefully, March precipitation will continue to add to the snowpack at area resorts.

"The snow is so much better," Kadzejs said of Mt. Spokane. "I actually want to go skiing now."

As of March 6, conditions have markedly improved (see sidebar).

Skiers, take advantage of the late snow. Most of the hills are closing the first week of April, though Silver and 49° North plan to close April 28.

The Snow Report

updated March 6

49° North

Summit: 80"
Base: 38"
Last 48 hours: 10"

Mt. Spokane

Summit: 72"
Base: 49"
Last 48 hours: 4.5"

Schweitzer

Summit: 99"
Base: 57"
Last 48 hours: 14"

Silver Mountain

Summit: 88"
Lodge: 57"
Last 48 hours: 2"



Photo Madelyn Cordova
Mt. Spokane offers a great view off the top of the Basin Express lift.

Orndorff takes 2nd

Senior Jonah Orndorff took to the mats in his final state tournament. While he fell just short of his goal as state champion, he accomplished a lot in his final season. Orndorff had a career high 40 wins with 30 pins. He also won 5 tournaments this season.

"Jonah worked tirelessly in the off season to accomplish his goal of being a state champion," coach Matt Smith said. "Although, he didn't win in the finals, he set the example of all future Freeman wrestlers to follow in the coming years. He will be missed."



Photo Chad Ripke
1st round, Orndorff defeated Wyatt Freeman (Mt. Baker).

Basketball finishes 4th

The Scotties defeated Seton Catholic (53-46) to finish 4th in state. There was a lot to celebrate this season.

"We share the ball and play for our teammates," Coach Kyle Olson said. "We finished the season with five guys averaging double digits, and half our games were 20+ assists, which is pretty insane."

With no seniors this year, the Scotties look set for a great run next year too.



Courtesy Aaron McLean
Junior Colton Wells goes up for 2 against King's.

Passing periods, is it enough time?

By Madelyn Cordova
Staff writer

5 minutes. 5 minutes to talk to your teachers, get your locker open, go to the bathroom, converse with peers, get a snack, water break, and get last minute things done. But is it enough time?

For the most part, 5 minutes is enough time in between classes to do what's needed.

Personally, I can get from class to class in the time given. But what about when students who have an extra challenge added to their transit time?

Freshman Annabelle Gould, for example, has a bit of a walk in between her classes.

"Time is very tight with my schedule," Gould said about going from 5th period band to math with Frye.

Students who are trying to make it the length of our building often don't have time for a pit stop other than their lockers.

Freshman Qwinn Jamison also said he has trouble getting to class on time.

"I get held up alot during that time," Jamison explained. "I end up tardy a lot."

With the 10/10 rule, this can be a real problem for students. They have to wait before they can be excused to use the restroom if they didn't have time between classes. It's hard to leave class when the educator is teaching, which means you have to go during the passing breaks.

But with the five minutes, it's not always enough time to get your stuff, go to the bathroom and make it to

class in time without being tardy.

In the past, students actually had less time than we do now. Before Principal Jeff Smith joined the staff, the passing period was only 4 minutes long.

One of the changes he made to the schedule was increasing the passing period by an additional minute.

Smith explained that he gave us more time because he believed it would help students.

"I heard from students who were trying to make it from classes like art to woodshop that 4 minutes was too tight of a window," Smith said of his decision to increase the passing period.

He said that increasing the passing period more within our start and stop times would be almost impossible.

There is a state required amount of time that classes must meet each day, making it very difficult to add more time in between. Without changing school starting and ending times, there isn't much wiggle room left.

Maybe it would be beneficial to get more time but there are just too many factors preventing a further increase.

Another change Smith made to the schedule was adding in a 10 minute Scottie Break after second period. The pre-adviosry time allows students to get a snack and have a longer break before advisory.

So we will remain with a five minute passing period and try our best to manage our time wisley.



Photo Madelyn Cordova



Photo Madelyn Cordova



Photo Madelyn Cordova

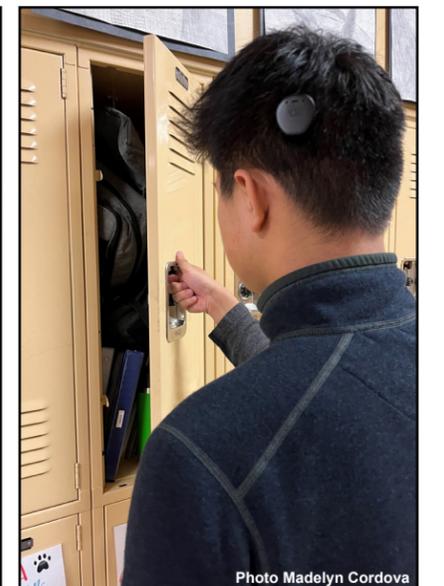


Photo Madelyn Cordova



Photo Madelyn Cordova

Students head to classes. Freshmen Annabelle Gould and Qwinn Jamison stop by their lockers to switch out materials on the way to their fourth period English class. Planning ahead to get everything done in 5 minutes can alleviate some of the challenges to making it to class on time.

Taylor Juhnke finds her passion through ballet

By Capri Collett
Editor-In-Chief

At the age of nine, sophomore Taylor Juhnke fell in love with dance. She looked up to the beautiful dancers who moved so gracefully in front of her.

“My goal, ever since I started, is to dance professionally in a world renowned company,” Juhnke said.

Ballet is very time consuming, and you have to practice a lot. But when you have the joy and passion for dance, it makes ballet a lot more enjoyable.

Juhnke practices four to five times a week with her practices lasting up to four hours.

“I feel like there’s just this freeing sense, how there’s nothing to worry about,” Juhnke explained. “But it’s like, in those moments, there’s peace and nothing matters. My heart is so full that there’s so much gratitude and joy I feel for dancing.”



Courtesy Melissa Allen Photography

Juhnke performed in the ballet *Carnival of the Animals* in June 2023. Juhnke danced the role of the peacock, her first solo. This was the beginning of the first show, and her third performance with the studio.

With so much time spent doing ballet, it sometimes interferes with school work. Juhnke always tries to get her work done in class, but on the nights she has a little homework, it is a struggle to get it done with spending so much time at ballet practice.

“I will get as much work done in class as I can,” Juhnke said. “Anything I don’t get done, I have to do late at night.”

Through ballet, Juhnke has made some lifelong friends and fun memories. Ballet is not an easy thing to do. You have to practice so much even if you’re at the top level like Juhnke.

She explained that she is always critiquing her technique to improve. Through her practice and ballet competitions, Juhnke hopes to reach her dreams of dancing professionally.

“My plans would be joining a company or freelancing,” Juhnke said. “The dream would be to dance all over the world.”



Courtesy Landry Cummings and Taylor Juhnke

A movie sweeter than chocolate

By Jay Parr
Staff writer

Wonka is a fun prequel to the 1971 film *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory*. Set in an unnamed city in Europe, 22 year-old Willy Wonka (Timothée Chalamet) arrives after being out to sea in search of his chocolate recipes. After arriving, Wonka understands that he will not instantly gain big money and an organized chocolate business like he thought, because the already successful chocolatiers wanted him gone.

When I realized director Paul King was heading the movie, I looked even more forward to watching it because he also directs two of my favorite movies, *Paddington 1-2*. I was also extremely excited when I saw actors from *Paddington* in *Wonka* including Sally Hawkins, Hugh Grant, Tom Davis, and Matt Lucas.

One of the best parts of this movie is that it finally answers the questions of how everyone knew the name Willy Wonka, and how someone as silly and immature as him could have developed an extremely success-

ful business.

The characters were a big highlight of this movie. I love how Wonka is always in a silly playful mood. It’s like he almost radiates it out of the screen. The choreography of the songs also brings out characters’ personalities. The choreography for the song “You’ve never had chocolate like this” was especially enjoyable.



Courtesy IMDB.com

Timothée Chalamet plays Wonka in the new prequel movie based on Roald Dahl’s book *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.

The cinematography adds to the whimsy of the movie. All the colors in this movie are very vibrant. Even the grays seem a soft vibrant color. One thing I would fix about the cinematography is to make the Oompa Loompa (Grant) bigger. He is just a lot smaller than in *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory*.

The musical soundtrack was another highlight of *Wonka*. There were many great songs, each one perfectly matching whatever mood the scene

was supposed to have.

Although I absolutely loved all the music in the movie, I think that some of the melodies could’ve been differentiated a little bit more. If it weren’t for the lyrics, I’m not sure if I could tell which song was which



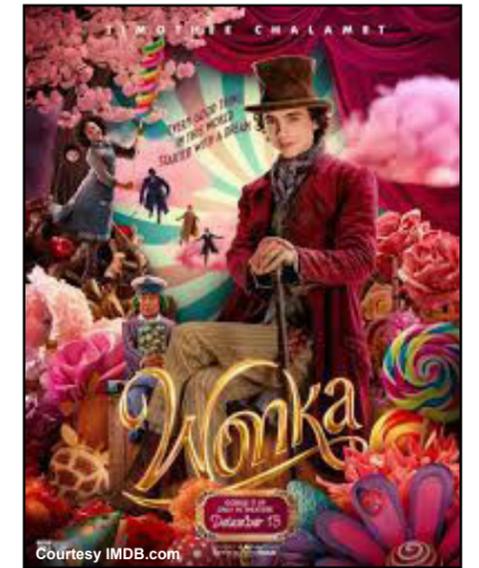
Courtesy IMDB.com

Wonka celebrates opening his new chocolate factory.



Courtesy IMDB.com

Wonka speaks with an Oompa Loompa.



Courtesy IMDB.com

because some of the songs sounded exactly the same, but with different lyrics.

Out of the many songs in this movie, “Hatful of Dreams” would be my top song. It basically tells the story of what happens when Wonka first arrives, interacting with the unfamiliar people, along with his money. It also has a happy, vivacious tune that just brings me joy. That song reminds me of some of *The Little Mermaid* songs, because it kind of has a beach coastal vibe to it.

Last, I love how it’s not just Willy Wonka singing all of the songs. All of the secondary characters sing, including minor characters. I absolutely loved hearing the voices of each actor or actress.

Overall, *Wonka* was an extremely enjoyable family-friendly movie. It was action packed, silly and exciting. If I were to rate the movie out of a five star rating, I would give it 4.5 stars. Overall, this movie is sweeter than chocolate, maybe even as sweet as Wonka’s chocolate.



Courtesy IMDB.com

Wonka and Colin (Phil Wang) begin the song “You’ve Never Had Chocolate Like This.”

Popular country music worth a listen

By Parker Teague
Staff Writer

Today's country music mixes old-style sounds with new ones, making it interesting for lots of different people. Singers use bits of pop, rock, and hip-hop in their songs, which gives them a cool vibe. They still talk about love, feeling sad, and life in small towns, but they make it sound like what's happening now. While the sound keeps changing, it still stays connected to its country roots.

Popular country singer Lainey Wilson has a total of 7,211,790 monthly listeners. According to Spotify, her song "Watermelon Moonshine" has a total of 100,790,911 streams. The hit song is from her popular album "Bell Bottom Country" which has a total of 16 songs. The album was released November 28, 2022. After only being in the music industry for 12 years, Wilson has found great success.



Lainey Wilson

"Truck Bed" by HARDY is a popular country rock song known for its relatable lyrics and catchy melody. Released in 2019 as part of his "The Mockingbird & the Crow" album, the song quickly gained attention for its nostalgic portrayal of small-town life and summer adventures.

HARDY's choice of lyrics and tone combined with the song's nostalgic vibe create a sense of longing for carefree moments spent with friends. With its upbeat tempo and infectious chorus, "Truck Bed" has become a favorite among country music fans. "Truck Bed" has a total of 140,929,747.

With a total of 437,035,956 streams on Spotify, "Shake it for Me" by Luke Bryan continues to be at the top of the country song list. It's a lively, infectious song that combines country charm with an irresistible beat.

Released in 2011 on Bryan's "Tailgates & Tanlines" album, the song quickly became a fan favorite due to its catchy lyrics



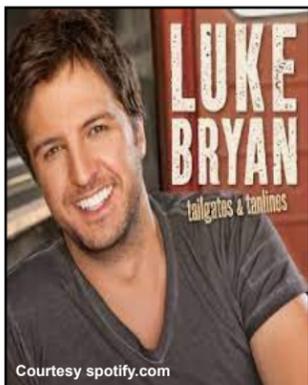
Courtesy spotify.com

and energetic rhythm.

Country music continues to captivate audiences with its diverse blend of traditional themes and modern sounds. Artists like Lainey Wilson and HARDY are bringing fresh perspectives to the genre, infusing it with relatable lyrics and catchy melodies that resonate with listeners of all ages.

From heartfelt songs to energetic anthems, country music offers something for everyone, reflecting the joys, struggles, and experiences of everyday life.

As it evolves and embraces new influences, country music remains a powerful force in the music industry, bridging generations and connecting people through its timeless stories and heartfelt emotions.



Courtesy spotify.com

Longinotti runs book drive for FHS library

If you haven't been in the library during lunch lately, you may not have noticed the influx of new books on the shelves.

Thanks to teacher Pia Longinotti, a ton of new books have been added to the library's shelves at in March.

"Last year for my birthday, instead of setting up a charity to donate to on Facebook, I decided to set up a way for people to donate a new book to the FHS library," Longinotti explained. "I realized that we hadn't had a new book entered into the library system in over five years. There are so many great YA books out there, that I wanted our students to have access to them."

Last year's donations added up to 109 books between Longinotti's birthday drive

and the Barnes and Noble book fair she ran in March 2023. Figuring it was successful last year, Longinotti decided to do it again.

"This year, my goal was 48 books for 48 years," Longinotti said. "As of Tuesday, we've received 53 new books."

Her Amazon book list includes something for everyone in the newest batch of donations- graphic novels, fantasy, sci-fi, mystery, non-fiction, historical fiction.

The books from last year can be found in the round shelving unit, while this year's donations are displayed on the top of the center book shelves.

"I'm almost finished processing all the new books," Longinotti said. "Our biggest problem now is space to set them all out."



Photos Pia Longinotti

Some of the books donated to the FHS library this month.

What it's like to be a multi-sport student athlete

By Parker Teague
Staff Writer

While many can relate to the challenges of being a student athlete, every person is uniquely affected by them. Hearing different points of views can help build character and be eye opening for everyone no matter the age.

Sophomore Taylee Phelps has learned much through her experiences as a student athlete.

Phelps started playing basketball at the age of 6 years-old. She is best known around school for her skills on the basketball court, but Phelps is also a talented outside and middle hitter on the volleyball court.

Phelps was a varsity starter for both sports this year, as well as a co-captain for basketball.

Being the 5'9 point guard and shooting guard she is, Phelps sure knows how to get buckets. With an average of 20 points-per-



Photo Trenton Sandborn

Phelps attempts a free throw during the Scotties victory over West Valley Dec. 14.

game, Phelps sits with a ranking of 1st in the state at the 1A level.

She also ranks highly in multiple other categories both in the NEA and for Washington state. (see sidebar)

For the past two years, Phelps' high school coach has been her mom Tracy.

Phelps credits her athletic success to "my family for the time and money they put into me to be able to play, and the never-ending support they surround me with."

Being a student athlete is a balancing act of dedication and determination. From early morning practices to late-night study sessions, every day is a juggling act between sports commitments and academic responsibilities.

Despite the challenges, it's a journey filled with growth and just being able to know that hard work pays off both on the court and in the classroom.



Photo Pia Longinotti

Phelps attempts a blocked shot on Lakeside's Rylee Darnold at the Golden Garment game.



Photo Pia Longinotti

Phelps outlets the ball to Rylee Russell (10), beating Lakeside's defense down the court.

TAYLEE'S RANKINGS

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3PT MADE | 9th (Washington) 1st (WA Division 1A) 1st (NEA League) 9th (WIAA) |
| ASSISTS | 100th (Washington) 6th (WA Division 1A) 2nd (NEA League) 100th (WIAA) |
| BLOCKS | 69th (Washington) 4th (WA Division 1A) 2nd (NEA League) 64th (WIAA) |
| DOUBLE DOUBLE | 37th (Washington) 2nd (WA Division 1A) 1st (NEA League) 36th (WIAA) |
| FG MADE | 11th (Washington) 1st (WA Division 1A) 1st (NEA League) 11th (WIAA) |
| FT MADE | 12th (Washington) 1st (WA Division 1A) 1st (NEA League) 12th (WIAA) |
| PTS PER GAME | 11th (Washington) 1st (WA Division 1A) 1st (NEA League) 10th (WIAA) |
| REBOUNDS | 65th (Washington) 5th (WA Division 1A) 2nd (NEA League) 64th (WIAA) |
| STEALS | 32nd (Washington) 1st (WA Division 1A) 1st (NEA League) 30th (WIAA) |

Ranking information collected Feb. 13 courtesy of MaxPreps.com.



Photo Lana Mathews

Phelps spikes the ball against the Riverside Rams, Oct. 10.

Scotties sports moving to 2B classification

Should we go down to 2B?



"I'm excited to be able to play new teams and have different competitions, so I'm good with going down," Kaylee Ripke (10) said.



"It might be easier to make it further in state," JJ Francek (9) said.



"I'm for it because it's gonna be new competition," Megan McGowan (11) said. "Everything is so old so playing new schools should be good."



"I am excited to play new teams, and I think it's what's best for our school," Taylee Phelps (10) said.



"I think it will be kind of cool, probably not as good competition down there, but we will probably see more success in sports," Tucker Hawk (10) said.

By Capri Collett
Editor-In-Chief

Next year, the Scotties are officially moving down to the 2B classification for sports next year. There's a lot that went into the decision. Administrators took into consideration a number of factors including safety, educational impact, fairness, competitiveness, transportation, finances, post-season play and scheduling.

Due to Freeman's enrollment numbers decreasing, it will be a better option to drop down classifications. Freeman is the smallest 1A school in the state. The other NEA schools have a larger pool of students to pull their athletes from which can create some safety concerns for our athletes.

"It will be safer for our contact sports," Ripke said. "Football, for instance, where the other schools in the 1A had bigger student bodies could recruit for bigger kids in size as well. So the size of the teams and the size of the athletes could be on a more level playing field for safety."

Another deciding factor was that Freeman's opponents in the Northeast 2B league are all within an hour's drive time which means less money for gas and students will both miss less class-time and return home earlier from away games.

"The league will be divided into a north league and south league," Ripke explained. "We will be in the south league and have one long road trip to Asotin, which will be very comparable to our trip to Colville. The rest of the south league opponents will be like we currently have in the 1A league or quicker. Teams in the south league are Asotin, Colfax, Liberty, Upper Columbia Academy, and Lind-Ritzville."

With all of those pieces in play, moving down to a 2B classification was the best option.

"Safety's the driving force when we're going up against teams who have two to three times the size of enrollment," Ripke said.

Should we go down to 2B?



"I really like our competition now, but it's gonna suck when we go down because the competition will get worse for golf," Ashlynn Meenach (11) said.



"I'm against moving down because I think the competition will still be there, but the recognition will be less," Maris Vernon (10) said.



"I think we're very competitive school, so this school size matched our level of competitiveness better," Micheal Anderberg (11) said.



"I think it won't be as easily seen for colleges," Tanner Goldsmith (11) said.



"I'm against it because our golf program is probably going to collapse," Anna Marie McNally (10) said.