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Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

In Remembrance of

Gemesha Thomas

2000-2017

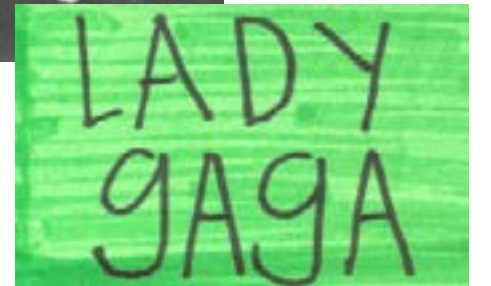
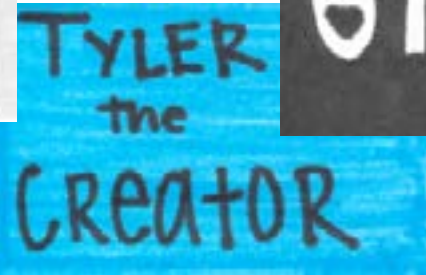
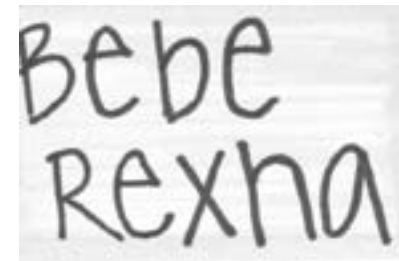
In Remembrance of

Matthew Kelley

1999-2017

Major Artists Coming to Kansas City

HannahBerry-StaffReporter



Lady Gaga, Tyler the Creator and Bebe Rexha are coming to Missouri. Concerts can be exciting, especially for teens. It is a time for teens to spend time with their friends or family. Kansas City, Missouri is home to the Sprint Center, The Truman, Uptown theater, etc.

Artists such as Ariana Grande, Ed Sheeran, and The Weeknd have had concerts here. Artist like Bebe Rexha, Tyler the Creator and Lady Gaga are all coming this November. People seem to be most excited for Tyler the Creator and Lady Gaga.

"I like "Yonkers" and his whole new album (Flower Boy) is really good and "Who Dat Boy," Jennah Goins, sophomore, said.

Multiple students like Tyler the Creator's new album Flower Boy.

"I have been jamming to "911" recently and "Loneley" and just his whole new album, I like the concept," Jenna Wilhite, sophomore, said.

Others prefer pop icon

Lady Gaga. Lady Gaga has been coming out with music for several years and many people continue to listen.

"I listen to a lot of her songs and she is one of my favorites. Poker Face is definitely my favorite song by her," Austyn Maloney, sophomore, said.

Bebe Rexha is also a pop singer. She is featured on many songs and has since released a new album "All Your Fault pt.1" and All Your Fault pt.2".

"I like 'The Way I Are' by her [Rexha]. I also find her voice really soothing for some reason," Anonda Martinez, sophomore, said.

Concerts are supposed to be a positive experience where you just let loose. The vibes and the artist can make or break your concert experience.

"The vibe of the people who go... it is awesome. You have to surround yourself with the right people who like concerts.," Goins said.

Some people feel that other

artists should come to Kansas City as well.

Some hope for more diverse groups to come to Kansas City.

"I really want BTS (Bangtan Sonyeondan or Beyond the Scene) to come to Kansas City for their comeback, and same with GOT7 because their music is really awesome and it is very rare for people from other countries to come to Kansas City, especially countries like Korea," Goins said.

Others are content with the artists who have come to Kansas City.

"Everyone who I wanted to come has come here. Some of the artists who have come are Ariana Grande, The Weeknd and Ed Sheeran," Maloney said.

Some feel that concert tickets are too expensive, especially for high school students.

"For certain artists, it is really expensive. The cheaper concerts are the ones that

I choose to go to but a lot of them are way too expensive for someone like me, in high school, who is on a budget," Goins said.

The price for concerts has gone up. The price has increased 43% over the last three years. The price for concert tickets now is almost 7% higher than any ticket for all of the 2000.

"Tyler the Creator went to a small venue and it was kind of exclusive, so the tickets were like \$200 and the cheapest tickets were \$60 but the seats were not that good," Wilhite said.

Enjoying a concert may cost you a pretty penny, but for certain artists some feel that it is worth the money.

Lady Gaga is coming to the Sprint Center Nov. 15, Tyler the Creator is coming to The Truman Nov. 9 and Bebe Rexha is coming to The Truman Nov. 13.

Graphics by Savannah Mullen

Update On The Hurricane Apocalypse

AprilCowan-StaffReporter



Graphic by Savannah Mullen

Hurricanes cause mass destruction all over North America and clean-up is easier said than done.

Over the past few months many hurricanes have hit along the coast of Mexico, the United States, Puerto Rico, and Cuba.

The first major one that started the hurricane season was Hurricane Harvey. Harvey was then followed by Irma, José, Katia, Lee, Maria, Nate and Ophelia.

The cleanup for the hurricanes has not been an easy one, especially with new hurricanes showing up before the toll of the one before can be counted.

“It’s been a daunting task. Our government has been doing everything possible to help out FEMA [Federal Emergency Management Association] but it’s going to take quite some time to clean all that up,” Ty Kohl, history teacher, said.

“I was 10 years old when I was in a hurricane, Hurricane Alicia. Until you actually visit and witness the amount of damage, it’s just hard psychologically to deal with all the loss,” said Kohl.

Hurricane Alicia was the strongest hurricane of its season in 1983. It traveled along the coast of Texas towards the Houston area.

Kohl has donated to the cause. He now donates and does what he can to help because he knows what it is like to go through a major storm.

“Being in that position, I think anybody would. One day we are all going to be in that position and if you have the chance to help it’s best you give something. It doesn’t matter how small or large because it’s to benefit and help others,” Kohl said.

The government has a lot of programs in place

to help with natural disasters, but it is often difficult to find local places to help. It is especially difficult for teens trying to play a part in the community.

“I haven’t been informed of anything, but they don’t tell teens that even though they’re part

of the community too,” Hailey Cordes, Florida resident, said.

In the Kansas City area, there are places that anyone can make a donation to help. One local program in Kansas City is Heart to Heart.

Heart to Heart first donated supplies to Houston, Texas, then to several Florida coastal areas. They are now making their way to Puerto Rico to help where they can.

“They have taken all kinds of donations around the city and personally driven or flown it down to places that need it,” Kohl said.

Another local donation that you can make is to the boy scout groups in the area.

“My son is in Cub Scouts and him and I set up this booth at Hy-Vee, where as people were walking in we could tell them to buy an extra pack of pencils, or roll of toilet paper, or some kind of household item

Then we ended up sending

them down to schools in the area,” Kelly Lepert, science teacher, said.

When the hurricanes first started Lepert did not think that they would be that big of a deal, but as they began to occur more frequently, he saw it as an opportunity to use it in a teaching lesson, because he teaches astrology. Another thing that crossed his mind was whether or not the cause of the hurricanes had something to do with global warming.

“For a hurricane to form you need warm air to rise. Those storms usually start on the East side of the Atlantic, then they makes their way over to our side of the ocean. So if global temperatures are warmer then they can fuel the air that storms need to become hurricanes,” said Lepert.

Hurricane Ophelia was one of the only hurricanes in history to change direction and head toward Europe. The cause of this was the temperature near Europe was around 75F, triggering Ophelia to travel toward the European coast.

As hurricane updates continue to come in, people out there are still in need. Everyday people donate their time to help cleanup the mess, as there is still much work to do.

School Dress Codes Meant to Provide a Distraction Free Learning Environment

MariaSmith-StaffReporter

Schools all across America are divided on what students should learn and to what extent, but they do all have one thing in common: dress codes. From a time where girls were not allowed to wear pants to present day where spaghetti straps are still forbidden. Dress codes are still around and kicking, just slightly changed.

Dress codes are rules over what people wear. They can be aimed toward creating a certain atmosphere, and at school it is focused on a learning one. They are in place to create a distraction free environment, although some have a different opinion.

“No I don’t [believe in dress codes], because they seem to fall on female personnel. They are harder on girls, and it is harder to try to find clothes,” Madison Turley, freshman, said.

Other people do agree with the dress code, and what it evokes to the students and staff.

“Yes [I believe in dress codes], because it forms a more positive learning environment and it brings more positive feedback towards people,” Cameron Brennan, sophomore, said.

Some students do not think

that they are always fairly informed of what is against the dress code or not, because of how much is left to interpretation.

“[Some things] aren’t specific enough, where it says kind of something about it, but it doesn’t really apply to what I’m wearing, but I could still get dress coded for it,” Neema El-Scari, freshman, said.

Another issue is how many kids end up breaking the dress code on a daily basis, without consequences.

“I don’t think that there is really a point in dress coding because there is around 2,000 students in this school, and you aren’t going to dress code every one who is breaking the dress code,” El-Scari said.

There is a reason that the dresscode is not super specific. With fashion trends changing everyday it is hard to tell what will be popular, but some rules will always stay in place.

“If you get too specific with the dress code you’re going to be rewriting it constantly, because style changes so fast,” Tim Collins, assistant principal, said.

Due to the issues in 2014 regarding the hashtag clothing has no gender, the school board changed the dress code trying to get rid of the gendered aspects of it.

“Working with that family. Working with some students prompted a reevaluation, and I wouldn’t say that they had a hand in writing it, but they did have a hand in us reconsidering our dress code and trying to leave gender out of the dress code as much as possible. What we’re looking for is consistency if they are wearing some fashions that are gender neutral, gender leaning one way or the other we are looking for a consistency in that” Collins said.

Even though they did change the dress code to be more gender neutral some people still think that it is still

split. “I think that they are aimed more at girls rather than guys because things like sagging aren’t allowed even though guys still do it, but girls have crop tops, midriff, everything has to be a certain length, and I think that it’s just pushed more towards girls,” Brennan said.

No matter what you believe, if you believe in dress codes or not, it looks like they are sticking around for a while; however as the times change the effect dress codes have on students will change too.



Graphic by Savannah Mullen.

Community Service: Contributing to Lee's Summit

Jillian Jamaledin-Junior Editor



Anna Donaldson, Sara Mullins and Brooke Lally after pulling a shopping cart out of the trees for their community service. Photo by Rebekah Panek.

The Lee's Summit School District requires all students to complete a minimum of ten hours of community service in order to graduate. Students can start earning these hours the summer after their eighth grade year. If a student fails to meet this qualification, they will not earn a diploma. Students must submit their service cards, which can be found in the main office or the guidance office, to the community service coordinator by the end of their junior year, or immediately after the student finishes the ten hours of service.

There are numerous opportunities for students to perform their community service hours throughout the year. A list of these events can be found posted outside the guidance office or on the school counseling website, including special short term events and regular ongoing events students can participate in. Also on the online list are activities not meeting the

school conditions for community service.

"There were not any challenges for me because I was able to help out with a volleyball camp, and I completed all my hours there. There are plenty of opportunities for everyone, you just have to have a positive outlook on it. Just get involved in school activities and your hours will start adding up," Katelyn Warner, junior, said.

The community service coordinator needs to pre-approve any community service events they did not post online. If the project was not pre-approved, the coordinator should not be expected to accept the hours.

"Community service cannot be done during regular school hours. It truly needs to be something that you make time for on your own. Also, service has to be done with a non-profit company or organization," Shelley McCain, guidance counselor, said.

Students are responsible for

getting their service cards signed by the adult supervisor at the time of the event or project they completed. However, service cards will not be accepted that are signed by the student's parents.

To add to that, students are also in charge of contacting the service advisor at the specified place to schedule service hours.

Aspects of community service exist that make students enjoy completing the required hours.

"I like community service because I feel like we tend to get so absorbed in our own little world, and it is so good and healthy to get out of that for a second and invest in somebody else. It builds the community, as well as the individual," Amy Kilgore, senior, said.

While some people wait to finish the ten hours of service, other students desire to complete it as soon as possible. Therefore, eliminating the possible worries of waiting until later in their high school career.

"I have completed my required community service hours already because I wanted to get it out of the way. I plan on gaining more hours later in the school year through the A+ program," Julia Mattis, junior, said.

Community service can be more likable if students participate in

something interesting them.

Along with that, community service earned for the IB Diploma, A+ program or other clubs obligating students to complete service can count towards the ten required hours for school.

"For anyone who has not completed their hours, [you] should think of something you enjoy in school. For example, [if you are in] art club, you can ask the sponsor if they have anything planned or if something can be planned," Warner said.

Students have the control of choosing almost every aspect of their community service hours. They can decide when and what they want to do, along with having the responsibility to fill the service cards out accurately, making sure to finish all ten hours. While it may seem like a tremendous task, students have several years to complete it in whichever way they please.



Mikayla Braton and Nora Jones bring back trash they found along the creek. Photo by Rebekah Panek

Xavior Lewis Wins Big Questions National Debate Tournament

Rhayla Huff-Staff Reporter

Does science leave room for free will? A student at North proved that it does, through philosophical definitions and the nature of science. Xavior Lewis was the winner of the Big Questions Debates section in the National Debate Tournament, summer of 2017. He argued that behavioral conditioning and the power of dopamine might strongly influence some choices, but were too narrow a sampling to rule out free will.

As a sophomore, he received a \$10,000 scholarship in addition to a crystal trophy.

"They gave me a piece of paper with a big check that had my name on it, and I held it up, but I couldn't take it home. I look at the trophy everyday, it sits in my room and it feels great. Really heavy," Lewis said.

He was surprised that he won, but more than relieved to have finished the hard-work. He was not the only one that saw it coming.

"I wasn't surprised that he advanced, but it's pretty hard to advance that late into the tournament. I was flabbergasted. I watched his debate and there were many people judging that were voting on the opponent's side, and Xavior led a point that we had been working on from the beginning, our strong suit, and she didn't know how to argue it. I think that turned it around for him," Ben Jewell, Debate and Competitive Speech Coach, said.

Winning did not come easy, however, it took a lot of work and dedication. The best part about winning the award was not even

the award itself, but the feeling that came with it.

"I spent a lot of summer reading books, about philosophical ideas and trying to find evidence. There's always the plan to win, and it's never easy, it takes work to beat the opponent. It felt really great, a lot of hard work paid off," Lewis said.

He was not only a sophomore, but it was his first year competing.

"I was a novice and I was going against people who had been doing this for four years and I knew they'd done it before," Lewis said.

This did not keep them from thinking he would win.

"Some people are built for debate, some who become good, and he was built for it and became better," Jewell said.

Despite winning the national award, Lewis has not always been a debater. He simply does not like to lose.

"I enjoy arguing and making people listen to me talk. I like using words to push my ideas and command attention. I'll do whatever it takes not to lose," Lewis said.

His mentor and coach, Ben Jewell, knew this from the start and used this to make the debate stronger.

"He is an extraordinarily hard-worker and he wants to win. The first thing he said to me was 'I don't care what I argue, I want to win.' He's very driven and very excellent and



Xavior Lewis giving a persuasive presentation to his debate class. Photo by Rebekah Panek.

articulate at communication, partly because he debated but also part of who he is," Jewell said.

Another teacher worked with Lewis during the debate and knew he was going to win.

"I never had a doubt that Xavior could win the whole tournament. He has a wonderful quiet confidence that we love

to see in our students," Rachel Russell, IB English and Competitive Dramatics teacher, said.

As far as the next two years, Lewis is going to debate again and the plan is to win. He will use the scholarship money to attend a university and is hoping on getting into Duke or Oxford.

Netflix Raises Prices As Popularity Increases

CaraPanarisi-OpinionEditor

Over the past decade, Netflix and other streaming services have gained popularity across the world. People are willing to pay monthly in order to have the ability to binge watch various television shows, movies and documentaries.

In July 2016, Netflix prices plummeted as millions of subscribers cancelled due to Netflix raising their monthly fees up two dollars, bringing the total cost to \$9.99.

Netflix recently announced it would be raising the prices of its streaming services, yet again. This new price change will be effective soon, where standard subscribers will have to pay \$10.99 per month, up one dollar from that plan's previous monthly price. Premium members will pay \$13.99, a two-dollars increase from the previous rate.

"I think they are raising prices because I recently read something about how they were losing a lot of revenue and I guess that would be because they spend all this money to make Netflix Original shows.

There are also tons of people that do not really pay and just use family or a friend's password," Harper Manley, senior, said.

Although Netflix is constantly seen to be raising the prices a few dollars every few years, they will most likely get away with these price changes due to the subscriber's craving and wanting to maintain constant access of various movies and television shows.

"I do not think I would be getting my money's worth unless they bring back One Tree Hill," Manley said.

Netflix not only has partnerships with huge companies such as Marvel and Disney, but also have created a huge collection of their own Netflix originals. The company has produced some of the most popular new T.V. programs year after year, and customers are increasingly happy about the content they are paying a monthly fee for. With successes like "Orange is the New Black," "House of Cards," "Stranger

Things", and a string of popular Marvel and Disney movies; subscribers get the exposure to not only more recent movie releases, but even exclusive shows they can only watch on Netflix.

"I do not watch too many Netflix Original television shows, but they are probably popular because Netflix as a whole corporation is really popular and a lot of people like and use Netflix so they assume that their television shows will be just as good," Akilah Wright, senior, said.

Since Netflix is partnered with certain companies, as these partnerships come to an end, Netflix has to take down any material that was produced from this company.

In addition to this, Netflix also constantly has new material added to their database, so they then have to remove other medias in order to make room for the new releases they have available. Below is a list to see what is leaving and being added to Netflix in November.

Titles Leaving Netflix in November

November 1st:

Black Books (3 Seasons)

Laid (2 Seasons)

Magi: The Kingdom of Magic (Season 1)

Magi: The Labyrinth of Magic (Season 1)

Woody Allen: A Documentary (2011)

November 2nd:

Leverage (5 Seasons)

November 5th:

The Bletchley Circle (2 Seasons)

November 13th:

How I Met Your Mother (9 Seasons)

Yuki Yuna Is a Hero (Season 1)

November 15th:

Henning Mankell's Wallander (2013)

The Irregular at Magic High School (2014)

Jessie (4 Seasons)

November 16th:

Cristela (Season 1)

November 30th:

Legends (2 Seasons)

Titles Being Added to Netflix in November

November 1st:

Alias Grace (Season 1)

November 10th:

Lady Dynamite (Season 2)

The Killer (O Matador)

November 11th:

Blazing Transfer Students

November 17th:

Longmire (Season 6)

November 21st:

Brian Regan: Nunchucks and Flamethrowers

November 22nd:

Godless (Season 1)

Glitch (Season 2)

Barbara

November 23rd:

She's Gotta Have It (Season 1)

Release Date TBD:

The Punisher (Season 1)

Name-Brand vs Off-Brand: There is a Difference

TiyahGipson-StaffReporter



Name brand Under Amour shoes. Photo by Rebekah Panek.

Have you ever been in a store with your parent and heard another kid tell their parent they did not want this shoe or that shoe because it was the off brand version of another shoe, well you want to know why they do that? They do it because Nike, Jordan, Adidas, etc. are all companies that are popular because of the way their shoes and clothes look or feel, but in many places, that does not matter.

In the name brand category there are brands like Nike, Adidas, Jordan, Converse, etc. Brands that were all founded in the early to mid 1900's. Those are the shoes that are more "popular" in many people's eyes.

"Jordan and Nike are popular to me because I like the way they look, I

get them a lot, I get other things too but those are the name brands," Savanna Anthony, freshman, said.

Name brand shoes are known to be brands that have their own businesses and make their own products. They are popular brands and easily recognizable to many people. Name brands are made by a famous maker or manufacturer. Their items also tend to be more expensive than others, but are considered worth it.

In the off brand category there are brands like Sketchers, Loafers, Edwardian, and more. These are also brands from the 1900's. Off brands are known to be brands that are knock-offs or not real versions of another

brand. Brands that are not known for their name.

"Just an unknown brand, a brand people do not know about, they are not really advertised at all." Jennifer Beemer, English teacher, said.

Off brand items are not as popular because of the lack of comfort and the time period that they stay clean or even hold together. To most people off brands tend to be cheaper in price and quality.

Some people would not think that there is a problem with either brand and would wear anything.

"I do not really have a preferred brand, I do not really shop for myself, but I prefer more comfortable

clothes," Michelle Eurich, Spanish Teacher, said.

There are those people that are tired of buying expensive things so they go with the off brand route. Then there are the ones that want the clothes and shoes that will last them a while so they stick with the name brand items. People have to ask themselves, would they rather pay more and get a quality product or pay less and get something lesser in quality? Research from CBS news says that it all really depends on the product, there is a difference. It is just based on the type of person, their comfort level and what they like. It is a personal choice.



Off brand pair of shoes styled to look like Jordans. Photo by Rebekah Panek.

Bronco Time: More Than Just Tutoring

MadiSmith-CopyEditor



Mr. Duetsch, Prevention Specialist, hosts ukulele club with Roscoe Flint, Clayton Adkins and Josh MacDonald. Photo by Rebekah Panek

Another relaxing way to spend bronco time would be stopping by room 1301. Amy Charpie, science teacher, holds standing yoga in her classroom during bronco time. Charpie specifically chose standing yoga, so that students could participate without bringing a yoga mat to school. This activity focuses on slowing participants' minds as they breathe through multiple different standing yoga stretches.

"Yoga is not just good for the body, it is good for the mind. Yoga encourages relaxation, slowing down your mind and focusing on the present which we all can benefit from," Charpie said.

Matt Bolch, language arts teacher in room 2119, leads two different activities during bronco time, both disc golf club and Archetypes in Film. Bolch uses disk golf, much like golf with a frisbee, in order to

introduce students to a new sport and to allow students to get outdoors during the school day. For the Archetypes in Film, students get to watch *The Lord of the Rings* and *Star Wars* while then discussing the classic archetypal elements of both movies as well as determining the parallels to mythology elements.

"For disc golf, [my favorite part is] the opportunity for students to learn about a new sport and to get outside [and] for the film study, the chance for student to come and view classic films and to see how they are rooted in classic literature," Bolch, said.

Harris Deutsch runs the Guitars, Ukuleles and more activity during bronco time where students can come with their instrument and play. The activity is a continuation of one started at Campbell by Stephanie Holdmeyer, music teacher. The group sometimes has up to 22 people join and as few as three.

These activities are just a glimpse at all the things a student could participate in during bronco time. Do not miss out on these great opportunities.



Bronco time, for many, is an opportunity to finish homework, ask a teacher for aid, or a time to hang out with friends. What most students do not realize about bronco time is all the fun activities that teachers provide.

Any student can find a schedule of upcoming bronco time activities on the LSN home web page under "Bronco Time."

Jeff Ballinger, math teacher, holds hot sauce parties in room 1114. They try all kinds of spicy foods, from hot sauce to muffins. If it is spicy, you can find it in Ballinger's room during his hot sauce parties. Although they typically turn students away due to limited space in the classroom.

"[My favorite part about the hot sauce parties are] trying different sauces that the students bring, especially when they bring something

homemade," said Ballinger.

A nice quiet place to color can be relaxing for some students on a stressful day at school. Stacey Hamann, special education teacher whose room number is 1303, hosts a coloring club during bronco time. Hamann prints off Mandalas and provides colored pencils, markers, and crayons for students to color them with. She also plans to introduce the students to Zentangles, which are another form of art that uses patterns to fill in a space on a small paper square. Many find this activity relaxing because not only is coloring calming for some people, but Hamann's room is a quiet place to relax between third and fourth hour.

"I have Coloring Club during bronco time because I personally find coloring a relaxing activity," Hamann said.

A Dive Into The Boys' Swim Team

JacobSellinger-StaffWriter



Grant Godard and Liam Bresette at one of their last practices before state. Photo by Rebekah Panek.

Every time the morning announcements come on there is always something that is never said or rarely ever spoken about; however, it is just a passing remark on the intercom that most do not listen to.

That announcement is about the North boys' swim team and the meets they compete in every weekend while most students are at home sound asleep or lounging the day away; all the while, the boys' swim team swims a little faster and a little further bringing home medal after medal for North.

The boys' swim and dive season began in early August and for varsity ends early in November. They practice every single day

after school from 3 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. at the LSR-7 Aquatic Center. Then, for most of the season, three days a week they also meet for morning practice from 5 a.m. to 6:15 a.m. It is a rigorous sport and should not be underestimated, as many tend to do. They swim an average of 5000 to 8000 yards every day. This rigorous routine makes the North swim team a worthy opponent for most schools. They practice four strokes: freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke, and butterfly. And some of the best here at North include Liam Bresette, Grant Godard, Lance Godard, and Daniel Worth. "Our best overall swimmer is Liam Bresette, our best backstroke is Grant

Godard, our best IM swimmer is Daniel Worth and our best fly swimmer is Lance Godard," Brian Ray, head coach, said.

Overall North has performed very well this year. North holds a couple of

records for meets this year and has set about four new school records this year.

To make the North varsity swim a swimmer needs to be the top times for at least two events, and on average there are about 10 to 12 varsity swimmers every year. The junior varsity swimmers, to get to the level of varsity, focus mostly on technique during practices.

"Work on your technique and endurance, technique is huge. You can get fast but if you don't have good technique you will hit a wall," Jonathan Thomas, junior, said.

They put in the effort during the season every day and they do not stop putting in the work during the off-season either. In the off-season it is hard to

schedule pool time, however most swimmers swim for a club so they do not get to take a break. They keep swimming and improving.

"It's definitely a sport that if you are wanting to dedicate yourself to you have to show up, which is the easiest and the hardest part, just don't give up," Liam Bresette, senior, said.

The North swim team is dedicated to improving and they put in a lot of time and effort to get to where they are, like any sport. They love their sport and so all the hard work they do does not really bother most of them. They form strong lifelong friendships, get exercise, and have a lot of fun doing it.

In such a competitive sport many people may feel too much pressure and fail to have fun. Swimmers especially feel a lot of pressure and the competitive spirit, especially when each event is all about time, which makes it very easy to compare times; but, the North swim team focuses just on improving themselves and becoming a great swimmer just comes along with it.

One Last Ride: Senior Athletes' Final Seasons

BlairClark&JackLangle-CoEditorsInChiefs

Cheer



Sara Mullens

Q: What advice would you give to the underclassmen in cheer?

A: Enjoy it while it lasts, find positive aspects, and just have a positive attitude all the time.

Golf



Michael Foster

Q: How do you picture the final moments of your senior season going?

A: Me up on the winning circle getting a medal for state.



Micaela Dickerson

Q: Who would you like to thank for getting you to where you are with golf?

A: I would like to thank my dad because he is the one that taught me and I would also like to thank Coach Fruits because I know it is a difficult job turning a basketball player into a golfer so she really helped my out with that and being successful.

Volleyball



Brittney Willis

Q: How did you as an athlete play this season knowing it was your last?

A: I went out every game knowing this is going to be my last season and so I needed to put everything I had on the floor. I just make sure to put my heart into everything.



Nicole Collens

Q: What does volleyball mean to you?

A: It's a lifestyle. I have played my whole life so volleyball is the place where I met a lot of my really good friends.



Cameron Riffle

Q: What does track mean to you?

A: Track has a lot of good sentimental memories with me, but it is also the presence of a lot of role models in my life. I have learned a lot of lessons and have made some good friendships within track.

Cross Country



Samantha Simpson

Q: What does cross country mean to you?

A: Cross country means the world to me. I have been running since seventh grade and it has impacted my life dramatically. I have made new friends every year and the coaches have helped me in multiple ways.



Drew Reis

Q: How did you go into this last season knowing it was your last at LSN?

A: There were a lot of emotions going into it, but I just felt like I needed to give it my all since it was my last.

Football



Jedi Chukwusom

Q: What does football mean to you?

A: It is a way to practice selflessness, playing for others, and being aware that you aren't the most important person because there are others around you that you can help make better by working hard for them and not just for yourself.



Chase Acton

Q: What advice would you like to give to the underclassmen for next year?

A: Stay as a family. We have been through some hard times but, we are a family unit and if you want to be a leader, be a leader by example.

Wrestling



Jaden Duran

Q: What does this final season mean to you?

A: It means everything to me. This is the last year I am able to leave my mark and make a name for myself so I have to step it up. It just really means a lot and proves everything that I have worked towards.

Track



McKenzie Jones

Q: What are you preparing yourself for this season?

A: We have to be ready or anything so I have to make sure to step up and do the best I can for myself and the team.

Lacrosse



Erica Odell

Q: What does lacrosse mean to you?

A: Lacrosse is just a game I started playing that introduced me to a new family and friendgroup that has supported me through everything.



Madison Gordon

Q: Who would you like to thank for getting you to where you are with lacrosse?

A: I would like to thank my parents because they have always stood by me with whatever I choose to do and I would also like to thank Erica Odell because she, along with the coaching staff, has been a big inspiration to me and has helped me get to where I am at.

Baseball



Jeremy Root

Q: How did you go into this season knowing it was your last at LSN?

A: It is kind of sad, but I am hoping the season goes well and that we win a lot of games.



Daniel Jaeger

Q: What does this final season mean to you?

A: It is a big deal, it is my last chance to make a statement to other schools around and go out with a bang with this senior class.

Softball



Olivia Krehbiel

Q: What advice would you like to give to the underclassmen for next year?

A: Give it your all every second of every practice and games because the season goes by so fast. Just set a goal at the beginning of the season and work your hardest at every moment to achieve it.



Phoebe Groceman

Q: Who would you like to thank?

A: I would like to thank my coaches from when I was nine years old to when I was 17 because they are the ones who had the most influence on me and they taught me more life lessons than just how to hit a ball.



Liam Bresette

Q: Is there anything you wish you could have planned ahead for in regards to the season?

A: There are a lot of kids on this team that have raw talent and it did not really show until later on in the season and had I known they would have been this successful in their career, I definitely would have helped them progress sooner.

Basketball



Logan Jenkins

Q: How do you picture the final moments of your final season going?

A: Sad but knowing that I have accomplished a lot and have given all that I have is going to be a good feeling.



Aiyana Johnson

Q: What does this final season mean to you?

A: I hope I can make it an amazing memory I can have for the rest of my life. I plan to have fun and be there for my teammates.

Soccer



Colin Dooley

Q: What advice would you like to give the underclassman for next year?

A: Every game has got to count, every second has got to count. When you are tying your cleats up you have to know this may be your last year of ever putting them on. Have fun but cherish every moment and be grateful for what you have.



Keely Adams

Q: What does soccer mean to you?

A: I have played since I was four and it is just an escape from everything. It is a stress relief. Soccer helps be get away from things.

Tennis



Emily Gerber

Q: What advice would you like to give the underclassmen for next year?

A: Just know that hard work pays off and in tennis it can pay off really quickly. Appreciate every practice, the hard ones and the easy ones, because there is a finite number and it won't last forever.

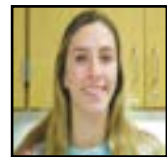


Garrett Enyeart

Q: What does this final season mean to you?

A: Since it is my last season it means I just have to work harder and try my very best to get things done.

Swim & Dive



Cassandra Nanninga

Q: How important is this season knowing it is your last?

A: It is really important to me, this year I am a captain so everyone will look up to me and I have to be my best.

Schools Cover Sex Education

SavannahHenslee-StaffReporter



Each year, students enroll in health class where part of the curriculum focuses on sex education. The Lee's Summit School District focuses on teaching abstinence, while neglecting to cover other aspects of the subject as in depth as they should.

"I think it [the current curriculum] is probably chosen because it hits a little bit of both sides but it's mostly a middle ground of information so that it gives the right information without pushing a kid in one direction or another," Steve Taylor, 7-12 Physical Education/Health Department Chair, said.

The curriculum chosen by the school district covers the topic of abstinence, while also exposing students to the dangers of sexual activities, such as contracting sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancy.

The majority of students have already been exposed

to sexual content through various forms of media, such as television or video games.

"Pop culture is increasingly sexualized. Just watch MTV for five minutes. There is nothing coy about anything children are exposed to from the media. While nobody is suggesting that this is an easy issue, perhaps we should address these attitudes rather than bashing the Western educational system for answering questions that many teenagers will raise anyway," courtesy of debatepedia.idebate.org.

'Abstinence only' curriculums within school settings seem to be ignored by some students. They may feel that with this type of curriculum they might not be getting enough valuable information that helps them protect themselves in certain situations.

"[There are] a couple of pages in the book that talk about the consequences of different types of birth control and other ways of trying to avoid STDs and stuff like that. Those consequences are given in a scientific manner of percentage of possible fail rates," Taylor said.

Teaching all material comprehensively will allow students to better prepare themselves for real life experiences.

"I feel that we should talk more about the responsibilities that come from having sex, such as being faithful to your partner, being able to openly discuss any aspects about sex with your partner or potential partner," Joey Sullivan, health teacher, said.

It is important to understand implications of not practicing abstinence and how that can affect students lives.

"So, if the community was supporting it, maybe teaching a little bit more

on contraceptives and things of that nature for those who have chosen to be sexually active but again it all goes back to abstinence for us because we're talking about dealing with kids that are for the most part 14, 15

and 16 in those classes," Taylor said.

Students do not get enough information on the risk or preventions, instead they are basically just told to avoid sexual activities. They are taught that abstinence is the only way to prevent these consequences from becoming real. The message encourages students to wait until after marriage or to take appropriate measures if becoming sexually active at an earlier age. Students need more comprehensive curriculum so they can understand the risks better so they can be responsible young adults.



Graphic by Savannah Mullen.

A True 21st Century President: Almost One Year Later

DevinCarroll-StaffReporter



Last year's November election has quite a story to tell when it comes to the earthquake it caused in terms of the political climate in the United States.

"I thought the election was one of the craziest elections in American history, and one of the most controversial," Tehya Robinson, senior, said.

Plagued with political correctness, name calling and identity politics, the November 2016 election was a crazy show to witness, especially from the outside perspective.

To some, Donald Trump is just a babbling buffoon, to others, he is the pinnacle of what a true 21 century president should be. Trump has come into office bashing the media, making changes and making many people either angry or happy. There must be a reasoning for the much larger and louder sound of disapproval than many other presidents.

The large noise coming from the opposing side of Trump claims he is a brooding white supremacist Nazi and some even claim the president is the new Adolf Hitler. The side in support of Trump always manages to fire back under the claim of logic and reasoning.

However, as a president, Trump

has not done an invariably large amount compared to other presidents after the amount of time that has elapsed.

The reason may be because of the very large spread due to social media and Donald Trump's obsession with Twitter. Trump uses Twitter as a tool to share information about many things, whether it is his opinion on climate change, CNN, or the solar eclipse; it is one of the largest forms of communication Trump has with the world.

"I think he has really hurt himself by having to constantly weigh in on things that honestly do not matter a whole lot. I think Twitter has become a problem for him," Eric Davis, History teacher, said.

Trump has made a polarizing impact with words alone because of his worldwide media presence and this has not worked in his favor. If Trump

did not have the obsession with Twitter that many see today, the public opinion would most likely be different.

"A lot of [Trump's] approval ratings have almost everything to do with the way he says what he wants to say," Robinson, said.

Trump's policies are not very different from other Republican candidates, especially when compared to all other modern republican presidents.

For example, Trump has loosened laws concerning legal gun owners and their right to self defense using firearms along with tax deductions for the middle class, which may be changed if a Democratic candidate holds office.

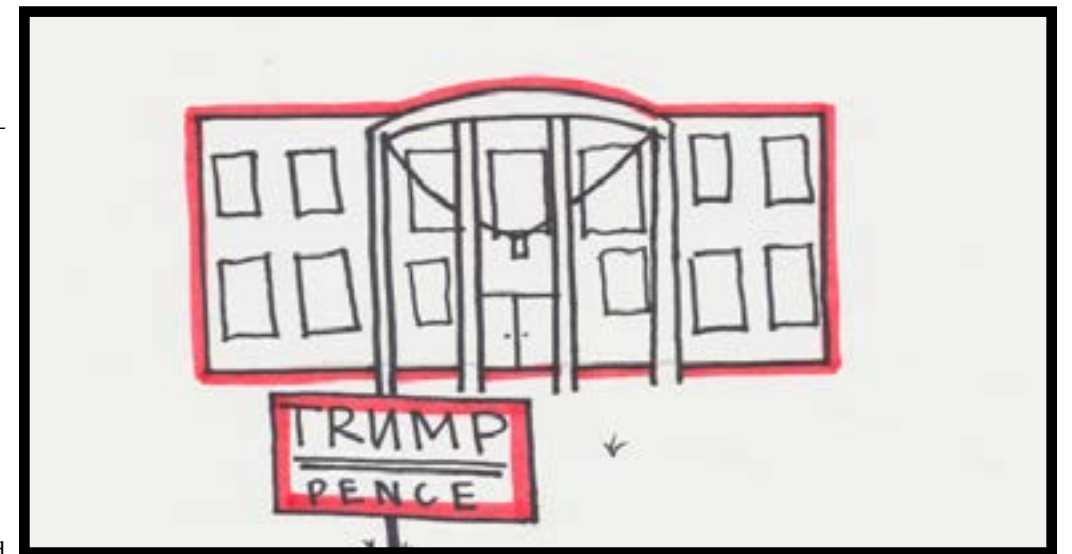
"I think the media has a lot to do with the election, because you cannot always believe what they say; you do not know what actually happened," Jillian

Finnell, senior, said.

However, these policies are not far from the usual, yet there is a very large number of people who criticize the president for these policies. Many of the same people criticizing the policies of Trump can point out only two of his big ticket policies. These policies would be building a wall, and creating a travel ban.

Trump may have an interesting voice on social media and a large thirst for conflict, but his viewpoints are not far from most other presidents in the past. Maybe Trump does not deserve all the hate he has received.

If Trump wants to run for president in 2020, he needs to change the way people think about him, and he may be able to do that by changing the way he says things, and the way he speaks to the opposing side.



Graphic by Savannah Mullen.



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