



PURE
GOLD

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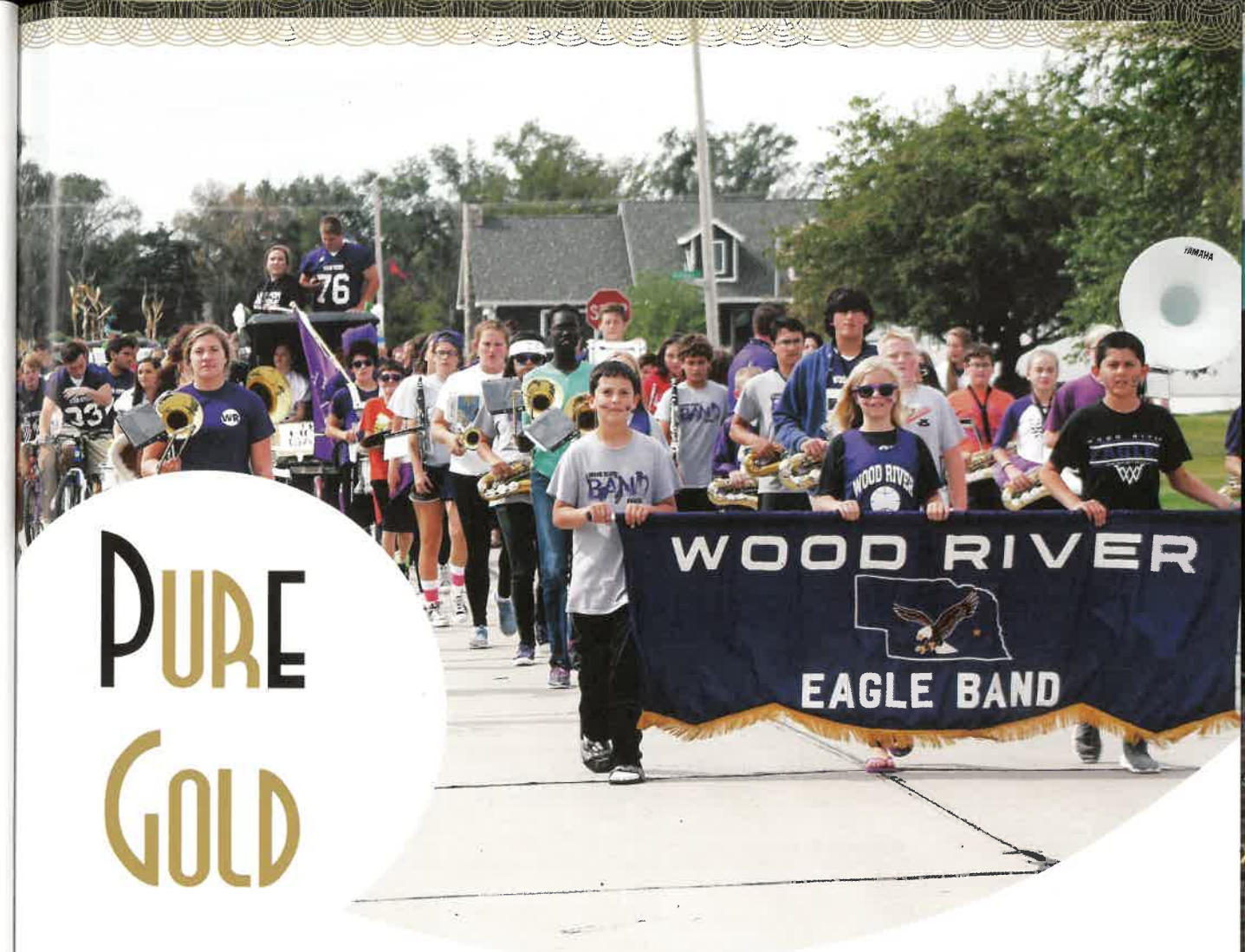
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PURE
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MAKE WR GREAT AGAIN!
Going for a ride on the Freshmen's golf cart, Jack McGowan (9) waves around the American flag while portraying Dwight D. Eisenhower. The Freshmen's hallway and golf cart were based around this year's election.

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CROWD PLEASER Caught in the spirit of the Fun Fest Parade, Destiny Campos (12) smiles brightly while reaching to grab more candy. This past summer, Campos traveled to Lincoln to attend Girls' State.

You are the laughter bouncing off the walls in the hallways, the cheers that fill the gymnasium as Tanner Hermann (10) sinks that last second buzzer-shot in the game versus Loup City, and the tears that fill the eyes of the spectators on Senior's Night. You are the element of surprise when your team wins a game no one expected you to win. You are pure joy as your band finishes UNK Band Day in first place. You are the whoops and hollers that fill the commons area as Kyle Engel (11) drops a freestyle during the Winter Ball dance. You are the tired eyes and half smiles that fill the halls on Monday mornings, and the eager "see you later" that ring through the air as the bell releases you to the weekend at 3:33 on a Friday afternoon. You are a piece of something much bigger than yourself. Standing alone, you are great, but when you come together with something else that is just as great as you are, something amazing happens. Together you prosper. Together you shine. Together you are pure gold.

Confetti Blaster



Kyle Engel (11)

HE said
SHE said

What was your favorite part about the Homecoming Dance?

"My favorite part was just having a good time and being with my friends. You know me, I gotta make everything wild."



Mariana Rodriguez (12)

"My favorite part was dancing to the new song 'Juju On That Beat' with everybody and having a great time."

BRING IT. In anticipation of the big game, Chase Bond (12) pumps up the student body and community at the pep rally. Unfortunately, the football team lost the game to their opponent, Southern Valley.

THAT'S NOT RIGHT. After hearing the news that the Freshmen won, a group of seniors boo at the results. "Seniors always win, but it didn't turn out that way. We were pretty salty about it," said Kennedy English (12).

EAGLE IN PLAIN SIGHT. In perfect step with the rest of the band, Myndee Williamson (10) plays her clarinet while dressed up in the school's mascot, the Eagle. The band led the Homecoming Parade this year.

BROS 4 LYFE. A little too close for comfort, Chase Bond (12) and Fernando Deito (12) participate in a game during the Homecoming Pep Rally. The boys were tricked and almost shared an awkward smooch with each other.



Dethroning THE REIGNING Champions

This year brought an unexpected win and change in the Homecoming tradition.

Homecoming brings forth a fierce competition, with each grade fighting to have the best hallway and golf cart. "It feels amazing [for the Freshmen to win the golf cart competition] because it hasn't happened in a long time," said Cole Arnett (9).

A feeling of accomplishment was a common theme for this year's Freshmen class after they heard the news that they'd won the Homecoming Golf Cart Decorating Competition. Not only were they able to win, but they managed to defeat the Senior class, not a usual occurrence in the school's history. The Freshmen based their golf cart on the election and showcased the Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump. "Trump is really popular and funny," said Arnett.

While the Freshmen felt their ideas and golf cart were the best, the Seniors thought otherwise. The Senior's creatively incorporated elements from "The Hunger Games" franchise, and it even went as far as a chariot like the one shown in the movie's most iconic scenes. The Seniors made the golf cart black and gold and painted the words 'Hoco Games.' The movie allowed them to put a piece of themselves and class as a whole into the theme.

"It worked well with our class, since a lot of people have left, like the fallen tributes. We're in grade 12, like District 12. It just worked well, and fit our class," said Haley Parlin (12).

Despite their valiant efforts and hard work, the Seniors came up short compared to the Freshmen. It hit close

to home knowing this was their last year to compete in the competition. The Seniors did not agree with the results and found the outcome shocking.

"I personally think [the Freshmen's] golf cart was disrespectful for some people, and it wasn't very thought out. Ours had a lot of details, and we thought about it for a long time, and theirs was just thrown together," said Kennedy English (12).

Ultimately, it was up to the teachers to decide who won. Although the Seniors believed they did the best, a different opinion prevailed.

"I voted for the Freshmen to earn first place for the golf cart [...] because they took several weeks planning their project. They put a lot of thought into it," said Gretchen Wiseman (F).



KING AND QUEEN. With all eyes focused on them, King Trey Robinson (12) and Queen Emily Ley (12) share a dance. Ley and Robinson were crowned royalty after the football game against Southern Valley.

HOORAY. Despite losing the Golf Cart Decorating Competition to the Freshmen, the Seniors celebrate their victory of having the best decorated hallway. This is the first time the Class of 2017 has gotten first place.

TRUMP TRAIN. Capturing the attention of the crowd at the annual pep rally, the Freshmen class show off their Trump-themed golf cart. The Freshmen took first place with their cart, a very rare occasion.

IN THE AIR. In mid-air, Cole Luciani (11) and Gilbert Abarrion-Aguilar (11) jump high during the "Cha Cha Slide." "Homecoming was pretty fun because I was hanging out with my friends. I did get pretty wild," said Aguilar.

IT'S LIT. In the middle of a crowd, Allison Michalski (10) gets low with her friends at the Homecoming dance. "My favorite part was getting ready with my friends, then going and dancing with everyone," said Michalski.




- TOP FIVE** People with WRHS School Spirit
- 1 Ryan Wotalewicz (12)
 - 2 Ben Fehninger (F)
 - 3 Wood River
 - 4 Seniors
 - 5 Freshmen




OPAA!

Let's talk about OPAA To Go.


"[The OPAA To Go program has] delicious salads," said **Lash Pittman** (10).




"It is nice because you can take it without waiting in line! Plus you have more options with OPAA To Go [in our new lunch program]," said **Samantia Patel** (12).



"I really like having the option of OPAA To Go because it gives more choices, and they are usually healthier options," said **Haley Parlin** (12).



"I like OPAA To Go because it is fast! Oh yeah, and I like the Elvis wrap thingy," said **Patrick Schaffeld** (9).



After years of battling the criticism of our lunch program, the administration collectively decided to make a change. Decision makers of the school sent surveys out to students, and later students and faculty members made a trip to another school to analyze the differences of how our lunch procedures compared to other schools.

"The school in Missouri had a ton of different options for their lunches, which I really enjoyed. Along with the different main course options that are now available to [students] in Wood River, they also had an A la Carte menu, and I really liked that," said **Haley Parlin** (12).

With the new changes to our program, new opportunities came for students to use to their advantage. OPAA has introduced Second Chance Breakfast to students who may have missed breakfast before school. Second Chance Breakfast is available for students after first and second period for middle and high school.

"I think it is a great thing because breakfast is the most important meal of the day, so it gives us that extra start to get through the day," said **Alec Ogden** (11).

Although some students and staff members enjoy the new features brought to our school with OPAA, such as free breakfast to allow students to try the new program, Second Chance Breakfast, multiple choices for main dishes at breakfast and lunch, and OPAA To Go. There are still students and staff members who have opposing opinions on the new program and hope for further changes and for old styles to return.

"The only thing I miss is the purple plates. I don't like the white fake trays as much. I would like to return to the real purple plates," said **Samantha Luehr** (12).

Although the program has come a long way, it is never possible to completely satisfy all the opinions that vary throughout the student body. Continued program evaluation will be needed to make OPAA the best possible fit.

Let's talk about Second Chance Breakfast.



"[Second Chance Breakfast is a way to eat] when I'm late to school and miss breakfast. It's nice to have a second chance," said **Justin Smith** (10).



"Second Chance Breakfast is a great idea because it gives students an opportunity to eat if they are late for school," said **Trey Hultman** (12).



"Second Chance Breakfast is amazing because it is like having a second chance at life. Sometimes you can't make it the first time," said **Diana Guerrero** (11).

Let's talk about Multiple Choice at Lunch.



"I like having different choices for OPAA because if you do not like the main dish, you have many other choices," said **Justin Heston** (10).



"I really love the salad bar, and all the options. I have lost ten pounds since starting the salad bar, and I also feel very healthy and fit when eating on it," said **Justin Smith** (12).



"I enjoy the different options they have available to the students. The cooks are trying to improve our lunches, and it is working very well. I also enjoy the salad bar and the hot and cold OPAA [To Go]," said **Justin Heston** (12).



"I think all of the choices students have for lunch is great! Having choices makes it seem like more of a college environment rather than a high school. I like how this program is trying to meet the needs of all students," said **Justin Heston** (F).

HEART OF GOLD



1 GREEN THUMB With the helping hand of his advisory and a few of the National Guard members, Ryan Waitalewicz (12) pulls weeds and dead plants from the landscape that is located in front of the Fire Hall.

2 TEAMWORK Walking throughout the ditches along West Wood River Road, Rachel Cooper (11) hands Dakota Bredigian (11) a piece of a trash that was found. Cooper and Bredigian were in Mrs. Robinson's (F) advisory.

3 SQUEAKY CLEAN Wiping down a window with a paper towel, Kelli Matias (9) washes one of the windows outside of The Sideboard Cafe. Matias was in Mr. Egger's (F) advisory. Egger's advisory walked downtown washing business' windows.

4 PRECISION Pulling the round of tape with her right hand and smoothing it with the other, Rachel Cooper (9) puts tape along the wall to outline exactly where her and her advisory should put the paint.

5 WORKING TOGETHER While out by the track, Tony Zentia (9) and Robert Garcia (9) shovel out the extra concrete that was left in the grass around the sand pit. Zentia and Garcia were in Mrs. Douchette's (F) advisory.

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For the past seven years, Community Service Day has been an annual school event that gives students and faculty a chance to give back to their local community in a number of different ways. Unlike past years though, the National Guard and the Marines ventured out to give a helping hand towards the groups that were working out around town. Each Advisory and Prime Time had a different task assigned to them to complete during the first half of the day. Mrs. London's (F) advisory enhanced the landscaping and overall curb appeal of three different houses in town. They also went to the Community Garden and laid down mulch to create a makeshift walkway. "I enjoyed planting plants for the community because it makes our town look good," said Marianna Rodriguez (11). Mrs. Robinson's (F) advisory walked along West Wood River Road and picked up the trash that was laying in the ditches. "While we were picking up trash, this nice man that works in town stopped and thanked us for what we were doing for the community and he gave us all Gatorades," said Elle Luehr (11). Mr. Egger's (F) advisory went to the Good Samaritan for the first half of the day to wash windows, rake leaves, and do anything else that was asked of them. After that, the group walked to the businesses located downtown and washed their windows also. "When we were at the nursing home, an old lady came up to me while I was raking leaves (she had forgotten my name by the end of the day) but I'll never forget the smile on her face when she had seen what I had done for her. Stuff like that is what makes Community Service Day worth it," said Patrick Schofield (9). Mr. Eehring's (F) Advisory stayed at the school and helped the janitors with all kinds of school projects. "We replaced the mulch in front of the theater, and we filled holes in the practice field with rat poison. During that, the National Guard came and talked to us for a little bit and they asked us what our plans were for after high school. They also challenged Kyle [Engel] (11) to a race. "I really enjoyed giving back to my community in this way instead of picking up trash on the highway because I'm giving back to my school personally," said Sam Thienel (11). Once each group finished their work, everyone came back to the high school. Hamburgers and hot dogs were offered as lunch to the students, courtesy of the Booster Club. For the second half of the day, a variety of breakout sessions were held throughout the school. The National Guard was outside along with an ambulance and fire truck. Inside the school there was archery, pet therapy, and self-defense classes among several other presentations. The high school and middle school each had a general session with guest speaker Demone Adams about putting your heart over the current hype. "I thought he was very motivated to get students into their heart and stay out of the new trends of drugs and alcohol. You don't need to act cool to be cool," said Ryan Waitalewicz (12).



GO FOR A RIDE Laughing out loud, Miaa Stokes (9) grips the steering wheel while going for a quick trip around the school in one of the bikes that the National Guard provided for the students to try out.

NOCK, AIM, FIRE Holding the bow up to her face, Abbie Phiburne (11) points her index finger at the target and pulls her other hand up to her cheek. Ms. Thacka (F) was in charge of the archery breakout session.



Spread Design By Samantha Moss & Rachel Cooper



TAKE THE GOLD. In the Adam Central Meet Grant Packer (10) runs to the finish line leading the pack. Packer placed first at this meet and later qualified for State Cross Country. "I was proud and felt accomplished," said Packer (10).

ATHLETICS

You are a volleyball player, a football player, or a runner. You are the excitement that echoes off of the tin walls of the bus after a victory in a close five-set game. You are the hope and encouragement that breaks the silence filling the locker room after a tough loss under the Friday night lights. You are the one sprinting out of a box out and leading the pack in a race to the finish line. You are a basketball player or a wrestler. You are the smile on the face of every boy basketball player after the

upset against Minden. You are the anticipation that fills the minds of every girl as the referee throws the ball for tip off against Ravenna. You are one of the six wrestlers that secured their spot for State Wrestling. You are a soccer player or a golfer. You are a member of the first co-op soccer team at Wood River. You are the pride that fills the air as Mr. Kuecker (F) announces that you golfed the lowest score at the first meet. You are Eagle Athletics.



REJECTED. After the ball leaves the hands of an Ogd player, Grant Luchs (11) jumps to block the ball from entering the basket. The Eagles fell short with a score of 56-45 against the Chants. Luchs is the last of her siblings to go through the Wood River girls' basketball program.



SPRINT. On the final stretch, Jammin Matias (11) looks at her opponent as she begins to pick up her pace to pass the competition. Matias has ran cross country for three years and has also participated in basketball and track & field.

CLOSE THE BLOCK. As an Adams Central hitter swings at the ball attempting to get a kill, Josh Rauer (10) and Ainsley Stewart (10) jump to stop the ball from hitting their side of the court. Both Rauer and Stewart plan on returning to the team next year as juniors.

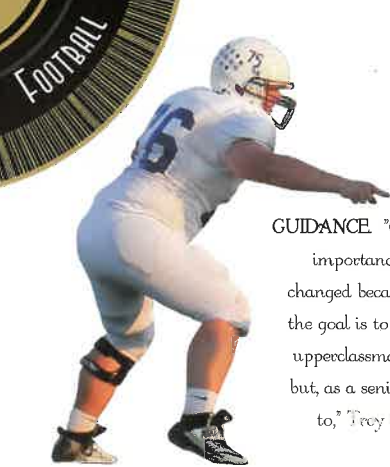


UP AND OVER. To start the game, Spencer Rohrich (12) jumps for tip off against the opposing team, Minden. The boys finished the game with an upset turn out leading Minden by only two points. The final score was 54 to 52.



ESCAPE. Dodging a tackle against Centuria's defense, Michael Pines (12) runs towards the end zone. Pines played football for four consecutive years of high school. "I felt like being a senior on the football team is just another player," said Pines.

TURN HIM OVER. At the Fairbury Invite, Chase Bond (12) forces his opponent to his back. "The sport not only brought me closer to my team and coaches but taught me more things that I will use in the real world than what the classroom has," said Bond.



GUIDANCE "Over the years, my importance on the team has changed because as a freshman, the goal is to get injured by the upperclassman during practice, but, as a senior, I am looked up to," Trey Rathman (12) said.



BREAK THROUGH Starting the Homecoming game, Chase Bond (12) bursts out from behind a banner. "I learned you have to earn what you get, that nothing worth bleeding for comes easy," Bond said about lessons he's learned this season.

STAND TOGETHER During the game against the Hasting St. Cecilia Bluehawks, Zach Kaufman (10) and Camden Thompson (10) stand back in anticipation and watch the teams as the play is carried out.

TAKE HIM OUT While an opposing player tries to run the ball into the end-zone in order to score a touchdown, Jose Trejo (10) runs after him and begins to attempt a tackle.



PUMP IT UP While clapping his hands, Troy Zosin (9) shouts as Grant Cannon (10) gestures in accomplishment as they celebrate a good play during the game against St. Paul. Sadly, they lost the game.

GROUP EFFORT Carrying out a defensive play against the Gibbon Buffaloes, Spencer Hebrich (12), Chase Bond (12), Trey Rathman (12), Juan Guerrero (12), and Alex Wieser (11) try to take players down.

PRACTICE RUN Going through the motions of a hand-off move, Jose Trejo (10) and Carlos Ludwig (11) crouch on the sidelines. "We learned how to work as a team to improve our skills," said Trejo.

JUMP FOR JOY During practice, Diego Guerrero (11) dives onto the mat wearing his practice pads as Coach Ben Fehringer (F) smiles at him. This is Guerrero's third year of playing varsity football for Wood River.

RUN FAST When playing against the Centura Centurians, Michael Pines (12) sprints in between the defensive players in an attempt to score. However, the Eagles did not come out on top this time.



How did you stay positive WHILE YOU WERE INJURED?

"I just wanted to get back and play again because I just love the game. I just wanted to get better records for Coach Fehringer than in his past years," said Paxton Dooley (12).

"I had a positive attitude while I was injured. I didn't let not playing with my team get me down. I thought I was done playing, and I wanted to be out there, but I remained positive," said Zach Archer (12).



"I could trust my team. I knew that they would make the right decisions and try their hardest," said Dylan Hruby (10).

"I had a good feeling I was coming back. I really wanted to go back because I knew my teammates needed me. I had felt bad that I let my team down, but I focused on getting back in," said Juan Guerrero (12).

MAKING WINS OUT OF LOSSES

DURING A PARTICULARLY CHALLENGING SEASON, THESE ATHLETES MANAGED TO MAKE THE BEST OUT OF THE HAND THEY WERE DRAWN, WHETHER IT BE ACQUIRING A NEW-FOUND APPRECIATION FOR THEIR COACHES, THEIR FELLOW TEAMMATES, OR FOR THE SPORT ITSELF.

Participating in a sport, any sport, involves a lot more than just playing the game. It's dedicating early hours of the morning and hours after school to practices with the coaches, who's only goal is to improve their team. It's motivating teammates, people you see in class everyday to do their best on and off the field. It's running out on a chilly October night to see stands packed with friends who cheer, scream, and let loose confetti and balloons when touchdowns are scored. These are just a few of the familiar components that make up the football season.

But when life throws multiple obstacles into the path for those honestly trying their hardest, sometimes not a lot can be done to avoid the unfortunate consequences. However, the

boys were determined to turn these losses into wins.

"I believe that some of that is true [referring to wins being the most important part of football], but the other half is just going out there and enjoying spending time with your brothers and having fun. Football has improved me in many ways. I have gotten a lot stronger. All my grades have been better than my previous years, and they have stayed like that ever since football has gotten over," said Juan Guerrero (12).

The boys also grew very close with Ben Fehringer (F), not only as a coach, but as a teacher too. When asked how Fehringer helped or influenced the team and himself, Jose Trejo (10) said, "He's a great person who helped us

individually and pushed us to our limits. He knew how to work with us, and we all got better as a team."

At the end of the season, the boys learned that they would be receiving a new head coach the following year, which was another obstacle that they had to overcome and learn to view positively. Despite this, the beneficial lessons that Fehringer taught his players will be his coaching legacy.

"Football has developed me into a man ready for the outside world, and it also readies me for any challenges I might face while out of high school and even in high school. I have improved so much both physically and mentally; physically, I hit the weight room, and I really tried to get better because it was something I wanted and was willing to work for, and

that is something Coach taught me. Mentally I had toughened up, and I wasn't scared of the big guys anymore. I was not afraid of getting hurt, and I was not scared of dropping a pass because I knew Coach had prepared me. I started believing in myself more after football. I feel this year's season was the best of my four years, not because of any stats, but because of the memories: my coaches, my team mates, and all of the close games. The games where we came together as a family, as a team, and gave it our best shot. No other feeling can compare to playing with a group of young men that will go to the ends of the earth for the the guy next to them. I had a really great season, and I do not want to change a thing about it," said Chase Bond (12).

Behind the Scenes

Every athlete has a place they call home, whether that be a football field or a gym floor. For these girls, it's the dugout.

Picture this: fans are sporting their team's colors while cheering on their home team. The pitcher blocks the sun from glaring into her eyes with a gloved hand and lines up the pitch. No matter the size of the crowd, it seems all conversations stop as the ball is thrown to the batter. As soon as the bat makes contact, hitting its target and blowing the yellow ball across the field, that's when the magic happens. But what all goes into play behind the scenes to prepare that batter, that pitcher, and all the others on the field? What really happens on the sidelines when the crowd isn't focused on the action on the field?

For one, softball requires a lot of rigorous practice sessions during the week, and this is when many friendships are made between players. This is where traditions are born.

"We talked about relationships and a

lot about our stressful problems so that they don't affect the team in a negative way. We all share our thoughts, good or bad, so that we can trust [each other] on and off the field. We usually do a prayer at the beginning of games. I usually just pull people aside and tell them that they're my idol to make them smile, to pump them up, and to make them feel they can become so much more after high school," said **Audie Earnest** (11).

A lot happens inside of the dugout, where players are gathered in a group, that spectators are unaware of.

"I bonded with so many people [in the dugout]! It was intimidating at first, but everyone was so sweet. I got to know so many new people, and most of my closest friends on the team are from other schools! [Often], Brock was giving us pep-talks and Carl [was] making us

laugh. The coaches are a big part of the dugout pep-talks," said **Allison Michalski** (10).

The coaches on the softball team definitely played a large part in not only coaching the team, but also guiding the team in the way it should go.

"I'm pretty close with all my coaches. Honestly, they are more like our parents during the season. Like, if there's a party, they forbid us to go. If there is something wrong [on the team], they bring us together to have a family meeting," said **Earnest**.

The team was not only able to work together as a whole, but they also broke down into individual groups. This helped to better not only the players but also benefit the coaches as well by teaching them how to help the team.

"We [coaches and athletes] work one-on-one to improve and benefit one

another in games and practices by doing drills, plays, and runs," said **Lacey Sickler** (10).

Teamwork isn't the only important factor. Making sure the team is properly motivated seems like a big part of getting the win.

"[We had] a positive attitude, and while we're at practice, in order to stay motivated, we focused on one common goal," said **Michalski** (10).

The Grand Island Crusaders had a 27-8 season, placing runner-up at the Class B-5 District Championship. They earned an overall state ranking of 35th place.

"I loved playing softball [this past couple of years] because I get to play the sport that I love with some of my closest friends. It has been one of my best life experiences," said **Lily Waitaszewski** (12).



What is the goofiest MOMENT OF THE SEASON?



"[The goofiest moments of the season are] probably just us acting us," said **Lacey Sickler** (10).

"I hit a line drive during practice and hit **Caleb Geller** in the knee. It was swollen and bruised so he had to ice it for a couple of weeks," said **Audie Earnest** (11).



"Honestly, so many funny things happened, and I couldn't just pick one. It's another reason Crusaders is so fun to be apart of," said **Allison Michalski** (10).

GOOD LUCK! At the beginning of the game against Centura/Central Valley during the starting line up, **Cydney Fisselle** (10) runs through the tunnel created by her teammates. Unfortunately, the Crusaders lost the B-5 District Championship game to Centura/Central Valley. The score was 6-1.

OUT! Stepping on her base, **Audie Earnest** (11) foils a Holdrege-Chase player's plan to retreat back to first base. This is **Earnest's** third year playing softball for the Crusaders, and she has participated since Wood River added this program.



AIMING SHORT Anticipating to run for first base, **Lily Waitaszewski** (12) bunts her way to the base. With great luck, the team ended up winning the game with a score of 9-0 against Aurora. **Waitaszewski** has been a part of the softball team since Wood River co-oped with the Crusaders. **FIRST TIMER.** With a steady arm, **Allison Michalski** (10) pitches the ball to the ready batter. This was not only **Michalski's** first year at Wood River but also her first year pitching varsity softball for the Grand Island Crusaders. **Michalski** has been playing softball since tee-ball. **PREP TIME.** To get ready for the next inning, **Penny Coff** (9) helps warm up one of her teammates. Although she did not play varsity throughout the entire season, **Coff** (9) was a helpful assistant.



TOP FIVE Softball Practice Drills

- 1 Hitting Heavy-Weight Balls
- 2 Live Hitting with Pitchers
- 3 Sliding & Running Bases
- 4 Bunting
- 5 Infield Grounders





PLAY IT OUT. Warming up to play in a marching parade at the State Fair, the musicians ready their instruments. The band travels each year to Grand Island to perform at the fair.

ORGANIZATIONS



BFFS AND LOLS. At the Christmas party for Spanish Club, Elicia Moffett (10) and Shireley Stewart (10) fight off a fit of giggle as they eat their snacks. This is their second year of being in Spanish Club.

SING LOUD AND PROUD. Staring confidently out into the audience, Lizzy Curran (12) performs the song "Winter Snow" by Chris Tomlin during the winter choir concert. She was doing a duet with Brian Lushew (9).



It can be hard to be *you* own person, or to stand out from the crowd so to speak. Everyone around *you* can sometimes impact who *you* aspire to be and the goals that *you* want to accomplish for *yourself*. Being a part of something new can help *you* to realize who *you* are and what *you* like. *You* should be the only one to decide what *you* like, even if it may not be what everyone else does. Organizations give *you* an opportunity to be unique, but doing so isn't always easy; it takes



ARTFUL OBSERVATION. With careful and precise strokes, Dewiny Campos (12) paints the canvas while Fernando Bato (12) critiques Campos' oil painting of a wolf. "I was inspired /to make the painting/ by the beauty of the eyes and how the image draws you in" said Campos.

commitment, whether it's staying late for play practice or waking up early for show choir. At first, it may seem like *you're* giving up *your* time and energy for nothing, but *you'll* know it was worth it when *you* get a superior rating in marching band, or even a scholarship for sticking with it for years. Organizations give *you* a chance to not only show who *you* are and why *you* are here, but to help *you* realize that we are all golden in one way or another--that *you* are golden.



FUN WITH FLAGS. While marching behind the band during UNK band day, Allison Nischelski (10) smiles confidently. She is a part of the color guard, which includes the entire Cheer and Dance team.



PUT YOUR HANDS IN THE AIR. During a one act performance at Ord, Kiley Cashner (11), Ryan Watalowicz (12), and Bailey Miller (12) wait patiently for Elle Luche (11) to call on one of them. **DIGGIN' THE DANCING QUEEN.** Showing animated faces, the New Generation Show Choir dances to the song "Dancing Queen" from their show during their first performance of the year at Central City.



VOCABULARY WORDS



"Murder Winks because it was funny to watch everyone guess who the murderers were."

What is your favorite warm up and why?

"My favorite warm up is Ninja because that game teaches you life skills."

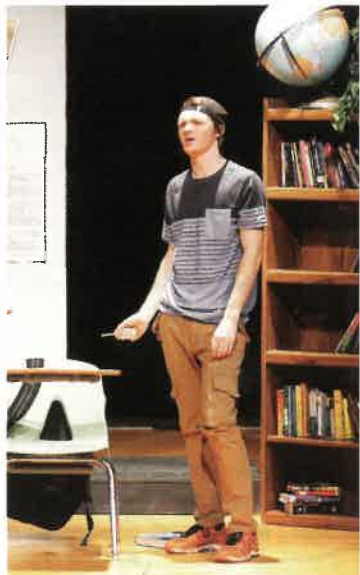
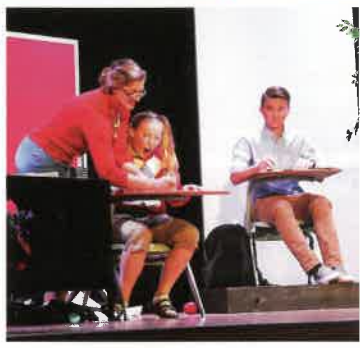
LOOKING GOOD! Propping his legs up on the desk next to him, Ryan Wotalewicz (12) combs back his hair while looking at his reflection in a hand mirror. Wotalewicz won the Best Actor Award this year.

THANK GOD! Throwing his hands up in the air, Dillon DeVos (11) praises God for giving him the answers to a test question. DeVos's character was unable to answer the question due to the required time being up.

KAI FOO LEN HEE! In the process of going over the Chinese portion of the test, Briley Miller (12) pretends to meditate to get a laugh out of his fellow classmates during the first performance at Ord High School.

GETTING READY. Loading up her lashes with mascara, Mariana Rodriguez (11) puts on her stage makeup before the Conference performance at Wood River. This year Rodriguez received the Best Actress Award.

YOUNG LOVE. Poms in hand, Mariana Rodriguez (11) walks through a shower of petals thrown by her admirer Ryan Wotalewicz (12). Wotalewicz made many attempts to get Rodriguez's attention during the play.



Achieving Improvement

With a larger class, this year's production was able to expand several opportunities. The coach, *Ms. Carrie Niemeyer* (F), chose a play called "This is a Test" to accentuate the ability of previous actors and actresses while also giving new members the chance to show off what they can do.

Even with a number of setbacks at the beginning of this year, including a few students being removed from the One Act class, the cast worked hard and improved greatly from last year.

"I thought we drastically improved from last year with the level of energy playing off one another, our constant facial reactions, our convincing role playing, and the improved delivery of our lines with good enunciation and emotion," said *Elle Luehr* (11).

Throughout the numerous practices that both the cast and crew participated in, unique additions were made to the play. "Those incorporations helped to make "This is a Test" a success. The cast wanted to add their own ideas to spice up the production even more.

"Our play [was made] more successful

when we added new comical segments. Every rehearsal we thought of something else to add to make our show better than before," said *Ryan Wotalewicz* (12).

Through these additions, each cast member was able to become more comfortable with their character and get into the production even further. "My favorite part of the play was how *Kiley Codner* (11) acted goofy, and it was really energetic, which brought everyone's energy level up," *Mariana Rodriguez* (11) said.

While there were minor complications, "This is a Test" received sixth place at Conference, which many of the cast members agreed was an improvement from the previous year.

"I felt prepared for the most part,

except for a couple of performances. For Conference, I forgot my shoes, so I had to use my other shoes, and then for the second performance, I left my shoes in the rain. So, after all of that, I felt prepared for performances," *Codner* (11) said.

With the mainly positive feedback from previous judges in mind and the comfort of feeling prepared, the cast and crew went to Districts with high hopes. This year, District One-Act was held at Ravenna Senior High School on November 21st. By continuing to advance even further from Conference, this year's cast was awarded fourth place at Districts.

"I feel like we did really well, looking back to as far as last year to see how much we have grown and developed

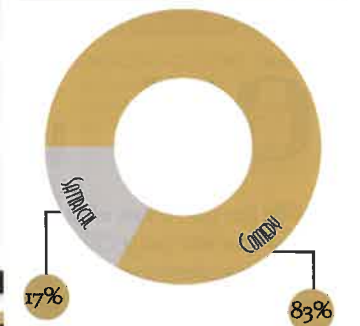
from placing near seventh at Districts," said *Halle Sidak* (11).

"I think what we did well on this year was finding a play that fit our cast and our cast size really well. I think that each cast member was able to bring their own individuality to their character, and that made the play fun for everyone. What I am most looking forward to in the future is becoming more skilled as a team and increasing our cast size," said *Niemeyer* (F).

Through long meets and several tiring practices, the cast and crew grew to know each other better on a whole new level.

"My favorite part of the play was just being on the team with my friends. We had so much fun together," *Kennadie English* (12) said.

WHAT TYPE OF ONE-ACT PLAY WOULD YOU LIKE NEXT YEAR?



GET INTO THE GROOVE With a bright smile, *Kiley Codner* (11) dances in her chair to the beat created by the tapping of her and her classmates' pens on the desks. *Codner* received the Best Actress Award this year.

TAKING A STAND. Protesting the exam, *Dillon DeVos* (11) disagrees with how the personal test questions about his life insult him. For example, one of the true or false questions asked whether he has a social life or not.

SHOOK! Overjoyed with the teacher, *Elle Luehr* (11), awarding her bonus points on the test, *Kiley Codner* displays a face of pure happiness. *Codner's* character was mainly focused around being the teacher's pet.

SPREAD DESIGN BY ALLISON MOSS & RACHEL COOPER

Taking On COSTA RICA

While taking a trip to another country, students gained experiences they never dreamed of. They were able to meet new people and see things they will most likely never forget.

Being a part of Spanish Club during the year meant that students were given a choice to take a week long trip to Costa Rica to get the opportunity to explore a Spanish speaking country and experience a new culture first hand.

Those attending found out where they would be going in the spring of 2016 and were able to fundraise to earn money for the trip by selling coupon books to Younkers for \$5. The trip didn't actually take place until May 27th, and although the wait was long, the students can say that it was absolutely worth it and the days they were counting down were going by faster than they would have thought.

"It felt like the day we would depart was far away, however, in the weeks and days leading up to when we left, it just felt like the day approached so fast. I was excited because it was my first

time ever visiting a foreign country, and I knew that I would get to see and experience different things," said **Abbie Philmatore (11)**.

"The things some were looking forward to seeing and doing did not disappoint. I was most looking forward to going to the beaches. The view from the beach was breathtaking, and swimming and boogie boarding were awesome. The only downside was the salt water getting in your eyes and mouth," said **Bailey Landanger (11)**.

Because the trip was not only for fun, but for educational purposes as well, the students had to incorporate what they learned from Spanish class in Costa Rica.

"Taking three years of Spanish really enhanced the trip for me because it helped break the language barrier. Although most people spoke English, it

was broken and kind of hard to understand. Knowing some of their language really helped to more or less understand what was being said. One of the best parts of the trip was actually having small conversations with the children at the schools. Not much was said, but it was very memorable to be able to chat in the language of a foreign country," said **Mikayla Borg (11)**.

Having a chance to travel abroad with classmates in a unique opportunity, and most students who were able to experience the trip would recommend others to go as well.

"This trip was amazing! I had so much fun, and I got to experience so many new things that I will remember forever. I had the time of my life, and I would definitely go again if I was presented the chance," said **Kiley Collier (11)**.



TO THE BEACH! Hiking through a trail of wildlife including monkeys and sloth's to get to the beach, the students carry their bags packed with beach necessities. **Abbie Philmatore (11)** snaps a picture of them from behind.

LATER ALLIGATOR While on top of a bridge, the group stopped to look at an abundance of alligators that were below them, then deciding to get together for a picture to capture the moment.

FUNDRAISER At the beginning of the school year, students in Spanish class hosted a event to raise money for the trip. They served common Mexican food such as enchiladas, beans, and rice.

GOTTA JET! Sitting on the plane to Atlanta, **Audie Earnest (11)** and **Kiley Collier (11)** take a selfie before they finally take off. "I was super excited to see everything from a higher elevation! I was really nervous though because it was my first time on a plane," said **Earnest**.

FINAL DESTINATION. While waiting in line for immigration/customs for two hours after getting off the last plane and arriving in Costa Rica, the excited bunch smile from ear to ear for Teacher **Max Deb Roloitch (F)**.



The beach is safe with the Baywatch boys. **Bailey Landanger (11)**



TWITTER
Costa Rica was amazing, but I'm ready to go back to the simple life. Miss Nebraska

@AudieEarnest(11)

MAKING A SPLASH During the trip, the students got to experience Whitewater rafting. The boys and girls were separated into two groups. "When hitting the wild rapids you could feel the thrill go through your body," said **Erica Moffet**.
NEXT PRESIDENT. Attending a Spanish Club meeting, **Cydney Hinstable (10)**, **Lissy Cameron (12)**, and **Erica Moffet (10)** vote on who they think should hold the title of Spanish Club President. **Jimmy Rojas (11)** ended up winning the election.
FUTURE VAN GOGH At a school in Costa Rica, the kids show off some artwork to the group. **Lissy Cameron (12)** poses for a picture with one of the kids. The students showed the children how to do the Cupid Shuffle.

let's talk about
THE SPORTS YOU PARTICIPATE IN



"In wrestling, my favorite move is the bow-and-arrow because it hurts [the opponent's] leg and thigh muscles," said **Justin Ramirez** (7).



"I enjoy playing football because I get to hit people a lot," said **Calab Stewart** (7).

"I like running in track because I can just think and it really helps me concentrate," said **Justin Ramirez** (8).



"For basketball, I really enjoyed the games. Practices were always hard, but the games were easy," said **Justin Ramirez** (7).



GOTTA GO FAST! With a football in his hand, **Calab Stewart** (7) runs past some of his fellow teammates and opponents in order to get a touchdown at the home football game against Kearney Catholic.

FORCE HIM DOWN. In order to take his opponent to the floor, **Carson Thompson** (8) grips onto his opponent's upper arm and knee and pulls down. **Thompson** planned on continuing his wrestling career in high school.

TAKE A DEEP BREATH. At the home basketball game against Centura, **Aiden Graves** (7) looks up at the hoop before shooting a free-throw. **Graves** participated in several school sports throughout the year.

DETERMINATION. During the wrestling tournament at Gibbon, **Dylan Archera** (7) executes a wing move to try to take his opponent down. "Dylan has done really well this season. He's improved a lot," said **Coach Rehlinger** (F).



Middle School Boys' Track Members

- Runners
- Jumpers
- Throwers
- Vaulters



OVER THE BAR. After taking a running start, (7) leaps backwards and twists his body in order to get over the bar. **Thompson** participated in the high jump, the 500, the 800, and the 1600.

LOVE WHAT YOU DO

With the opportunity to do all four sports throughout the school year, students get the chance to see what each sport has to offer.

Every year, middle school wrestling and basketball is held at different times of the year so that the students have the opportunity to get a taste of each sport. Because of that, each sport is filled with students who love what they do.

"I am always really excited before I run in a track event. I have always enjoyed running for as long as I can remember," said **Dylan Alvarado** (8).

Not only do the students have lots of passion for the sport that they are in, but so do the coaches that teach and grow with them.

"I love teaching the things that I like.

I enjoy fitness and activity. It's so cool when you're teaching and the kids just get it," said **Coach Rehlinger** (F).

Rehlinger is the coach of the middle school wrestling team. Wrestling had a fairly good season this year with a total of fifteen team members.

Basketball had a fairly decent season this year as well. The first game that the team won was against Gibbon.

"I like playing basketball because I find it fun, and I like playing with my teammates," said **Cole Huerfable** (8).

Football was more about growing as a team rather than winning.

"I really enjoyed football this season. My favorite game that we played was the one against Centura because we beat them really bad. I like the warm-ups when we just catch the ball, but I don't really like when we run up and down the field. It was really exciting when I caught my first ball during a game. I also really like playing football with my twin, **Easton** (7). We get along really well," said **Aiden Graves** (7).

Track also had a good season with **Nick Brodigan** (8) going to state for the 200 meter hurdles. Throughout the

year, many teammates participated in several events.

"I run in the one mile, 4x8, 800 meter run, and high jump. My favorite event to run in is the one mile because I really want to beat my teammate **Omar** (8) in it. I've only done that once. I don't really like running the 800 because by the time it comes around, I'm really tired from the previous races I did. I think that our team did pretty well. I'll work harder next year when I'm in high school," said **Alvarado** (8).

Overall, middle school sports were all about the heart that put into them



Hensly Alvarado Cy Archer Tiffany Bushhousen Victoria Castro Dakota Conaway Joey Cooper



Alex DeKay Breanna Engelker Emily Evans Laramie Frear Isaiah Garcia Nova Garrels Vanessa Garrels



Kobe Gerlach Angela Hall Laila McComb Garret Miller Jacob Morse Caleb Faulk Maddison Price



DRUMMER BOYS. In the middle of 6th grade band, Jason Tule (6) helps out Kobe Gerlach (6) to get the beat right for the song that their class is learning to play. The 6th grade band usually practiced three days out of the week.

DAB BOI With the whole school's eyes on him at one of the morning assemblies, Joey Cooper (6) dabs to the crowd after his grade won the bottle flipping contest. The contest was against each grade and the school staff.

HIT ME WITH YOUR BEST SHOT! Dodge balls in hand, Ryan Waldmann (6) spreads his right arm back to throw the ball at an opposing teammate. This took place during the middle school dodge-ball tournament on November 11th.

PEACE AND QUIET. Book in hand, Arie Segura (6) is completely engrossed in the novel that she is currently reading. Every day sixth graders had a whole class period's worth of time to read A.R.



SENIOR ADVICE

"Turn in all of your homework and study for tests. Everything will come naturally."

Michael Fines (19)

Q&A with Joey Cooper

Where did you first learn about bottle-flipping? "I found it after the trend wasn't as popular while watching videos on the Internet." Did you try bottle-flipping as soon as you saw it and did you succeed? "I tried it as soon as I had a water bottle with me, and I did succeed the first time." Do you still practice this trend? "When bottle-flipping was very popular I practiced a lot, but now that the trend has died down I practice less." How much have you practiced? "When it first became a trend, I would always bottle-flip because I thought it was cool." What is your practice routine? "I first fill a bottle one fourth the way full, go to the nearest table, and flip the bottle repeatedly."

Do you consider yourself to be a pro bottle-flipper? "I consider myself to be above a pro bottle-flipper because I can do bottle-flip trick shots." Have you ever competed in a bottle-flipping contest outside of school? If so, explain that experience. "Yes, I have. Last April, I had three of my friends over. One of them had strep throat and brought a water bottle with him. He left early and left the water bottle at my house. My other friend then tried to flip the bottle, and he failed. We both made a game out of flipping the water bottle, and I won." How did you find out about dabbing? "I can't really remember, but I think I saw some people doing it, and I thought that it was really funny."

Why do you like to dab? "I feel like it is just a fun thing to do." Why did you choose to dab at the Monday morning assembly? "My sisters kept telling me that water bottle-flipping wouldn't come in handy, and when the school did that competition at the assembly, I got to prove them wrong. So I dabbled to show them that it did come in handy." During one of the Monday morning assemblies, were you confident about your class winning the bottle-flipping contest? "I wasn't confident my class would win the contest until I joined the competition." Could you explain, in detail, your experience at the assembly? "My experience at the assembly was good. I got to prove my sisters wrong in

front of the entire school and help my class win a competition." Were you nervous or embarrassed about being in front of the whole school? "No, I was excited to show off my skills and dab in front of my sisters and the whole school." How did you feel about sixth grade winning the bottle-flipping contest? "It felt good because we had won, and I dabbled. It also felt good to prove my sisters wrong about how bottle-flipping would come in handy." How did you react when the crowd burst into laughter after you dabbled? "I reacted by just laughing with them I guess. I didn't expect to have such big feedback, but it ended up being really cool to be able to make the whole school laugh."



CHRISTMAS TIME! Standing with the rest of their grade on stage, Caleb Faulk (6), Laila McComb (6), Alex Real (6), Lavinia Segura (6), Angela Hall (6), Jason Tule (6), Breanna Engelker (6), and Riley Waddington (6) perform the motions for the song they are singing.



Alex Real Kobe Roder Luis Rodriguez Amelia Rojas Ana Segura Kayden Smith Mariah Soto Cadin Summers

Trenton Turek Dakota Van Claudia Vargas Riley Waddington Gracie Wagoner Ryan Waldmann Drake Worley Jose Zarraga



Cutie Pies

The time of the year to go dress shopping, order tuxes, and do promposals came around quick. Destiny Campos (12) asked Michael Fines (12) to prom in a unique way. Near Jenni Adelmar's (F) room, Campos pied Fines in the face and held a piece of paper saying "Prom?" "Knowing Michael's fun and crazy personality made me want to ask him in a unique way that would give him a good laugh and shock him," said Campos.



SCREAM IT LOUDER. Pumped up for the Homecoming pep rally, the seniors proudly cheer on their peers. In the game, the senior boys were blindfolded and thought they were going to kiss the senior girls. They actually were going to kiss another boy. GETTING DOWN AND DIRTY. After mixing wet clay and goop together, Fernando Brito (12) starts to knead all the ingredients together. Brito created a sculpture of a three faced clown. Along with many other seniors, Brito was in Art III.



ALL GREASED UP. Getting his hands all dirty while working on a project for his Large Engines class, Preston Doolley (12) attempts to clean the piece of machinery. CAREFULLY CRAFTED. With gentle hands and precise movements, Rush Flomander (12) gingerly constructs the hair of the woman statue made from a block of clay for Art IV. CHAT IT UP. Setting up for the homecoming dance, Destiny Campos (12) and Sydney Stoner (12) decide to spare some time to goof around since they got most of the decorating complete. Even with them messing around, the decorations came out great.



Wyatt Allan

"The inner machinations of my mind are an enigma." -Patrick Star



Zach Archer

"No." -Rosa Parks



Knox Arnett

"If idiots could fly, this place would be an airport." -Unknown



Chace Bond

"It's Chace, not Chance." -Me

ON FIRE In an effort to complete their Hunger Games themed hallway as a part of Homecoming week, Taylor Lumbachi (12) uncontrollably smiles as she tries to find ways to give the final touches to their masterpiece. LOVE HATE HOCO? Capturing the attention of Rachel Skly (12), Phoenix Preece (12) holds up a handmade sign asking his best friend, Skly, to the Homecoming dance during first lunch.



LAST FIRST DAY. Standing side-by-side in the bright sun on their first day of their senior year, Lily Woltkowski (12) and Konradie English (12) get ready after eating their lunch to play the annual kickball games. MAD SKILLS. Swiftly shuffling the cards between his hands, Tony Rathbun (12) prepares to play a game of cards. His and his peer Sydney Stoner (12) often play Egyptian Rat Tail when they had free time in their Personal Leadership class.



Exploring Something New

Often times Mondays seem to drag by, but now the school has come up with a creative new way to get the students awake and ready to learn on these lazy days.

What's your favorite PART OF BEING A TEACHER?



"Working with students and being a part of discovering new and different," said **Jill Edgren** (F).

"Working with students honestly and helping them grow and make them into knowledgeable adults," said **Lisa Boucher** (F).



"Working with kids like **Ben**, because they are just incredible, they write well, think well, and are inquisitive to learn more about Geography, Political Science, and American History," said **Ben Egger** (F).

"Getting to know the kids, seeing the kids become successful and become something out of themselves," said **Judy Walker** (F).



Jami Adelman



Maylin Ammon



Aub Boucher



Lisa Boucher



Brenda Codner



Lori Dibbern



Jill Edgren



Ben Egger



Ben Fehring



Nathan Gartner



James Haley



Peg Heise



Brenda Hirschert



Gail Kistler



Jon Kuecker



Brian Leisher



Juliana Loudon



Heather Ludwig



Sarah Maggittis



Kevin Mayfield

The start of the week is not something we all look forward to. Mondays are the toughest day of the week for many of us. Most students have trouble staying awake and paying full attention after a long weekend. As a result, Wood River Rural School has provided a day where students can attend an event every Monday morning. Performances at the assemblies could help increase our school spirit and show a sense of collaboration between students, and give confidence to those who need to step out of their comfort zone.

"It is important to highlight the students' talents. We need to find more ways to have students cheering and supporting each other. Sometimes they do amazing things, but the general student population isn't aware because they haven't attended the game, concert, play, etc.," said **Deb Rohrich** (F).

After the second semester of school, a new ritual was implemented in the middle and high school. At the beginning of every week, students and staff met in the gymnasium for Monday morning assemblies. It sounds simple enough, but these new assemblies have brought numerous benefits and challenges along with its introduction. One of the positives is that it has produced an unusual but entertaining start to the week, which boosts interest and the general atmosphere of the entire student body. Also, students now have a chance to practice public speaking on a

large scale, time management skills, and they can show off individual unique skills. However, these assemblies do take up time. Classes during that day are cut short, which can be a disadvantage to some students and especially teachers. While most kids love getting out of class to watch fun games and performances, there must be a balance between fun and what school is for: learning.

"It depends on the content of the assembly. Some of the more information based assemblies are a great experience to learn from, but others are simply for fun. I think a mix of these elements is a good balance," said **Sam Luehr** (12).

Mondays are known for being called lazy days. Many may not be very aware of the significant benefit that Monday morning assemblies bring forth. Monday assemblies are an amusing new feature in our school's curriculum; however, it isn't always easy. It takes careful planning and time management to make the assemblies work as they're supposed to.

"It takes time but making time for the entire student body to gather as one, once a week is a way to keep all students and teachers up to date as to what is happening in the school, exposes students in a positive situation, and may give students who don't always feel comfortable in front of their peers opportunities to be acknowledged, and I feel it's a way to start the school week," said **Lori Peters** (F).



Becca Moore Carrie Niemeier Darren Parlin Lori Peters Nancy Roberts Blanca Rodriguez Deb Rohrich Michael Schroeder
Kerry Sheeks Phil Smith Joel Stryker Darin Waddington Judy Walker Gretchen Wiseman Kim Woltaszewski Terry Zessin

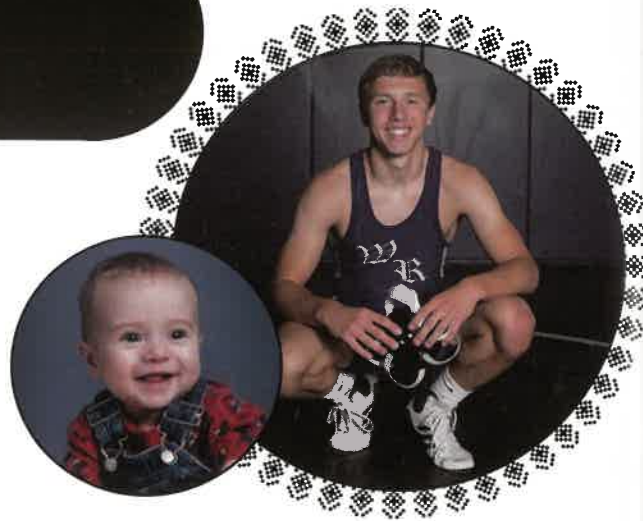


SAY CHEESE. Taking some time out of his day to interact with the students during Homecoming week, **Kevin Mayfield** (F) agrees to have his picture taken of him staring at the cupcake while having fake buck teeth to make him look even more silly. **BABY STEPS.** As a part of their team building exercise activity on a teacher in-service day, **Carrie Niemeier** (F) and some elementary teachers attempt to work together in order to walk as a team while holding strings to navigate the blocks of wood on their feet. **SHAKING THINGS UP.** Placing their hands on their hearts in respect for the flag, the faculty leads the student body in the Pledge of Allegiance. This took place at the second Monday morning assembly on January 18.

Wyatt Allan

Congratulations, Wyatt! We are so proud you and your accomplishments. You have turned out to be a remarkable young man. We are excited to see what the future holds for you as you enter into this new chapter of your life.

We love you! Mom, Dad, and Jersey



Destiny Campos



The whole idea of family originated with God. So, when He allowed you to join our family, we considered you a gift from God. We love you, Destiny, with all our hearts. And we can't wait to see what God has in mind for your future. "The Lord is good to those whose hope is in Him, to the one who seeks Him." (Lam. 3:25) Keep on seeking Him!

Love your Mom, Dad & the rest of the South Clan.

Kinsley Forbes

What a journey it has been, from birth to this moment. Nothing can compare to the pride filling our hearts. Here's to you, Kinz, may this be the end of one wonderful chapter and the start of many new journeys yet to come!

Love lots, Mom, Dad & Koltyn.



Rachel Jilg



Rachel, We have been so blessed to be your parents and watch you grow into the amazing young woman that you have become! We are so excited to see what God has in store for your future. Never stop chasing your dreams! Always remember your favorite verse, "For with God nothing shall be impossible," Luke 1:37.

Love, Mom & Dad

Jasmine Kennedy

We are blessed to be your parents, proud of who you have become and of all your accomplishments. Now your adventure begins- the world awaits you! Keep God and your family by your side, and you will reach your dreams. We will always be here for you.

Love, Mom, Dad, Briana, & Elena



Haley Parlin



Haley, We are so very proud of the young lady you have become! This is just the beginning of your journey. Be true to your beliefs and values and you will be very successful. Always remember your family will always be here to support you.

Love Dad & Mom

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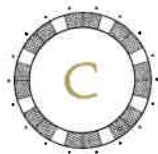
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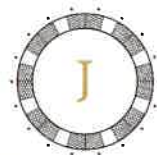
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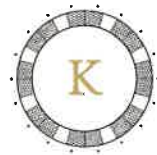
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