

# the PURPLE CLARION

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Photos provided.

**(Left) Senior editor Elle Behnke navigates the Convention Center during a break from sessions. The group attended many different sessions and then later visited the beach.**

**(Top right) Senior editor Jack Gulley meets Woody from Pixar's "Toy Story." Throughout the day, many staff members waited to meet characters.**

**(Bottom right) Members of the Purple Clarion's staff gather at Disneyland for a group photo.**

## Journalism travels to west coast, attends convention

Maddi Kennedy, staff writer

Ten Purple Clarion staff members packed up and headed far west to Anaheim, California to attend a national convention hosted by the Journalism Education Association and its partner, the National Scholastic Press Association.

The convention included breakout sessions for students that use a plethora of media types like newspaper, online, broadcast, yearbook and magazine.

"It was really neat to talk with speakers from states away that were dealing with the same issue of living in a small town and having a hard time getting content for our paper," senior editor Elle Behnke said. "There was a speaker who was from a small town in Montana, and she was great at explaining how to find content even when it seems like there's nothing worthy of writing about."

Adviser Cathy Wall frequently attends national conventions.

"It's such a pleasure to be able to network with colleagues from middle school to university level and from all over the United States," Wall said. "We share this common belief that students need to have a protected voice that they can use to write about the topics that are meaningful to them."

Along with networking with journalistic professionals, staff writers were also able to make connections with fellow students at the convention.

"I won't forget a girl that we met from Nashville, and we talked forever about the differences in our schools," senior editor Bradley Frailey said. "While her school was around the same size as

ours, she had multiple high schools near her. She was astounded by how we knew everyone in our school."

For some the experiences and lessons they learned at the convention and brought back home were something they would suggest to anyone that had the opportunity.

"It was great seeing so many students and young journalists from all over the country share ideas and relate what their school paper was like," Behnke said. "To see so many students our age so passionate about subjects that we are passionate about was really enlightening and motivating. I would suggest that all journalism students who have the chance to travel to conventions like these definitely do it."

Underclassmen took advantage of classes that would help build skills they need for the coming years.

"This experience has been very eye-opening," junior Sara Wangler said. "As an upcoming senior, I need to get prepared to have a high-ranking role. On this trip I received some very valuable advice."

Taking a break from extensive end of the year activities, the staff visited Disneyland and California Adventure the first day they arrived. Senior editor Jack Gulley believes it was a great bonding experience.

"Disneyland was an amazing experience for the entire staff," Gulley said. "I actually wish the trip would have been earlier because I think it could have been nice for our staff. Although we had some ups and downs, I truly think our staff was brought closer together during this trip."

## National Journalism Convention

STUDENTS FROM ACROSS THE U.S MET IN ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA, FOR THE ANNUAL NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL JOURNALISM CONVENTION.

"It was nice to see so many students my age that were passionate about the same things I am. It was truly motivating and enlightening,"

SENIOR ELLE BEHNKE SAID.

STUDENTS COULD ATTEND CLASSES THAT SPECIALIZED IN DESIGN, WRITING, PHOTOGRAPHY, AND GENERALIZED JOURNALISM.

INFOGRAPHIC BY BRADLEY FRAILEY/CANVA.



## Senior Edition

*Worry less about the small things*

Kaylee Robinson, opinion editor



When sitting down to write this column, I tried to think about what I should say that everyone wants to hear. But then I realized that for three of the four years I have been in high school, that is all I have ever done. I never really known how to speak my mind and tell people how I really felt. I guess you could call me a people-pleaser.

When I was a freshman, I was pretty shy. I had friends, but I was not good at making new ones. I sort of did what everyone wanted me to. I continued like that throughout high school, up until this year that is.

Ah, senior year. I had finally made it. But I was going through a lot of change that brought me a lot of hurt and unhappiness. I felt like I did not have a place. That is not a great feeling, especially when you are in senior year of high school.

All of the movies I had watched about high school when I was growing up did not show this part. It was all hanging out with friends and parties and no homework. I had a very unrealistic expectation for my senior year, and it was not being met. I felt like I was going through the motions of school but I was not enjoying it.

Luckily, in a very short amount of time, I found my people. I found the group where I could be myself and speak my mind whenever I wanted and most of the time, they agreed with me. Although I still was not going out every night and partying, and I definitely still had a lot of homework, I finally felt like I was experiencing high school the way I was supposed to.

I finally figured out who I was in high school. It took me a long time to realize it. So I encourage you all to find yourself now. Don't wait. Once you figure out who you are and feel comfortable in your skin, life becomes so much easier. Believe me.

One last piece of advice I have is don't let anyone tell you how to think or what to say. I spent so much of my life believing that was okay, and I wasted so much time that could have been spent saying what I actually wanted to say. It is so important to know what you believe in and stand by it, especially in the world we live in.

I encourage you all to stop worrying so much about things that really do not matter. Stressing over unimportant things is only going to make you happy. Judging from personal experience, that is no way to spend high school. It should be spent with your friends and family.

Of course, it is important to worry about things that do matter, like that essay due in English or whether or not you brushed your teeth this morning, but worrying about whether or not someone likes you or if your prom dress looks expensive enough to impress people is just a waste of time. Spend that time doing your homework (you'll thank me later).

Movies and TV shows have a really good way of trying to depict how high school is by making us think that it is the easiest, most fun time of our lives. But the truth about high school that I have learned over these past four years is this: it is four years of your life. Four simple, long years. But what you make of those four years is what really matters when they are over.



## The Aggressive Progressive

*Young Americans, Unite!*

Kole Phelps, copy editor



In the dark days of 2016, the American people were met with the choice—Donald Trump or Hillary Clinton. To this, Democrats, or even Independents who were against Trump but also not fond of Clinton, would often say something along the lines of “We just have to choose the lesser of the two evils.”

However, at this point in time we can not longer settle for what we consider the least-worst option. We must stay outraged and discontent if we ever want any real change. Many young people really don't care about politics. They think that politics have no affect on their daily lives. However, many students will find that once they get jobs, they have to pay taxes, they have to follow certain rules of the road and that they are required by law to take a certain salary. Clearly aspects of politics are involved in our daily lives more than we may think.

On Nov. 13, 2016, an episode of the HBO series Last Week Tonight with John Oliver echoed a message that remains true to this day. John Oliver begged viewers to remind themselves every day for the next four years that the election and presidency of Donald Trump is not normal.

The attitude of discontent among the left has gotten many involved in politics who previously hadn't been interested.

However, this discontent is exactly what our generation needs. Young Americans need to stay discontent with our system even long after President Trump is gone. We must stay outraged and discontent because the moment that we are content with our political system is the same moment that we stop making progress.

Even if we elect a leftist president who is progressive and moves us towards a more just system of government, we must always protest and stand against the things that are unjust.

Therefore, I beg of you, please stay outraged at injustice in the world. In our day and age it is no longer acceptable to “not care about politics”. The days of not worrying about the government are far behind us. It is now up to our generation to rise up and demand a change.

In previous articles, I've discussed a variety of pressing issues such as more empty houses than homeless people, how many Americans will refuse medical treatment, and how we are crossing the danger climate threshold by 2030. We can be the generation that changes these things.

How much longer can we let people die from not being able to afford treatment? How long will we let children to continue to get lead poisoning in Flint, Michigan? How many students must die in school shootings before we change something? The world's problems may seem like they are too big for you to challenge, but it starts with small steps.

You may not agree with me on many issues, but no matter what you believe, you should always fight to solve the problems our world is facing. If we want serious change, we must come together and be part of the solution.

I know that it may be hard to take the advice of a young democratic socialist from a small town. But if you only take one side of my argument, let it be this one: Stay outraged, stay discontent, stay outspoken, and fight for what you believe in. Changes starts with you, and when we all work together, then we can make progress for years to come.



## Senior Edition

*Lessons learned through four years*

Elle Behnke, feature editor



When you look at the words “four years” on paper it seems like an eternity, but when you get to that fourth year, you stand back and realize that it really is not a long time. A person can learn a lot in four years time, whether it is something curricular or some life lesson. I'm no exception to the rule. I've learned some important lessons that I would like to share.

You have to become responsible for yourself. This is more directed at those who will be upperclassmen next year. Your teachers will not hold your hand like they did when you were a freshman or a sophomore. Juniors, you have a big year ahead of you. I will not say that your SAT and ACT scores define your life, because they do not. I will say though that fact does not mean that you should blow this test off and delay studying and preparing for it. It is a scary test, and you have to be prepared. Seniors, you are so very close. Do not give up now. If anything push yourself to work harder to go out with a bang. For me, senior year was incredibly easy compared to junior year, but you have to put in hard work. Pay attention in Government and when doing your English projects. Do your homework, no matter how sick of it you are.

Do not get sad over people who treat you as less than you should be treated. Many times, throughout the course of a friendship, a person may feel as though they are unwanted. My advice to you is to first examine yourself and think “Is this just my brain telling me that I am not worthy of this friendship or am I being treated poorly?” If it is the latter of the two, then get out because it doesn't matter who you are, you deserve better. You should put up with nothing less. Throughout my high school career I distanced myself from people because I thought that they

didn't want me around. But most of the time that wasn't true. Many times our brain tries to tell us that we aren't worth friendships, but you are. Additionally, if you are the person that is putting other people down in a friendship or you are treating people poorly for no reason other than you do not care, then you are the problem and you need to examine your conscience. Remember the golden rule.

Trust yourself. Many times throughout my high school career I had friends, my friends parents, teachers and staff and my own parents try and persuade me to choose a certain academic path or a different college and career path than what I felt comfortable with. I'm not saying that I did not appreciate their advice and guidance, but at the end of the day you need to look at examine your mind and find what is good for you, not good for others. There is the saying “trust your gut” which I can attest is absolutely true. You know when you are in a group of people and there is someone who asks the group a question and you want to answer that question, but also you don't want to seem foolish for saying anything? And you get that tingly butterfly feeling in your stomach? That is your stomach telling you that you should say something. That's the same thing with what you want to do in your life. If someone tells you to do one thing but you feel in your stomach and in your heart that you want to do something else, voice your concern. Voice your opinion, because if you don't you will end up regretting that you didn't say anything.

One last thing, focus on yourself. I know that sounds a little selfish. I am the type of person to put everything on the line for everyone which means, at the end of the day, I often have nothing left for myself, which is not good. It's good to be there for your friends and your family, but you have to make sure to take care of yourself before you can properly take care of others. Everyone preaches self-love but I am telling you, if you are not doing it, you need to. It is crucial to your survival because if you don't you will go crazy. So ladies, go get your nails done, and gentlemen, go get that new pair of tennis shoes or whatever new tech thing people have come out with for your trucks. Take a break from social media once in a while, it honestly helps. Take baths and just soak until you feel the stress and troubles wash away. Talk to your mom, dad, whoever you feel comfortable talking to and just lay it all out there to get everything off your chest. Take care of yourself, because at the end of the day this is the only life we get so you need to take care of yourself so that you can live it well.





## Senior Edition

### *Changes needed to prepare students for college work*

Nolan Davidson, staff writer

Throughout freshman and sophomore year I hardly ran into a class that challenged me or even a test I needed to study for. Even with my schedule full of as many weighted classes as possible, I rarely had to take homework home.

Then the brick wall of junior year hit. We were expected to do a lot more in terms of work, and studying was necessary to do well on tests. Junior year was a huge jump that I was not prepared to make. I had no study skills, and unfortunately, I have not developed many good ones in the two years since then.

Physics was one of the toughest classes for me personally. It was hard for me to remember the necessary equations to solve the problems, which were almost always asked in a way I was not used to from the homework.

It was difficult to study while also having to deal with homework from other weighted classes. I wish now that I had been more slowly introduced into the increasingly difficult and bigger workload so I wouldn't have had as rough of a transition.

Freshman year should stay rather easy in my opinion to allow for students to adjust to high school and all the changes that come with it.

Sophomore year on the other hand, should start help students become aware of their required work ethic when it comes to school work. Junior year was by far the hardest, which is fine, although I wish that senior year would have helped me to prepare me for college a little bit more. I cannot help but feel that this year I am regressing while being required to do fill in the blank worksheets or answer simple plot questions with one word answers.

It is hard for me to complain when I have such easy homework assignments, although I do not think there is any way that this is going to compare to what college will be.

Maybe the level of difficulty in each grade is not the problem, but there is certainly something wrong that is breeding students like myself with no study skills or work ethic. If you disagree, just spend a morning in the hallway right before first hour, and you will see lazy students (like myself) copying down other people's answers for even the easiest assignments. If they have not gotten the answers from a friend, it would be more common to assume that students found a ten-year old Quizlet that has all the answers for their homework, word for word and in the correct order.

Those teachers who have assigned the same homework packets for the last decade may need to be aware that some student in the past with a greater work ethic than our entire senior class left all the answers online after they reviewed their handy online flashcards.

I was recently required to take a test over a chapter that the teacher did not lecture on. I am not exaggerating. Not one day did we receive a lecture, hardly a word other than that we need to be reading and working problems in the chapter.

For a professional procrastinator like myself, the three weeks of warning were still not enough for me to read and teach the chapter to myself. I failed the test, along with more than half of the class. It was easy to see that something was wrong. This might have been by far the most preparation I have had for college.

The responsibility for addressing the problem that I have observed cannot be assigned to one person or group alone; lots of different actions need to be taken to fix these problems.

Sophomore classes need to become a better stepping stone to junior year, unless it has changed since I was a sophomore.

There may need to be an actual class focused on teaching students better study habits.

But, the biggest burden lies with us as students. If we do not start cherishing the idea of learning to some extent rather than complaining every time we get a simple worksheet, we will not succeed in college.



## Senior Edition

### *Living in a nation of procrastination*

Kirsten Travelstead, staff writer

Procrastination is something I've struggled with throughout my entire life, not just in high school. I tend to wait until the very last minute before an assignment is due, and sometimes I may wait to finally do it until it well past due.

Procrastination is something I do not encourage anyone to practice or continue doing. It has now not only caused my grades to take a hit but also my whole college process.

I would say I started to really procrastinate at the beginning of freshman year, and from there it was all down hill. It wasn't a truly major thing at first however.

I started to begin studying for test closer and closer to the day of whatever test I was taking, which wasn't a big deal at first. Then came junior year. Waiting to the last minute just wasn't an option anymore, and I couldn't understand that.

Junior year brought me some of the hardest classes I've ever taken like physics and pre-calculus. I noticed my grades started to slip, and I sat there asking myself why. I quickly realized it was because of my lack of studying due to procrastination.

Junior year is also the year many students, including myself, begin their college application process.

The first major step in the college process would be the SAT. I had told myself since freshman year I needed to start studying, which I of course, I never did. Even with numerous teachers constantly telling me to begin studying, I ignored them.

Before I knew it, April of my junior year had come around, and I was severely underprepared.

I still regret not studying like I told myself I was going to do.

The next step in the college process is to start applying to colleges. To do this, a college essay and resume are helpful.

Thankfully in my English 3 class we had started to write an essays and work on our resumes because if I'm going to be honest, I probably would have once again waited until the last minute.

Once accepted, most students began to apply for scholarships immediately. I know how important it is to receive scholarships because college debt, or any kind of debt, is not something anyone wants to have.

I'm still working on applying for scholarships. I'm to the point now where most scholarships are closed, and I'm left shuffling through the most random scholarships I can find, just hoping to find anything at this point.

College is something I've always looked forward to since I was old enough to comprehend college, and now it has become a very stressful process because of my habit of procrastinating.

If I could go back and restart this process all over again, I would. However time travel does not exist.

I can, however, hopefully prevent someone from making the same mistakes I've made. I cannot stress how important it is to break this awful habit and learn to manage your time wisely.



## Senior Edition

### *Hard work, self-discipline lead to academic success*

Nicholas Beckham, staff writer

I remember being a boy in eighth grade coming into high school. I'm not going to lie and say I wasn't excited at all, but even then I was skeptical of the romanticism my peers held for high school.

It isn't surprising coming from a bitter, angst-ridden child. It's bittersweet, angst will stop you from having fun, but it will also stop you from being disappointed.

It is true, high school isn't really that exciting. But that is nothing to be pessimistic about. You can still have a lot of fun despite that, or even because of that. Having fun is important for your health I've come to find, and being healthy is important to succeed.

Of course, the ultimate purpose is to succeed. Though I wish I could provide an easy High School Success: How To Guide, it isn't possible with my word limit in this column.

After all, everyone has different ideas of success. To some people success is a perfect 4.9 GPA, and to others, success means staying home and eating pints of Ben & Jerry's and never leaving home, so I can't really tell every one how to succeed as individuals.

It would be simple and reasonable to share my personal ideas however, so that is what I'll do instead. My goal was always academic success, and it still is. Surprisingly, there is a lot of misinformation about this, so I'll try to explain it.

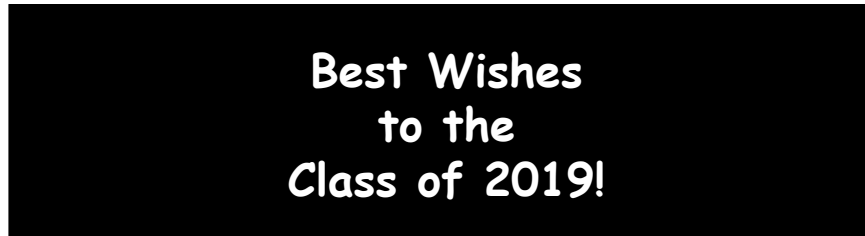
It is important to first always do more than you are comfortable doing. The over-achiever's path is difficult; if you want to follow it you need to understand and accept that. You will be tired and may want to give up, but as long as you don't everything will be fine.

On the other hand, it is very important to take care of yourself. No matter how strong you are, you can't function properly if you are malnourished or don't get enough rest. Trust me and take my advice, then you won't have to learn the hard way like I did.

A very important trait to have is temperance. Decadence takes a lot of time that you shouldn't be wasting, and it is also very expensive. Over-indulgence will distract you from more important things, so restraint is important.

"Et cetera" as the Romans would say. To me, the most important thing to have is shame. Many succeed for the sake of others, but I've always done everything for the sake of myself. When I'm bored or when I'm tired, my pride will always force me to continue. And I've never regretted my stubborn ego.

Success is hard if you high standards, so that leaves two options. You can either work or lower your standards, it is your choice.





## Cinema Cynic

*Big screen situations blind students*

Jack Gulley, news editor



I have never been one to serve detention, except for in the third grade when I forgot my social studies book in my backpack. However, I always thought if I ever did get caught up in some sort of trouble, Emilio Estevez and Molly Ringwald would be patiently waiting there.

Nostalgic movies that deal with high school gave me some unrealistic expectations about my high school experience. Now, as a senior, I see that these four years are not quite as dramatic, iconic or exciting as the ones that appear on the screen. Anthony Michael-Hall could make even detention look exciting, but I have learned that I can find memories even in the monotonous.

Although I was expecting a little bit more out my high school journey, I know now that everything painted in films is simply not going to come true. However, these things that might be thought of as boring actually contain some of the best memories.

Students often find themselves with free time in class, and even though no one is having a dance party in the media center, they can make memories anytime during the day.

Not only do movies set dramatic standards for children while they are growing up, but exaggerated stories from parents and adults create expectations that frequently crash to the ground.

Herein lies the problem. When students think high school is something it is not, it makes them hate the reality even more. So, instead of being disappointed when movies like "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" or "The Breakfast Club" do not come true, we should simply handle these days with a light-hearted attitude and make the most of every day.

I am not shaming movies for creating unrealistic exoectations for young children, but I really do think these classics orginated my grand dreams and desires regarding high school scenarios.

Many recent movies are coming out, portraying high school in a more realistic way, like Lady Bird. However, there are few movies that can truly capture the realistic qualities of the everyday happenings at a high school.

Sometimes I want to leave, and sometimes I cannot wait to go to school. It just depends. So many things during my highschool life have fluctuated, however I have reminded myself that one thing needs to stay the same. I have tried to maintain a positive attitude.

Although it definitely faltered at times, I feel like high school has helped keep my spirits up. This small town and the people who work at this school have provided me, along with so many others, with so many different opportunities. Luck is truly the cause for this success

As my days in school quickly dwindle, I have begun to realize that I need to fully appreciate the few class periods I have left. No matter how unexceptional the day is, I will make memories throughout my remaining school days just like I have in the days that have preceded them.

I am so grateful to all my teachers, administrators, peers and supporters who have aided me in my successes. I could never have asked for a more extraordinary experience in such an ordinary place.



## Thoroughly Modern Maddi

*Seems like the end, really the beginning*

Maddi Kennedy, staff writer



Here I am laying in my bed at 10 p.m with about 11 hours until this column is due to my dear Cathy Wall, and all I can think of (besides how bad I wish I was asleep right now) is how much I am going to miss this. Now, waiting until the last second is not particularly ideal, but hey, I would be lying if I said I am still working hard on everything this close to graduation. I always thought senioritis was just an excuse to give up or be lazy, but boy, was I wrong. Believe me, I am not bragging about or condoning my poor life choices, but I do know a lot of people relate.

As the year comes to a close there are a lot of lasts, a lot of memories, and a lot to think about. In the years before high school, graduation seems centuries away. Even as freshmen, we do not realize how close we are to the end. I remember counting how many years I had left as I entered middle school, and I was disappointed when I counted a total of seven years. That seemed like an eternity, and in a way, it was. Now I am 18 and getting ready to head to college for 12 years if everything goes as planned. When I was 12, I felt old, and that was five years ago. Imagine how old I will feel when I graduate at 30.

High school has consumed my life the past four years, and I let it stretch me too thin too often. When I entered as a freshman, I was involved in so many things, but as I got older, the value of those activities seemed to plummet in my eyes. I did so many things that I did not care about at all; I only did them to please others and be included. As I got older I realized that I could not base my value on my high school activities.

One unexpected lesson I was taught in this process is to not take everything so seriously. As an underclassman I thought everything was the end of the world and cared so much about what others felt about me. Being in my head so much distracted me from all of the fun and exciting things happening around me, and I forgot that these years of my life did not last forever. I wasted so much time worrying about the wrong things. This is the biggest advice I can give anyone, be present. These moments do not last forever. I know it is cliché, and I rolled my eyes anytime someone gave me this advice, but it is better to regret doing something than it is to regret not doing something. I still have issues with this inside and outside of school, but now that I have realized that it is a big part of why I was so unhappy, I am consciously making an effort to let go.

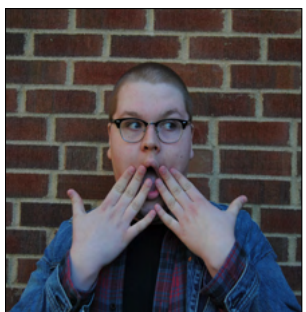
But, I am about to jump into a brand new, exciting future. I am moving on to a university, moving in with my significant other, finding a new job and basically starting my adult life. Yeah, all of this seems so happy and thrilling on the surface, but if you sit and think about it for a second it is TERRIFYING.

When I was younger, I talked about how I could not wait to be an adult. But, as adulthood approaches, I am filled with doubt. The weight on my shoulders is comparable to a Great Dane on each shoulder, and it is likely those Great Danes are going to morph and grow into larger animals with some time. Like I said, when I start to think deeper about this bright new future it becomes terrifying, but as I sit and think even deeper the terror begins to turn into excitement again. There are so many different opportunities coming. So fellow seniors, let us welcome in the new.

## Wait, What? The Senior Sequel

*School's Out: Looking back at lessons learned*

Bradley Frailey, CPS editor



Looking back at my last four years, my friends and educators who taught me so many lessons and showed me so much love truly have shaped me into the human that I am proud to be today. Even though there were times I wanted to rip my (or someone else's) head off, and there were points where I thought I couldn't handle speech, music, journalism and my other activities anymore, I've made it through to share all of my favorite memories.

Being on the Purple Clarion staff really intimidated me at first. I had always wanted to work on the paper, but once I was able to, I was scared of making mistakes and messing everything up. After the past two years though, I've realized that life is full of errors that need to be corrected, and that's completely fine. No person is perfect; just as every rough draft needs to be edited and analyzed to get the best possible iteration, so do we. I'll never forget my first after-school layout day. When we were finishing the paper, we were all so stressed out that Cathy Wall, our journalism teacher, made our staff stand up and dance to relieve stress. Sometimes, mistakes slip through the cracks, but every slip-up is a learning experience to see how things can be done better next time. All people can do is enjoy the ride while doing their best.

I had my first voice lesson when I was three years old, and I have never stopped loving music. Music and theater have been a major part of my life since I started school. My first band camp was tough; I did not pass out, thank the heavens, but going from fifth grade and middle school band into the HHS band program was a big change. Learning so many new marching routines and drills was hard, and playing increasingly difficult concert band music was a work out.

Theater was also a whole new world and joining these programs that had so much praise was scary. Throughout high school though, I've been able to grow

with our music programs and am so happy to say that we've set a new bar for ourselves. Hannah Drake, our band, theater, and choir director, really showed me that even if I am succeeding, there's always room to grow and fly higher than I ever have before. I would have never thought that I would go to Theater Fest every year we applied and I would have never expected to be selected for the All-State chorus, but I pushed myself every year, and used the skills that I had learned and became a better performer throughout.

My eighth grade year, the HHS speech team talked to our class and encouraged us to join, and I knew I wanted to be on the team. On the other hand, I knew that I was going to miserably fail my interview. I was so nervous and honestly thought I wouldn't make the speech team, but to my surprise, they actually accepted my hot mess self with open arms. I loved speech the minute I started. If my friends are asked about me and speech, they will probably say that I am a speech fiend, but I would call it passion. From breaking varsity original comedy at my first tournament, to crying at Sectionals with all my senior friends, speech was a wild ride. I'll never forget looking at videos from State speech as a freshmen, and seeing a couple of my friends making it to State my sophomore year and thinking that it was unattainable. There were times when I thought I was simply too much and should do what everyone else was doing.

There were times where I learned entirely new pieces to fit a mold I thought I should fit, but then being different was ultimately what changed speech for me. Making it to state for poetry my junior year was a complete shock to my system. When I went to state for the first time, every moment was like being a kid in a candy store. I was so excited to be there and that weekend completely changed my outlook on the activities I do. Speech taught me that I should be myself and tell my story and have fun while doing it. Sure, it's fun to win and get medals, but being able to show someone my thoughts, my struggles while letting my true self shine through is something I can never thank my time in speech enough for. All of the friends I've met, all of the memories, all of my medals; they all mean something to me. I would have never thought I would go to three state finals when I was a freshmen, but I knew that I could tell stories that no one else could.

Through all the stress and tears, I'm so proud of everything I've done while a student at HHS, and I hope my experiences can help people who are a little afraid to step out of their comfort zone, because I know I was. After everything I've done, I think I made my old 14-year-old self proud.





# Female athletes continue athletic career in college

Haley Sullivan, staff writer

According to the NCAA, about seven percent of high school athletes will go on to play a college sport. Though that number seems small, female athletes at HHS go above and beyond to fall into that category.

Though many find their athletic careers coming to an end, seven girls have inked with their dream schools to play college sports, including Lexi Sirtak, Josie Drone, Devin Butler, Madeline Rider, Karsyn Davis, Mackenzie Marshall and Brooke Meylor.

"I'm excited to be able to continue playing soccer," Union University soccer signee Josie Drone said. "I'm not quite ready to give up the sport

yet, so I'm thankful that I don't have to."

For these athletes, showcasing their athletic abilities is nothing new. Many of them have been practicing their sport for most of their lives, so reaching a level of play that they exceed doesn't come as much of a surprise.

"I've been playing softball since I was about five years old," SEMO softball commit Karsyn Davis said. "I play travel ball every summer, so I get to travel around the United States to play in big tournaments."

Many athletes spend much of their time preparing themselves for the season, and WKU softball signee Madeline Rider holds this statement to be true.

"I've started working out more and mentally preparing myself for college," Rider said. "I know it will be tougher than any sport I've played in high school, and I feel that I am ready to take on that challenge."

Rider goes on to discuss the importance of mental toughness as part of her preparation.

"I believe one has to be mentally tough to succeed," Rider said. "This not only applies to sports, but also to life in general. In softball, no matter the score, I believe I don't give up. There are always going to be off days, but as an athlete, I have to stay disciplined and put in work to overcome that. Success is a mindset and you have to want it."



## Swing and miss

### Ranking number one comes with problems

Savannah Hubbs, sports editor

I will be graduating ranked as number one (assuming I do not have the mental breakdown to surpass all mental breakdowns and drop out first), and I have never been so relieved to move on from something than I am to move on from high school. I know these past four years were supposed to be some of the most fun and carefree moments of my life, but all I have known is stress, deadlines, work, an impending sense of doom, a little fun and more stress. My reward for going through these mentally and physically draining activities is putting the number one on my scholarship and college applications and an approximately two-minute speech at graduation (and I hate public speaking).

I have always been a perfectionist with a need to be amazing at everything I do. I can remember in kindergarten being ecstatic because I was the first one to finish writing my numbers up to 100, and in first grade, I cried because I somehow misspelled the word "pot" on my Thursday spelling test. Then on Friday, I spelled "pot" correctly but spelled "what" incorrectly. That time I did not cry; I laughed. So, I think it is safe to say school has been driving me crazy for a long time. Crying over one missed word is embarrassing, but it is a part of my need to get everything right. The perfect standard I hold for myself is part of what got me ranked number one, and it often is the cause of my misery.

Many of my high school memories consist of complaining about how much homework and studying I needed to do which meant I could not hang out at all or that long, hanging out with friends while studying and always checking Powerschool to see if Mrs. Hughes had put in a test grade, even at prom. But being the nerd that I am, I am so proud of myself for what I have accomplished so far, whether it be a B for a really hard test that I worked hard to earn or studying and reading a lot of books and online information to answer a single homework question.

I know high school will be much easier than college, but I am ready to move on. A major source of my misery from school is caused by classes I do not enjoy. I have no problem doing homework for classes I enjoy like math and science, but if I have to read a story and answer six questions for English, it will take me 45 minutes to finish even though it should only take 20, simply because I cannot force myself to do it. I am excited for college because I will mostly only be taking math and science courses. I know they will become extremely difficult, but solving problems gives me so much satisfaction and joy that I will work on a problem for however long it takes to solve it.

Along the way to becoming number one, I have learned many life skills that will help me do well in college and my adult life. I know how to prioritize, manage my time, work hard and solve difficult problems. Although I spent countless hours staying up late to finish school work and missed opportunities to attend school events, I do not think I would change it. Not only would I be stressed about my unfinished work the whole time I was there, but I know what I want to accomplish and the hard work it takes to get there. Being smart and ranking high is not all glamorous and joyful, but it has been one step in my journey of growing up.



Photo provided.

**Senior Devin Butler steps in front of an opponent to retain possession of the ball. She signed to play soccer at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. This will be SIUC's first year with women's soccer.**



Photo provided.

**Senior Karsyn Davis makes a throw from a pitch. Davis signed to play at Southeast Missouri State University.**



Photo provided.

**Senior Madeline Rider tags a runner on base to get her out. She signed to play at Western Kentucky University.**



Photo by Madison McClusky.

**Senior Josie Drone passes the ball. She signed to play soccer at Union University in Jackson, Tennessee.**

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# Six seniors play one more time in All-Star football game

Madison McClusky, staff writer

Select senior football players have been chosen to participate in this year's All-Star game.

Six of the class of 2019 senior football players are eligible for this year's All-Star team in May.

"The All Star game is a combination of players in Southern Illinois who typically have made All-Conference, first team or second team," football coach Gabe Angelly said.

Players are divided evenly to make it as fair as possible. The method for this division has been changed in past years.

"The teams are separated by their record and conference," Angelly said. "For example, the Blue Team will have the players from the team with the best record

in the R2R Ohio and the Red Team will have players from the 2nd best team. Then, the Red Team will have the players from the best team in the R2R Mississippi, and the Blue team will have players from the 2nd best team. This method of splitting the teams creates two evenly divided teams and a really good All Star Game."

For some seniors, this is the last game of their football career

"To have our players on the team, it's great for the seniors to get one last football opportunity," Angelly said.

According to senior Will Gribble, he has looked forward to the opportunity of being on the team since his junior year.

"I have looked forward to the chance to play in the All-Star game since I was a junior and that just drove me

to work harder every day and put in the extra work to have the chance to play in a game like this," Gribble said.

Finding out was a big thing according to Gribble.

"When I found out I was eligible for the game, I was so happy to have a chance to play one last time and to play with some really good people and to get a chance to play with my teammates and to have a chance to win one last game," Gribble said.

Some players have come to high school with football experience, but that isn't the case for everyone. Senior Zack Cowsert began playing in his second year of high school.

"I have been playing football since my sophomore year," Cowsert said. "I wanted to play football that year because a lot of my friends were playing and saying how much fun it was and how much they liked it."

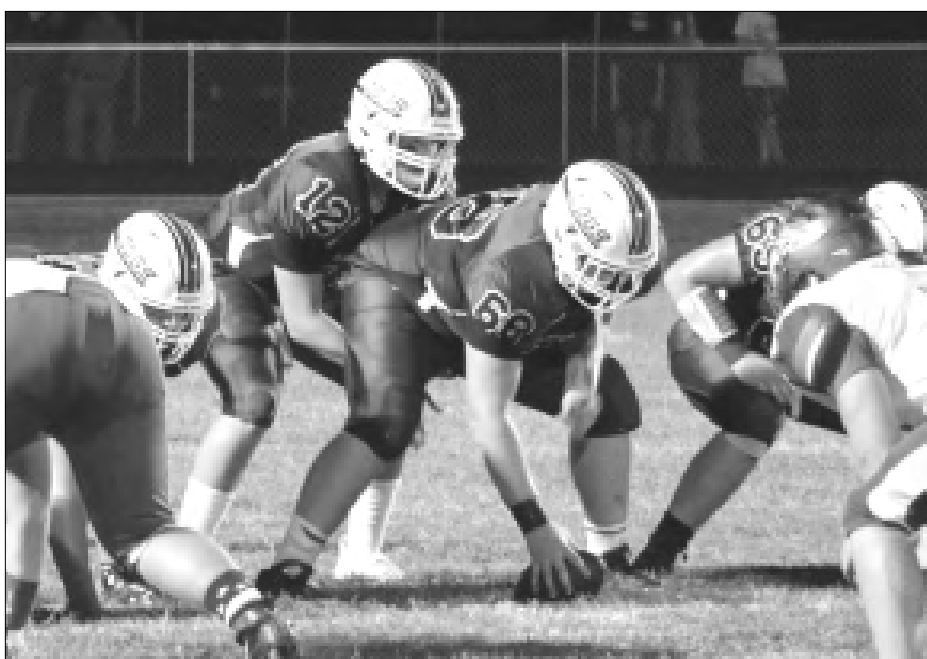


Photo by Nolan Davidson.

Senior Logsdon Church prepares to snap the ball. Along with Church, seniors Will Gribble, Zack Cowsert, Dylan Morris, Dawson Beers and Zach Gibbs will be playing.



Photo provided.

Senior Will Gribble tries to make a tackle. The All-Star game will take place June 7 at Carterville.



Photo by Nolan Davidson.

Senior Zack Cowsert begins a game by taking kickoff. He is one of six that will participate in the All-Star game.

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# Many seniors choose Southeastern Illinois College

Kirsten Travelstead, staff writer

Community colleges are often overlooked by students when making their college decision. However many seniors will chose to continue their education at Southeastern Illinois College.

“Community colleges can make the transition to a university much smoother and much more cost effective than beginning a college career at a traditional university,” states College Raptor.

Community college can be a very cost-effective as well.

According to US News, “Paying for college is a big consideration, and annual tuition and fees at four-year institutions can soar to tens of thousands of dollars. This can also lead to mounds of student loan borrowing and debt.”

College debt can be a huge burden for many students who chose to continue their education after high school.

“I chose to go to SIC because it is convenient and affordable,” senior Kara Bennett said.

Money can be a big factor when students make their decision for college.

“One of the main reason I’ve decided to attend SIC is to help me save as much money as I possibly can,” senior Levi Titsworth said. “It is also a lot more affordable than most four year college.”

For some students, money isn’t the only reason they chose to go to SIC.

“I chose SIC partly because it’s a cheaper school to go to, but also because I’d like to stay around home a little longer,” senior Anthony Cortez said.

The desire to stay in or near their hometown can play a factor in students’ decision processes.

“One reason I’m going to attend SIC is to stay near my family,” senior Callie Oxford said.

“My grandmother and great-grandfather have a lot of health problems, and I usually stay and help them during the evenings. I want to be able to continue to take care of them but also not miss out on going to college. I’ll be the first person in my family to ever attend college, so we aren’t super familiar with everything. We are such a close-knit group, and I’m just not ready to be hours away from them.”

Homesickness is something many students do not want to experience when first starting off with college.

“My biggest reason for choosing SIC, I suppose, is that I’m not wanting to leave quite yet,” Cortez said. “After becoming a nurse, I ultimately plan on joining the military as a career and so this way, I’m able to spend more time as a civilian and a student before that.”

Many students will attend a community college to receive their general education classes to help them save as much money as they can.

“I’m also attending SIC to get my generals out of the way,” Titsworth said.

Community colleges may also help many students obtain scholarship opportunities over traditional colleges because of the less amount of students who typically attend a traditional college.

“Community college students win about a quarter of all college scholarships and more than a tenth of the scholarship dollars,” according Scholarship Points

“I received two pretty awesome scholarships this year through SIC,” Oxford said. “I’ll be joining the Forensic Falcons next year, which is giving me a full ride scholarship. I am also the recipient of the Graves-Absher scholarship. So looking at it, I would be missing out on quite an amazing opportunity if I went somewhere else.”

SIC offers many different scholarship opportunities for students who select

“I’m extremely grateful to have been accepted for a theater scholarship, Titsworth said. “I’m very excited to continue my theatre career in college.”

Students who chose to attend a community college may also be influenced by past students who decided to go to a university and then came back to a community college.

“I chose to go to SIC because all through high school seniors that graduate and go to a four-year university usually tend to come back, and end up going to SIC,” Bennett said.

SIC also offers many different extracirruclar activities that can sway students decision on whether or not to attend their school.

“I would love to try theater again, Oxford said. “I was in shows my freshman and sophomore years but I kinda fell out with it. I love to go see shows, and I miss being a part of them.”

Besides speech and theater, SIC also offers numerous different clubs and opportunities to work for them.

“I am interested in becoming an office worker or joining a club,” Bennett said.

Community college has many benefits that students sometime overlook.

According to Forbes, “The six-year graduation rate (a standard metric for four-year U.S. colleges) for students who transferred from community colleges to “most competitive” or “highly competitive” institutions in Fall 2010 is 75%.”

The graduation rate for students who transfer to a four year college after going to a community college is higher than those who go straight to a four year.

While some students may look at community college as their last option for their college choice, they may want to start looking at it as their first.

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# How programs, activities change after seniors leave

Sara Wangler, staff writer

As each school year closes, seniors leave and in the process, create changes within the programs of which they were a part.

Although a small class, the 2019 senior class is involved in numerous programs and according to friend and teammates, their loss will be deeply felt.

"The biggest change we will have is the change to our theater department," sophomore Hayden Gaskins said. "The seniors have limitless talent when it comes to theater, and the shows will not be the same without them. I don't know how I will feel when I go to a show, and Jack isn't the star of it."

Harrisburg's theater department will be affected the greatest according to junior Lydia Miller.

"I feel like the theatre department will probably have the hardest hit," Miller said. "There are a lot of seniors who are typically in the principle roles."

Not only will the theater department alter, but so will the sports department.

"I want nothing more but to win," senior Madeline Ryder said. "This is my final year to win a regional and so on. I will do whatever I have to try and make that possible. I know the other seniors want that also. We are a tough group of girls and I believe we can make it far into postseason."

Life goes by fast according to Rider.

"Soak it in, enjoy every minute of high school and high school activities," Rider said. "I'm definitely going to miss it."

As someone who is involved in the athletic department, Miller knows many of the senior players will be missed.

"The sports teams will lose a lot of great seniors, at least the girls' teams are," Miller said. "A lot of girls look up to them, not just for their talent but also for their leadership, so I know they'll be missed."

As spots open up, it is the next class' job to take the lead according to Gaskins.

"My junior year is going to be very busy, so I'm going to try to keep up with other activities, but academics and speech will take most of my time," Gaskins said.

Sophomore Riley Wright feels ready to take on more responsibility of stepping into the shoes left by the seniors.

"I think we all feel a big responsibility when we become upperclassman because we have younger people watching us and wanting to learn from us," said Wright.

"I think as we all grow up, we get comfortable (around) the classmates and people around us. When you become a senior, that's the year you want to be the most memorable, so I think lower grades once they reach senior year will step up."

In Wright's opinion programs and clubs will still be supported and run by students.

"I don't think any programs will die out," Wright said. "Clubs and extras are filled

with freshman at the beginning of the year. They are able to see how much it means to the seniors."

Wright values the time he has had with this year's seniors.

"I'm glad I have had the chance to play alongside some of the seniors and make good memories with them," Wright said. "I think the school will change so much because the seniors are always the one excited about activities like football games and pep rallies. I definitely think the community will remember what they have done for our town and the people living in it."

As a soon to be senior, junior Clay Brigham feels the need to demonstrate leadership in the coming year.

"I feel like I need to work hard to fill the shoes before me," Brigham said.

Once the seniors graduate some students feel that the school won't feel the same.

"I have a few senior friends, so I think it will be empty without them," Brigham said.

Junior Jasmyn Brown's main concern is being a big help to younger classmen.

"I think our school will be a better place if students are checked up on," Brown said.



The senior class poses for the end of the year Good Dog's Day photo.

Photo by Hilary Ford.

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