

# KNIGHT LIFE

VOLUME 54 ISSUE 1

LOY NORRIX HIGH SCHOOL

KALAMAZOO, MI

OCTOBER, 2013

KNIGHTLIFENEWS.COM



Principal Rodney Prewitt. Photo Credit / Sidney Ellis

## There's a New Knight in Town Principal Prewitt Whips in from Flint With a New Attitude

*Jordan Liddle  
Photo Editor*

The 2013-2014 school year, has brought in a new principal from Flint Beecher Middle School to Loy Norrix has established a culture of friendliness and caring. Principal Prewitt brought this new attitude from his years working at Flint High School, Dailey Elementary School and Beecher Middle School in Flint, Michigan

Principal Prewitt shows this new culture by spontaneously dropping into classes to see how teachers and students are doing, standing in front of the school in the morning to greet people and walking through the halls and interacting with students and teachers. It is evident Principal Prewitt is here to support both teachers and students.

Principal Prewitt graduated from University of Alabama with a degree in health and physical education. He later received his masters degree in educational leadership from Nova Southeastern University.

"It is nice seeing him being that kind of active person where he's trying to make

social connections with students and teachers," said math teacher Corey O'Bryan.

It seems clear that Principal Prewitt has a strong presence yet he has a very open personality. He knows what he wants yet he's willing to listen. He is very much focused yet he will stop and

---

*"He has high expectations  
and I think it helps students  
keep on track."*

---

*-Sophomore Samantha Brown*

---

take time to engage with people in the hallway. He seems low key yet he is actively involved.

Principal Prewitt expressed the importance of being a servant leader. He defined it as, "Bending over backwards to try to make whatever is good happen for our students here, and the families."

Principal Prewitt wants students to do well in many different aspects of school. He, too has other interests beyond just

sports, including opera, jazz, and the ballet.

"He seems like he really wants us to do well, and wants us to succeed," said sophomore Samantha Brown.

The new principal expressed the importance of having a caring and friendly atmosphere where students can be who they are and speak from the heart.

"I try to be a role model to the teachers and other students," said Principal Prewitt.

Principal Prewitt wants to push students in the right direction and make them realize there are a lot of better ways to fix a problem.

"Students are real people, they have issues as adults do and we just need to be able to work them out with words instead of physical contact," said Principal Prewitt.

"He has high expectations and I think it will help students keep on track," said Brown.

## Norrix and KC have a "Wife Swap"

*Sidney Ellis  
Arts & Entertainment Editor*

As we all know, our old Dean of Students Valerie Boggan left our sacred halls of Loy Norrix High to go work in the maroon walls of our rivals, the Kalamazoo Central Giants. Our new Dean of Students, Atiba McKissack was our vice principal who replaced Boggan, so when McKissack took her place, who took his? Luckily for us, while Boggan was moving to KC we were able to steal one of their Giants.

Vice Principal Kelly Hinga is the newest addition to the Loy Norrix family. Although she is new to Norrix, she isn't afraid to do everything she can to bring Central's perspective to the school.

"We're trying to bring the schools a little bit closer together. Still rival schools though, because we'll always have that," said Hinga.

To her Loy Norrix is doing things that she hadn't expected.

"Loy Norrix has some amazing things that they do, that Central doesn't even know about," said Hinga. Things such as: The Stride program, it's a tutoring program that partners with the Rotary club that has members meet with students from KC for certain subjects.

Hinga was born and raised in the Kalamazoo area. She went to Comstock High School, and after graduating from there she already knew what she wanted to do with her life.

"I played school on my front porch, grew up in the same old house, and knew that I wanted to be a teacher," said Hinga.

She is the youngest of five siblings, she is the daughter of Mary Anne and Jay Smith. While both of her parents never went to college, two of her siblings including herself both graduated college with a Masters Degree or higher. The other two siblings both run their own businesses.

Although there are a lot of things going on in the home of the Knights, one thing's for sure; we are happy to welcome Hinga with plenty of fights to break up, open arms, teachers to review, assemblies to attend and a blue and white shirt to wear at sporting events.



Assistant Principal Kelly Hinga stops in the hallway to help a student with his problem. Hinga walks the halls in order to check on students frequently. Photo credit / Sidney Ellis



# New Cell Phone Policy Tightens Up on Students



*Juniors Austin Thompson and Jake Atkins enjoy the company of their cell phones during lunch. "We know about the new cell phone policy, but the security guards and teachers don't say anything to us," said Thompson and Atkins. Photo Credit / Louis Mitchell*

Louis Mitchell  
Layout Editor

"Hey, you! Come here!"

A Loy Norrix security guard is shouting over the sound of chatter and footsteps. The security guard tries to catch up to the student, but a wave of

noisy kids seems to come out of nowhere and blocks the way. By the time the crowd clears, the student is long gone.

Last year's electronic policy stated that students were only allowed to use their electronic devices during lunch and passing time. Portage Public Schools currently has a similar policy to Loy Norrix's old one. Portage students can

use their phones for any purpose except social media or camera usage during lunch or passing time.

Last year at Loy Norrix, usage of electronic devices was strictly limited to listening to music. During instructional time, all electronics were to be turned off and put away. This worked well except for one significant reason. The music was very distracting to students. If an administrator, teacher or security guard needed to stop a student and talk to them, they couldn't if that student was listening to their music. Their voice couldn't be heard over the blaring vocals and guitar solos emitted from the earphones.

"When you have your earbuds in and I need to get your attention, you keep walking because you can't hear," said Assistant Principal Boggan.

Also, Loy Norrix and Kalamazoo Central had procedures regarding cell phone usage that were in conflict with each other. Last year, Central didn't allow any electronic use the whole day. This school year, the procedure was changed at Loy Norrix to keep the two schools on the same page at the district level according to Assistant Principal Boggan.

In previous years, electronics were to be off and put away throughout the entire school day. Problems arose from this, not because of cell phone usage, but because students were refusing to give up their phone when a teacher asked for it. This resulted in referrals and sometimes suspensions for uncooperative kids. Referrals and suspensions mean less instructional time for such a student and

a higher chance of finishing their courses with failing grades.

Now Loy Norrix is back to the old standard. Cell phones are to be off and away the entire day. There is a concern that with the shift, referrals and suspensions might rise.

"Research would say that would happen, unless we as a community work together to deal with the new procedure in a healthy way," said Boggan.

He feels that an overwhelming majority of students will not have any problem with the transition.

Many students feel the new policy is a little absurd. "We just want to listen to music," said senior Molly Liford. Students feel that they aren't doing anything wrong by using their electronics. "It's not like we are going to hack into anything with our cell phones," said Liford.

Being in an entirely electronic free environment may be tough for some students. The urge to update your social network status or to text a friend some good news is tempting. Now that Loy Norrix is transitioning to a stricter cell phone policy, cell phone usage will be more limited during the school day.

## High Expectations Lead to High Levels of Stress

Rachel Wheat  
Web Opinion Editor

Everyone knows 7:33-2:20 is spent in school, learning. Maybe you go home, do chores, do homework, eat dinner, do more homework, go to bed and repeat. This is a rough estimate of what a day in the life of a high school student looks like. Many kids may have even more commitments, such as sports or clubs.

Imagine having soccer practice thrown into the equation, plus two-and-a-half hours of homework and a big test to study for. There is limited time for relaxation.

On the weekends when you are not doing something, for example, at a tournament for a sporting event, you have homework, or an essay to write or a test to study for, or family commitments. Life as a high school student is like having a 24 hour job. When is too much?

"I hate how I spend hours in school, and I still get more work after school," said Baileigh Manion who is a senior at Loy Norrix.

Manion has a daughter who will be two in February, and along with being a mother she has school, EFE, and homework. Many kids along with Baileigh have many important responsibilities, whether it be taking care of siblings, or caring for their own child.

Plus in today's society, sports and extracurricular activities are pushed

on kids because they "look good for college." According to Michigan State University, they are looking for strong students, who show leadership, talents, and a variety of diverse experiences.

College applications are running through the minds of many high school students, and colleges don't necessarily want the extracurricular portion to be empty. But how much is too much? When students are at the point of falling asleep in class and not focusing, it's too much.

According to the Center for Advancing Health website "Only eight percent of students get enough sleep on an average school night." That means 92 percent of high school students are sleep deprived, which leads to problems with focusing and paying attention during class

Taking AP or honors classes adds to the bulk of things that students already have to do.

"I have Honors English with Mrs. Bowser [now Anne Lewis] and AP US history, and I have no time to get sleep or anything," said sophomore Megan Zabik.

Now even some freshmen are getting a taste of how much work it is to take harder classes because they have the choice of taking an AP class. According to freshman Sierra Roe, who is currently taking AP World History she has about 2 and a half hours of homework each night after cross country practice.

According to American Psychological



*Senior Baileigh Manion takes a test in her journalism class. Baileigh has a two year old daughter named Kylie and is involved in the EFE program. Photo Credit / Rachel Wheat*

Association, sleep is an extremely important aspect of life as a young person. Having social activities really helps keep a student motivated and happy.

"School can take over your life," said junior Brady James, but during the school year it is much harder to hang out with friends because high school students are always busy. School is stressful, and hard and sometimes too much for a student, but

school is also a necessary part of growing up.

High Schoolers are put with high expectations to do well academically and socially. Some have to take on jobs, and act much older than they actually are. High School is an overwhelming time in a student's life and sometimes too much is too much to handle.



# Route Loop on Kilgore Leaves Students Rebuilding their Schedules

Maxwell Evans  
A&E Editor

The last time one-thousand feet meant this much to Loy Norrix students, the legendary TJ Duckett was bulldozing his way to 300 yards in the glory days of Norrix football.

On July 15, the city of Portage began reconstructing a bridge on less than a mile of Kilgore Road. Despite the small section of Kilgore that this construction takes up, its importance is felt by many, as there is no other quick side street or shortcut across Portage Creek. This means that the forgettable bump-in-the-road along the way to Milham Park, the Bicentennial Bike Trail, and of course, Loy Norrix, has become a 3-mile odyssey that leaves many students stuck on the wrong side of the tracks exasperated.

*“What are you supposed to do, wade across the water?”*

*-Senior Hunter Palme*

“Everyday, my bus driver has to take the same ridiculous route,” junior Twan Jenkins said. “I’m lucky; since I’m on the first stop, it only adds 5-10 minutes to my rides, but it sucks for people like [fellow bus rider and senior] Anasia [Turner] that get off after me, since they lose all that time they could be spending at home.”

Jenkins has also experienced a special negative side effect of the construction. On a bike ride home from school one day, he popped his bike tire attempting to ride along the train

tracks around the construction. “That flat tire cost me an hour of walking my bike home, homework time... and ten dollars,” Jenkins said laughing as he remembers the trip. “It would have been a ton easier if I could just ride along the street for 30 seconds and be on my way.”

The inconvenient loop involves crossing and re-crossing the Kalamazoo-Portage border, a drive on three major streets and plenty of road rage.

According to Google Maps, navigating the detour should take anywhere from six minutes at a time with little or no traffic. However, real life tends to override Google Maps’ predictions, and the ride can take up to a half-hour at busy times of the day. Perhaps nobody is affected more than residents of the nearby Candlewyck Apartments, according to senior Hunter Palme.

“There’s almost nowhere to go,” Palme said. “What are you supposed to do, wade through the water [Portage Creek]? When I walked to school this year, I had to go through the dog park and trip on some rocks on the railroad, when last year I could just take a couple steps over the bridge and I’m at school.”

Candlewyck residents and others nearby are most affected because the trip is so impractical. Yet students who never previously had to cross the bridge-in-progress are also feeling the sting of increased traffic and long waits, made even more frustrating in times such as the predictably unpredictable Michigan heatwave felt during the week of September 9.

Traffic forced onto Lovers Lane creates a logjam of school buses and can make the once-reasonable ride into a 30-minute adventure. Junior Sentrelle Kelley, a resident of the Edison neighborhood, vented about the lines he

faces every day after school. “It gets tough,” Kelley said. “One day, I had a ton of homework and had to stay up until 1 am. It would have been easier if I could’ve gotten home earlier.”

Despite the inconvenience that the construction has caused, optimistic students

keep their sights on an expected completion date of November 15. That date holds importance in the minds of many students, and some, such as Jenkins, lightheartedly joke about their plans for that day.

“Maybe I’ll throw a party when that stupid bridge is finished,” Jenkins said.



Work on Kilgore Road continues to disrupt the lives of Lovers Lane motorists. The construction includes a new bike lane along the side of the new bridge. Photo Credit/ Maxwell Evans

# KalamazooVALLEY™

## NOW I KNOW...

[www.kvcc.edu/register](http://www.kvcc.edu/register)

Watch the videos!

ACT CODE  
2016

LASHAE S. BUSINESS



# Link Crew Helps Freshmen Adjust to Norrix



Photo credit Angela Lagniness  
Link Leaders Meaghan Newhouse, Naomi Sarelis, Jerome Smith, Felipe Santos, Aaron Eshleman, and Anasia Turner participate in a team bonding exercise during one of the development days. Link Leaders learned multiple activities in order to later effectively teach them to their freshmen.

Tatiana Berquist  
Staff Writer

The first day of high school is intimidating for practically everyone. It's a new school, with new people, and a completely new social environment. Many freshmen can get lost in the midst of all this change, as a result many schools implement

mentoring programs as a way to help them along. This year Loy Norrix started Link Crew, a new mentoring program for incoming freshman. Junior mentor Emily Worline said, "I think the biggest advantage will just be our advice to them so they can avoid some of the mistakes

we've made." The program is designed to help freshman through the transition into high school by connecting them to upperclassmen. It is led by English teachers, Angela Lagniness and Rob Bradford. Bradford's goals for Link Crew include having a higher rate of freshmen with all their credits when the year ends.

Link Crew replaced Norrix's previous mentoring program, Ignite, which didn't seem to quite live up to its potential. Although this is the first LC program in Kalamazoo, it already shows promise. Before school began LC had an orientation day to get the freshman class more comfortable with Norrix.

Freshman Brendan Feenstra said, "The tour let me know the school a little better." Regarding his interactions with mentors Feenstra said, "It was helpful to know two upperclassmen."

In order to prevent new students from falling through the cracks, pairs of Link Leaders are accountable for about ten ninth graders. Together leaders aim to make each of their freshmen feel like they're a part of the Norrix community and that someone is pulling for their success.

Leaders have monthly meetings to talk about how things are going with their freshmen, participate in team building and discuss upcoming events. For example, leaders will be walking in the homecoming parade. The first academic follow-up will be on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, there will be a Link Leader gathering on October 25<sup>th</sup>, and during each month Leaders are required to log two contacts with each of their freshmen.

Worline wanted to help ninth graders adapt to Norrix.

"I thought it could really motivate the freshman class, and I wanted to be part of the change," said Worline. Regarding LC's possible impact Worline said, "I feel like there will be less dropouts because now someone holds them accountable for their actions."

Other schools implementing Link Crew have experienced significant positive changes. Yerington High School (Nevada) saw a 50 percent reduction in freshman suspensions after one year and at David Douglas High School (Oregon) there was a 48 percent reduction in freshman absences. Both Lagniness and Bradford hope Norrix will have the same success.




Currently, leaders are furthering their connections with their freshmen by meeting back up with them and exchanging contact information. Throughout the year mentors will be periodically checking in with the ninth graders to see how things are going and provide help with social or academic problems if needed.

Upcoming events include a field trip to Ionia High School to connect Loy Norrix's Link Crew mentors with those in other schools and the possibility of partnering with El Sol Elementary and Washington Writers Academy for tutoring.

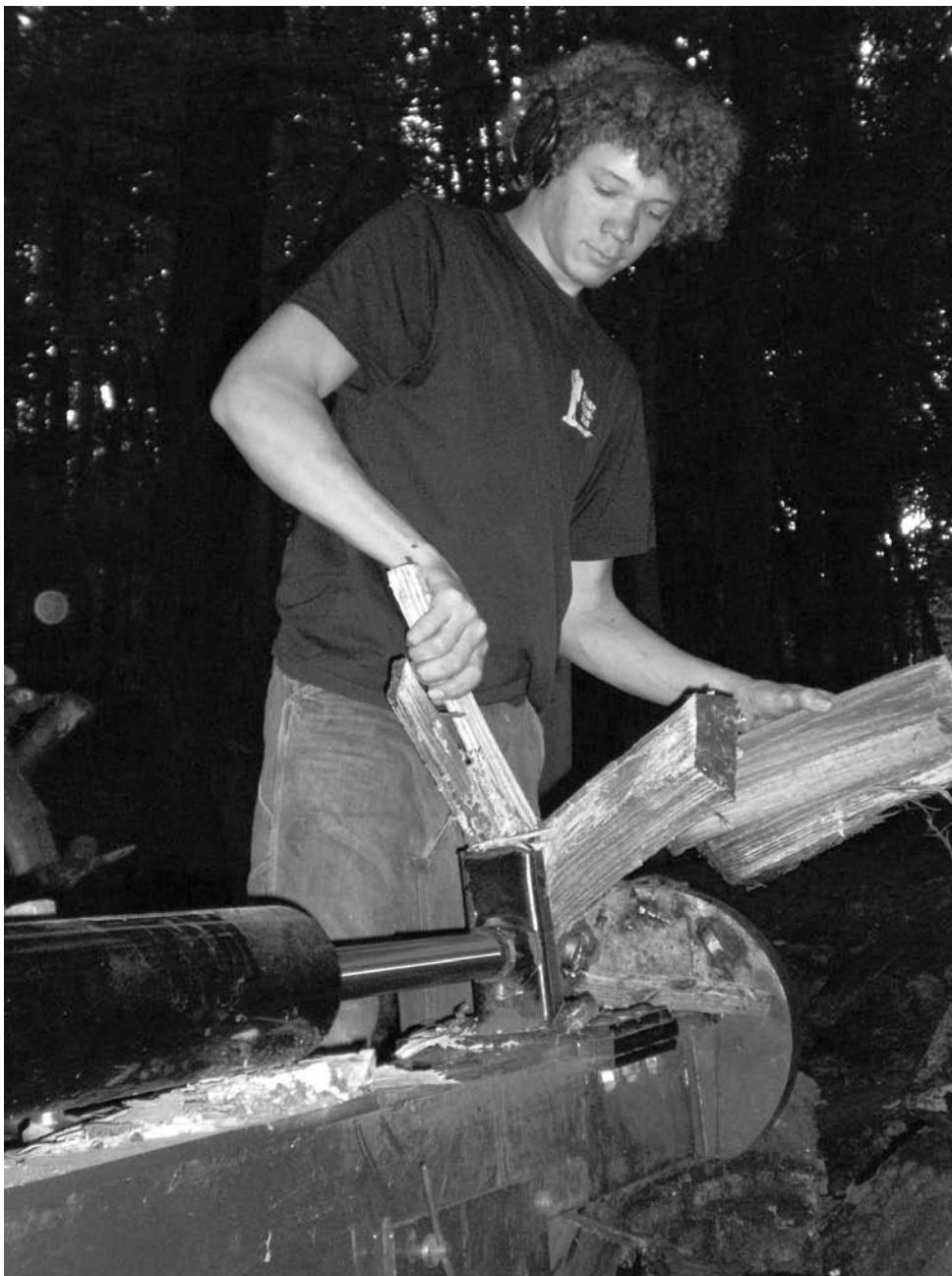
Since this is everyone's first experience with the program, there's room for improvement. For example, in future years Bradford expects teachers to use Link Alerts, which notify mentors when their freshmen are having difficulties, in addition to mentors being more prepared and trained.

## News in Brief: Events of the Summer

Darcy Billian  
Copy Editor in Chief

	June	July	August
This Summer Abroad	<div><p>Laura Poitras / Praxis Films, via Wikimedia Commons NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden. Snowden spent 40 days in an airport in Russia before he was allowed to leave.</p><p>Instagram announced that it would be allowing the upload of videos as well as images.</p><p>A series of international leaks regarding PRISM (the National Security Agency's data mining program) drew international criticism for its privacy violations. Ex-CIA employee Edward Snowden came forward as the source of the leaks and immediately fled the country. He has been granted temporary asylum by Russia.</p><p>Mt. Fuji was named a world heritage site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).</p></div>	<div><p>National Transportation Safety Board The fuselage of Flight 214. Wreckage was allowed to remain on the runway for six days while the site was investigated.</p><p>A new mammal was discovered in the Andes. Called the Olinguito, it was the first newly identified American carnivore in 35 years.</p><p>Southwest China suffered widespread flooding following heavy rainfall. At least 58 people were killed as a result. Secondary problems resulting from the flooding, such as landslides and collapsed bridges, continued to cause trouble for days afterward.</p><p>Mass protests in Egypt called for the resignation of President Mohammed Morsi, who announced on July 2 that he had no intentions of leaving office. He was deposed by the Egyptian military on July 3.</p></div>	<div><p>X51 via Wikimedia Commons A warning sign found near Area 51 in Nevada. Although its existence has been treated as fact for years, it was only this summer that Area 51 was officially acknowledged.</p><p>Hassan Rouhani replaced Mahmoud Ahmadinejad as President of Iran.</p><p>Uruguay legalized marijuana. They were the first country in the world to do so, the official policy in other marijuana-friendly countries being to ignore the drug.</p><p>A stem-cell lab-grown hamburger was produced and eaten at a press conference in London. The burger cost \$332,000 USD to produce and, as it contained only muscle and no fat, was reportedly much tougher than normal burgers.</p></div>
This Summer at Home	<div><p>The Supreme Court struck down an Arizona law requiring that voters show proof of citizenship.</p><p>In Maryland v. King, the Supreme Court ruled that police officers may collect DNA samples from criminal suspects without their consent, much in the same way police may already collect fingerprints without consent.</p><p>The USDA approved a New Mexico meat plant to slaughter horses for meat. This will be the first such plant since the practice was outlawed in 2006.</p></div>	<div><p>George Zimmerman was acquitted of the murder of Trayvon Martin, prompting nationwide protests.</p><p>A non-discrimination ordinance was passed in a 6-0 vote by the Kalamazoo Township Board, making it so that people cannot legally be discriminated against on account of orientation in Kalamazoo. Delaware issued its first same-sex marriage certificates after legislation legalizing gay marriage passed in May.</p><p>On July 6, Asiana Airlines Flight 214 crashed while landing at San Francisco International Airport. Two passengers died at the scene; investigations later revealed that one of them died from being run over by a fire truck.</p></div>	<div><p>The CIA released documents recognizing the existence of Area 51. Located in Nevada, this military base has for years been the subject of rumors about strange unidentifiable aircraft sighted in the area. Documents released this summer confirm that Area 51 was used for testing experimental aircraft.</p><p>A school district in northern California drew national attention for paying a service to monitor students' social media activity.</p><p>The first licenses for same-sex marriages were issued in Rhode Island and Minnesota.</p></div>





2013 Loy Norrix Graduate Andre Campbell works for MTCA late into the night. Campbell also owns his own landscaping company. Photo Credit / Emily Jackson

# Loy Norrix Alumni begin their Lives after High School

Emily Jackson  
Feature Editor

From the time we start school, the biggest question that always seems to be asked is, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” It isn’t until high school that the question is really taken seriously. It isn’t until high school that we begin to ask that question of ourselves.

Last year’s seniors are now out of high school, realizing what life will be like. Some chose college, universities and community colleges, while others chose to take a year off or to go straight into the workforce. These are choices that within the next four years we will all be making.

*“College isn’t all about the partying and free time.”*

*-2013 Simone Smith-Ozier*

Breaking into the reality of college, Loy Norrix 2013 graduate and Western Michigan University freshman Simone Smith-Ozier said, “College isn’t all about the partying and free time. It’s all about time management.”

College has been separated into three positives for most high school students. The parties, sleeping in and choosing your own classes. But with those positives come some negatives. During college, freedoms are gained and personal responsibility is raised. Teachers no longer ask you why you weren’t in class, no one is there to get you up in the morning and prevent you from being late or missing a class.

Life after high school is a learning experience and will be different for all new graduates. Plenty of college bound students decide to start out smaller by going to a community college. According to the American Association of

Community Colleges, the job of a community college is to prepare “students for transfer to 4-year institutions.”

Kalamazoo Valley Community College freshman and 2013 LN graduate, Nolan Padley, said that he is “happy with [KVCC]” and thinks “it was a good start.”

College seems to be the only thing on parents’ and teachers’ minds for their students but according to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, only 66.2 percent of U.S. high school graduates are enrolled in college the following year. Plenty of people make the decision to wait a year or start working right away.

Andre Campbell, a 2013 Loy Norrix graduate, said he “felt pressured” by all the adults in his academic life to jump right into college. He wasn’t sure what he wanted to do and didn’t want to jump right into college and waste money pursuing a major he didn’t really want to study.

Currently Campbell has decided to focus on his landscaping business. He is also working in a company that he has worked with for almost 7 years, called MTCA tree service.

Although this has seemed to work for Campbell so far, he has realized that he wants to go to college.

According to the American Association of Community Colleges, “the majority of new jobs that will be created in 2014 will require some post-secondary education.”

Even though each decision has its positives and negatives, these three LN alumni said they are very happy with their decisions and wouldn’t have done it any other way.

# Bullying, a Trend You Don’t Want to Follow

JaMeelah Williams  
Assistant Web Editor

“One time in 7<sup>th</sup> grade a guy was following me and harassing me in the hallway, I asked him to stop but he wouldn’t, he kept calling me names and messing with me... before I could even get into the classroom I was headed to, he pushed me up against the wall and started beating me up,” said Griffin Steury.

Griffin Steury is a freshman at Loy Norrix High School, he is one of the thousands of kids that have been bullied or still get bullied in the learning environment. According to the website Bullying Statistics, one in four kids are bullied at school on a regular basis usually for race, sexual orientation, social status or any other characteristics.

“In 7<sup>th</sup> grade I was bullied regularly, they would call me names like ‘gay’ or ‘faggot’ and I’m neither of those things, they just assumed without knowing me or anything about my background,” said Steury.

The burning question on everyone’s mind is “why?” why do bullies bully? Why do they insist on making people feel bad about themselves and even worse, go into depression?

Catherine Bradshaw, a development psychologist who studies bullying at the John Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore gave information to the website Discovery News saying that when bullies make other people feel bad it gives them a sense of superiority and it makes them feel



Lori Umbanhower

more accepted and also better about themselves.

One in seven students in grades K-12 are either a bully or are bullied and one out of ten students drop out of school due to the consistent bullying. One in four teachers will not report to higher authorities nor intervene when they’ve witnessed bullying, but 71 percent of students will.

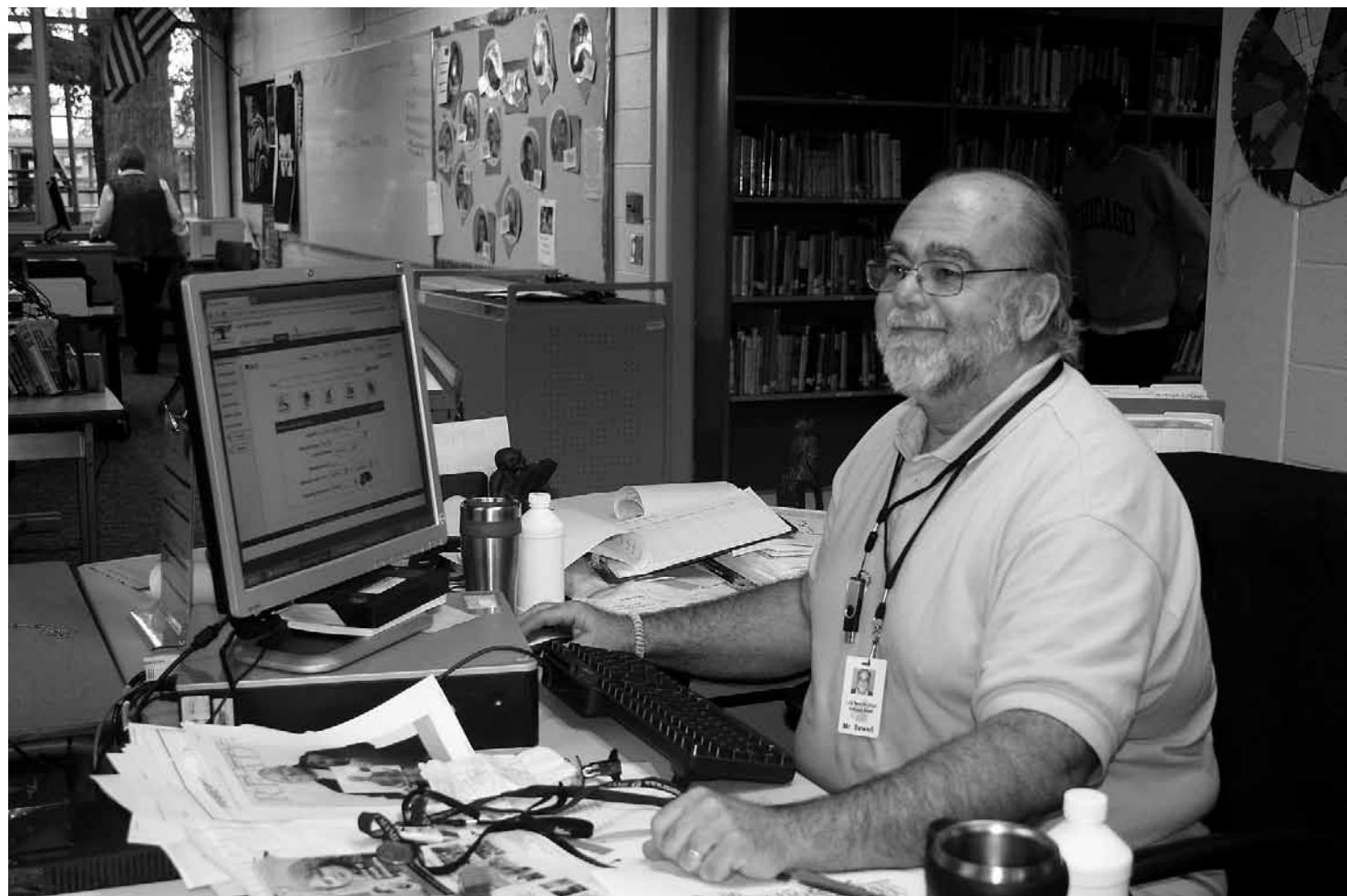
“My motto is ‘Be the change you wish to see in this world’ and the reason why that’s my motto is because you can’t expect and want change if you aren’t going to do something to make that change that you so badly want.” said Steury.

Bullying is being taken very seriously at Loy Norrix, students were given a packet which included information about the policy that has been put in place and all of the signs and consequences of bullying. If a bullying incident is reported, the principal or the principal’s designee will notify the parent or guardian of the victim(s) of bullying as well as the parent or guardian of the perpetrator(s) of the bullying, and the appropriate consequences and actions will be taken.

Steury is planning on filming a documentary on bullying which will include other students that go to Loy Norrix and their stories and Steury hopes that the making of this documentary will raise awareness for people who may not know how bad bullying is or how helpful they could be if they report bullying when they see it happening.



# Strict Teachers Offer some Insight on their Reasoning



Librarian Jack Sewell looks on with joy as he helps a student check out a library book. This is one of the many things Sewell does other than hounding students for wearing their identification badges. Photo Credit / Lori Umbanhowar

Lori Umbanhowar  
Graphics Editor

Up and down and through the hallways students are endlessly chattering. One of the many topics is the teachers.

Students never seem to gossip about their favorite teacher, rather they talk about who enforces the school rules the most or who is the strictest. Of course whoever is talking may not be taking a teacher's true motivation into consideration.

## English Teacher Anne Lewis

English teacher Anne Lewis, previously Miss Bowser, is known around the school for being quite firm. As a strong willed woman, she is not afraid to speak her mind and lay out exactly what is wrong with a student's work or behavior.

This type of personality is not well received by some as the criticism can be harsh at times and can unravel a late night's paper in moments.

"These qualities about myself that result in the label are definitely true," Lewis continued, "Those things are associated with my high level of expectations of my students. Particularly behaviorally. And also my willingness to tell people that they are not using their brains."

In her seventeen-year career here at Loy Norrix, Lewis has consistently held high expectations for her students.

These expectations have earned Lewis the respect of a number of students. Junior RuthAnn Riemer spoke of Lewis with nothing but admiration, describing her as stern but encouraging.

"She relates to students and doesn't try and present herself differently," said Riemer.

## Librarian Jack Sewell

In the heart of the school lies the library. Here is the domain of head librarian Jack Sewell. Once you enter the room lined with books and the smell of paper, you will almost immediately know who he is by his powerful voice. Of course be sure to wear your identification badge or you will not get more than two steps past his semi-organized desk.

With his strict enforcement of school rules comes a sort of status within the student body. Senior Irving Quintero uses the word rigid to describe Sewell. Sewell rather dislikes the title of "mean" but uses it to his advantage all the same.

"If I draw the line at I.D.s and hats, there are a lot of other things I don't have to deal with." Sewell continued "I would rather everyone just went along with the rules."

This seems to be a perfectly logical reason for being strict, for by following rules explicitly he can avoid other situations that may be a bit stickier later on.

## Behavior Interventionist Danetta Blake

Now to debatably the most well-known of the strict staff members, Danetta Blake. As the Behavior Interventionist she is known all throughout the school for a vehement disapproval of sagging. Her room in the B-wing is the place where all freshmen and sophomores with a referral go.

---

*"If I draw the line at I.D.s and hats, there are a lot of other things I don't have to deal with."*

*-Librarian Jack Sewell*

---

Above all it is apparent that Blake has a very clear passion for her job.

"I like this position, only because I have the opportunity to assist in the academic success of students by identifying and riding behaviors that could impede that success," said Blake.

Of course not everyone will see this passion as positive. Junior Yasmine Vargas has had some minor encounters with Blake and has some strong feelings against her.

"She picks the wrong battles with the students in her room," said Vargas

Each of these three staff members wants to see their students succeed. Students in the school seem to have a lack of understanding of this. The disconnect between a student seeing a teacher's actions as beneficial to them may cloud their mind and give the misconception of meanness.

**PAW PAW VILLAGE PHARMACY**

322 East Michigan  
Paw Paw, MI 49079

Mon-Fri: 8am — 6pm  
Sat: 8am — 1pm

Phone: 269-657-6073  
Fax: 269-657-3936



Brian Marks R.Ph.  
Joe Romph R.Ph.

**American Education Week**  
November 18-22, 2013

**Great Public Schools for Every Student**



MEA



**Kalamazoo  
Education  
Association**



# The Loy Norrix Family Grows in Strength and Diversity



*Greg Stevens helps Ian Colburn with his bell ringer assignment in Basic Design. The students' bell ringer is currently drawing a 'gig art.' They have to draw an album or poster for a band in their sketch book. Photo Credit / Alana Whitehead*

*Alana Whitehead  
Photo Editor*

It's the first day of school, teens are laughing and catching up with all the gossip they missed over the summer. A warm breeze floats through the parking lot and slowly, along with over 1500 students, 26 new teachers begin filing into the school through the tower doors, nervous with butterflies, with the freshman students amongst them.

The freshman students are not the only new ones in the building anymore. There are 26 new teachers in the building who are also brand new to the high school life here at Loy Norrix High School. Norrix gained three new math, four social studies, five English, one business, one chemistry, one music, one art, two health, two

Spanish, four special education, and two Para Professionals. These new teachers add diversity to our school.

There are some students that are extremely accepting of the new teachers. The new choir teacher, Julia Pelligrino, a joyful lady with a beautiful smile, mentioned what the most memorable thing about her first day of working at Loy Norrix was.

"The most memorable thing about my first day of school was how well I was received by the students, being a new choir teacher is a lot different to them, but I was really welcomed." She also added with a huge giddy smile, "Plus we got to sing a three part harmony in master singers."

Every since Juila Pelligrino was a little girl she knew she wanted to have music in her life

everyday. Her junior year of high school is when she decided she wanted to be a music teacher, due to a desire to be like her great music teachers.

When she was in sixth grade she joined choir, and when she was 16 she began taking voice lessons. When she was 18 years old she auditioned for Western Michigan University, and was accepted. While she was at WMU she started an acapella group, for fun during her free time.

Pelligrino is also extremely excited to help with the musical "Young Frankenstein" this year.

"I am excited to see students have fun. It's a funny musical, so it's going to be so fun! Once people see it, I think it's going to be a great production," Pelligrino stated with an excited smile.

The "Washington Post" says that teachers are like sand getting put in a bucket with holes in it. More teachers are constantly entering the field of education, but teachers are also constantly leaving.

A few of the new Norrix teachers have taught at other schools. One of which one of which is 15 year teaching veteran and health teacher, Richard Labadie. Labadie used to teach at Millwood Middle and Prairie Ridge Elementary.

"The challenges for teachers to stay in, to get control of their content and delivery. Things they have to do after teaching that make it hard to spend time with school," said Labadie, mentioning a few of the difficulties a teacher may have on a regular basis and why there might be so many teachers leaving the field. However there are some teachers that truly love to teach and work through the difficulties.

Greg Stevens, the new art teacher, mentioned what the most memorable thing about his first day at Norrix was, similarly to Julia Pelligrino, enjoying time spent with his students.

"The most memorable thing about my first

day at Norrix was meeting all the kids, the first day is shortened so there wasn't much time to do anything besides become acquainted with the people you'll be spending time with," said Stevens.

However, Stevens is no stranger to Loy Norrix. He fondly remembers some of his very first months here.

"I love Norrix, but I knew that before I started here because I did my student teaching here, and I was a permanent substitute for Ms. Van Lieu," Stevens said.

Stevens didn't always want to be an art teacher, he was originally a business major, and an art minor. Once he started taking art classes he realized how much he liked art. His favorite medium is ceramics.

"Mud plus fire equals fun," Stevens laughed.

Stevens not only has a passion for art, he also loves nature, such as canoeing and rock climbing. In his eyes, nature is also a form of art. One event that he described nature as art is when one of his fourth hour basic design students asked him to kill the black and yellow Garden Spider that was in the A wing courtyard.

"No I'm not going to kill that spider, it is a work of art! It's not bothering anybody outside," Stevens replied.

Along with Stevens passion for art, he also has strong feelings towards the teacher shortage.

"Larger class sizes equal less attention to each student. It goes down to the lawmakers in Lansing. It's a complicated process that needs to be addressed. Hopefully the education system will be valued much higher in the future," Stevens replied on the subject.

If a teacher is truly passionate about what they teach, they'll have motivation to work through the difficulties of being a teacher and not just become another teacher 'drop out' statistic.

## New English Teachers are Ecstatic to be at Norrix

*Leslie Hemenway  
Web Feature Editor*

This new school year, we not only welcome freshmen, we also welcome twenty-six new staff members. Four of these new teachers happen to teach English.

### Jameeka Johnson Loves Loy Norrix Students

Jameeka Johnson, the new Debate and English 12 teacher, grew up in Muskegon, Michigan. Her original career aspirations included being a social worker and a beautician. However, it was her 11th grade English teacher that inspired her to become a teacher.

In order to pursue her dream, she received her undergrad at Saginaw Valley State University and her graduate degree at Ferris State. Before Johnson began teaching at Loy Norrix, she taught for a year at a middle school in Toledo, Ohio. After that she taught at a high school in Flint, Michigan for eight years. So far, Johnson really enjoys Loy Norrix and finds the students to be intelligent and caring.

"Every day is different," she said with a smile when asked what her favorite thing about teaching was.

However, she does not tolerate students who constantly talk during class and don't put forth their best effort. Johnson enjoys discussing literature with her students and, in her free time, enjoys playing The Sims and reading.

### Lisa Jensen Prefers Loy Norrix over Kalamazoo Central

"I love Loy Norrix," Lisa Jensen, the new English 11 and Literature Through Film teacher said proudly.

Jensen taught at Kalamazoo Central for the past seven years and Milwood Magnet a year prior, but thinks LNHS is by far the best of the bunch. She always knew she wanted to be a teacher, and so she went to WMU for her undergrad and masters degree. For her, the best thing about being a teacher is building relationships with the students.

Jensen believes that in order to be an exceptional teacher, one must be "willing to empathize with their students and other people they work with." In addition, the teacher must be willing to learn along with their students.

When she's not grading papers, which is her least favorite thing about being a teacher, she enjoys reading, hiking, and watching movies. Recently, Jensen has also started learning how to cook.

### John Kreider is excited to be teaching at Loy Norrix

Kreider, better known by his students as "Mr. K", is excited about his first year teaching. He's not a stranger to this school district though; his internship was at Loy Norrix and he was a student teacher/long term sub at Kalamazoo Central. In addition, he taught Kalamazoo Public Schools summer school.

Kreider currently teaches ninth grade English. He attended college at Western Michigan University and Kalamazoo Valley Community college and originally went to become a musician. Kreider hasn't abandoned his passion for music, as he's a drummer in a folk band. In the past, he has played in rock and marching bands.

Kreider believes that a good teacher is "someone who can make the class engaging to students," he said.



*John Kreider helps his students with their Beowulf poster assignment. He expects his students to try their best at all times. Photo Credit / Alana Whitehead*

### Abra Steppes is Warmly Welcomed to Loy Norrix

"I love it. I've had a really warm welcome from staff and students," Abra Steppes, the new English 9 teacher said of Loy Norrix.

Steppes always wanted to be a teacher and recalls that when she was a little girl she would play school with her stuffed animals. However, she originally went to Ferris State University to become an eye doctor because of the high salary.

Eventually, Steppes realized being an optometrist wouldn't make her happy and chose to return to her original dream of teaching.

Later on, she married her husband, who was from Kalamazoo and moved here. Before LN, she was a wrap around tutor and Reading First paraprofessional at Indian Prairie Elementary School and then an English teacher at Maple Street Magnet School.

Steppes' favorite thing about teaching is connecting with the students and seeing them comprehend what they're learning. She expects her students to be ready to learn each day, be respectful, and participate during class. In her spare time, she enjoys writing, reading, singing, and organizing events.



# It's Not Better, It's Not Worse, Just Different

## Foreign Exchange Students Analyze their New Lives in the U.S.

Emily Feenstra  
Web Photo Editor

*Around thirty thousand high school foreign exchange students enter the United States each year to attend high school and live with host families. The experience these exchange students have is all based on their attitude. These students come from a variety of countries and are all very brave to be going to a country they've never been to and spending an entire year there.*



Rico Takahashi, Japan

Rico Takahashi is from Japan and has been studying English for 3 years. There are many dramatic differences between Loy Norrix's schedule and system compared to her school back home, so she has had a few difficulties but is working to overcome them.

Rico said, "I don't have homework in Japan. Here, you have a lot so it is difficult." She was excited to have fun classes like the dance EFA and choir. She is also in the marching band and color guard, which she enjoys a lot.

Rico is very impressed by the relationships the students have here at Loy Norrix compared to her school in Japan.

Rico said, "In Japan, there is no conversation at school, you are just required to listen. Here, all of the students are allowed to have their own opinions and everyone wants to hear it."

Although she is very impressed by this, it is still hard for her to express her own opinion.

Rico said, "Japanese people are afraid to do something different. All of the students at my school have a fear of the teacher. We are required to wear school uniforms. If students say they do not want to wear it, they will have to quit school." She has to tie her hair back for school and cannot have it dyed, and she is not able to wear makeup or earrings. The teachers want all of the students to be the same.

Rico finds it more difficult to make friends at Loy Norrix. In Japan, she is in the same classroom all day, all week, and all year. The students do not get to choose their classes.

She said, "Here, it is harder to make friends. We only get to have a five minute break."



Anna Yudina, Ukraine

Anna Yudina, a sophomore from Ukraine, has only been learning English for 2 years. It has been her dream to come to America even before she started the 7th grade.

Anna said "In Europe, they're all the same. Here they have a different way of thinking." In Yudina's country, there are eight thousand children that wanted to come to the USA as foreign exchange students, but only two hundred had the opportunity to fulfill their dream of coming to America. She was one of the two hundred lucky ones.

Anna lives in a very small town and her school is very different. There are 450 students that attend her school, and it is from first grade all the way up to eleventh. She is in the same classroom all day, all year.

Coming to the USA has given Anna a chance to dance, a talent that she possesses that she loves wholeheartedly.

She takes a dance EFA and chose classes for her own enjoyment. She made this decision because she will start 10th grade in her own country again, so she wanted to have a good year in the U.S. by taking fun classes. Anna is ready to expand her English vocabulary and is excited to have a great year at Loy Norrix.

Oona Kotajarvi, Finland

Oona Kotajarvi is a student from Finland that chose to live in the United States for the school year. Oona has only been here for a few weeks, yet she already loves it. She has been involved in playing on a team for the Kingdom soccer club and looks forward to playing on the Loy Norrix Women's Soccer team in the spring.

Very enthusiastically Oona said, "Everything here is really cool, and everyone that I've talked to at Norrix has been so nice and helpful to me and more sociable than the people in Finland."

Oona started learning English eight years ago which helped her communicate at school and at her host home. Although she started learning English many years ago, she has 3 other languages packed into her brain that she also knows pretty well. These languages are Finnish, Swedish, and French.

Finland is one of the commonly used models for the nations that hope to improve teaching and learning in their education system. Oona is used to having rigorous classes and looks forward to challenging herself with the classes she takes at Norrix.

In Finland, the students learn English by reading and writing but do not practice talking in English that much. She has already been getting the hang of learning our American slang.

Manon Moreau, Belgium

Manon Moreau is an exchange student at Loy Norrix from Belgium and explained the main differences when comparing her home school to Norrix.

Manon said, "The main difference is that in Belgium we give kisses to say hello but here, we do not kiss when greeting each other."

She also explained how in Belgium, "If you went to school dressed in sweats or for example, in your soccer uniform, everyone will look at you like you are crazy." They attend school wearing professional clothes, like a nice shirt and a skirt that is an appropriate length.

John Windolph, Germany

John Windolph is from Germany and chose to come to America because he has English knowledge and has family members here.

John said, "Here, some people are reserved but others aren't", just like back in his home town. At his school in Germany, a big difference compared to Loy Norrix is that they do not have any school sports, not even a school mascot.

He said that, "If we want to play, we have to do club sports." John currently plays on the JV soccer team for Loy Norrix.

*"Everyone who is a foreign exchange student said the same thing which is that 'it's not better, it's not worse, it's just different.'"*

*-Oona Kotajarvi*



# Memorials, Museums and Monuments Students of Loy Norrix go to D.C.

By Jacob Mays  
graphic Editor Assistant

Over the summer, students had the opportunity to go to Washington DC and visit some of America's historical landmarks. The trip was lead by the Executive Freshman class advisor, and Peace Jam sponsor, Sveri May. Along the trip students visited important landmarks and places like Mt. Vernon, the Aerospace Museum, the Library Of Congress, the Tomb Of The Unknown Solider and much more.



## **The Holocaust Museum survivor: (upper left)**

Seniors Brianna day, Kenya Davist, Jordan Taylor, and class of 2014 graduate Jo-Jo Sloan visit the Holocaust Museum, students learned about the tragedies of the Holocaust and its artifacts, a perspective changing tour. The tour occurred in complete silence in remembrance and respect for the people who witnessed the horrible acts of prejudice and genocide.

## **Mt. Vernon: (lower right)**

During the span of the tour at Mt. Vernon, there was a lot of standing in line. Group after group came to visit the house of the first American President, George Washington.

## **Library of Congress: (upper right)**

Seniors Brianna Day and Faith Bell stopped to listen to the tour guide at the Library Of Congress. The library is home to historical books from the Legislative Branch of the government put there for research and reference by an act of Congress in the 1800's.

## **Franklin Delano Roosevelt's monument: (lower left)**

Seniors Sariah Metcalfe, Laura Wielinga, Kailee McDade, Scout Richardson, Kyra Williams, Twyla Leatherman, and sophomore Zhi Nee Wee enjoying the mist from the artistic waterfalls at FDR's monument. The days in D.C. were incredibly hot temperatures were in upper 80's to lower 90's.



# Lingua, Lengua, Langue, Language

## Students Hustle to get Language Credits

Jillian Ko  
News Editor



Emily Feenstra / Photo Credit

(from left to right) Sophomores Grace Labadie, Megan Zabik, Amanda Jackson, Zoe Buszka, Haley Klesz, and Señor King engage in a class discussion for Spanish 2.

Attention all students who intend to graduate on time, if you haven't already, you should definitely decide which foreign language you want to take. Every student is required to earn at least one language credit, but for current freshmen and sophomores, it's a different story.

According to the Michigan Department of Education, "The State Board of Education expects all students, beginning with the graduating class of 2016, to complete two credits of a world language, other than English, prior to graduation."

Freshmen and sophomores are therefore required to commit to at least two levels of a language. Here at Loy Norrix High School, we offer French, Spanish and Latin.

Madame Rachel Larner is the sole French teacher at LN. She's been teaching for five years although this is her second year at Norrix. She chose French because it came easier to her than other languages.

Madame grew up in Lansing, which she explained has a high population of refugees from African countries that speak French.

"Most people think of French as the

language of France and think only of France," she said. "It seems so far away and unattainable but because we live in Michigan, which itself used to be a part of New France, Canada is so near to us that it is a very achievable destination for French-speaking people."

One senior, Hayley Zabik, has taken at least one level of all three languages at LN but deemed French as her favorite because "it's easy, just hard to pronounce."

Senior Tyler Lapoint, taking French for the third year, described it as his favorite language.

"It's really cool," Lapoint said, "but sometimes it's confusing because multiple words mean the same thing."

Madame concluded by authenticating French's value, and said, "Spanish is becoming more and more relevant in the U.S., but at the same time French is a lot closer than people think."

If you sign up for Spanish, on the other hand, your class would be taught by either Señora Christina Holmes or Señor Ryan King. Señora Holmes grew up in Venezuela, learning English and Spanish simultaneously.

"It was for easy for me to go into [Spanish] and I have a sort of love for languages in general," Holmes said.

This being her ninth year of teaching, Señora evaluated, "The Hispanic population in the United States is forever increasing, so there's just so many opportunities to be able to use the language. You're just opening yourself up to a whole new group of people."

One of her students, freshman Jessica Hoogerheide, is currently enrolled in the second level of Spanish.

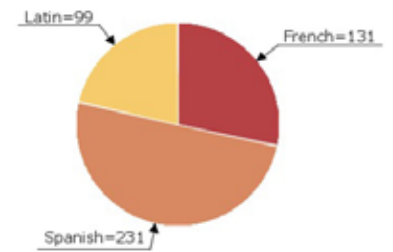
"Ms. Holmes is really nice," Jessica assured. "Take Spanish!"

On the other side of the A-Wing, this is Señor King's first year at Norrix. He was introduced to Spanish when he participated in an after-school Spanish program in first grade.

"After that I was interested," he noted. "I took four years in high school, and I've liked it ever since."

Senior Andy Santamaria completed Advanced Placement Spanish last school year. He explained that "[Spanish] will help in the real world. Without it, there are

What languages are students taking?



Emily Feenstra / Photo Credit

Hayley Zabik studies her Latin textbook, "Ecce Romani." Translated: "Look Romans."

things about words relating to English that I wouldn't have known."

The World Atlas illustrates that there are 20 countries that have established Spanish as an official language. Its relevance in and outside of the U.S. is indisputable.

Latin is a more unique option that LN offers. Magistra Barbara Felkel is the only instructor at Loy Norrix, with 46 years of teaching under her belt. Many know Latin as a "dead language," due to the fact that it's not actively known or spoken by anyone besides the Pope, but it's alive, providing the roots for more than 86 percent of English words.

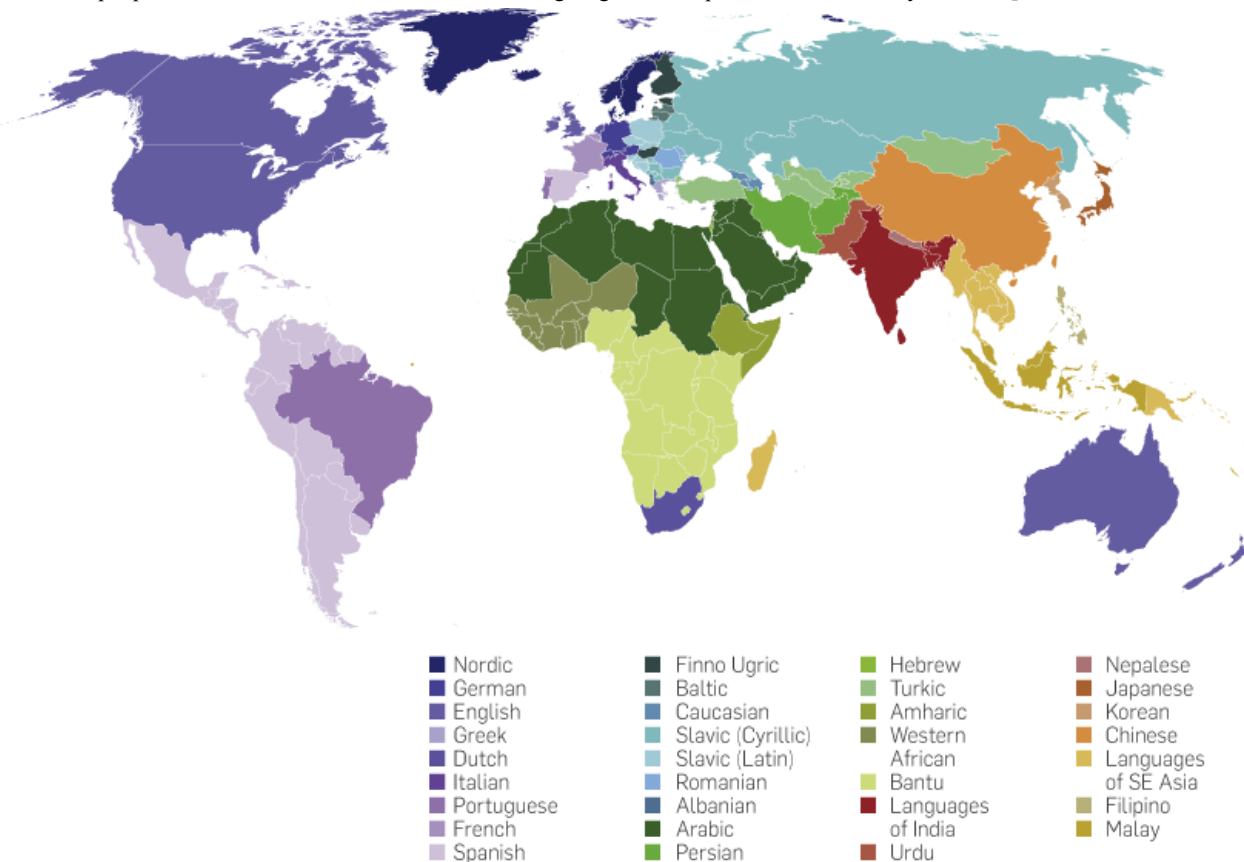
Magistra's go-to statistic is, "Kids who take one level of Latin get 100 points higher on the PSAT/SAT than kids who don't."

She took Latin during her time in high school and described it as her favorite class. It seems that's the way it is with students now, as well.

"Lots of kids continue Latin in college," she pointed out. "Three LN grads have even gone on to become Latin teachers."

Grace Santamaria, an AP Latin student, elaborated on her class. "The kids that do Latin are there because they want to be. It makes a difference in class," Santamaria said.

Loy Norrix's language program is often overlooked, leaving many oblivious to its efficiency. So maybe even after getting your two credits you'll find that you like your language enough to stick with it. Each language is applicable to the world outside of school regardless of how many credits you've earned.



This map illustrates the languages spoken in various areas of the world. Photo Courtesy of Linguistic Search Solutions



# Increase School Spirit by Joining Clubs

Loy Norrix has many different tastes and flavors to choose from.  
LN has clubs looking for students to join in their activities.  
It takes no more than a couple of requirements to become a member of a club.  
Here are some clubs that might interest you:

## Latin Club

The purpose of the club is to celebrate the ancient Roman culture by creating informal and fun activities that students will be participating in lead by Latin students.

The requirement is to take Latin.

Still no schedule, but the meetings will take place in A-16.

The Latin club is known for last year's Underworld party where students dressed as mythological characters of the underworld and played games. The Latin Club is also known for traveling to Italy at least 10 times since 1986.

The club adviser is Latin teacher Magistra Felkel whose goal is to create 3 to 4 main activities throughout the school year.

AP Latin student, Ryan Grover, a senior in the Latin Club said, "I like the club because my friends are in it and it's a lot of fun to be in it." Grover added that for those students that think Latin is a dead language, "Latin is not a dead."

Irving Quintero  
Public Relations



Senior Tom Rupp participates in an activity during a Latin Club meeting. Photo Credit / Tyler Deau



Students Sheron Oneal, Jelani Martin, and Iris Tanja are participating in a GSA meeting in Williams' room, K14. Photo Credit / Irving Quintero

## GSA/Gay Straight Alliance

The purpose of GSA is to create awareness and to educate people about the GLBT (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transsexual community). It creates a safe place for an alliance between the GLBT community and straights.

There are no requirements for GSA, but the club is looking for students that are respectful and open minded.

The club meets every Friday after school in K-14.

GSA is known for the Day of Silence, which is a day where students remain silent to remember all the people that have been harmed either mentally, physically, emotionally or those who have committed suicide as a result of non-acceptance because of their sexual orientation.

Club adviser, Art Williams said, "We take people that could be gay, straight, or and allied which could be a friend or a supporter." He continued, "GSA helps me see just how diverse Loy Norrix is."

LiMin Artz-Iffland, a GSA member and senior reflected in her favorite part of GSA, " You get to meet new, open-minded people, and you can express your opinions, I like that we have an open Republican as the adviser for the club. People should come to GSA and you don't have to be gay to be in the club."

## Nations United

The purpose of the NU club is to teach students about different cultures through celebration of those cultures and to encourage students to become bilingual.

Officers are required to have a 2.0 GPA or a C average, no referrals on record, and to be able to be a role model.

The NU Club meets every Tuesday after school in D12 for an hour, but times may change.

The NU Club is known for the Cinco de Mayo celebration. The Cinco de Mayo celebration is a after school party that takes place at the beginning of May. The party includes different food from other cultures, specifically Hispanic food, piñatas, presentations, performance by students and a DJ.

The NU Club adviser is Steven Howell with the help of Joe Plair. Mr. Howell said, "All events are open to anyone." He invites all students or family members to attend the club events.

Sophomore Maria Garcia said, "People should join because it gives a different environment, and you get actual stories from other cultures. You don't have to be from another country to join the club. You don't have to know a different language."



Sophomore Ahmed Younis is leading the NU club meeting. Photo Credit / Irving Quintero



Link Crew leaders are practicing in a team bonding exercise during a meeting. Photo Credit / Irving Quintero

## Link Crew

Link Crew helps incoming freshmen feel welcome to Loy Norrix. The participants will be taught different skills and life lessons to improve the freshman experience.

Link Crew is looking for students that are seniors and juniors that want to be leaders.

Link Crew meets at least once a month during lunch or after school, but the meeting places may vary depending on space. The club goal is to have two or more activities per month.

Link Crew is known for their orientation day. Orientation day is a day close to the beginning of the school year when freshmen attend Loy Norrix to tour the school and talk about high school life at Loy Norrix with their mentors.

The advisors of Link Crew are teachers Danetta R. Blake, Joe Plair, Robert Bradford, Angela Laginess, and Assistant Principal Jeff Boggan. "I like having some time with students outside of class. I think Link Crew is one of the organizations that really wants to make a difference in school and in the world," said Angela Laginess.

Senior Brianna Day also added to the comments, "Meeting new people and getting closer to people I know," was her favorite thing about Link Crew. Day also mentioned that their purpose, as students, is to give freshmen the best experience possible and she invites people to join because it is helping people out.



# Looking Back at The 2000s

## Loy Norrix Students Report on Their Old School Favorites

Jared Graves  
Sports Editor

Walking through the hallways of Norrix you hear kids scream "Versace, Versace, Versace" and go crazy with the new Trap Music epidemic like TNGHT who has produced songs on Kanye West's Album Yeezus and Lil Wayne's I Am Not A Human Being II. Nevertheless, let's take a flashback to a time where multi-step dance songs like "Crank That (Soulja Boy)" and Stanky Leg were the craze. We take a look back at the top three songs of the previous decade in Norrix.

### Top 3 Songs of The Past Decade

1. Soulja Boy Tell'em: "Crank That (Soulja Boy)"
2. GS Boyz: "Stanky Leg"
3. Black Eyed Peas: "Boom Boom Pow"

High school is when students transition from watching Disney Channel and Nickelodeon to MTV and Comedy Central. Although there were some pretty good shows last decade like "All That" and "Rocket Power". Nowadays students at Norrix turn on the TV after school and watch "Bad Girls Club", "The Walking Dead", "Big Bang Theory", "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia", and "Workaholics".

### Top 3 TV Shows of The Past Decade

1. "That's So Raven"
2. "Suite Life of Zack and Cody"
3. "Spongebob SquarePants"

The previous decade started many classic films series that are still going strong today like; Transformers, Twilight, Lord of the Rings, and Batman. This year's blockbusters have been The Great Gatsby, Hangover 3, and Star Trek (2009).

### Top 3 Movies of The Past Decade

1. "Harry Potter: The Goblet of Fire"
2. "The Hangover"
3. "Scary Movie"

The previous decade was the birth of sagging jeans, XXXL t-shirts, colorful and pattern filled skinny jeans. The styles have formed together over the times and took a trip back to the past and incorporated it with the newer styles.

### Top 3 Fashions of The Past Decade

1. Skinny Jeans
2. Sagging/Baggy Clothes
3. Silly Bandz

Nowadays students have their #mcm (Man Crush Monday) and #wcw (Women Crush Wednesday) which is filled with celebrities of the same age and older like Johnny Depp and Ariana Grande. Lets take a look back to see who our #mcm and #wcw were in the past decade.

### Top 3 Crushes of The Past Decade

#### Females

1. Beyonce
2. Meagan Good
3. Kate Upton

#### Males

1. Taylor Lautner
2. Chris Brown
3. Justin Bieber

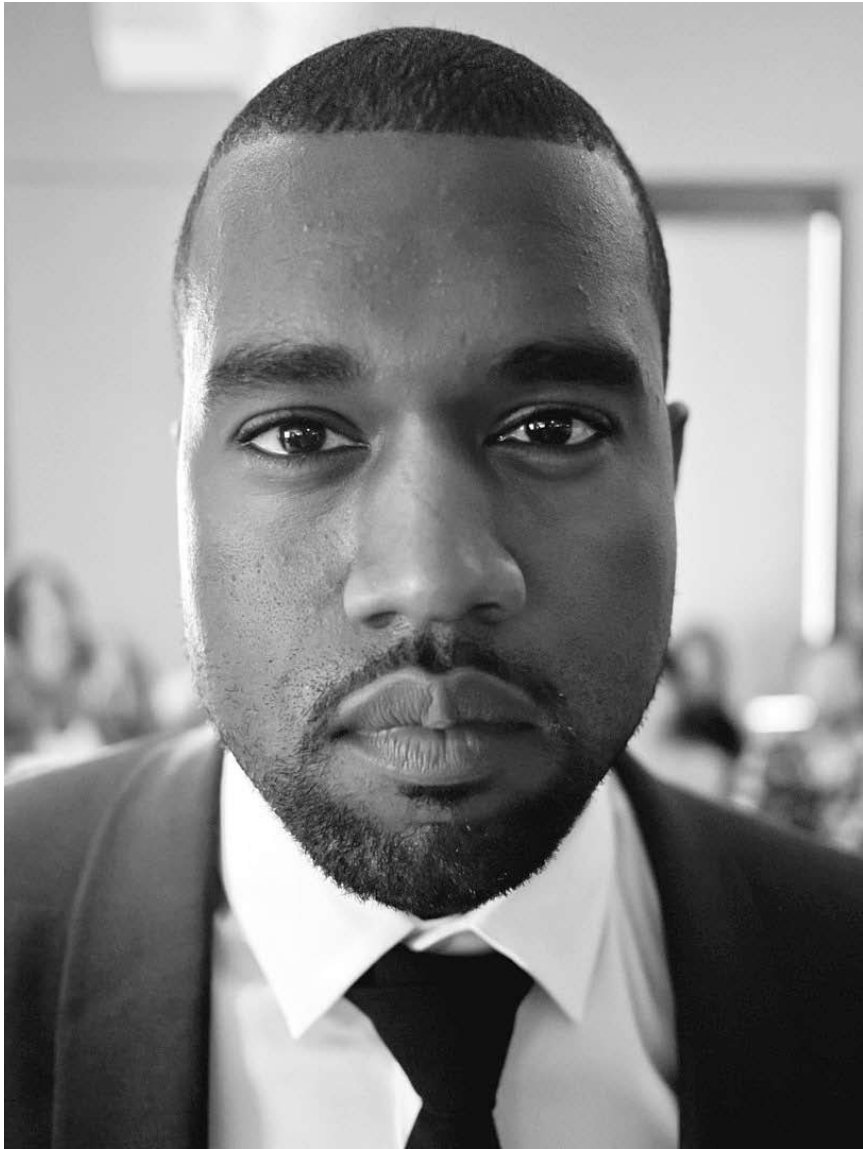
All graphics are free to use, share, modify



# Rover or Corolla

## Why “Yeezus” is the Most Polarizing Album of the Year

Maxwell Evans  
A&E Editor



“Yeezus,” Kanye West’s most recent album, is a success with critics, but controversial with listeners. West chose no album art to reflect the minimalist feel of his beats on the gold-selling album. Photo Credit / Troy Holden

Where were you when “Yeezus” dropped? You know that moment. Something so great, so polarizing, or so awful happens, and you remember. You remember the smell in the air, the movements you made, and what was on TV. They are the moments that define your life, define a generation.

For those of us growing into young adults on the day of June 18, 2013, it was the release of an album. “Yeezus,” by Kanye West, could be that moment where the hammer came down on today’s music and nothing was the same.

But then some of us heard an album came out, and it was by that dude who totally ruined Taylor’s VMAs. So who cares?

Obviously, “Yeezus” is a polarizing album. However, regardless of your opinion, here are some facts. “Yeezus” is the sixth album by multi-platinum rapper Kanye West, a mix of grinding beats, multiple God comparisons, and one use of the word “Swaghili.” Due to almost no publicity before its release, nobody knew what Ye was going to do this time.

Would it have the throwback soul of his debut, 2004’s “The College Dropout?” Would it destroy the current trend of mumbled lyrics and beats that would fail a plagiarism test (hey, Chief Keef)? Would he flip the bird to everyone by releasing ten songs that torched eardrums and offended everybody from Asian girls to Star Wars fans?

As it turns out, it was all of the above. The album’s title is a mashup of Kanye’s nickname and Jesus. In the opener, “On Sight,” listeners are forced to listen to distorted jet engine sounds for twenty seconds before Yeezy throws a children’s choir in the middle to show how little he cares about anything.

He wrote and named the song “I Am a God (ft. God),” and implies Jesus is just another homeboy, saying, “I just talked to Jesus / He said what up Yeezus?” In the most emotional track, “Blood on the Leaves,” he flips the beautifully sad “Strange Fruit” as

performed by Nina Simone, a Civil Rights era masterpiece about lynchings in the South, to whine about one girl that he’s lost.

“Bound 2” ends the album on the line “Jesus wept.” “Yeezus” is just one big controversial ear assault.

But the assault hits its target. Even though it was released the same day as two other famous rappers’ albums, Mac Miller and J. Cole, the date is the only common factor. “Yeezus” is such a strong album because of the fact that it is so different.

“Hold My Liquor” has master mushmouth Chief Keef singing the hook alongside Justin Vernon of the indie-folk band Bon Iver. “New Slaves” owns the most beautiful moment of the album, with the second half of the song being two minutes of Frank Ocean cooing over a 1969 Hungarian pop song. “Guilt Trip” finds Kanye wanting to buy Chewbacca furs for his mistress. Obviously, Mr. West doesn’t want to bore you.

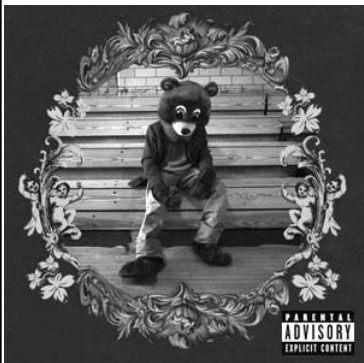
Originality comes at a price; some find his casual chats with Jesus and ignorant “social commentary” too much, like the line “See a black man with a white woman at the top floor / they gon’ come and kill King Kong” from “Black Skinhead.”

Sometimes he does go too far, especially in a little joke about Asian women and sweet ‘n’ sour sauce on “I’m In It.” Yet his intent isn’t to offend. This is a man that “reviews his lyrics to ensure there is no unnecessary swearing,” according to Zee News. West is trying to make his opinions heard, and he does it through a sound nobody can claim as their own, in a way not everyone will enjoy or even respect.

This is not an album that you can pick up and love like a big carnival teddy. It’s a grumpy grandpa. It’s dark, loud, angry, and has no conscience about making that really offensive joke in front of everyone. But it is also one man’s important statement on his life and the world around him.

In five years, I think even West’s biggest haters will look back to June 18, 2013 and realize “Yeezus” was too spectacular not to love.

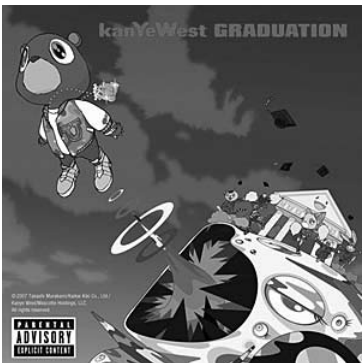
## Before Yeezus: Kanye’s First Five Albums



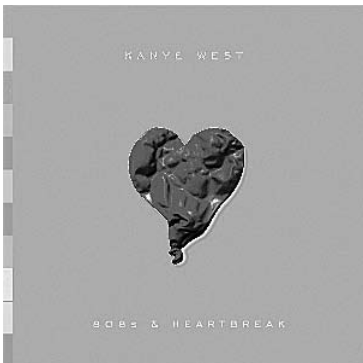
Remember J Cole’s hit “Work Out”? You can thank Kanye for the beat; it was taken from the 11th track on the album, “The New Workout Plan.”



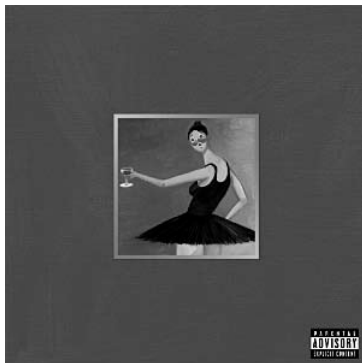
Kanye introduced the world to fellow Chi-town rapper Lupe Fiasco on the song “Touch the Sky.” Lupe has gone on to sell 1.5 million albums.



Kanye and his pal Jay-Z created a lot of Illuminati theories with their release dates; “Graduation” released on September 11, 2007, six years after New York’s own Jay-Z coincidentally released “The Blueprint” on September 11, 2001.



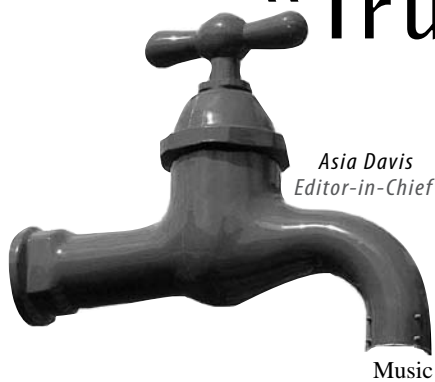
This album’s sensitive and sad tone was, according to Drake, “most influential” in helping create his sensitive and sad style of rap.



Making a nearly-10-minute-long track in “Runaway” was not enough for Kanye. The music video for it ended up being a 34-minute short film featuring ballerinas in France.



# Music Leaks Cause Controversy Among "True Fans"



Asia Davis  
Editor-in-Chief

Music is something that defines our culture as teenagers, and no matter what genre one listens to there is always the chance of it being "LEAKED."

Leaked is when an album or song is released via internet before the scheduled retail release date. This has become more and more common with the advancement of the internet and technology. How this happens is record companies give promotional copies of the music to a select few. If they fall into the wrong hands, they can be published on the internet without permission. Songs or albums are then posted on a file sharing site such as Mediafire or Zipshare and spread via social networks.

Downloading leaked music is illegal, but more to this there's a social controversy. Some fans claim that those who download leaked albums aren't true fans because they don't wait for the release date to buy the album. On the flip side, other fans claim to be so eager to hear the music they don't care.

From the perspective of those who don't believe in downloading leaked music, it's illegal. Downloading leaked music doesn't benefit the artist at all, since leaked downloads don't lead to any money for the artist. From this perspective, if you were a true fan, you'd respect the artist by waiting until the release date and actually buying the music.

"If you're a true fan of whatever artist and you didn't pay for it, you're not really supporting your favorite artist. For example, if you claim to be a true Drake fan but you downloaded his album early instead of buying it when it comes out," said junior Adam Lawson.

On the flip side there are those who claim the true fan title but do the opposite. There are those who claim to be such die hard fans that they simply can not wait for the release date. They still support the artist by listening to the music itself and simply buy the album when it comes out.

"Sometimes it's your all-time favorite artist and you can't just not listen to it knowing that it's already out there. You can download it and still buy the album after to support them. So what, you just listened to it a couple days early?" said senior Liz Lemmen.

Those who argue that free downloads don't benefit the artist should keep in mind that 94 percent of sales never make it to the artist. For a typical album costing approximately 15 dollars, the artist gets 50 cents according to Bandzoogle.

But from the other perspective if over 100 thousand people illegally download the album that's fifty thousand dollars. It may not be significant for just one person, but every dollar adds up. So are you a true fan? Do you download the leaked album and then go buy it when it comes out?

WANT MORE? CHECK OUT  
KNIGHTLIFENEWS.COM  
FOR NEW ARTICLES EVERY  
WEEK!

DANECE ADAMS  
PHOTOGRAPHY  
daneceadamsphotography.com



Wedding | Family | Advertising | Candid  
danece@daneceadamsphotography.com  
269.568.9311  
daneceadamsphotography.com

## FOURTH COAST CAFE

K A L A M A Z O O

- A variety of burgers and deli sandwiches
- Specialty soups and salads
- Vegan options
- High quality coffee beans from around the world

Buy One  
Specialty Espresso Drink  
-----&-----  
Get One of Equal or Lesser  
Value  
**FREE!**

Expires Aug. 30, 2014

816 S. Westnedge, beneath Crows Nest, (269) 383-0202

## Vander Salm's FLOWER SHOP AND GARDEN CENTER



"The Home of Fine Flowers"



1120 S. Burdick Street • Kalamazoo, Michigan 49001  
Phone (269) 343-2671




# COMICS



Constance Williams

Help Gerald! submit a comic page



you got skills? knight life needs comics and art for the paper please submit. For full submission guidelines visit k6 for info or email [loriumbanhowar@gmail.com](mailto:loriumbanhowar@gmail.com) or [jaymays71@gmail.com](mailto:jaymays71@gmail.com)

Jacob Mays



Aliyah Barnes-Fogle

## U-Pick Apples Homemade Donuts

# HUSTED'S MARKET



### Husted's Fresh Pressed Cider

**Paula Red & Zestar**  
early tart - great for sauce

**McIntosh**  
mildly tart, juicy, tender - eat or cook

**Gala**  
firm, sweet, juicy - great to eat

**Honeycrisp**  
new apple, firm, tart and very juicy

**Ozark Gold**  
firm, juicy - early golden delicious

**Jonathon**  
mildly tart, rich flavor - great to eat or cook

**Golden Supreme**  
sweet, tender, juicy - great for snacks & salads

**Cortland**  
slightly tart, tender with snow-white flesh

**Empire & Fortune**  
juicy, aromatic and crisp - great for snacks & salads

**Ida Red & Golden Delicious**  
firm, tart and juicy - excellent for baking, a good keeper

**Mutsu**  
sweet-tart, crisp - keeps well, excellent all purpose apple

**Spy**  
grandma's favorite for pie "spies are for pies"

**Red Delicious**  
sweet and tender - excellent for snacks & salads

**Melrose**  
sweet and firm - great to eat

**Rome**  
mild slightly tart and firm - good for all cooking needs

**Fuji**  
firm and sweet, keeps well - great to eat

**Breaburn**  
sweet tart - great to eat

**Granny Smith**  
hard and tart - good for pies

1/2 bushel of apples for only \$10! (excludes honeycrisp)

Expires November 31st

10% off any purchase over \$20

Expires November 31st

9191 W Main St. Kalamazoo, MI 49009 (269) 372-1237



## KNIGHT LIFE PUBLICATION POLICY

Got opinions?  
Disagree with something we've  
said? Just want to get your say in  
the paper? Write us!

**Direct Letters to the Editor to:**  
Knight Life Loy Norrix  
606 E Kilgore  
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

Submit to Room K6  
pankoptl@kalamazoo.k12.mi.us

**Guidelines:**  
250 words or less  
Must contain author's name  
Third period,  
ID number

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

**Notes to reader:**  
Any photography that has been  
manipulated will be labeled as a  
photo illustration.

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

## KNIGHT LIFE EDITORIAL BOARD

Tatiana Berquist  
Darcy Billian  
Breonna Burnside  
Asia Davis  
Claire Domanick  
Ben Dunham  
Stokely Eller  
Sidney Ellis  
Maximus Evans  
Emily Feenstra  
Jared Graves  
Jake Heasley  
Leslie Hemenway  
Emily Jackson  
Jillian Ko  
Jordan Liddle  
Jacob Mays  
Jay McIntosh  
Ben Miller  
Louis Mitchell  
Ronniqua Phillips  
Irving Quintero  
Sarah Stevens  
Rachel Wheat  
Alana Whitehead

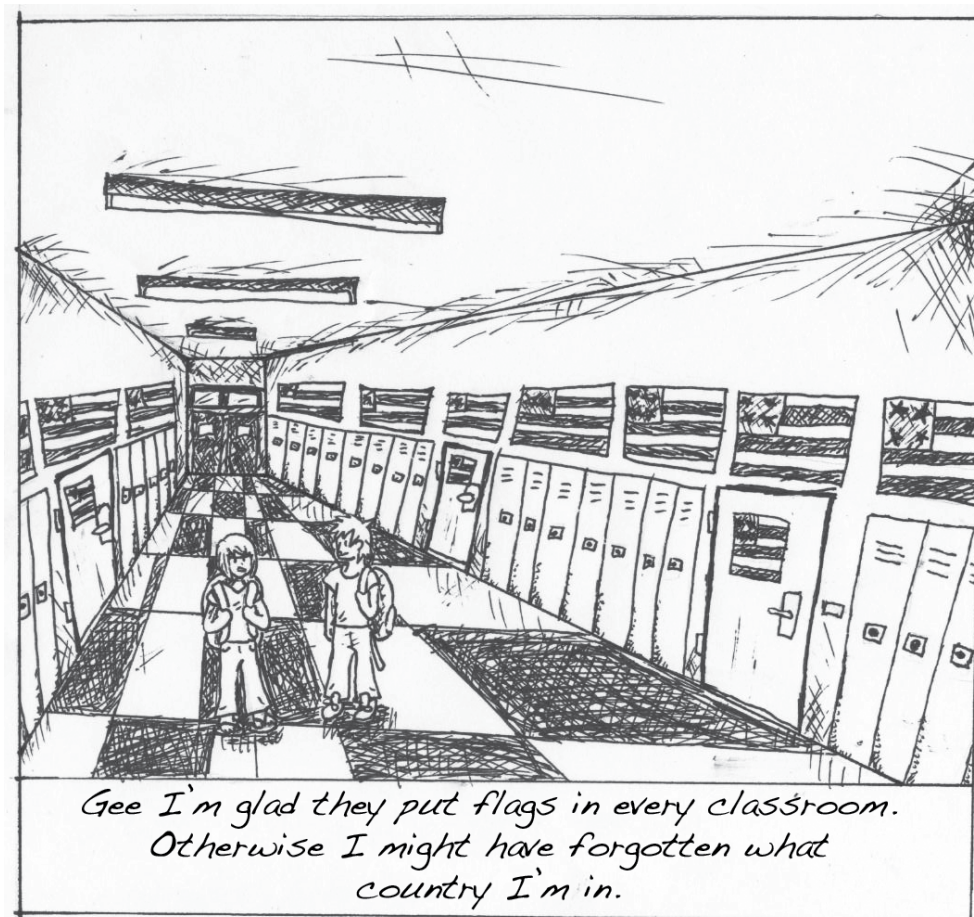
**Need more Knight Life?**  
Check out the Independent Voice  
of Loy Norrix High school at

KNIGHTLIFENEWS.COM

Here you will find up-to-date articles  
and an archive of your favorite print issues.

# Staff Editorial

## Forced Patriotism is Costly and Diminishes Values



Lori Umbanhowe

"We are now going to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. If, for any reason, you don't want to say the pledge, we respect your choice to remain seated and quiet. Please stand, face the flag and place your right hand over your heart."

This school-wide harmonized phrase was sent in a mass email to every teacher, along with the explicit instructions to "use these exact words before reciting the Pledge of Allegiance in every classroom." Once all is said and done, teachers throughout Loy Norrix will stand up, face the flag and point their students to conformity- er, patriotism.

This isn't to say that patriotism isn't important; it's completely reasonable to want the value of our country to be upheld by those that will be entering the system and, eventually, running it in a few years. But shouldn't we go about expressing this in a way that seems less

mandatory?

Remember that rumor last year about every student getting their own iPad? Although it was obviously transparent and too good to be true, it's disappointing to know where our school's money is actually going: flags. Now, under Enrolled Senate Bill No. 637, all public schools in Michigan are required to prominently display a U.S. flag outside the school and inside of each classroom.

The question we have to ask is not if this is unnecessary, but rather the degree of necessity (or lack thereof). All public school districts in Michigan are required to pay for the mandatory American flags in every classroom, regardless of the cost. This means that instead of getting a new textbook that doesn't have swear words carved into the cover like it's a vulgar Egyptian hieroglyphic, you're getting a striped piece of

cloth in the corner.

Under Enrolled House Bill No. 4934, every public school teacher is obligated to give their students the opportunity to say the Pledge of Allegiance in class each day. Given that any currently enrolled student of Loy Norrix sees this carried out every morning, you have hopefully formed your own opinion about it.

The first thing that typically comes to mind when we explore the controversies of the Pledge is saying the phrase "under God." You had better believe that you aren't the only one thinking about it; parents who do not believe in God (in any sense of the word) have brought this issue to the Supreme Court on multiple occasions, each time being turned down. The ruling has typically been that "God" does not necessarily correlate to a particular religion, but actually means that we have a "higher power" watching over us.

As a little test to see if this is true, let's replace God with Allah. How comfortable would the American public be to have "in Allah we trust" inscribed in their money, with their children going to school to say "one nation under Allah"? This would have an undesirable outcome, to say the least.

Although it was never put in the Constitution, Bill of Rights, or really any legal document, our country seems to abide somewhat strongly by the separation of church and state. This should be exemplified by the one sentence summary of American values, the Pledge of Allegiance. This pledge has always reflected our culture through time. American culture showed great interest in the Christian faith during the 1950's, which was when the Pledge was reformatted to include the words "under God."

Studies show that the country is becoming less and less synonymous with one particular religion, or even with religion at all. In order to keep up with what our current culture values, it would make much more sense to take out something at all religious, seeing as our country is headed in that direction.

The Pledge of Allegiance has been used to express patriotism and create a sense of American community since 1892, but this feeling has changed as the individual has begun to take precedence over conformity.

If the Pledge isn't mandatory at all, then it should reflect that with its content. In fact, maybe our public schools shouldn't even be pledging their allegiance, but instead pledge to our own values.

## Upperclassmen should Help Freshmen Learn the Ropes



**Leslie Hemenway**  
Feature Web Editor

For freshmen, the first week or so of high school is nerve-wracking. While their fears gradually diminish as they settle into a routine, their first day can seem terrifying. From Loy Norrix's sprawling blueprint to the seemingly intimidating upperclassmen, worries flood the typical freshman's mind. Part of what makes the upperclassmen seem so intimidating to the younger students is the

age-old stereotype that everyone who's not a freshman harbors a strong resentment towards the school's newcomers. This supposed fact not only distresses most freshmen, it baffles them as well.

The idea of upperclassmen hating freshmen stems partially from the stereotype that freshmen are typically rowdy and obnoxious.

Junior Caitlin Hopkins shed some light on this and said, "When you're a freshman, you don't think you're a trouble class."

Because freshmen are rather naive and new to high school, they tend to have a positive outlook on all things regarding high school, including their classes. They may think their class is funny and energetic, but not necessarily troublesome or badly behaved, even if the latter is considered by many to be more accurate.

While Hopkins makes an excellent point, the negative attitude towards freshmen can

still be a little confusing.

Sophomore Kameron Schrock explained that he doesn't like freshmen because "They're pretty wild." He said he felt this way because they seem to be loud and run around the school.

It's understandable that the age and maturity differences between the upper and underclassmen, as well as the naivety of freshmen, are a few things that could irritate other students.

Furthermore, freshmen make up roughly 38 percent of LNHS, which is why they sometimes seem so overwhelming. However, the older students need to remember that the freshmen haven't been here for very long; they can't be blamed for not knowing as much about the school. It takes time to adjust to a new environment, especially one as big as Loy Norrix.

*See Freshmen on 20*



# Invading Syria Would Be a Huge Mistake for the U.S. and the World



Jake Heasley  
Layout Editor

The Syrian civil war can be summed up with one word: Brutal. Over 100 thousand people have died in the conflict, with more people dying by the truckloads every day. The most extreme case of this is the use of Sarin gas on civilians. The effects of the chemical agents have been seen on civilians and rebels alike, and the United Nations Security Council has issued a complete investigation on the situation. There are many opinions on this topic and many possible consequences depending on the decision of the United States, and the world.

Chemical agents were first used in warfare during World War I. These agents ranged from the non-lethal tear gas, to the highly deadly Phosgene gas. The gases had a profound effect on the war, both with the sheer number of casualties and with the psychological trauma of having highly toxic gases bombarded against a soldier's trench day after day. In 1993, the Chemical Weapons Convention banned the use and production of chemical weapons. One-hundred eighty-eight countries signed the agreement.

On Sept. 9, 2013, the Syrian Government accepted the Russian foreign minister's proposal that Syria will hand over its stockpiles of chemical weapons to the United Nations in order for them to be destroyed. In addition, Syria would join the Organization for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. Syria joining the OPCW is a very smart move; not only will it likely negate most punishments directed at the country, but it will also make Syrian leader Bashar Al-Assad, look better in the world's spotlight. President Obama welcomed the proposal from Russia but cautioned wariness on whether the proposal will work.

The conflict in Syria has sparked a debate on whether or not countries that use chemical weapons should be punished. Some, including President Obama, claim that if one country is allowed to use chemical weapons, it will set a precedent that if a country uses chemical weapons, it won't have to face the consequences of their actions.

The President called it a "red line" that must not be crossed. Many, including Senator John McCain, believe that the U.S. should invade Syria, while others think that if Syria gives its chemical weapons to the UN, they should not have any other punishments.

I did not believe that an invasion of Syria was necessary even before the proposal from the Russian Foreign Minister. An invasion of Syria could easily cause more deaths than it would prevent. The select bombing of Syrian chemical weapon caches could release the chemical agents from their canisters and spread the chemicals throughout Syria, causing more deaths and actively doing what the bombing was supposed to prevent.

This debate is quite complicated with many opinions on both sides. While the one-hundred eighty-eight countries that are part of the CWC



"What? Who here thought that the dictator of a country in the midst of civil war wouldn't use chemical warfare given the opportunity?" Graphic / Lori Umbanhowar

are in agreement on banning chemical weapons, the punishment for such use is much less black and white. Chemical agents are brutal weapons that can leave debilitating blisters and can even suffocate a person on contact. World War I showed the devastation that chemical weapons used in conflict can cause, but what should the punishment be if they are used?

While Syria should not be invaded nor punished too severely, being careful about the Syrian Civil War is a must. Over 100 thousand people died in Syria before the chemical weapons were introduced, and it would be very easy for the war to turn into an even more ugly conflict with the potential for war crimes around every corner.

Many politicians are arguing for the invasion of Syria by the U.S. and other countries. Others claim that pursuing that course of action would cause more deaths than the chemical weapons ever could. A poll conducted by CNN stated that 7 out of 10 people in the United States disagree with the position of invasion. Many people have noted the similarities between the search for chemical weapons and the search for Weapons of Mass Destruction during the Iraq war.

The Iraq war was a failure on many levels. Not only were there no weapons of mass destruction, which the U.S. government had claimed were in the country, but the conflict turned into a lengthy tug-of-war for Iraq between the U.S. military and Islamic terrorist cells. Neither party could gain the advantage because the U.S. military had no significant means of eradicating the terrorists, short of carpet bombing the entire country. And the

terrorist cells had no way of defeating the massive numbers of U.S. military personnel. The war turned into a messy conflict with the U.S. government continuing to feed the people of the U.S. "information" about the weapons of mass destruction that were supposedly in Iraq.

The conflict in Syria and the War in Iraq have many similarities. Both countries had a dictatorial leader that was an enemy of the U.S., and both supposedly possessed weapons of mass destruction. While the chemical weapons in Syria are very real, both instances can be seen as a scapegoat for the U.S. to invade a country that no longer has a U.S. supportive leader. The U.S. government lost credibility with the Iraq war, and another lengthy conflict in the Middle East could undermine the support of the government even more.

The Syrian civil war is one of the most brutal conflicts in recent history. Hundreds die every day, civilians and soldiers alike. The use of chemical weapons is just one of the many atrocities that can be attributed to the war. While the war is a horrid conflict, invasion is not the option that the U.S. should take.

The U.S. just got out of a long and tiresome war that left the U.S. population war weary and suspicious of the government, and the Russian Foreign Minister's proposal for a friendly resolution to the issue of chemical weapons is a godsend that should not be forgotten. It is possible to resolve this with not even dropping a bomb, or landing a soldier on foreign soil. And that is one conclusion that everyone should be thankful for.

## KNIGHTS SPEAK

WHAT ROLE DOES THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE PLAY IN SOCIETY?

HAILEY TIMMERMAN  
Freshman

"It honors Americans and shows respect."



EVAN WHEAT  
Freshman

"The pledge instills Patriotism in America's youth."



AARON ESHLEMAN  
Junior

"Saying the pledge reminds you how great our country is."



RYAN GROVER  
Senior

"It holds a lot of tradition. It shows faith and patriotism."



ANDY SANTAMARIA  
Senior

"To pledge your allegiance to the American flag, literally I don't think is very important."



YANI ESTERS  
Senior

"It keeps people's Patriotism alive. It's important to say it because of the history behind it."



AARON DAVIS  
Senior

"It let's little kids understand the amount of respect that people show to our country."





## Apple Adds a New Member to the Community



Breonna Burnside  
Social Media

Once again, the makers of Apple have found a new way to improve the Apple community. iPhone Operating System 7, aka ios 7, the new system update for iPods, iPads, and iPhones.

This new system update, which released September 18th, is filled with new features.

Features include control center, it allows swipe up from any screen to immediately jump into a system settings such as Bluetooth and wifi, a new camera app, background updates, a new Safari, Siri, and iTunes radio. The phone even has a better design if you purchase the iPhone 5s.

The main three features that come with the update are the Airdrop, multi-tasking, and the one the Apple users are talking about is... Touch ID.

Touch ID is a way to unlock your phone instead of having a pattern password, a pin code, or a password. Apple has provided a new security process. A fingerprint sensor built into new iPhones will remember your specific fingerprint and will only let you unlock things in your phone. People are concerned about Apple getting their fingerprints and having it accessible on other software but Dan Riccio, Apple Senior Vice President, explains how it will only be accessible to the Touch ID sensor. This is by

far the most important feature for the update, important because this hasn't been added to any other phone before. This specific update is only for the iPhone5s.

Second, Airdrop feature, which originally made for the Samsung Galaxy phones, has been added to the new system. This is one of the most exciting features on the update. It gives the ability to share pictures with anyone with the new update and Galaxy users by just tapping the phones together.

Third, the multitasking feature, Apple's improved this feature by giving users the capability to preview screens of the things you are running and move from one to the other by just holding the home button. For example if you are looking different things up they will be saved until you back out of each one.

This Apple update, which includes the features, sounds like it will be a good change for iPhones, iPads, and iPods. Soon they will have a very similar update for Android users also,

which I will be downloading.

"My favorite thing about the ios 7 is the way it looks. My favorite feature is the new messaging app. I like the way it looks and how fast it is. It also shows the times the messages were sent an received," said Senior Diamond Shaver.

"It's just different. It's more like an Android. It's like having a whole new phone. It has fewer features than I was able to do on the regular iPhone. Also, I can't delete messages, I'd have to delete the whole conversation," said Aliyah Denny.

## New Soccer Coach, New Soccer Team The Loy Norrix Men's Team Adjusts to Change

Jay McIntosh  
Sports Editor

Goal after goal, more support after each win, Loy Norrix soccer has been scoring for years now. The men's soccer program began to make a true name for itself the past four years, a team that should be taken seriously by the amount of wins they were able to acquire and records broken. A lot has been changed this year, including a new coach, new players and a new "style" that they use on the field.

Matt McCullough, the former varsity soccer coach, dedicated 9 years of hard work and led many victories at Norrix as well as the turn around for the soccer program.

The new coach, Joseph Abang is one you may not expect. He has an international background and a history of playing professionally. Coach Abang was born in Cameroon, Africa and played for the nation. He then progressed his career to play professionally in Thailand.

Addressing the new way of passing more and setting up plays junior captain Andrew Streitl said, "Coach Abang gives us something new, it's a new way to play soccer and gives the team something to buy into and win more games this year."

In recent years, soccer at Norrix has skyrocketed in success. In 2011, the men's team broke the record for wins. They took Norrix soccer to the district finals losing to Portage Northern in double overtime. The following year broke that record again, leaving an almost impossible season to beat with 18 wins.

The team this year may have new challenges to battle with, but Streitl said, "As captain, I have to make sure everyone buys into the new playing style of more passing and build up play and has trust in the new coach in the season decisions coach makes."

The team may see that they have some rebuilding to do, but they still recruited veteran

varsity players such as Tanten Buszka, Andrew Streitl, Stokely Eller, Issac Ruiz, Johnathan Salazar, and Luis Morales who have plenty of experience to help lead the team to the goals they want to achieve.

"It's been a big big help but it is still not easy working with only six varsity players, but they are helping a lot," said Coach Abang.

The Norrix men's team started the season with a positive outlook and knew very well that it could end up promising if they all put their mind to the same plan. In the opening invitational, they were able to go against Rockford the #1 team in the state that is also ranked nationally. Then the next game they play Reese Puffer a top 30 team in the state and win.

*"Coach Abang gives us something new, it's a new way to play soccer and gives the team something to buy into and win more games this year."*

*-Andrew Streitl*

Just weeks later, Loy Norrix won their first conference game vs Harper Creek while still getting used to the new playing style coach Joseph has to offer. With progress, it will get better and better.

Coach Joseph said, "They are playing much better than they were at the beginning of the season, it will work out but it takes time."



Coach Abang watches the game from the coaches box as he and Mathew Streitl lead the players to winning games. Coach Abang has translated his soccer knowledge from playing pro to coaching this year. Photo Credit / Irving Hernandez



# Friday Knight Lights

## The 2013 Varsity Football Team Works Together



*Loy Norrix Varsity players wait anxiously to be put in the game. The Knights have four home games this season.*  
Photo Credit/ Sarah Stevens

*Claire Domanick*  
Copy Editor

As the sun sets, the student section cheers and Athletic Director Andrew Laboe tweets, our Loy Norrix Knights take the field ready to work as a team, a family, a whole. Unity is the key to this year's success.

"We win as a team, we lose as a team," said senior captain, Joe Boggan. The focus of this season will be to harness the incredible talent that the seasoned and unseasoned players possess. The skilled positions such as quarterback, running back and receiver are strong suits for this team. The team goes full force at practice doing drills such as catch/tucks, cuts, and double team. Seasoned head coach Sean Bergan said, "[They need to work on] little things such as fundamentals and eliminating mistakes."

After losing 30 seniors, 26 of whom had previous varsity football experience, rebuilding the team is a priority this season. With improvement being made on and off the field, during study table in Coach Bergan's room Mondays and Wednesdays, Saturday practices, and practices Monday thru Friday from 4-6, these boys are growing into the team they are meant to become.

The Knights have the ability to adapt to pressure as seen at the LN vs. Gull Lake game when the Knights

were down 21-0 in the first half and came back strong to finish 28-13. Although this team is young, they are prepared to go the extra mile and put in extra hours of work like two a days, to progress to the level of last year's team and beyond.

The fact that, as Coach Bergan put it, "There aren't any big egos" on this team, indicate that these players are in it for the long haul. No "one play" or "key moment" will define them individually, but instead what leads up to that "key moment" will help shape them all together, as a well-rounded, skillful team.

"Get there on every play, don't take plays off," sophomore Keegan Banks said to himself as he took the field during last week's game. Banks plays wide receiver and defensive end. He notes that from the beginning of summer practices to today, he is faster, stronger, and smarter. Adjusting to the varsity game speed has been difficult for Banks, but with the help of the returning varsity players, he is working to reach his full potential.

The willingness and dedication of the team says more than the scoreboard ever will. Although 0-7, when the Knights step off the field after a long day's work, they step off together, united, and already looking towards their goals for next week's game, playing under those Friday Knight lights.

## Student Athletes Ignore Signs of Concussions

*Jared Graves*  
Sports Editor

You hear the oohs and ahhs from your teammates after making a huge tackle during practice, but the cheers sound a mile away because your head is ringing like a bell. Stumbling back into the huddle, everyone asks you, "Are you okay?" and you reply, "Yes, I am fine."

This is one of the many challenges student athletes face daily in the sports we love to play. According to Arizona Sports Concussion Center, about 10 percent of all student athletes in contact sports suffer a concussion during their season. Many teens feel the pressure to perform no matter how much pain they are in because they do not want to let their team down.

Senior co-captain for the football team Terrehl Kelley said, "In eighth grade I got tackled on a kick return. I didn't know what happened. I just had a headache so I continued to play. Later in the week the doctors diagnosed me with a concussion."

Many players continue to play after getting a concussion. Freshman Joe Hruska was hit on September 12 while walking off the Battle Creek Lakeview field on kickoff and hit his head on the ground. "I felt like I got my bell rung, I had a headache but it went away and I continued to play.



*Jerrel Lipsey was diagnosed with a concussion against Battle Creek Harper Creek. Lipsey was given a SCAT 3 test from Tyler Depuydt to measure his progress.* Photo Credit/ Jared Graves

Towards the end of the game I started to have blurred vision and began vomiting," said Hruska. USA Today states that over 40.5 percent of high school athletes return to action prematurely and run the risk of having more severe injuries.

Continuing to play after receiving a concussion raises the risk

of getting even more brain damage. Many former NFL players have died or been permanently injured from not being informed of the risk of concussions. Many players like Hruska don't get treated right away or hide the fact they are not feeling normal. According to Health Day News 40 percent out of a survey of

134 athletes said they ignored signs of concussions.

Loy Norrix Athletic Trainer Tyler Depuydt said, "They have come a long way in the last 10 years a hundred fold. In the past you would just rest till the headache has past." Depuydt has been the Norrix Trainer since last year and said, "There

was approximately 10 concussions last year, and most of them from football." Symptoms of a concussion including headaches, loss of consciousness, fatigue, seeing stars, or nausea and vomiting. If you are feeling any of these symptoms you should see a doctor or your athletic trainer immediately.

Diagnosing a concussion can take time. If Tyler sees symptoms that a player may have suffered a concussion, he will first remove them from play. Then he will perform an evaluation and give them a sideline concussion test (SCAT 3) that involves questions and physical tests like touching their nose and walking in a straight line. Then he will reevaluate the player the next day to see if there is any change.

"Each case is different, someone could come back within days others may take months," said Tyler.

"I am excited to come back. I feel a little nervous. I just have to be a little more aware," said Hruska. Many players like Hruska are not as aggressive when the first come back because they are nervous to have another concussion.



# Leading With Experience

## Senior Captains Help Lead Their Teams

Stokely Eller  
Staff Writer

You have been chosen to lead the team to victory. Every action that the team makes falls on your shoulders. It is your job to make sure that these actions, on the field or not, represent your team, as well as the school, in a positive light. You are the captain.

Senior year is a type of hallmark year for athletes. It is the last chance to leave your mark on Loy Norrix. As team captain, it is more important than ever to make sure that your team performs in a way to leave a lasting impression.



Joe Boggan and Terrehl Kelley, defensive and offensive captains, have both played three years of varsity football for Loy Norrix.  
Stokely Eller / Photo Credit

### Football Captains

Loy Norrix fall sports teams have all chosen captains, a large number of them seniors. “I’ve waited three years to be captain, and now that I am one of the captains, I’m ready to lead my team,” said senior football captain Joe Boggan.

Being captain isn’t for every senior, however. It takes a certain skill set to effectively lead a team.

“I really like being a leader. The team, as well as the coach, respects my opinion more,” said senior football captain Terrehl Kelley.

“I rely on the captains to fix problems within the team. The way the captains act reflects on all of us. It’s all about trust,” said football coach Sean Bergan.

Being captain comes with the trust of your entire team. They rely on you for advice, as well as to lead by example. Along with this trust comes a great deal of responsibility. When non-team members talk about the team, the attention is immediately placed on the captains. It requires a delicate balance of responsibility and trust to have an optimally functioning team.

### Volleyball Captains

“The captains set an example for the team at all times, both on and off the court. We all look to them for encouragement,” said junior volleyball player Lauren Dougherty. “Not only that, they also set an example for the younger players that want to be captain in the future.”



Magnificent Hanana watches her team during warm-up against Kalamazoo Central.  
Sidney Ellis / Photo Credit



Jake Gumbleton, above, set a new state record with 84 consecutive wins. He has not lost a match since freshman year.

### Tennis Captains

From the coaches standpoint, seniors seem to be a shoo in to be captain. “They’ve proven to me over time that they are willing to take charge and be a leader. Seniors always seem more willing to pull the team together and have a greater sense of unity,” said tennis coach Art Williams. His philosophy lead to him choosing four senior captains.

The fall sports season still has many matches to be played. The seniors hope that they can use their experience to lead their team to victory.

### Team Stats as of 10/22/2013

	Wins	Losses	Ties
Football	0	8	-
Volleyball	8	20	3
Tennis	8	5	2
Soccer	5	12	1
Womens Swimming	0	8	-

**“I believe in my captains. They know what to do, they know how to lead, and they are willing to work hard. Thats the bottom line.”**

**Sean Bergan-Football Coach**

### Freshmen from page 16

On the other hand, that’s not to say that every single underclassman is completely blame-free in this situation. Some, not all, have the tendency to act immaturely. It’s understandable, as they have yet to adapt to the high school environment, but that still doesn’t make it acceptable.

Freshmen need to keep in mind that while high school may seem super cool at first, it is first and foremost a learning environment and should be treated as such. There are a lot of students trying to get to their classes on time every day, and stopping in the middle of the hallway to chat with your friends could not only make someone late to class, it could also really infuriate them. If you absolutely

must talk to your friends, at least walk while you do so.

On the flip side, biology teacher Christine Komar said she “was impressed that [the freshmen] were very polite.”

It’s easy to jump on the “I hate freshmen” bandwagon, but the older students should keep in mind that they were all once freshmen as well.

Constantly complaining about how annoying and loud a small number of freshmen are won’t accomplish anything. Taking steps to help the younger students is much more likely to solve the issue.

For example, freshman Kevin Mitchell said seniors can help the underclassmen out by making the newcomers more comfortable with the school’s environment.

Whether it’s by showing them where a classroom is or offering them advice on which courses to take, a small, kind gesture can make a world of difference. Why not use your upperclassman power for good?

By helping the new students learn the ropes, you’ll learn freshmen are not nearly as bothersome as they may seem at times, and they’ll soon become much more knowledgeable about the school. Hopefully, this cycle of upperclassmen helping freshmen will continue, and there will come a time where freshmen are no longer apprehensive about their first day of high school.