



Prom Dresses Through The Ages

KNIGHT LIFE



#TBT

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LOY NORRIX HIGH SCHOOL

606 E. KILGORE RD

KALAMAZOO, MI 49001

MAY 2013

So Long, Farewell, Edwards Says Goodbye To Norrix



Sydnee Stannard/ Knight Life News

Principal Edwards speaks to Marquay Williams about missing phone and his concerns as Edwards subconsciously picks up trash from the hallways.

Aerion Caldwell
Knight Life News

He's running, pushing his way through the crowd of kids like a linebacker, trying to make it in time to the fight. By the time he gets there, weave is on the ground and girls are being carried away. Out of breath, he still manages to do his job.

Principal Johnny Edwards has been at Loy Norrix for five years and will be leaving at the end of the year. Students and staff have grown to like Edwards as principal and as a person. Relationships and bonds were established.

"It is really cool to work with him because he does everything he feels in his power to support you, give you the tools, equipment and the recourses that you need to do your job affective," said assistant Principal Jeff Boggan.

"I get excited when I see a young man like himself prospering and doing well

so that other people are benefiting. The work that he's been able to do at Norrix in a five year period time has really benefitted our students, staff and families."

When you go into the community you'll see Principal Edwards and his family. You'll see him at the grocery store, at church, directing the choir and playing the piano. Normally a principal stays three to five years then leaves to go somewhere else. Principal Edwards will still be a part of the KPS family when he leaves.

"Just as we've been learning from him, he's been learning from us. He's done a fantastic job with leading us and guiding us. We've made a lot of progress under his leadership. I am happy because he is not afraid to lead people, so its' been fun watching him grow," said Boggan.

Prior to being principal, Edwards started as a middle school math teacher for three years, rose to assistant

principal at Saginaw Public Schools, advanced to principal here at Loy Norrix High School, and starting next year, will be director of secondary education for KPS. He will supervise to all middle and high school principals in the district.

"Mr. Edwards is the only principal I have known at Loy Norrix because we came at the same time," said choir/music director Taryn Fooy. "It will be scary getting a new principal. I appreciate how supportive he has been of the music program and he will be missed."

Edwards is in a high position and his thoughts and opinions are valued.

"I think that's a loss to and for Loy Norrix High School and since he's been here he's tried to put students first and make sure their needs are met. I think the students will sorely miss him when he's gone," said gym teacher Ted Duckett.

When you see Edwards, he barely has time to talk. He

see EDWARDS pg 2

Dean of Students and Former Loy Norrix Student becomes Principal of Rival School

Asia Davis
Knight Life News

"My deepest fear is that I'll inadvertently say 'Go Knights!' instead of 'Go Giants'," said Valerie Boggan. Next year, our Dean of Students, Valerie Boggan, will not be returning to Norrix but arriving at Kalamazoo Central as the new principal. She applied for the position when it opened up in January.

Many asked why she wouldn't become principal of Norrix, but the position for Kalamazoo Central opened up before the position for Norrix principal was announced.

The Dean of Students is responsible for the schedules of all the students, the educational growth of all

students, and all standardized testing within the school.

Boggan has been at Norrix for longer than the seven years she's been an administrator. She was also a student here during her high school years.

As a student at Norrix she was a cheerleader, but as a parent she has always cheered for both Central and Norrix. She has cheered for both because her eldest daughter Sylvella Boggan attended Kalamazoo Central. She also has nieces and nephews who attend the school too.

With the family connections she already has, she's hoping this will make the transition easier.

Boggan claims to be excited and sad about her promotion. Excited to be in a

new environment working with kids and a new staff, but sad because of the relationships she has made here.

"Seven years of working with awesome students and parents and teachers and campus safety and secretaries, this has been home," said Boggan.

The promotion of Boggan greatly affects the teachers and the students at Norrix, some more than others but still an impact.

For example Jessica Farrar, strategic reading and college readiness teacher, is greatly impacted by Boggan leaving. The Dean of Students determines the standards her students must meet in her class. Also if a student is

see BOGGAN pg 2



Asia Davis/Knight Life News

Valerie Boggan helps junior Dominique Thompson with an application. Boggan spends time in halls during passing time to see students.

PeaceJam Members Connect With Students Through Literacy Project

Vika Pashby
Knight Life News

If you walk into Edison Environmental Science Academy on a Friday afternoon near the end of the school year, you would notice the small groups of two or three people scattered all around. Some are on the stairs other near the office, and some are in the library; anywhere it is quiet. With books in their hands and their voices, projecting stories, the Loy Norrix teens and elementary students read back and forth with each other. It makes you want to stop and just listen. This is what Sveri May and the Peace Jam members have brought to Edison Elementary.

For junior and Peace Jam member Alana Whitehead, the concept of reading buddies is nothing new. As a young girl, Alana attended Paramount Charter Academy and has memories of having a reading buddy and being a mentor herself.

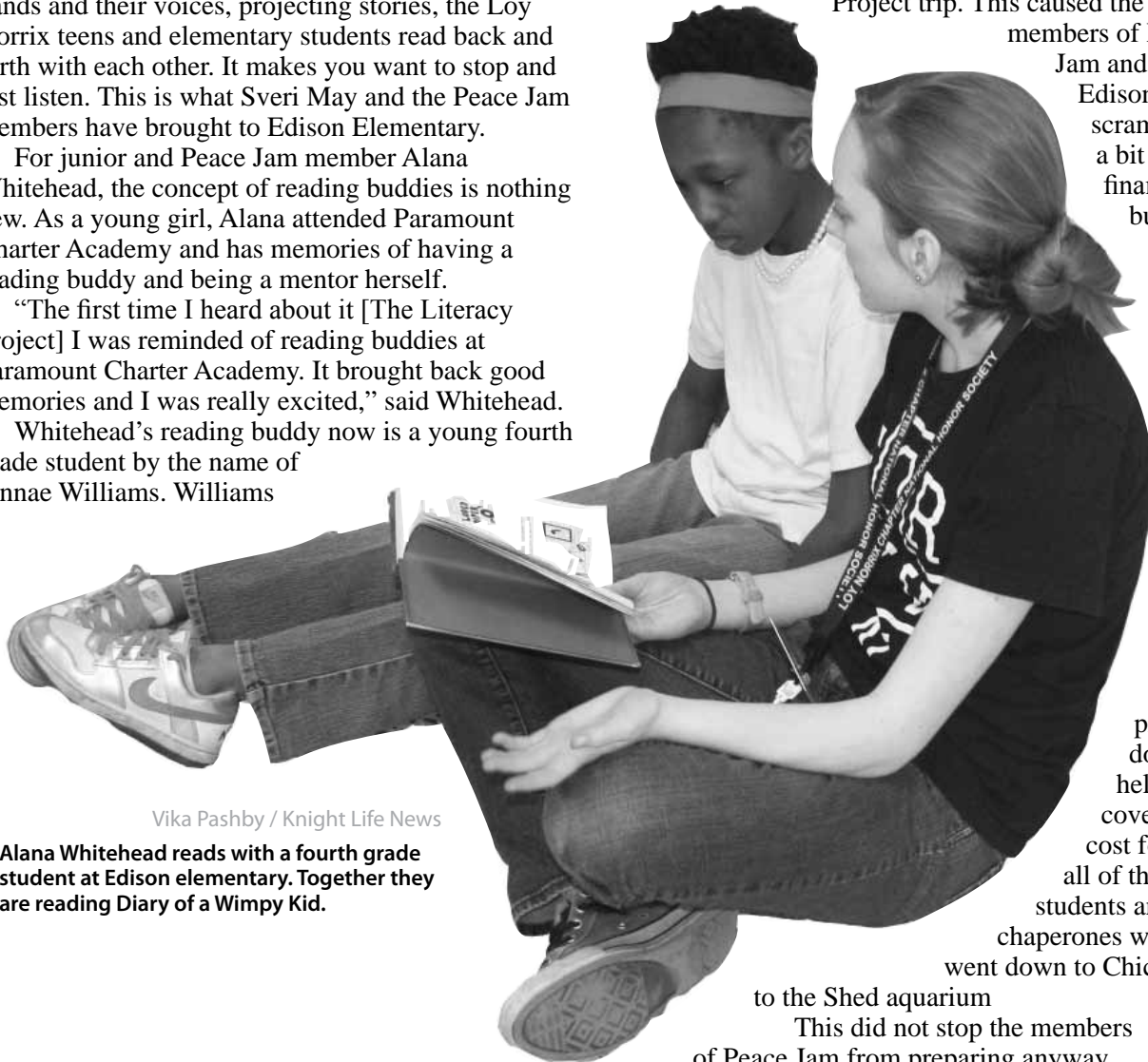
"The first time I heard about it [The Literacy Project] I was reminded of reading buddies at Paramount Charter Academy. It brought back good memories and I was really excited," said Whitehead.

Whitehead's reading buddy now is a young fourth grade student by the name of Jannae Williams. Williams

by five percent.

Julie McDonald the principal of Edison was very concerned that the Literacy Project was not going to be able to take place at first because the Innovative grant that was supposed to come through to support the Literacy Project was not provided. This grant helped with books and t-shirts and other things like snacks for their end of the Literacy Project trip. This caused the

members of Peace Jam and Edison to scramble a bit for finances, but a



Vika Pashby / Knight Life News

Alana Whitehead reads with a fourth grade student at Edison elementary. Together they are reading *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*.

has no difficulty reading and enjoys it a lot according to Whitehead, who said that Williams reminds her a lot of herself when she was younger.

"She reminds me of myself," said Whitehead. "Most kids grab comic books, but she [Williams] grabs these chapter books and reads without any difficulty. It reminds me of when I was young because I read well too, and I always felt like I never needed a reading buddy even though I had one."

Most kids at Edison enjoy the reading sessions with the Peace Jammers. According a fourth grade teacher at Edison, Kayla Nielson, the attendance on Friday is greater then the overall on weekdays, and the students behavior is much better than on a regular day.

"When we walked in the room for the first time, the kids were excited and were curious to see the high school students, and when the teacher said to go pick a reading buddy most did. Some were shy," said Whitehead.

Peace Jam members' main purpose is to help fourth grade students increase the scores on the MEAP reading section. According to the Great Schools website, the Edison reading scores from the fourth graders to fifth grade have increased every year since 2010, and in 2012 the scores went up by seven percent. However this year, the scores have declined

to the Shed aquarium

This did not stop the members of Peace Jam from preparing anyway.

Starting in January the group began training on what the mentors would need to know to get their reading partners to understand their books. Some of the training included, prompts that help student problem solve in their books, and how to support comprehension while reading.

Whitehead said, "I think this [training] benefited my observation skills. I notice when the kids are struggling and I know I can help them in a way."

Even though Peace Jam's main goal is to improve the MEAP, it's also a way to build bonds with the students.

"I feel like it [The Literacy Project] is a good idea. A simple concept of having students reading to younger students can have such a big impact on the young student's life and help them learn so much in a short amount of time," said Whitehead.

from EDWARDS page 1

greeted you with a smile, along with a quick "hello" as he swiftly walks to get where he needs to be. With his busy schedule and long list of "to do's" of stopping fights, planning the school's future, setting goals and leading the staff to achieve, he still makes time for his student body and staff. He's a young man far ahead of his time in wisdom and ahead of his time in education.

"Mr. Edwards has given me sound advice and opportunities that has allowed me to improve my teaching and leadership skills," said law/government teacher Niambi Pringle.

Edwards jumpstarts his staff by putting them in the leading position and hovers to make sure they're doing okay and in time he takes his hands off. He stays close by just long enough where he knows you have it and now they can grow as a leader.

"Every good leader has the ability to do that," said Boggan.

Being able to see kids develop, mature and get the academic component of school is one of the many perks of being principal for Edwards.

"He is an influential leader, a good role model for young men, and I wish him the best," said Simone Smith-Ozier

"The ultimate reward is seeing our students come in as freshman and seeing them graduate four years later," said Principal Edwards smiling. "Seeing them mature as people and seeing our students able to advocate for themselves."

from BOGGAN page 1

interested in testing out and they don't quite meet the standard set by the district they'll work with that student and look at other criteria that affects the decision.

Boggan leaving affects the students also, specifically the upperclassmen who have spent more years with her. Tiwiz Soto, junior, is academically affected by Boggan leaving.

"She really helped me with my schedule and picking out classes, so I could be successful," said Soto.

Present principal of discipline, Atiba McKissick, will be taking Boggan's place as Dean of Students next year. He recognizes that he has big shoes to fill, but feels with his fourteen years of experience in education he can handle it. Before he even knew he would be taking the position he had been study and shadowing her just for his own personal growth as an educator.

"I feel like I'm bringing another dynamic to the job," said McKissick

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Dual Enrollment helps Prepare Students for College

Rachel Reed
Knight Life News

Going to a new institution where you don't know anyone can be stressful and even scary. It's a fear that many students face their freshman year of college. Some may even face it earlier than that.

"I felt nervous and out of place. It was overwhelming at first but then I became more comfortable as the weeks went on," said senior Jessica Lethiot.

At Kalamazoo Public High Schools there is the option for students to get involved in a dual enrollment program. Dual enrollment is when a student is involved in two separate academic institutions. This typically involves a high school student being enrolled in a community college or university course that will count towards their high school diploma as well as a credit for college.

Students of Loy Norrix have the opportunity to enroll in classes at either Kalamazoo Valley Community College or Western Michigan University [WMU] if they meet the criteria. Students may only take a course at a KVCC or WMU if the class is not already offered at their high school.

Students are eligible to take classes at KVCC if they are in their junior or senior year of high school. Eligibility for WMU is a bit harder, requiring

seniors to have an accumulative GPA of at least a 3.25 and high school freshman, sophomores, and juniors to have an accumulative GPA of at least a 3.5. Students must also have the approval of their high school principal to enroll in college courses.

Seniors Ari Solomon and Jessica Lethiot have both taken advantage of the opportunity to dual enroll in college courses this school year.

Solomon took a total of 6 college courses throughout his senior year at WMU. He was expecting around the same difficulty as a high school AP course; however, he said that his calculus and physics classes were harder than any AP or Kalamazoo Math and Science Center KAMSC class he's ever taken.

"Taking dual enrollment classes is a good transition for college. It has really helped me to feel prepared," said Solomon.

Solomon also had a good experience with the older college kids.

"They were intimidating at first; however, most wouldn't have even guessed that I was in high school. I fit right in," said Solomon.

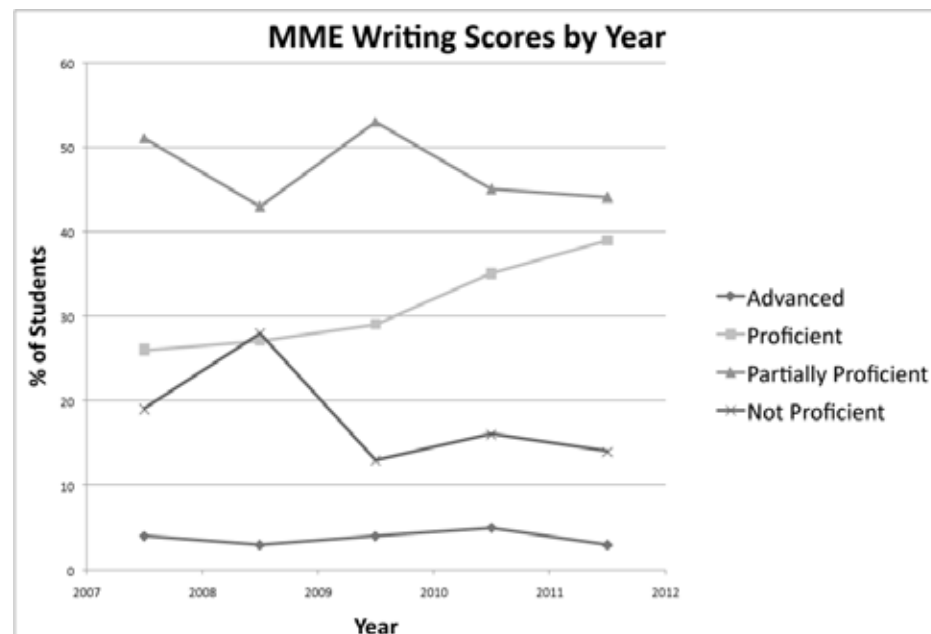
Lethiot took a total of 3 college courses (Psychology, Criminology, and Abnormal Psychology) at KVCC this year. Like Solomon, Lethiot had a positive experience with her colleges.

"I did not find the college students intimidating because it was easy to picture myself as a college student next year," said Lethiot.

Lethiot recommends other students get involved with dual enrollment in order to prepare them for their freshman year of college.

"It helps you get an idea of how much you'll be responsible for your own assignments next year. Someone isn't holding your hand and telling you when something is due. It's your own responsibility," said Lethiot.

John Collins Program Improves School Test Scores



Darcy Billian
Knight Life News

By the time students reach Loy Norrix, they are intimately familiar with standardized tests. Beginning in early elementary with the IOWA test, and continuing through high school with MEAP and Ed Performance, students are bombarded with assessments. Eventually, the names blur together into a haze of timers and number 2 pencils.

Students are also aware that Loy Norrix is not known for its high test scores. Since 2008, we have never had more than 40 percent or so of our students score at or above "proficient" on the Michigan Merit Exam (MME). While trying to raise those test scores, administrators adopted the John Collins program.

Now in its fourth year, participation in the John Collins writing program is mandated for every subject. No matter how little the subject has to do with writing, teachers manage to somehow fit John Collins writing assignments into the curriculum.

English teacher and John Collins program head Anne Bowser thinks this is part of why John Collins is effective. "It works because everybody's doing it, and it has de-mystified writing. Students are viewing the process very differently," she said.

The John Collins program's main hook is the three focus correction areas (FCAs) that come with every assignment. Students have to copy these down onto the top of their papers, and are ideally graded on those three requirements and nothing else.

A lot of factors go into a piece of writing. Students can be overwhelmed by working on grammar, spelling, sentence structure, idea flow, argument formation, coherency, proper formatting, and everything else that is supposed to be taken into consideration, making it difficult to improve at all. The idea behind FCAs is that they let students work on fixing one area of writing at a time, rather than struggling to work on all the parts of essay writing at once.

The irksome part is writing down those FCAs.

"It works as well as any other program," said sophomore Rayshaw Lockett. "There's too much structure though."

Junior Arika French said, "I feel like it prepares you for college, but it's really hard and difficult." She feels that the program does make her a better writer, but finds the format annoying.

Does John Collins actually work, though? To answer that, we have to remember what those numbers mean.

We want the percentage of students scoring "partially proficient" and "not proficient" to be as low as possible. The percentage of "proficient" students should be as high as possible. It would be nice if more students scored "advanced", but that is not at all the priority right now.

For the most recent test years, the percentage of "partially proficient" and "not proficient" students have gone down, and the percentage of "proficient" students have soared. Even allowing for year-to-year variations in scores, it would seem that John Collins really does help.

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Students Practice Passion in EFE and EFA Classes

Marcus Boyd & Asia Davis
Knight Life News

Being in school all day can be pretty boring at times, but luckily, Kalamazoo Public Schools offers EFE (Education for Employment) and EFA (Education for Arts) courses. These are classes, most of which are outside of school, that prepare you to go into a career or job with hands-on learning. Not only are these classes free, but you're able to just get out of the classroom for a portion of the school day and get some experience in a possible career that you may be interested in. The majority of the classes offer college credit to these colleges: Davenport University, Grand Rapids Community College, and Kalamazoo Valley Community College. Who doesn't want that? Here are a few of the classes available to students.



Marcus Boyd / Knight Life News

Senior Kia Whitaker (top) of Kalamazoo Christian Clocks his classmates as they do their shuttle run. Senior Dominic Fotis (bottom) is completing his 1/2 mile shuttle run.

Culinary Arts - EFE

In this course, students explore the fundamentals of cooking and baking, the science of food handling, food prep, and food service. Students will explore hands-on with food and in the kitchen as well as learn professionalism and work habits required in this industry.

Eligibility

Grades 11 and 12.

Certification / credit

You can earn a 4th Related Math Credit, Visual Performing & Applied Arts Credit. Lake Michigan College ServSafe Certification Training, and Standard First Aid & Adult CPR certificate.



Marcus Boyd / Knight Life News

Senior Alex Vinzant of Portage Northern, is preparing a pan tortilla. While they were cooking, the pan got too hot and they burnt a couple of tortillas.

Advanced Multimedia Arts - EFA

In this course, students use the latest equipment and tools to explore digital media, filmmaking, photography, music, and animation.

Eligibility

Grades 11 and 12. Must have taken Film and Video Arts, Design for Digital Media, Intro to Media Design Online or Music for Life and passed with a minimum B average with consent from the instructor of the passed class.

Certification / credit

You can earn 3 Visual Performing & Applied Arts credits.

Senior Sara Bliesener of Parchment High School

"You should do this not only because of the equipment available to you, like we have just so much stuff . . . and people who would never have the financial availability to get this kind of stuff or anything like that, it's free and you have all this time and it's a lot of good experience."



Marcus Boyd / Knight Life News

Senior Sara Bliesener is working on a music video for her final project. She used a series of elements including a green screen that her father bought for her.

Music Studio - EFA

In this course, students are introduced to the world of music. They will explore music theory, composition, music notation, scale construction, rhythm, chords, and harmony. Students will also get a chance to work with music of all genres and different music composing software like Garage Band.



Eligibility

Grades 10, 11, and 12.

Certification / credit

One Visual Performing & Applied Arts Credit

Junior Gabe Connell of Portage Central High School

"I figured this would be a good place to work with computer programs and going into an actual studio and not just setting up a camera in front of my bed playing my guitar".



Marcus Boyd / Knight Life News

Senior Gabe Connell (top) is writing a folk song for his final music composition. He's been playing the acoustic guitar for five years. Junior Jordan Taylor (bottom) of Loy Norrix is writing a letter to Bruno Mars as part of her final project. She also plays the piano.

EFE and EFA Continued

Robotics and Electronics



Asia Davis / Knight Life News

Senior Jackson Norberg works with classmates on a miniature robot. He attends his EFE off site at Kalamazoo Central.

This course provides a hands on learning experience for students interested in going into the engineering electrical field using the latest technology and the most experienced professional instructors. This program gives kids the foundation they need to go into engineering.

Eligibility

Grades 11 and 12.

Credits / Certification

4th Related Math Credit

Visual Performing Arts Credit

Senior Jackson Norberg of Loy Norrix

"I always wanted to know how stuff works how to get stuff working again, build something new."

Art & Design Career Skills

This course prepares students for a career in and artistic arena. An artistic base is developed through learning composition, meaning of shapes theory, drawing skills, design skills, and an understanding in design theory. Also, students develop a digital understanding in these areas using photoshop, illustrator, animation, and graphic arts.



Asia Davis / Knight Life News

Senior Olivia Lyszyk uses her iPad to show her photography from the business model she created within the class. Lyszyk has been hired to do weddings and fellow classmates senior photos.

"You don't have to be an artist.

You don't have to be a painter.

You don't have to be a computer person."

Senior Olivia Lyszyk of Loy Norrix

Eligibility

Grades 11 and 12 and Dress Code for presentations

Credits / Certification

4th related math credit
Visual Performing & Applied Arts credit
Possible College Credit

Careers

Fashion Designer, Artist, Graphic Designer, Advertiser, Animator etc

Cool Whips 2

Classic Muscle Car, Modern Look



Marcus Boyd / Knight Life News

Senior Jalyne Fair shows off his 2008 Dodge Charger. With a car as stylish and iconic as this, it's not hard to have fun driving in it.

Marcus Boyd

Knight Life News

Senior Jalyne Fair has one of the best student whips in the parking lot according to fellow students. Jalyne drives a 2008 Dodge Charger. His mother bought the car about 2 years ago for \$15 thousand and handed it down to him.

When asked if he likes the car Fair said, "Yeah, I do, some of the parts are expensive but I like it though."

One of the cool things about his car is the speed.

"It's fast, real fast," said Fair

The Charger is a muscle car that has been around since 1964 and was built for speed. Most of them were SRT8 models and came with the classic Hemi engine, Chrysler's V8 engine, and had 426 hp. Jalyne's Charger doesn't have a Hemi engine, but it still puts out a solid 250 hp with its High Output V6 engine.

His car has 8 Boston Acoustic speakers in it. The car also has what is called an "auto-stick."

The transmission in his car has the ability to be both automatic and manual. Primarily, you drive it automatic but at the flip of a switch, it becomes a manual but not fully. It doesn't have a clutch that you need to

step on.

"It has a manual shifter that I just learned how to use, you just push the gear left and right and it shifts up and down," said Fair.

Earlier this winter, he almost hit another car. One day, he was driving on Howard Street coming down the hill towards Stadium Drive. He admits that he was driving kind of fast that day.

"I didn't realize it was really icy, and I hit a spot of black ice and slid down the hill," said Fair. As he slid down the hill, there was a car in front of him and he was going to crash into it.

"What was going through my head was that my mom would kill me if I damaged this car," said Fair.

At the moment, he cared more about the safety of the car than himself. He was afraid of what his mom would say. Fortunately, whoever was in the car in front of him saw him sliding and moved over into the next lane.

"My car stopped right where the other car in front of me was at," said Fair.

In the future, Fair plans to sell the Charger and buy a Jaguar. So maybe there's a possibility that we'll see Fair with a new whip sometime soon.

Fun in the Sun Summer Events to Attend

| Events for June: | Events for July: | Events for August: | Nearby and Out of State Events: |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| GREEK FEST 6th-8th | BLACK ARTS FEST 27th | RIB FEST 1st-3rd | WARPED TOUR July 19th (Detroit, MI) July 20th (Chicago, IL) |
| KIA ART SHOW 7th-8th | | COUNTY FAIR 5th-10th | WIZ KHALIFA UNDER THE INFLUENCE TOUR July 30th (Chicago, IL) |
| ISLAND FEST 20th-22nd | | | LOLLAPALOOZA August 2nd-4th (Chicago, IL) |
| IRISH FEST 28th-29th | | | |

Sha'kira Green
Knight Life News

With the 80-degree weather and freedom of the summer coming in less than a month, there are multiple local events to attend. These events happen every year so, if you're just trying to get out of the house for a few hours, go.

Greek Festival offers Greek food, music, dancing and merchandise. Island Festival is a festival that has food, music and merchandise relating to the Caribbean Islands. Irish Festival is a festival focused on Irish food, music and Irish merchandise.

Rib Fest is a fundraising event to improve the life of those with developmental disabilities and raise money for the Arc Community Advocates. There are a variety of ribs that are available to taste there.

Relay for Life is an event to raise awareness for fighting cancer.

Kalamazoo County Fair is the fair that almost everyone waits for. This event has all the carnival rides, food, and the participation of the Kalamazoo community.

The KIA Art Fair is where you get to see local artists' artwork and walk downtown. This year will be the 62nd annual fair in Bronson Park.

There are always local art hops and art shows every first Friday of the month. Art hops are local artists that show and sell their artwork. It's called an Art Hop as the attendees "hop" from various stores downtown to view the art pieces. Junior Alexis Graham always goes to art hops and art shows downtown as she is a sculptor herself.

"I like going cause it's cool to walk around and see new things," said Graham.

If you're not into the local scene and want to go to

see some events nearby there are a few.

Vans Warped Tour is a music and sports festival sponsored and created by the shoe company Vans. The main genres of music are Screamo, Hardcore, Metal and some occasional Alternative bands.

Graham plans on going to Warped Tour 2013 in Detroit at the Palace of Auburn Hills on July 19th.

"I'm so excited to see it this year since they have a decent line-up. I'm also excited to be around the people who like the same music," said Graham.

Going to Warped Tour you experience the summer heat and mosh pits and at Lollapalooza you experience the summer heat and laid-back mosh pits.

Lollapalooza is another yearly music festival similar to Vans Warped Tour, but for less hardcore music. Lollapalooza is always at Grant Park in Chicago, Illinois. This year it is August 2nd - 4th. The main genres for this festival are Rock, Alternative, Indie, Electronic and a few Rap / R&B artists.

Senior Elizabeth Rojas went to Lollapalooza in 2011 and 2012.

"When I went in 2011 it was their 20 year anniversary and my first year going. I would tell anyone to go, but be prepared to miss the people you love. I say that because they have bands playing simultaneously and that killed my soul," said Rojas.

Festivals like Lollapalooza and Vans Warped Tour showcase over 100 bands. Some bands that will be at Warped Tour are Black Veil Brides, Bring Me The Horizon, Atilla, and Woe is Me. At Lollapalooza you will have The Cure, Mumford and Sons, Kendrick Lamar and even 2 Chainz.

"No matter what I will always love Lollapalooza," said Rojas.

Loy Norrix Choir Preps for Their Last Show

Jena Burkey
Knight Life News

"I believe, I believe, I believe, all will be forgiven," sings Loy Norrix Master Singers as they learn a song from the musical "Spring Awakening" for their upcoming show, "Taste Of Broadway."

On May 31st and June 1st the Loy Norrix choir department will be putting on their last show for this school year. It is called "Taste of Broadway" because they will perform various song and medleys from different shows including "Chicago," "Spring Awakening," "Grease" and much more.

This concert is a chance for the seniors who have devoted their years in high school to the choir department to sing one last goodbye. Choir teacher and department director, Taryn Fooy gives further explanation for their last show.

"This concert is a fundraiser for us. We charge for tickets and it brings in money for the choir department," said Fooy.



Allie Creamer / Knight Life News

Loy Norrix Master Singers works on their choreography to the medley "Spring Awakening," taught by Loy Norrix alumni, Este'Fan Kizer. Sophomore Joriah Fleming helps teach choreography to the medley from "In The Heights."

The money earned at this concert goes towards choir funding such as sheet music, costumes, and hiring a band for this show and future shows put on in following years such as the forensics play, the musical, and other shows put on by the choirs.

Fooy spent her Spring Break organizing and choosing songs for the students to perform. She struggled with a few groups in Master Singers because they have the majority of the solos and it is difficult for her to decide who sings what. Master Singers get the majority of the solos and songs because they most advanced out of all three choirs.

Fooy was struggling to find the perfect song for everyone. She did the best she could to please the students and make sure everyone had a fair shot at a solo.

"A lot of work goes into this show," said Fooy. "We have the students audition and then I have to figure out whose voices blend and what song is best for their voices."

"Taste of Broadway" will not only be the seniors singing self-indulgent songs as their last glory moment in the spotlight slips away with every second they sing about how they have "dreamed a dream."




Guest Photographer / Elizabeth Rojas

Two Door Cinema Club performs at Lollapalooza 2011 for the first time. This was the 20th year anniversary for Lollapalooza in Chicago, Illinois.

How to Make it Through High School:Advice from Seniors and Freshmen

PAUL'S FRESHMAN YEAR



First football game.

Basketball tryouts.

First KC v. Norrix rivalry basketball game at Western.

Joined Knight Life.

Baseball season.

First day at Loy Norrix.

First high school dance.

Went 16-4 during winter basketball season.

Last day of freshman year!

MIA'S SENIOR YEAR

Began applying for colleges.

Last Homecoming Game.

Cheered with the Knightmare.

Women's Soccer Senior Night.


Senior Trip.

Took the ACT for the last time.

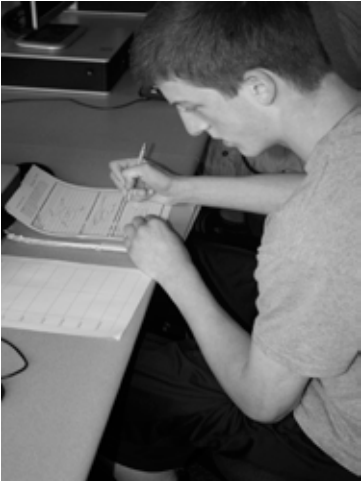



Committed to Oakland University for soccer.

Senior Prom.

Graduation.



While the class of 2013 prepares to start their freshman year in college, the class of 2017 prepares to start their freshman year at Norrix. As the senior class dreads the “freshman 15” pound weight gain and increased load of class work, there are still high school underclassmen with their fair share of worries. Whether it be related to academics, extracurricular activities or daily high school life, everyone could use some expert advice on how to make it through high school.

| Freshman Advice | | Senior Advice | |
|--|--|---|---|
| Academic | | Academic | |
| <p>“I want the rest of high school to be a success and have a good learning experience. I also want to be able to have fun, and enjoy high school.” -Freshman Audra Penny</p> <p>“To make your freshamn year easier you need to try to turn in all your work, make sure you manage your time wisely too, it will make things so much easier.” -Freshman Grant Mitchell</p> | <div><p>Grant Mitchell is a freshman student-athlete. He stresses the importance of completing classwork and staying focused.</p></div> | <p>“Learn to be mature early on, don’t take a free education for granted.” -Senior Raven Vanderbilt</p> <p>“Give your best effort in class, be respectful to your teachers and know that they are here to help you.” -Senior David Mann</p> <p>“Don’t wait until your junior year to get your stuff together, have an idea of what you want to pursue in the future and do not wait until tomorrow to make a change.” -Senior Brianna Leip</p> | <div><p>Senior Brianna Leip is attending Grand Valley State University in the fall. She is pictured here studying French in A13.</p></div> |
| Extracurricular | | Extracurricular | |
| <p>“The positive things about high school are meeting new people and going to all the sporting events.” -Freshman Clayton Barker</p> <p>“Being involved at Loy Norrix is a lot of fun, your team basically becomes your family and you have great experiances. Sports are hard to balance at first but as your season keeps going it gets easier.” -Freshman Kendra Curtis</p> <p>“There are more opportunities and doors that are opened in high school, there is more freedom.” -Freshman Sidney Ellis</p> | <div><p>Freshaman Sidney Ellis does a dramatic pose in the lunchroom. He is very involved in the performing arts.</p></div> | <p>“In sports, have no regrets and go hard every practice.” -Senior Jovaughn Carver</p> <p>“Get involved early on with something that you enjoy doing.” -Senior Ingrid Johnson</p> <p>“Don’t wait until your senior year to contact college coaches and get recruited because you never know what will happen.” -Senior Sierra James</p> | <div><p>Ingrid Johnson is a senior involved with the performing arts at Loy Norrix.</p></div> |
| Life | | Life | |
| <p>“Stay out of trouble and stay away from bad influences.” -Freshman Christian Heintzelman</p> <p>“Keep yourself busy and try not to hang around with the wrong crowd.” -Freshman Kirsten Haines</p> | | <p>“Be sure to prioritize school and your social life. You have to be well balanced to have a succesful and enjoyable experience.” -Senior Madison McBarnes</p> <p>“Be well organized and don’t procrastinate because right when senior year hits, it shows.” -Senior Zinzy Ndlovu</p> <p>“Start working on college applications early on. Take college tours, you’ll know when it feels like the right place for you.” -Senior Emily Davis</p> | |

Loy Norrix Senior Takes Big Steps to Make Big Changes



Photo Courtesy of David Mann

David Mann poses for his senior picture. Mann reflects on the last four years of his life, and all of his accomplishments.

Mary Daly
Knight Life News

“One day I got a referral and went into a rage, punched a window out, and went through the halls swearing and yelling and then got escorted out by a police officer,” said Mann.

David Mann is one of those students who came into high school really not caring, always having a negative attitude towards people, and not putting forth his best effort.

“I regret coming in with a negative attitude,” said Mann.

Throughout the four years of high school, Mann has changed himself for the better. Mann regrets many things throughout high school, but things he regrets the most are treating people poorly and maintaining low grades.

After freshman year, Mann decided it was time for a change. He knew he wanted to pursue football in college, so he knew he had to step it up.

“I believe that I have become a more mature, polite, nice person instead of the mean jerk that I was freshman year,” said Mann.

Throughout high school, Mann has had a good support system. Staff members, administrators, and teachers have helped Mann grow as a person. His football coaches have also been a big influence on him.

“My family members and coaches have had a huge impact on the changes I have made,” said Mann.

The choices Mann has made have made him a better person. If he

didn’t make the choices he made after freshman year, he probably wouldn’t have made it this far in high school.

Football Coach Sean Bergan has been a person Mann looks up to. Bergan believes Mann has physically changed, but also gained a lot of self-control. Mann has set goals for himself and has learned how to work towards them. He also thinks when man came in freshman year he was a big kid.

“David was a diamond in the rough,” said Bergan.

“David has found the right tools, put them in his tool belt and knows when it is time to use the right tools.”

-Assistant Principal Boggan

Bergan has been a good support system for Mann and has helped him with guidance, encouragement, and gave him an understand becoming a young man.

“When David needs guidance or support he comes to me,” said Bergan.

Assistance Principal Jeff Boggan has been working with Mann for the last four years. When Boggan first met Mann, he could tell he was a young with dreams but struggled with his anger. He explained that Mann wanted to solve his problem and he had the right heart, just not the right tools in his tool belt to make these big changes.

“David has become a young man



Photo Courtesy of David Mann

David Mann poses for his football picture. Manns’ number was 72 freshman year and is now 74 for his senior year.

and I knew he would make it,” said Boggan while wiping tears from his eyes. “David has found the right tools, put them in his tool belt and knows when it is time to use the right tools,” said Boggan.

David Man is now a senior and is graduating this year. He has made it so far and taken big steps to turn himself around and make it through high school.

Mann got signed to Ferris State University and will be pursuing college football in the fall.

“I am proud of all my accomplishments in high school,” said Mann.



Sydnee Stannard/ knight Life News

David Mann spends his lunch time in the athletic office. He’s studying for another class.

CHOIR PREP from page 6

There will be big group numbers, dance numbers, and many more Broadway classics.

“I am really excited about the concert,” said senior Cheryl Mattingly, a member of Master Singers. “It’s fun to learn the choreography.”

Mattingly was in Advanced Mixed Choir last year and in Master Singers third trimester of this school year. She loves Master Singers because she loves to sing and put on shows with her friends.

Junior Amyre Dennis, vice president of Master Singers explains some of the obstacles they have overcome.

“Despite the difficulties we’ve gone through this year dealing with dramatic situations, Master Singers is my favorite hour of the day, and it makes my day better,” said Amyre Dennis.

Every tight-knit group that is dependent on one another to accomplish one goal gets frustrated with one another. Master Singers is no different. They may argue and talk about each other, but they always come together at the end of the day to put on a good performance.

Students have been working hard to put this show together within a few months by learning choreography, new songs, group numbers (numbers they perform as an entire group or small group), and still working on other obligations such as graduation and Candlelight.

Candlelight is a ceremony between the juniors and seniors. It is known as the seniors handing down their authority in the school to the juniors for the next school year.

The Master Singers traditionally sing two songs at graduation. This year Master Singers will perform “What I Did For Love” from the musical “Chorus Line” and “I Gotta Feeling” by the Black Eyed Peas. The seniors choose the songs to perform. These songs were chosen to show their musical ability and get the crowd excited that “tonight’s gonna be a good night” referring to graduation and the celebration of the class of 2013’s success.

This is a special moment for the seniors because graduation is their last farewell and they have the honor to perform for their peers, teachers, administrators and loved ones that are all there to support them.

When I was a Freshman...



"I used to skip Ms. Rolfe's class, 3rd hour to go to first lunch with all the seniors."
-Alexis Caples

Sydnee Stannard
Knight Life News

As senior year comes to an end for the class of 2013, students reminisce on their freshmen year. Although some seniors have changed tremendously, others have stayed the same throughout high school. Seniors have reached the point in their lives where they are growing up and making decisions that will have a huge impact on their futures.

Has the reality hit you? After high school you might move away for college and start a career and leave Kalamazoo in the rearview mirror.

Throughout their high school career, seniors have all had their fair share of drama, bad hair days, and a massive amount of homework, but the senior class has finally made it to graduation. As the seniors of the school, the class of 2013 tells their stories about the days in which they were freshmen.

"Zack Rickli was my biggest crush."
-Vanessa Armendarez

"I was walking in the hallway with some wedges. I thought I was cute... I walked up the ramp and [after falling] that was the end of Anajia."
-Anajia Williams

It was all about graphic tees, bright colors and Osiris.
-Ben Schreck and Pablo Tavares

"I got beat up by the varsity football team."
-Zach Julian

Prom Dresses Throughout the Decades

Danielle Kahler
Knight Life News

Every girl knows that the highlight of prom night is not the actual dance but the dress. Typically, girls will spend \$500 at most on a dress and all day prepping for one night.

Throughout the years, however, the dresses have changed drastically. Prom, short for promenade, started around the 1940s. The idea came from debutante balls, which are basically events where girls are paraded around in big dresses as a way to introduce them to the dating scene.

By the 1950s, dresses were typically long with a large, full skirt. In the 60s, dresses were toned down a bit, the skirts becoming deflated and loose, made of rayon or taffeta. Long sleeves and flowery prints were in for the 70s. Throughout the 80s, metallic and neon colors ruled, along with big hair, accessories, and shoes. By the 90s, dresses became slimmer and more sophisticated.

Today, many different dresses have been returned from past decades; for example, the “mermaid” dress and the empire waist.

Debbi Jones, parapro, attending the 1989 prom at Kalamazoo Central High School. Jones’ favorite part of prom was being among her friends and seeing everyone all dressed up. She believes that dresses used to be more formal and pageant-like. “Today you can wear anything you want,” Jones said, “short or long dresses.”



Photo Courtesy of Debbi Jones

Sveri May, team teacher, ready for a Loy Norrix prom in 1973. “My mother made this dress for my winter formal my sophomore year. I wore a prom dress to the winter formal!”

May got to wear this dress two more times, though. Apart from wearing it again to her prom, she also wore it to her future husband’s prom the next year at Kalamazoo Central.



Photo Courtesy of Sveri May



Photo Courtesy of Jillian Ko

“I went into Memories looking for a coral dress because I love the color and I saw this one, immediately loved it, but it was a size smaller than what I’d been trying on. But I was like ‘I might as well try it on’ and it fit perfectly!” said junior **Jillian Ko**.

Alison Nelson, science teacher, attended the Paw Paw High School prom in 1996. “It [the dress] was unique. No one else had one like it,” said Nelson.

Her date, John, was a good friend of hers from Chicago that used to come up to her parent’s lakehouse during the summer.

Angie Laginess, English teacher, with her best friend attending Southgate Anderson High School’s prom in 1998. “I really liked the feather boa on it,” said Laginess, “and my mom did not allow scandalous dresses so I was pretty limited.”



Photo Courtesy of Angela Laginess

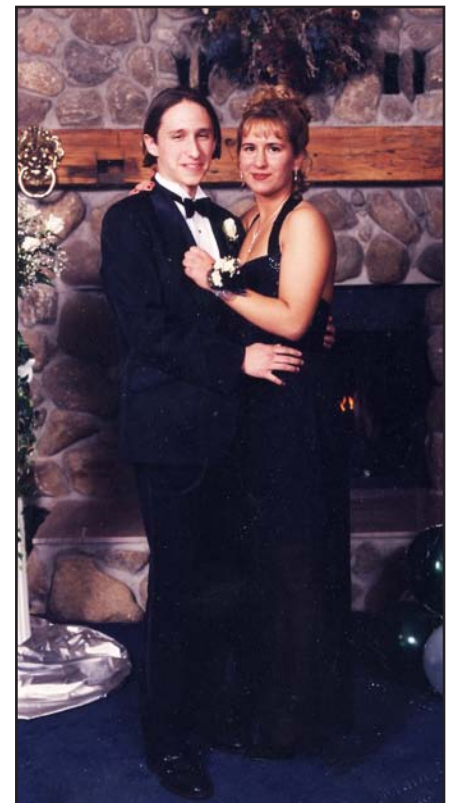


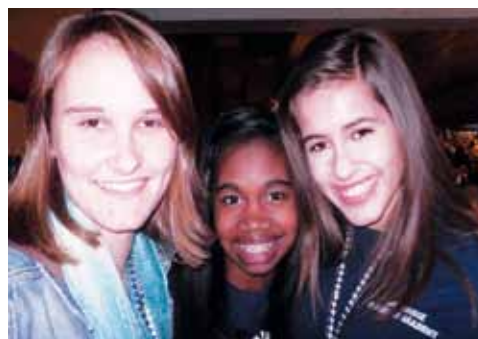
Photo Courtesy of Alison Nelson



Photo Courtesy of Lucas Leibold, Knight Life alumni

Loy Norrix students took prom pictures at Crane Park on May 11, 2013. Loy Norrix’s prom this year took place at the Four Point Sheridan where the theme was “A Knight of Sweet Elegance.”

SENIOR SECTION



99



#ThrowbackThursday
#TBT #Freshmen
#2013 #WeMadeIt
#picstitch

Allie Creamer and Anthony Foti
Knight Life News

We all have changed since our first year beginning in high school. Now that four years have gone by, we are moving on, away from the halls of Loy Norrix.

Brianna Leip I'm glad we all grew up and established who we are going to be.

1 Jordan Taber We were in the class but not in the picture. That's when we had Ms. Bozzo. Everyone looks so different!

2 Scout Kruger That's 8th grade! That's funny!

3 Sarah Townsend That was freshmen year and we were selling spirit wear.

4 Liliana Obregan Junior year at my friend's graduation. We were just having fun and celebrating.

5 Sierra James We walked to Walgreens to get ice cream and swing on the swing. It was a fun day!

6 Darrion Mullen Chillin' with the bros, catching a game of basketball, scouting out the competition.

7 Alexis Rumph That was 8th grade and we were in gym towards the end of the school year.

8 Allison Jacobs That was the first day of school freshmen year, we all went to Audrey's and just hung out.

Good Luck Class of 2013!



Allie Creamer / Knight Life News

Security Guard Jacqueline Hampton and Lia Camarillo.

"I want to say thanks to **Mrs. Hampton**, the tower security guard. She kept me on track and made sure I wasn't doing anything I wasn't supposed to. Also, she was always really bubbly and happy when I saw her and that made my day."

-Lia Camarillo

"I would like to thank my guidance counselor, **Mrs. Scott**. These past four years she has helped me in every way possible to graduate. She has given me so much support and because of that I am going to graduate and I can become more successful."

-Corinne Swarthout

"**Officer Williams** always kept me on track, he was like a father figure at school. He made is so I would make better decisions in class and do my work. I'm graduation now because I made better decisions and haven't gotten in any fights. I'm a mature young lady now, thank you."

-Cassandra Thompson

Thank You Teachers

Allie Creamer

Knight Life News

"I remember walking into freshman biology the very first day of school. I sat in the back and didn't say much. I was really nervous, but what made that day really great was **Mr. Lowrie**. I was lucky enough to have him as a teacher both my freshman and senior years and I couldn't ask for a better science teacher. In his class we learned so much and even had fun doing it, something many teachers strive for but few achieve."



As freshman year proceeded, Mr. Lowrie became not only a fantastic educator but a great person. He makes jokes and talks to students like people and not numbers. I felt like by the end of that class we knew each other. Every time I would see him in the hallway he would always smile and ask me how I was doing. It was this kindness that made me feel comfortable being in such a big new school.

My senior year, I knew that I wanted to have Mr. Lowrie as a teacher before I graduated, so even though the thought of taking anatomy scared me academically, I was really thrilled to be in his class again. The work was hard and it took a lot of focus to do well in that class, but I would have never passed it or even enjoyed it without the fun and sarcasm that Mr. Lowrie brings.

I highly encourage everyone to take one of his classes before they graduate, you won't regret it, and to Mr. Lowrie, thanks for putting up with me for all these years and making my science classes some of the most memorable."

-Olivia Lyszyk



Allie Creamer / Knight Life News

History teacher Niambi Pringle and Alexis Caples.

"Thank you to **Mrs. Pringle** for helping me in Law. She always gave me that extra push that would keep me going. She did this for me and because of that I passed the class and I am on track to graduate."

-Alexis Caples

"I'd like to thank **Mrs. Felkel** my Latin teacher. I took Latin my first two years and learned a lot of english root words. She enhanced my vocabulary profoundly. I feel like I am a more prepared individual now."

-Jacob Lohner

"I failed Algebra II with one teacher and took it again with **Mr. Smith**. I want to thank him for teaching me in a way that made sense to me. I passed that class with an A and now I have all of my math credits to graduate."

-Logan Franklin

Wonder Woman Disguised as Class Advisor



Photo Illustration Josh Johnson

Josh Johnson

Knight Life News

The class of 2013 has been Sveri May's sixth time being a class advisor. With countless hours of work, little pay, and an entire student body to please, why does she keep coming back?

"It is so fun to get to know students as a person instead of as a student. Hours and hours of behind the scenes work go into being a class advisor. Teachers get paid a little more to be class advisor, but the hourly rate probably comes out to five cents an hour," said May.

May enjoys being a class advisor so much that she has already agreed to be the advisor of the incoming freshman class.

Raising money for school events is May's specialty. May and Nelson coordinated over ten fundraisers each school year including selling pizza kits, holiday wreaths, popcorn, and golf cards. May would also organize car washes and garage sales that would take up an entire Saturday.

"I know I'm intense when it comes to fundraising, but its so my class can afford the things they want," said May.

The funds that the class of 2013 has raised goes towards many senior events including the Candlelight Ceremony, the senior luncheon, the buses to Cedar Point and of course, this year's prom, "A Knight of Sweet Elegance."

Several years ago May mentored Alison Nelson as a new teacher. Nelson attended monthly meetings for teachers in their first five years of teaching. May helped Nelson adapt to KPS schools.

Nelson got involved in class advising for the first time with the class of 2013 because she saw it as a great way to get more involved in the school and to

get to know her students.

Nelson snickered as she explained that being a class advisor is like having a second job and it requires a lot of commitment. Nelson will not be joining May on advising the new freshman class.

Nelson is instead going to be starting an adventure club. The Adventure club will be for students who are interested in white water rafting and exploring caves. Nelson said she really enjoyed being a class advisor but is ready for something fresh.

May reflected on her four years of advising the class of 2013 saying that dedication that she has seen from some of the students in the class of 2013 is tremendous.

Grinning, May recalled a fundraising moment: "I can still remember a few years ago sitting at a garage sale to raise money and it was so freezing that students had piles of blankets on top of them and socks on their hands."

While at times being a class advisor proves difficult, May refers to the classes she advises as her second family. Although May team-teaches all day and is the Peacejam advisor, she can never forget about her second family.

"Giving kids opportunities to be the best that they can be is magical. To see these students grow and be successful is the best part of the job," said May.

What Makes You Afraid Stepping out of High School and Into the Real World



I would have to say not knowing how to do the little things on your own.
- Claire Alves



I am afraid of losing my sense of security, and my sense of being safe, but I am ready to take this step and find these things in my new surroundings and people I meet.
- Robbi Cook



I'm afraid of failing.
- Jorge Esparza



Going into a new world where everything is different and you have to learn how to survive when you don't know what all could come your way.
-Simone Smith Ozier



All the responsibilities that come along with it and all the bills.
-Sarah Wright



Being alone for the first time in my life and not having support from my family right beside me.
- Marquitta Smith



Bills, bills, bills and more bills.
- Raven Vanderbilt



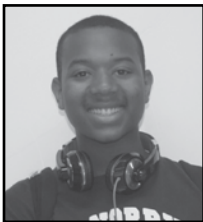
Most afraid of splitting from my friends and family, and finally depending on myself, also accepting that if I fail it will be because of me."
- Zinzey Ndlovu



Knowing how to handle money better and controlling how much I spend.
- Sulan Artz-Iffland



I'm most afraid of getting into college and having to adjust to a brand new lifestyle without having the option of relying on anyone but myself.
- Courtney Prescott



Honestly I'm not really afraid of anything in the real world. I'm more excited then anything to step into the real world.
- Tyrrell Wilks-Williams



Bills and all the school work I will have.
- Shannon Wee

Nikia Jackson
Knight Life News

What the heck! You just paid this one. Two weeks ago, you had all your bills paid and now they are starting to pile back up one by one. It's a never-ending cycle.
Stepping out of high school and into the real world can be a difficult process. You have to pay your own bills, buy your own food, and clean your own house. According to financialeducatorsCouncil.org Only 59 percent of the young adults (18-21) pay their bills on time each month. Students between the ages of 15-21 report that they feel unprepared to face the complex world of the 21st century. Eighty-seven percent of teens report that their parents are their main source of financial education.

GET OUT OF JAIL FREE CARD

If you are in **Mr. Williams** class and can tell him the three branches of government you can make up one missing assignment.

10 BONUS POINTS

for anyone in **Mr. Lowrey's** class who can identify age, gender ethnicity, and height from given information

25 EXTRA CREDIT POINTS

for anyone in **Mr. Bradford's** class you have to perform a poem/rap about Loy Norrix. It has to be written by you and nothing about Mollys

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Once You Commit ,You Move into a New Way of Life 2013 College Decision Day



Tim Terrentine came to talk to Loy Norrix seniors on decision day about moving forward in life. He gave them advice on staying true to themselves.

Allie Creamer/Knight Life News

Kiosha Miller
Knight Life News

On May 1st the class of 2013 made one of the most important decisions of their lives. First of all every student had to decide whether or not they were going to college in the fall or not. If they chose yes, they had to apply to the colleges of their choice.

From that point they

received their acceptance letters. As of May 1st if they had to send in their commitment fee, and the decision would be final.

The decision to go to college can be difficult or easy depending on the student's life experiences. Some students have a family history of college graduates while others may be the first in their family to pursue higher

education. Either way the stress of making the choice is life changing.

Some students experienced dual enrollment throughout the school year. Dual enrollment allows high school upperclassman to take college courses while attending high school. By the time Decision Day came around, the dual enrolled students had a better idea of what they wanted to do based on their college experience.

"I chose Western Michigan University because it had the program I wanted to go into, being so close to home allows me not to have to live in the dorms and lets me save money. I take classes as a dual enrolled student there now and I love the environment. The students on campus have

been great so far," said Richelle Whalen

Students may or may not have visited the school they plan to attend. A student may choose a school they have never been to but be fearful to commit because they haven't been in that school's atmosphere. In situations like this, school counselors, internet research, and former students who are now attending the school of choice can help the student make a better informed decision.

"At first I wasn't sure it was the school for me, but the coaches welcomed me and made me feel like they really wanted me. In the end it was a hard decision, but I seem to fit at that school."

-Davian Phillips

This year senior high school students nationwide who have made the decision to attend college are anxious, and some are eager to experience the consequences of their decision. A big factor in the decision is financial. Hopefully that decision is easier for Kalamazoo Public Schools students. Most LN graduates have the Kalamazoo Promise, giving KPS students the chance to get rid of most of the financial burden of college if they attend a Michigan public college or university.

Kalamazoo Central senior Brionna LaGrone said, "Choosing the college I'm going to was a relief, and I am really happy with my decision. I always knew I wanted to go to Michigan State University, so that made it easy for me, I loved

the environment and campus."

Some students received scholarships to attend schools in other states. These scholarships often times take on the entire financial burden making the school of choice decision easier.

Senior Loy Norrix student Davian Phillips said, "I am going out of Michigan to go to Ohio Mid-Western, I am nervous because I am going to a different state. I chose this school because I got a full ride to play basketball and football. At first I wasn't sure it was the school for me, but the coaches welcomed me and made me feel like they really wanted me. In the end it was a hard decision but I seem to fit at that school."

See DECISION page 20

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LASHAE E. DUE WELLS



CONGRATULATIONS, SHAUNTASIA!!

WE ARE VERY PROUD OF YOU
AND YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS.
THANKS FOR ALL OF YOUR
HARD WORK! WE LOVE YOU,
BIG GIRL!!!

YOUR PARENTS & SIBLINGS:
SHAREE, FRANK, FREMIYAH, &
ARIHN.

Congratulations to the Senior Knight Life Staff!!!

We will all miss you!

Marcus Boyd, Jena Burkey, Aerion Caldwell, Allie Creamer, Anthony Foti, Sha'kira Green, Nikia Jackson, Josh Johnson, Danielle Kahler, Mia Leibold, Kiosha Miller, Rachel Reed, Hannah Reinhold, Erin Romph, Mataya Simmons, Sydnee Stannard, Branden VanZile.



*We will all miss
you. Coach Wil-
liams and the
Team.*

Congratulations Senior Tennis players!!!!

Summer Reading Programs Really Work! Encourage Kids to Read this Summer!



The Kalamazoo Promise®

10 Things You Should Know About The Promise

1. The Kalamazoo Promise is for ALL students of the Kalamazoo Public Schools (KPS).
2. You must reside within the boundaries of KPS.
3. You must have at least all of the high school years (9-12) in KPS (enrollment & residency) and graduate from KPS (Central / Loy Norrix / Phoenix).
4. The Kalamazoo Promise will not end. It is set up to go on for many years to come.
5. The Kalamazoo Promise is a 4 year scholarship (a bachelor degree or 130 credits, whichever occurs first).
6. You have ten years from the time you graduate from high school to use your Promise and can start and stop any time.
7. The Kalamazoo Promise covers tuition and mandatory fees.
8. Students sign up for The Kalamazoo Promise at the beginning of their senior year. Meetings are held for all seniors each fall. There are two simple forms to fill out for The Kalamazoo Promise.
9. There is an appeal process for students during their senior year, especially for hardship cases (e.g., custody, death in the family, and foster care placement).
10. All students using the kalamazoo promise at KVCC may attend part-time.

The Kalamazoo Promise Eligible Colleges

Kalamazoo Valley Community College
Alpena Community College
Bay de Noc Community College
Delta College
Glen Oaks Community College
Gogebic Community College
Grand Rapids Community College
Henry Ford Community College
Jackson Community College
Kellogg Community College
Kirtland Community College
Lake Michigan College
Lansing Community College
Macomb Community College
Mid Michigan Community College
Monroe County Community College
Montcalm Community College
Mott Community College
Muskegon Community College
North Central Michigan College
Northwestern Michigan College
Great Lakes Maritime College
Oakland Community College
Schoolcraft College
Southwestern Michigan College
St. Clair County Community College
Washtenaw Community College
Wayne County Community College
West Shore Community College

The Kalamazoo Promise Eligible Universities

Western Michigan University
Central Michigan University
Eastern Michigan University
Ferris State University
Kendall College of Art & Design
Grand Valley State University
Lake Superior State University
Michigan State University
Michigan Technological University
Northern Michigan University
Oakland University
Saginaw Valley State University
University of Michigan
Wayne State University

Bob Jorth is available in the Loy Norrix
guidance office on Thursday mornings for
appointments or can be reached at:

(269)337-0037
or
bjorth@kalamazoopromise.com

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250 words or less, must contain author's name, third period, and ID number.

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If space permits, guest columns, personal opinions, contains libel or obscenities, disrupts school environment, invades privacy of others.

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-Knight Life will publish a formal correction of any factual error made in a previous issue.

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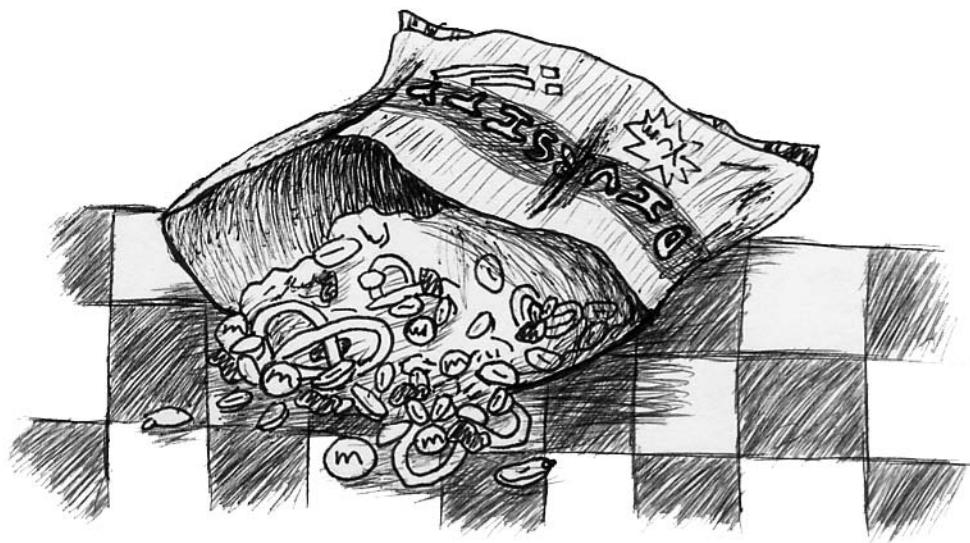
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STAFF EDITORIAL

Diversity at Loy Norrix Positively affects Students



Life is like a bag of
trail mix.
It would be really boring
if there were only
Peanuts.

Laurie Umbanhowe / Guest Artist

Environment dictates personality to an astonishing degree. A student living in one culture, naturally, is different from a student living in another, but cultural differences do not dictate quality.

The makeup of the Loy Norrix student body is very diverse compared to the United States. More than 50 percent of Loy Norrix students are racial minorities, while this is true for only 20 percent of the United States population.

The high school years are when a student begins to become an adult, and most preconceptions about the world originate during these years. If a person is racist or bigoted, these preconceptions

were most likely formed during the years that person was in school.

Racial tolerance is more likely to occur for a student growing up in a place with a diverse population. If a student is in a homogeneous environment in school and at home, they base their impressions of other races solely on the media and word of mouth, not by actual experience. This leaves much room for misconception.

According to Andrew Rojecki in "The Black Image in the White Mind," 56 percent of African Americans in the media are represented as being physically violent, while only 11 percent of white individuals are represented this way.

Growing up in a diverse environment is almost entirely beneficial. Students are able to get a firsthand experience of many different cultures and form their own opinion. A diverse environment has tendencies to make people more accepting of other views and cultures.

According to Dr. Genevieve Siegel-Hawley, member of the NCSD, or the Nation Coalition on School Diversity, students who are in more diverse learning environments exhibit better understanding of social injustices and are less likely to exhibit racial prejudice.

The word diverse does not necessarily only mean a difference of race, but it can

also be a difference of hobby, culture, religion, income, or any difference in people overall.

Loy Norrix has a very diverse environment in this sense of the word, viewing the Loy Norrix cafeteria during lunch, people would, like any other school cafeteria, be grouped by table. This grouping, however, is not nearly as segregated as you might think. Rather than being completely organized into cliques, you might be surprised to see how many different types of people sit with each other.

While it is still true that people are able to better connect with people similar to them, Loy Norrix friendships are far from segregated. It isn't that social differences remain unacknowledged, but they are not a defining factor determining who associates with whom.

For seniors on their way to college, the diverse environment at Loy Norrix is able to better prepare them for what is to come. University life, even if it is not racially diverse, is going to be diverse in other ways.

In college, there are going to be students from all over the world with all sorts of different cultures, and being able to associate and become friends with people very different from you is a good skill to have. It is much easier to learn from a wide variety of friendships, rather than people who share your views and ideas. College is meant to be the time in your life that you learn everything you possibly can, and diversity of friendship can teach you many things.

A diverse environment in school allows people to grow up able to see through the illusion of racial stereotypes. It allows them to see that people act as individuals, and that although two people belong to the same group, they are two very different people, and an opinion of them cannot be based only upon the group that they belong to.

Supreme Court's Gay Marriage Decision To Be a Turning Point for Gay Rights



Ben Dunham
Knight Life News

March 26th and 27th of this year marked what could be some of the largest steps in gay rights in the last decade. The Supreme Court of the United States heard two cases; one challenging the Defense of Marriage Act, a controversial bill signed by Bill Clinton that only federally recognized opposite-sex marriage as being valid, and another challenging Proposal 8 in California, which states that "only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California." The two cases seem like very specific issues, but the ruling of the Supreme Court here will set the course for gay rights for a long period of time.

In the United States, marriage insures a plethora of legal and monetary benefits. These benefits include obvious things like that fact that married couples can file for a joint return on their taxes and potentially have to pay less, to privileges such as visiting a spouse after hours in a hospital. The federal government does not currently recognize gay marriage, which means that same-sex couples are blatantly being denied these rights.

The fight for gay rights has shown parallels to an issue that we as Americans have tried so hard to put behind us over the years: Civil Rights for African Americans in the 1950s and 1960s. As a country, we are still putting a certain group of people's rights behind the rights of the others. It is completely unacceptable.

If we leave everything out such as religion and politics, this issue boils down to something very simple. Some people are allowed to marry who they want to, while others are not. The issue has been twisted and turned into a completely different animal from where it started now, but at its roots the ban on gay marriage is just discrimination.

We, not only as Americans, but as human beings need to realize this. If we step back sixty years, we would see a society which is totally different from where we are today. The social norm in many places across the country was to simply accept the fact that African Americans were treated both under the law and by other people as second class citizens. In fact,

interracial marriage was not even legal until 1967. Back then, issues like this were not seen as issues; they were just accepted.

A pivotal point in the fight for civil rights was the Brown vs. Board of Education decision in 1954. In this case, a unanimous decision by the Supreme Court stated that schools across the country had to be integrated between races. The ruling on Brown v. Board rescinded the laws of separate but equal, which was created by the Plessy v. Ferguson decision in 1896 and set the course for Civil Rights forever. After the integration of schools slowly swept the nation, the Civil Rights movement eventually came to a successful end.

Since those times, America has come a long way. We have reached a point where, regardless of race, people are treated equally under the law. Yes, racism is still alive, but it has gone

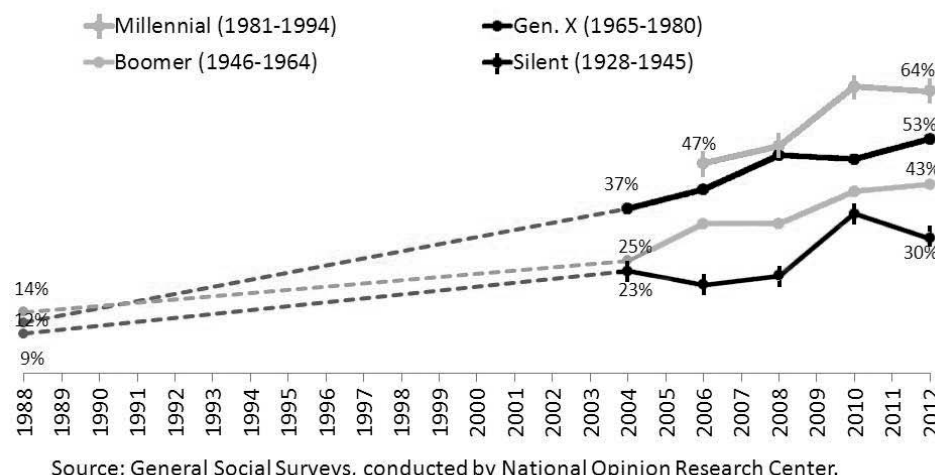
This case could have a similar effect on the public as what happened in the case of Brown v. Board. Those who were originally against gay rights could have their opinions changed by the decision of the courts.

A common proposition as a remedy for the legal issue of gay marriage is a separate "civil union" for gay couples which has all of the advantages of a straight marriage, but is not called a marriage. The issue with this is that it follows another civil rights issue which was remedied under Brown v. Board; separate but equal.

In 1954, the Supreme Court stated that separate institutions for different groups are inherently unequal, and this decision should apply to modern issues as well. A separate concession for gay couples is once again placing them behind the rest of the country and is frankly disrespectful, as it carries the connotation that gay couples, for

Support for gay marriage increasing among every generation

(% Who "agree" homosexuals should have right to marry one another)



from nation-wide issue to a much smaller scale. The transformation, if you think about it, is amazing. We went from complete separation to a fully functioning and integrated society. But why is it that America is able to accept the rights of all races, but not the rights of all sexual orientations?

The path to truly tolerant society is not easy. Years of hatred and injustice towards homosexuals have plagued this country, and it will take just as much time to move away from them. Progress has been slowly made, but not nearly at the rate it should be.

A powerful Supreme Court decision on the cases recently heard for gay rights could have the same effect. It could be one of the biggest steps for gay rights we've seen in a long time.

some reason, are not worthy of a proper marriage.

Finally, a recent poll from the Washington Post found that 81 percent of Americans between the ages of 18 and 29 believe that gay marriage should be legal. The Supreme Court should take this into account and realize that a huge majority of the people who are going to soon be in control of the country support gay rights.

It's time for us as Americans to move out of our old, intolerant lifestyle. We have moved into new, progressive views on many issues of equality, but for some reason gay rights have been left behind. It's time for us to make the next big step in the fight for equality for all.

KNIGHTS SPEAK

How has the diverse environment at Loy Norrix impacted your life?

Nils Miron, senior

"It's more of a reflection of what is going on in the real world."



Shannon Wee, senior

"I feel diversity is really important in our school, it prepares you for college."



Logan Franklin, senior

"It's not negative, it's a positive thing because it makes you more open minded."



Kate Jacobs, senior

"It's one of those things that I took for granted... It has made me more comfortable around people I don't know."



Paola Macias, senior

"It has made me more comfortable to be around other cultures and people that are different."



Liz Rojas, senior

"I feel like it has made me more comfortable with other people but it also makes me want to leave this place."





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Couple Reaches Dream of Playing Division I: Robinson and Leibold



Lucas Leibold / Knight Life Alumni

Bishop Robinson and Mia Leibold prepare for their second prom together, wearing their crowns from winning Homecoming Queen and Winterfest King.

Erin Romph
Knight Life News

Adolescent couples nowadays struggle to maintain a strong, healthy relationship while simultaneously climbing the ladder to their dreams and success. However, since December 25, 2010, seniors Bishop Robinson

and Amelia "Mia" Leibold have been working toward their goals as a team of two. The rigorous schedules of both their travel and high school teams force Robinson and Leibold to adjust the way they live by working around tight agendas and living up to their full potential.

"When you play at a high level, a lot of people have expectations for you and there are also those you want to prove wrong," said Leibold.

To Robinson and Leibold, basketball and soccer are much more than just a sport; it is a lifestyle. By putting in countless off-season hours a week and sacrificing social lives, they both reached their long-term goal, attending a NCAA Division 1 University.

"Relationships are all about sacrifice, but so are sports, and B [Bishop] and I both understand that," said Leibold. "Sports come first."

In the fall, Robinson will be attending Western Michigan University to continue his basketball career. He began playing in seventh grade and decided to start taking it seriously his sophomore year at Loy Norrix. Robinson uses basketball as a motivator; it is what has made him focus throughout high school.

"It's the only way I would graduate. I had to get my grades up because before I was adopted, I really didn't care about my grades," said Robinson. "I just worked on my skills almost every day and made basketball and

school a priority."

"Bishop's story is unique and what he has conquered, it is just inspirational," said Julie DeLuca, mother of Leibold.

DeLuca claims that she really got to know Robinson by watching him perform on the court. The bond Robinson shares with the DeLuca-Leibold family is very unique, as Robinson drops by for surprise visits just to talk or have dinner.

"It's nice just sitting down feeling like family, and also knowing that I am family," said Robinson.

The Leibolds' generosity has proven just how much they have to offer. "It's so easy to open your heart to Bishop. The respect level is so wonderful and you are just drawn to him with the warmth that he shares," said DeLuca.

DeLuca recalls Mia and Bishop studying at her kitchen table and having a constant distraction, their cell phones. However, it was not the normal pressure that many teens suffer from, it was college coaches calling.

"There's a lot of pressures with recruitment," said DeLuca, "but I think they have a lot of maturity. [Robinson and Leibold] started out as friends and that's a great foundation of any relationship. He really encourages her in a positive way, a way that I think she needs."

DeLuca realizes that Robinson watches Leibold's soccer games through a very different perspective than she does. When they attend games

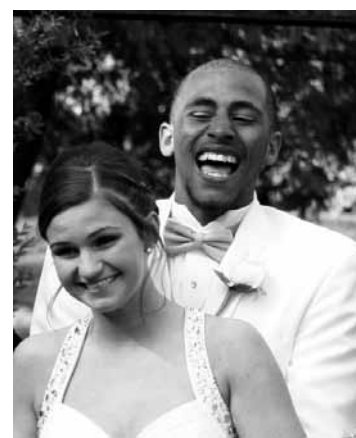
together, DeLuca watches her daughter play soccer, while Robinson watches the offensive and defensive dynamics of the game.

"It's good to have somebody who understands what you're going through," said Leibold.

Robinson has offered Leibold many things including "someone who she can rely on and trust," he said.

"Both of us realized that we could have a relationship through our sports," said Leibold. "We make each other happy and that's always been enough."

"Amelia has made her dream [playing at a high level] and I am so proud," said DeLuca. "I view them as self-motivated and self-reliant, characters of a young adult that I really admire. Both my daughter and Bishop."



Lucas Leibold / Knight Life Alumni

After years of hard work and dreaming, Robinson and Leibold finally reach their goal of playing at a high level.

Women's Soccer Team Bonds Throughout Their Season



Marelyn Krueger / Guest Photographer

The Lady Knights huddle together after the first overtime game against Marshall. Although they lost in double overtime, it was a well fought match.

Mataya Simmons
Knight Life News

Since March 11, 2013, day one of soccer tryouts, the women's varsity team has built a bond through games, practice, and hard work. There are a

total of 17 players, of those there are 6 freshmen and 5 seniors. With such age difference, some would think there could be issues getting along with each other.

"From day one the seniors were

really open and welcoming," said freshmen Kathryn Puca.

Puca has been playing soccer since the age of three and does not plan on stopping anytime soon. She plans to continue her career here at Norrix and maybe play in an adult league in college. Before the season tryouts started, Puca wanted to be prepared so she attended the pre-season training. The day of tryouts was nerve racking.

"I was nervous... everyone thought they had potential, there was a lot of really good freshmen this year," said Puca.

Despite her feelings on the day of tryouts, Puca knew she had to work hard. After the second day, it was decision time. Her hard work had paid off.

"They are already my family, my team already becomes my family, but we just automatically clicked," said senior Amelia Leibold.

Leibold has been on our varsity women's soccer team since her freshman year along with four other seniors. From experience she knows exactly how the freshmen this year

could be feeling which is why she has been welcoming to them.

"Skills aside, the freshmen have changed the program for the better. They have a lot of potential," said Leibold.

Typically freshmen aren't viewed as capable of playing on a varsity sport. They are either seen as too immature, not good enough, or just not big enough. The soccer team, on the other hand, doesn't feel this way.

"Leadership is great from the seniors, they give great tips," said Puca.

The unusual bond this team seems to have has made them a better team. Starting the season on a shut out streak of 8-0 but then falling to 8-1 to Battle Creek Lakeview on Wednesday May 1, 2013. The score was 2-3. despite the one loss the team still pushes through and believes they can go far this season. finishing the regular season 12-4, the team started districts strong on May 28, 2013.

"The more we play and practice the better we get," said freshman Megan Zabik.

Spring Sports: Influential Team Members Speak

Hannah Reinhold & Sarah Stevens
Knight Life News

from Desion Day page 14

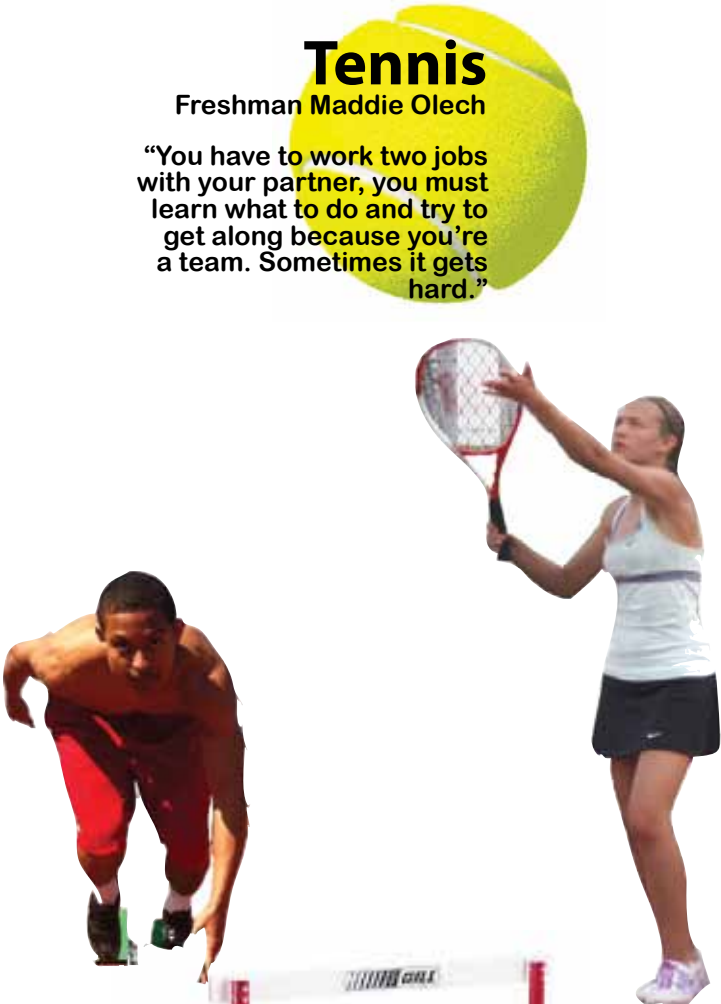
Soccer

Senior Scout Krueger
“I lead the team by setting an example. I try to be positive to set the tone for every practice and game, it makes a difference in the team’s effort.”



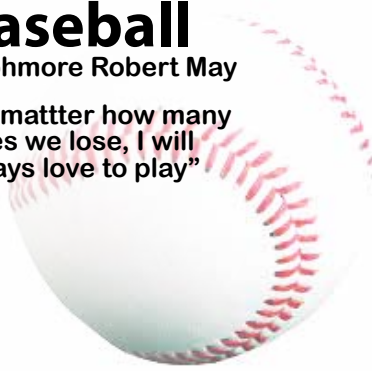
Tennis

Freshman Maddie Olech
“You have to work two jobs with your partner, you must learn what to do and try to get along because you’re a team. Sometimes it gets hard.”



Baseball

Sophomore Robert May
“No mattter how many times we lose, I will always love to play”



Track

Senior Alex Bridges
“My goal is to prove that hard work pays off to the younger runners.”



Softball

Senior Zaria Starfeldt
“We all deal with team mates messup in different ways. Some are quiet others get mad and some shake it off. As a team we have to find a common way to deal with personal mistakes.”



Golf

Freshman Tanner Franklin
“I play for my team but i am also playing for myself. I have to motivate myself to get good scores then i put my score into the team.”



There are students who chose to go to private schools in Michigan. Private schools are not a part of the Kalamazoo Promise. In these situations there are scholarships that are available to pick up the financial burden of college.

Loy Norrix senior Erin Romph said, “I chose a private school because I wanted to continue to play volleyball and Albion gave me that opportunity. I received a merit scholarship. My old coach from freshman-junior year moved to Albion for this school year and she will be coaching me again.”

Some students chose colleges purely by reputation. Here in Michigan like most states, college sports have a huge impact on the school’s reputation. Some schools are known solely for their academic fields of study while others are known for the great college experience.

“I chose Michigan State because when I was younger my whole family was University of Michigan fans. I asked them why they liked that school and none of them gave a legit answer, so I decided to be different and choose Michigan State. From then on I always wanted to go there,” said Jovaughn Carver.

In this country, 2013 senior high school students who made the decision to attend a college or university had to really deal with some tough questions in order to make the best choice for their future. Finances were the biggest variable affecting that decision.

The Kalamazoo Promise, academic scholarships, and athletic scholarships and foundations will allow many students the opportunity to pursue their dreams.