

# BLUE AND WHITE IS OUT, GREEN IS IN

Lindy Moored

This April, Loy Norrix High School became a certified Green school. Michigan Green Schools is a non-profit organization that helps schools throughout the state achieve environmental goals. Michigan Green Schools encourages educational institutions to inform students on how to better care for the environment inside and outside of school.

“When Mr. Prewitt became principal of our school he thought this was a very important thing for Loy Norrix and he wanted his school to be certified green,” said Earth Science teacher Julie Young.

There are three levels that can be achieved when becoming certified Green and within each level the school must meet a number of activity requirements across four groups.

### LEVELS OF CERTIFICATION AND ACTIVITY REQUIREMENTS

1. **Green** School - 10 total activities. At least 2 from each category.
2. **Emerald** School - 15 total activities. At least 2 from each category.
3. **Evergreen** School - 20 total activities. At least 2 from each category.

Senior Leticia Camarillo started the Garden Club at LN as an individual project for her Education for Employment class, Conservation Biology. The Garden Club helped to make sure LN would meet the required amount of activities for certification. The club allows Norrix students to come together in support of environmental positivity.

SEE GREEN PAGE 18



National Honor Society member Zhi Nee Wee hauls recycling from the B-Wing. The bins will be taken to the recycling dumpster outside. **Photo Credit / Lindy Moored**

# HILLARY CLINTON: CAMPAIGNING TO MAKE HISTORY



Hillary Clinton, 67, is running for President of the United States. If she wins, she will become the first woman President. **Photo Credit / democraticunderground.com**

Sophia **Boismier**

In 1872, Victoria Woodhull was the first woman that ran for president as a part of the Equal Rights Party, but she didn't even appear on the ballots. In 1972, Patsy Mink ran for U.S President through the Democratic party. She barely got any votes, but she was appointed Secretary of State.

There have been a surprising

number of female candidates throughout the years, but none have come close to winning a major presidential nomination like Hillary Clinton.

Clinton was First Lady from 1993-2001 when President Bill Clinton was in office. During that time, she worked on affordable health care. This was

when she lead an initiative for major health care reform; it failed. She was then elected the first female Senator from New York in 2000, and then re-elected for a second term in 2006.

During the 2008 election season, she lost the Democratic Election with a popular vote of 48 percent, while Barack Obama won with a 48.1 percent. She was then appointed Secretary of State by President Obama after he won the 2008 Presidential Election. After Obama took office, Clinton's old health care reform effort soon became what is now known as Obamacare.

After she was done with her term as Secretary of State, Clinton worked on her fifth book and participated in a series of foundations. She is now currently campaigning for the 2016 Presidential Election.

If Hillary Clinton wins this election, she will become the first female president in United States History.

Clinton is a supporter of same sex marriage, equal pay for women, affordable college, and she is pro choice.

Clinton has been a politician for a while and this both strengthens and

weakens her campaign. Hillary Clinton is a well known public figure with a plenty of experience in the public spotlight.

Because so many voters are already familiar with Clinton and the Clinton family, experts predict that the common voter will be more likely to cast a vote for a familiar name like Clinton. Also, a lot of people want to see Clinton become the first female president so they can see the world move forward socially.

On the other hand, Clinton frequently being in the spotlight, has brought more judgement and criticism on her previous actions. For example, when Clinton was Secretary of State, there was an attack on the U.S Consulate in Benghazi, Libya on September 11, 2012. Though Clinton took full responsibility in the way the attack was handled, her critics still don't like that it happened at all.

There is no doubt that if Hillary Clinton wins this election she will be an inspiration and change the minds of little girls everywhere who believe that there is a limit to the success of women, but even if she doesn't, she will still have made history.

# ISIS GAINS POPULARITY THROUGHOUT THE US



Carsten **Strand**

Recently, the terrorist organization known as ISIS has been gaining followers all over is Syria and Iraq. They have killed countless people in both of these countries, and currently control thousands of square miles in Iraq. But one of the craziest ISIS achievements is that they are recruiting inside the United States. Over one hundred and eighty Americans have been detained on suspicion of trying to join ISIS.

Why are Americans joining a terrorist organization that has openly said that their enemy is Western civilization? Why are these citizens joining a terrorist organization notorious for executing western journalists , and killing entire villages of people? And now, after ISIS claims that they are responsible for

a shooting involving two gunmen in Texas, the threat of ISIS attacks in the United States are as real as ever. So why are so many Americans so gun-ho to join ISIS?

ISIS has influenced the United States through one major source, social media. No longer are people just posting prom selfies for one hundred or something likes, or tweeting about that amazing macaroni and cheese that they had for dinner. ISIS operatives are posting propaganda on Twitter to recruit more soldiers. Twitter has taken down thousands of accounts that are associated with ISIS, or aim at recruiting more fighters.

The social media front has been a huge tool for ISIS. At one point, ISIS took over the US Central Command twitter account, posting pro ISIS messages. The account was suspended, but not before 109 thousand people saw them.

It is common knowledge that Americans, especially younger Americans, respond well to social media campaigns. ISIS has utilized social media and really capitalized on its full potential. They have turned the internet into the thing that everyone

feared the internet would become, a weapon.

What is the appeal of ISIS to Americans? It might be that ISIS promises plenty of benefits for joining their cause. According to Aqsa Mahmood, a British teen who joined ISIS in 2013, says that ISIS promises "a house with free electricity and water provided to you due to the Khilafah (the caliphate or state) and no rent included."

So this is the new "American Dream" that has surfaced from the Middle East. It is estimated that 180 Americans have at least attempted to join ISIS. Islam is supposedly a religion of peace, not a religion of violence that ISIS is making it out to be. Americans who join ISIS to live their dream have another thing coming. The FBI has already caught plenty of ISIS supporters inside the United States, including three men from Brooklyn and three teenagers from Colorado. ISIS has done terrible atrocities like destroying national landmarks and ancient cities. ISIS completely bulldozed an Assyrian City, devastating entire generations of civilians in Iraq and Syria. The United Nations has

concluded that through the first eight months of 2014, ISIS was responsible 9,347 civilian deaths and another 17,386 people wounded. After reading these staggering stats, it is even more surprising that 180 Americans have joined in the destruction, persecution, and relocation of millions of people.

Can all this be attributed to social media, or to the promise of the good life in the Middle East? Not likely. These people may just be looking for a change of pace from day to day American life, with a little bit of terrorism sprinkled in. Where did we go wrong when these people that have been raised on American soil are lead to believe that they should dedicate their life to toppling their home country? Maybe this is a problem within American society and the way we raise the children of this country. Many of these ISIS recruits lack a sense of belonging according to the FBI. Maybe the prospect of being part of something bigger is appealing to these Americans. All that can really be said is that this terror organization is a major problem not just for the Middle East, but for the national security of the United States.



# YOUR POLITICAL AFFILIATION= YOUR BELIEFS

AshtynKenbeek

It’s easy for people to define themselves as conservative and liberal even without talking about religious or political views. We label people open to trying new foods as liberal, or if you are more likely to save something for later to be conservative.

Although these labels aren't directly correlated to political views, this could be the first step. When people think someone is less likely to try something new it could be directed towards their ideas of society. This person could be looked at as closeminded and used to tradition.

Conservatives would be said to be traditional, and liberals are less traditional.

There are many gray areas when dealing with politics, for example when we look at controversial topics you can find people disagreeing with the main ideas of their own party. Liberals can still have traditional views even though they are known to look for change, and conservatives can be open to new ideas.

“I agree with legalizing marijuana, because I believe having a tax on marijuana will bring in more money for the state to repair the roads and help out the school systems,” said Alisabeth Shigwadja, who identifies herself as conservative.

As a conservative the idea of making marijuana legal would not be the norm.

Legalization of marijuana is not a good clear indicator of political views. Many conservatives feel it should be legalized. As Shigwadja mentioned, a tax would bring money into states; instead of using money to process criminals we could gain money

“I don’t believe in free handouts to the less unfortunate. I think that if you work hard to build up your life, you shouldn’t have to be punished by getting your money taken away because someone else didn't make the right decisions,” declared Shigwadja.

This statement may seem harsh, but it represents the beliefs of the conservative party.

The belief that everyone should have to pay the same percent of what your income is is more fair than using tax dollars to pay the poor. This idea gives more power to the people to give back to their community and let the wealthy choose what they want to do with their money.

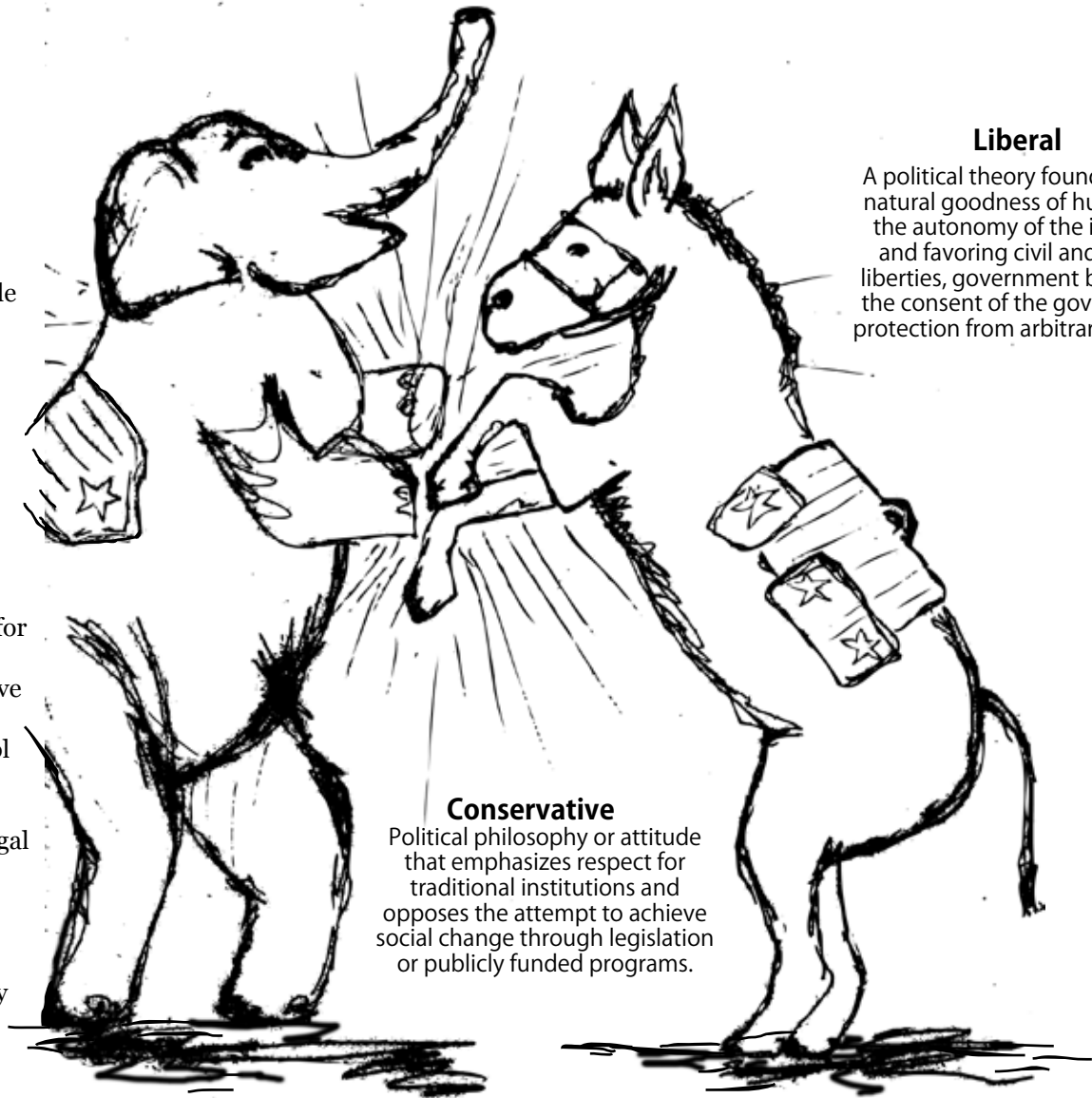
Many people disagree because it promotes inequality and we end up with a smaller middle class.

“Leaning towards more freedom but sometimes we need more structure, and sometimes I think the liberal views take away from what will keep things in line, organized and successful,” said Joriah Fleming in refence to governmental control, who considers himself liberal.

More on the conservative side this again shows it isn't always easy to differentiate someone in one party over the other.

As a liberal you would generally want more government control with more ideas involving less traditional views. The idea of less government control but the government providing protection at our borders is a conservative viewpoint.

“We have the same goal of what we think the world should be, we just have different methods of getting the American Dream,” continued Fleming. “Both parties want this ‘American Dream’ but their attack is different and makes the world cloudy on what is right or wrong.”


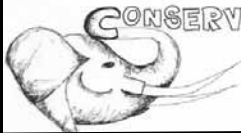


## Liberal

A political theory founded on the natural goodness of humans and the autonomy of the individual and favoring civil and political liberties, government by law with the consent of the governed, and protection from arbitrary authority.

## Conservative

Political philosophy or attitude that emphasizes respect for traditional institutions and opposes the attempt to achieve social change through legislation or publicly funded programs.

 LIBERAL	TOPIC	CONSERVATIVE 
AGREE	ABORTION?	DISAGREE
AGREE	GAY MARRIAGE?	DISAGREE
AGREE	LEGALIZATION OF MARIJUANA?	DISAGREE
FREE GOVERNMENT HEALTH CARE	HEALTH CARE?	PRIVATE HEALTH CARE
AGAINST IT	DEATH PENALTY?	FOR IT
COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY	GOVERNMENT CONTROL?	INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY

# ACHIEVE SUCCESS THROUGH THE WAY YOU DRESS

Lori **Umbanhowar**

Summer is nigh! Those sweet three months of Netflix binging and catching up on sleep. Three months of sunbathing and pool parties. Three months of hanging with friends and bumming around the house.

Unfortunately, your parents may not appreciate this. It might have been cute when you were young, but you are older now. It is time to get a job.

Once you go through the process of hunting down the local business' applications and filling in your qualifications, intentions, and your contact information, and patiently waiting, you get the call to make an appointment for an interview. Seeing as this is the really important part of getting the job you need to know a few things before going off to your interview.

First of all, write down the name of the person

who contacted you. It is possible that this is the person who will be conducting the interview and knowing their name for when you first meet them makes a strong positive impression. This demonstrates that you are attentive to detail. Be sure to also read the job description again and consider how you will best accomplish the job as a whole. This will better equip you to answer any questions the interviewer might ask.

Deepender Deswal is the housekeeping manager of the Radisson in Downtown Kalamazoo. Deswal talked about what he looks for in a person he interviews and commented on first impressions,

"Shaking hands makes the difference. A firm, not over aggressive handshake. Confidence is good too. When answering questions, don't carry on too long, be brief and straightforward," Deswal said.

Before you plan on what to wear to the interview, take care of your personal hygiene. Little things like

dirty nails or bad breath will have a negative effect on your interview. Be sure your hair is dried and neatly combed. Do not wear a lot of perfume or cologne, you are better off wearing none at all. Lastly, refrain from wearing a lot of makeup. According to about.com, which has an in-depth article on this subject, teens should avoid excess makeup

"For teen girls applying for a job, too much makeup won't be much help. ... While it's good to look well-groomed and pulled together, this can be achieved with minimal makeup," said Alison Doyle, a writer for about.com.

Now to bring all of your preparation to an exciting finale, getting dressed. Choosing an interview appropriate outfit can be a bit daunting, but is actually quite simple.

Look by Janet Luitje, grade 12  
**Looking cute and sporty is not a good look for going to an interview, especially not in leggings.**



Look by Connor Zook, grade 12  
**A hoodie and jeans is a look that is far too casual for an interview.**



Look by Diamond Shannon, grade 9  
**Be sure to wear a pair of closed toe shoes with any outfit. These are more work place appropriate.**



Look by Jordan Brown, grade 11  
**A tie or bow tie demonstrates more effort and care to the interviewer.**



Look by Autumn Dietrich, grade 12  
**A business suit speaks professionalism for both men or women. It shows the utmost of seriousness.**



## Minimal Effort:

For guys, do not wear shorts. Do not even think about wearing your "lucky T-shirt." This is extremely unprofessional and the interviewer will believe you to be wasting their time. Go for your Sunday best and opt for long pants and a nice shirt.

For ladies, while you may have rolled out of bed just an hour ago, you should not look like it. Leggings are a big no-no. While they do make your legs look great and are comfortable, this is not workplace appropriate. Be on the safe side always and dress more modestly.

## Average Attempt:

For guys, a polo looks nice, especially if it is neat and wrinkle free. The baggy cargo pants on the other hand make you look a bit scrubby. Wear straight legged beige pants and tuck your shirt into a belt to look more put together. Better yet, go the extra mile and look professional in those black slacks and long sleeved button down shirt.

For ladies, while a low cut dress might be perfect for a night out with your girlfriends, it is not appropriate for an interview. Spaghetti straps are not appropriate for any workplace and should be avoided at all costs. Wear a simple cardigan over your shoulders if you insist on the dress or blouse, and do not show off cleavage. Skirts and dresses should be at minimum knee length.

## Top Notch:

"It is always better to overdress than underdress," said Deswal. "Dress code matters no matter what position you are applying for".

For guys, a button down shirt that is neutral in color looks great. A tie to match would be the perfect final touch. Just double check that your dress shoes are clean and your slacks are pressed free of wrinkles.

For ladies, those black slacks compliment that blazer super well. It speaks professional and shows you are here for business. Your jewelry should compliment your outfit, but not overwhelm it. Avoid those oversized earrings and choose a simple hoop.

Now you are dressed for success and ready to take that interview by storm!



# JUNIOR FLIES INTO HER DREAMS

Breonna **Burnside**

Deciding what you want to do for the rest of your life is a hard decision to make, especially when you're a junior in high school. However, junior Alexis Bell had no trouble making these decisions.

"I plan on doing two years in the Air Force and then taking advantage of the Promise then going back into the Air Force," said Bell.

Alexis Bell was inspired by both of her parents, who met in the Army, to join the Air Force.

"It's very structured and organized. I learned discipline and responsibility. I met many different people and learned about different cultures. I had the opportunity to live in other countries as well," said Bell's mother, Kristie Coupel.

When you join the Air Force you're enrolled in the Community College of the Air Force. Bell plans on getting an Associate's degree in psychology before using the Promise to get her major. After she's finished in the Air Force, she wants to pursue a career as a psychologist.

"I want to learn how people think, why they think the way they do and

help people get out of a bad state of mind," said Bell.

"The armed forces gives you a step into the workforce. It is an opportunity to get out and see how life is with a learning experience," said Bell's father, Marcell Bell, who is currently stationed in the United Arab Emirates.

To become enrolled into the Air Force, you have to be 17 years of age and have a high school diploma. You'll also need to take the ASVAB test. The ASVAB is a multiple-aptitude battery that measures developed abilities and helps predict future academic and occupational success in the military.

"If counseling isn't available after I take my ASVAB test, I will decide on the job I want pursue in while in the service," said Bell.

It is administered annually to more than one million military applicants, high school, and post-secondary students.

"The Air Force is very strict. My life will be ran by someone else. I will be told how many hours I sleep, what wear and how much I eat," said Bell.

The amount of pay you get depends on your ranking. There are nine rankings; Airman Basic, Airman, Airman First Class, Senior Airman,



Bell's mother, second from left, in uniform amongst friends. The army gave Coupel the opportunity to build bonds with people from all walks of life

**Photo Credit / Alexis Bell**

Staff Sergeant, Technical Sergeant, Master Sergeant, Senior Master Sergeant and Chief Master Sergeant.

"Most jobs in America have veteran preference points, that means that you move to the front of the line. Meaning if you get two candidates for a job with equal experience they will take the veteran every time," said Marcell Bell.

With one of the best retirement

plans around, Airmen are able to receive retirement after 20 years of service. It requires no payroll deductions and if they want to save a bit of cash, they are able to get thrift savings, a plan that lets them take a little bit of their money and save it.

"I am just really excited to graduate and go straight into the Air Force. I'm also super ready to get fed for free," said Bell.



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# STUDENT ARTIST GETS RECONGNITION

Taylor **Krupianik**

Art takes a lot of time, heart and imagination. To some it's a passion, and to others it's a lifestyle. Senior Cece Williams is an AP art student and wants to major in the field of art. She wants to go to KVCC and take animation, digital design, story boarding and game design classes.

"The storyboarding classes I want to help me with making graphic novels. I want to create comics. Something small, nothing too big, or if it becomes a bigger thing, then I'm cool with that. I'll just enjoy it for now," Willimas said.

Willimas started art when she was around two or three. Her dad showed her how to draw while they went to church. After that it just stuck and now Williams wants to take it all the way.

Many artists are inspired by something. Williams got her inspiration from childhood cartoons like "Dexter's Laboratory" and "Foster's home for Imaginary Friends."

"My inspiration is Craig McCracken. He was one out of few people who brought joy to my young artist life. The shows "Powerpuff Girls," "Dexter's Laboratory," "Foster's Home for Imaginary Friends," a new show "Wander over Yonder,"

and including his wife, Lauren Faust's, lovely work helped me create not only art but build an imagination," Williams said.

Lauren Faust's creation is the TV show "My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic." Faust also helped McCracken with "Foster's Home for Imaginary Friends" and "Wonder Over Yonder."

Since Williams high school career began, she has won a Michigan Merit Award (MIPA) for a comic she created for Knight Life. She also won a scholarship for a summer art camp called Kendall College of Art and Design Portfolio Camp following her junior year. After high school, Williams has only two focuses, work and school. Williams is proud of all of her artwork

"I don't have a proud art piece, even though one of them got an award. I still just have an equal feeling for all my art," Williams said.

Williams never expected to get any awards, she just followed her passions and on the way has gotten great recognition for her art work.



Senior Cece Williams stands next to her piece in the Kalamazoo Institute for the Arts Student show. While she did not win any awards for her senior year, she enjoyed celebrating her friends' and fellow classmates' success. **Photo Credit / Lori Umbanhowar**

## MULTIPLE ACHIEVES 2ND PLACE AT THE FORENSICS STATE TOURNAMENT

Luis **Juarez**

On May 1st and 2nd, the Loy Norrix Forensics Team went to Oakland University at Rochester, Michigan to compete against other schools in a tournament. Not only was the Forensics State Tournament on May 2nd, but prom was also on that day, and some Forensics members had to either sacrifice prom entirely or skip the award ceremony afterwards to enjoy the last hour of prom.

"Well, I knew that Joriah, Savonna, and Melanie were going [to prom] so we decided to all ride back together early, which meant we couldn't go to the awards," freshman Multiple team member Bonnie Bremer said, "That was bittersweet because awards can be super duper stressful. I swear it's just sitting in anxiety for who won. I was okay with missing awards, but overall I was lucky I was able to attend my first state tournament as well as my first prom."

The senior Multiple captains are Joriah Fleming and Melanie Mitchell. The Multiple members are juniors Carsten Strand, Sidney Ellis, and Savonna Rush, and freshmen Amarra Lyons, Bonnie Bremer and Drew Strand.

The Multiple team received 2nd place for their short musical piece "In the Heights." Senior Hannah Muscara received 4th place for her Prose piece, sophomore Nora Hilgart-Griff received 6th Place for her Poetry piece, senior Hannah Stempky received 8th place for her Dramatic Interpretation piece, and senior America Edwards received 10th place in Extemporaneous Speaking.

"Everybody was dressed up, ready, and very professional," freshman Multiple team member Bremer said, "I was so excited because we were strong together, and I was with all my friends."

In the beginning of the forensics season, Multiple was at a bit of a struggle because one of their original members couldn't make it to one of the tournaments. In forensics you have to show up to all tournaments; otherwise, you and your team will get disqualified.

Junior Carsten Strand helped out the team and guaranteed they would be able to show up to all tournaments possible. This was not the only time where Strand had to fill in for somebody. He did it again when a cast member of "Underdog: the Musical," written by senior Joriah Fleming, couldn't make it to a performance.



The multiple team enjoys each others company and see each other as a family. This was taken before they found out they had made it to semi-finals. **Photo Credit / Jackie Stilger**

Strand once again came to save the day by learning the whole script in less than 5 days before the show.

Prior to the State Tournament, met so many new faces along the way, winning was no longer their objective. Multiple won 1st place in four out of the five regular season tournaments. When

they got to the Invitational, their mindset was to win, but since they had so many new faces along the way, winning was no longer their objective.

**SEE MULTIPLE PAGE 18**



# SENIOR SECTION



Angie Bissonnette, Catherine Morris, and Elizabeth Avila lounge after a long night of riding roller coasters. They wait tiredly for the charter bus to arrive.  
**Photo Credit / Lori Umbanhowar**



1. Students on May 21st spent 5th hour admiring the new yearbook. It was a profound moment for all who purchased one.
3. Savannah Vaisey- Wilson rides her ostrich around and around again. She enjoys her senior trip with friends.
4. Loy Norrix teacher Samantha Maxwell and her husband, Alex Maxwell, supervise the seniors on their trip to Six Flags on May 16-17. Students play Catch Phrase on their way there. **Photo Credit / Lori Umbanhowar**



2. Seniors enjoy their last couple of weeks at Norrix. They play ball in the courtyard. **Photo Credit / Caitlin Commissaris**





# AN OPEN LETTER TO INCOMING SENIORS



Rachel **Wheat**

Senior year is stressful, emotional, exciting and crazy all at once. One day you will be ready to move a hundred miles away from home and other days you never want to leave your bedroom. College apps and scholarship opportunities will be overflowing, and your email will be filled up with colleges begging for you to attend. You will also be spending money on more things than you can ever imagine.

You will hate the long process of college apps and will probably be overwhelmed by the amount of scholarships that can be applied for. If college isn't your thing, adults, teachers and even students will ask you

why.

This year you are in the spotlight. Still, nothing compares to your senior year. You are right in the middle of being a real adult and being a child. Most still live with their parents, yet you don't want a curfew. It's an awkward time in your life.

Money is also a big thing during senior year. I had always heard that senior year was expensive, and that is accurate. The activities that we participate in as seniors are time consuming and expensive. For example the cost of prom, senior trips and grad bash certainly add up.

Although senior year can be stressful and emotional, it's the most important and memorable year of your secondary education. This is the beginning of your life. Don't be afraid to have a little fun. Go on the senior trip even if it's not your thing. Go to prom with or without a date, and go to sports events, even join a sport. It's your last year in high school, and

whether you have had an awesome four years or not the best four years, everyone deserves to have fun.

It's important not to give up on your school work. This year is the easiest year to come home from school and not touch your backpack, or watch netflix all day. It's the easiest year to lose track of.

Senior year will be hard and fun and memorable. Remember to stay on track, and don't forget to do your homework.

Some things to remember for senior year: If you are planning on going to college, start applying in September. This will allow you to be a part of early admission, giving you a better chance of getting accepted into the college you want.

If you plan on using the Kalamazoo Promise, attend one of the Kalamazoo Promise meetings held at either Kalamazoo Central or Loy Norrix. This will allow you to learn how to apply and receive your scholarship

money. You can find more info at [www.kalamazoopromise.com](http://www.kalamazoopromise.com).

Don't forget to apply for scholarships. There are thousands of dollars available that don't get used because people don't know about them.

FAFSA is very important, it's easy self-explanatory and can help you get federal aid. There are also workshops that can help you apply for student federal aid at the school.

All of these things are crucial during your senior year. If you aren't planning on going to college, there are also technical schools and apprenticeships available to recent high school graduates. For example there is an electrical internship through KVCC.

Don't lose track of your grades, have fun, and enjoy your senior year. Whether you are taking a year off, attending higher education, or working after high school, make sure you stay on track and know you are very close to the end.

## SENIORS GIVE ONE LAST FAREWELL DURING GRADUATION SPEECHES

Lars **Johnson**

The academic year has nearly reached a close, which means commencement ceremonies are fast approaching. On June 3rd, Loy Norrix's graduating class will gather at Wings Stadium to celebrate their completion of high school. As usual, several seniors will speak at this ceremony, allowing them a unique chance to communicate their ideas to hundreds of peers, parents, friends, teachers and administrators.

Traditionally in colleges and high schools, student graduation speeches are delivered by the valedictorian and salutatorian of a graduating class. Valedictorians and salutatorians are determined by their grade point average, the former having the highest GPA in their class, and the latter having the second highest GPA. These ornamental titles are Latin derivatives, *salvē* meaning 'hello' in Latin, *valē* meaning 'goodbye' and *dicere*, meaning 'to speak.'

As the names suggest, the salutatorian would speak at the beginning of a graduation ceremony, while the valedictorian would speak at the ceremony's culmination. This system used to be employed at Loy Norrix, but has since been replaced by an audition process, in which seniors

with the highest level of oral ability are granted speeches, rather than solely on the basis of their grade point average. One reason for this shift was that the valedictorians and salutatorians were not necessarily interested in delivering commencement speeches.

Nine seniors auditioned to present a speech at the commencement ceremony, and America Edwards, Anasia Turner and Iyana Williams were selected. The senior class president, Naomi Sarelis, will lead seniors in the "turning of the tassel" ceremony. In order to make the graduation ceremony as memorable and impactful as possible, students with clear charisma and fresh ideas are chosen to represent the senior class each year. Edwards, who will attend Kalamazoo College next year, looks forward to rehearsing, fine-tuning and delivering her speech.

"My speech focuses on the influence which the faculty and staff have had on us," Edwards said, "I talk about my academic experiences with KAMSC and ATYP. They are definitely personal stories which are unique to everyone."

Public speaking and English teacher Joe Kitzman helped to facilitate the process which speakers have to go through to prepare for their oration. This process starts long before the audition, and continues after it. Students who wish to speak at

graduation must attend informational meetings beforehand, write and thoroughly rehearse their speech, and then submit it to a faculty panel who read their speeches. Speeches are then judged on quality of writing, and given scores.

After this, students wishing to speak at commencement must participate in an audition process. The faculty panel judges the students on their delivery and then consider both the oral and rhetorical strengths of the speech before selecting speakers. Once students have been selected to speak, they must continue to rehearse and perfect their speech in the weeks leading up to graduation.

"The idea is to minimize anxiety

so that they [the speakers] enjoy their three minutes," Kitzman said.

Of course, as with any form of language, graduation speeches often run the risk of sounding clichéd or derivative. Both Edwards and Kitzman seem confident that this will not be the case this year.

"Mechanically, it's [the speech] is content," Kitzman said, "but the person speaking has to deliver the content from the heart so that it doesn't sound mechanical."

High school graduation is one of the major accolades in a person's life, and being able to speak at it allows one to savor the experience. This year's speakers wish to send their comrades off as best they can.



Pictured above are this year's graduation speakers: America Edwards (left), Anasia Turner (center) and Iyana Williams (right). **Photo/ Luis Juarez**



# MOVING ON, MOVING FORWARD SENIORS FACE CHALLENGES IN THEIR FINAL YEAR

Ginny**Creamer**

As the last month of high school begins, so do the graduation jitters. Laying awake at night, our sleepy young-adult brains are buzzing with summer thoughts of late nights, graduation open houses, and... our future. The uncertainty of our life to come is both insanely liberating as well as exhaustingly frightening. The questions are endless. “Is it weird that I’m still going to live at home?” “How many times can I call my mom each week without seeming unstable?” “Freshman Fifteen?!”

Graduation is supposed to be the best day of our lives that concludes the supposed best years of our lives, but instead, we spend it crying as our peers give speeches and our mothers reminisce. This season of goodbyes is challenging for a multitude of reasons, though the source of the problem changes depending on each graduate and if/where/how far away they are going to college. But there are a few basic struggles that every student will seemingly face no matter who they are.

The first is the dangerous and inevitable comparison to our peers. We could be going to our dream school, perfect for us in size, available majors and distance from home, but as soon as a friend seems secure and happy about their own future, we doubt everything. Each student tries to create their own veil of confidence in their life just around the corner. Some of us are better at it than others, and those who aren’t are shaken to their core at the sight of the hallway wall plastered with faces and acceptance letters.

“I’ve already put in my deposit for K College, the school I’ve been aiming at since I was in

elementary, but there are still days where I doubt everything,” senior Hannah Muscara said.

The second struggle is handling our own expectations of ourselves. Ten years old with dreams of Harvard has turned into a less than perfect GPA and only a handful of extracurriculars under your belt. Grades good enough to get you into some great colleges, but simply not quite what you had imagined. These images of our picture perfect future not coming out as clearly as we had hoped can feel like everything is coming crashing down.

According to the National High School Center, “There is a gap between teenagers’ expectations to go to college and the reality that many are unprepared.”

Unfulfilled expectations of nearly any capacity can be enough to set off panic, especially when reflecting back on your last few years. Feeling shabby about how few football games you went to, how many friends you’ve lost, and how many D’s you scraped by with makes looking forward to the next chapter of your life a little difficult.

“I’m taking a year off before college, and I know it’s right for me, but it wasn’t where I expected to be when looking at my life three years ago,” senior Cassidy Haan said.

Adjusting to what life brings is a huge part of the transition ahead.

Lastly, we are young. I know 17 and 18 years old seems like we are as grown as it gets, but we aren’t. These changes are hard on us whether we like to admit it or not. This high school has been a home to us, through the locked bathrooms, sun-filled hallways, gracious staff, and late assignments. Leaving the place we’ve grown so accustomed



Seniors Cassidy Haan (left) and Hannah Muscara (right) enjoy their a sunny day in the senior courtyard. Muscara will be attending Kalamazoo College and Haan is taking a gap year to travel. **Photo Credit / Drew Pawloski**

to, whether we love it or hate it, is a change that is challenging to adjust to. Being dependant on school staff for so many aspects of our lives for four years has been a safety blanket that we didn’t even realize we had. Now, so close to the end, it’s becoming apparent that shedding that cover is both freeing as well as unfamiliar.

No matter which way we spin it, senior year is full of change. Some of which we are equipped to handle and some of which we aren’t. As long as we understand that most of our struggle comes from our comparison to our peers, expectations of ourselves, and the fact that we are still growing and changing, this last year will be a little easier to handle.

# CONFESSIONS OF A HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR

Marshall**Mead**

Have you ever had one of those moments where it seems to stick with you throughout your high school career? You are not the only one. In the span of four years, it’s next to impossible to stop and ask yourself “why didn’t I do that?” As the graduating class of 2015 looks back on the memories and regrets of their high school career, some of these experiences could help out future graduates with their time at Norrix.



**Charles Miller**

“I regret not going to senior prom because I’m lazy.”



**Christopher Peterson**

“I regret not giving myself a bit of extra cushion for my grades.”



**Elizabeth Avila**

“I regret spending too much time watching Netflix.”



# Zooming Through Senior Year

DrewPawloski  
OLDEN GOLDIE 1972 CHEVORLET C-10



Scott May  
"I can't get enough of some classic american muscle."

OOH FANCY, FANCY 2003 CADILLAC CTS



Ana Vanegas  
"I don't know how to drive it or park it, but it's still the baddest car out there."

HOOPTY 2003 FORD WINDSTAR



Twan Jenkins  
"It stopped leaking the green stuff, so I think I need some more of that green stuff."

EARPLUGS NECESSARY 1989 HONDA CIVIC HATCHBACK



Austin Arndt  
"I love riding low and tuner cars, V-Tech kicked in yo."

# STAFF MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN STUDENTS' LEARNING EXPERIENCE

EvelynBanks  
"When I first had Mr. Greeley as a teacher, he looked really mean and strict, but now I see that he's cool and nice. He's very funny and easy to talk to," said senior Zacara Savage.

A lot of students probably think that teachers and most staff members working in schools are only here to teach and discipline students, but they are here for more than that. Staff is here to make you comfortable, help you when you need help and try to guide you in the right direction.

Most teachers know there is more to being a teacher than just teaching when they sign up for their jobs and others soon figure it out.

"To be a teacher you first need to love kids. They need to know you care about them," said history and geography teacher Jay Peterson.

One way of showing students you care is by staying on them about doing their work. Some may call it nagging, but others call it tough love.

"I have had Mrs. Pringle as a teacher three of my four years at Norrix and she has helped me the most during my time here. She is always on me about turning my work in and getting to class on time," said senior Armani Glass. "She also helps me with my personal problems. I can talk to her about anything."

Even just listening can show a student how much you care. Students are always looking for listening ears and an open attitude. Even if you don't have any advice, just your feedback and attention is much appreciated.

"My math teacher, Mr. Greeley helps me out a lot. He's like my personal therapist, I can tell him anything and he'll help me figure it out," said Savage.

Teachers are not the only people that can help you at school. Students also rely on coaches, counselors, principals, assistant principals and the list goes on and on.

"Security Officer Snell has helped me the most because he motivates me to

come to school," said senior Imara Bowers.

Staff can help students out by staying after school to help them with work, being there for them emotionally and encouraging and motivating them.

"If a student is struggling in something, you can't just complain about them not doing work. Figure out what the problem is, find out what they need and help them," said Peterson.

Students just need to know that there is always someone here for them to lean on in their time of need and someone to acknowledge their effort.



History teacher Jay Peterson and senior James Davis pose for a picture. Photo Credit / Evelyn Banks



History teacher Jay Peterson leaves his room open during lunch. So students have a place to come and eat if they don't want to be in the cafeteria. Photo Credit / Evelyn Banks

# TEACHER NICKNAMES

DrewPawloski



Travis Smith  
Math  
"Smith Dawg"



Niambi Pringle  
Social Studies  
"Mrs. Prang Prang"



Art Williams  
Governem  
"A-Dub"



Adam Hosler  
Math  
"The Hoss"



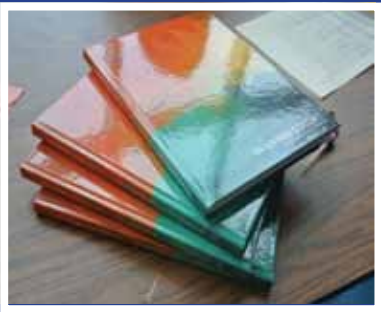
Tisha Pankop  
English  
"Tish Tish"

# THE COST OF BEING A SENIOR

AlexBrown

## REQUIRED

- Jostens Cap and Gown \$50
- College Applications -Application Fee \$75 per app
- Deposit Fee \$100



## OPTIONAL

- Prom -Dress/Tux \$100min
- Ticket \$50
- Yearbook \$65
- Senior Trip -Ticket \$65
- Graduation Party \$985 average
- Grad Bash \$30



## TOTALS

REQUIRED \$225 Minimum

OPTIONAL \$1295

GRAND TOTAL

\$1520



# FRESHMAN TO SENIOR YEAR: AN UPHILL CLIMB

Hannah **Stempky**

"I just didn't care my freshman year. I just kept thinking that I had four whole years until I actually had to do anything and I was wrong," said senior Daisy McLaughlin.

Leaving middle school for high school can be a major transition for many. Incoming freshmen have to adjust to a larger school, a more demanding workload and an elevated stress level due to the emphasis on post-high school education and career training.

McLaughlin knows this shift especially well and knows that isn't always an easy thing to overcome.

"My eighth grade year I was dealing with depression and more struggles on an emotional level," said McLaughlin, "Being a freshman I still had the same problems, except I used hanging out and skipping school to avoid thinking about it. I didn't have to think about serious things."

According to the National High School Center, ninth graders generally like school less than they did in middle school. Freshmen report being less involved in school activities and indicate lower self-esteem and higher rates of depression than middle school students.

"My freshman year I was way more focused and centered around the idea of having fun in high school. I thought that I was suddenly a grown up just because I was in a different building," said McLaughlin, "I thought it was more of a time to hangout with my friends instead of doing well in school."

One of the greatest influences in high school is peer pressure. Looking back, McLaughlin definitely sees its impact on her school career.

"My grades were pretty bad due to a lack of motivation. I did okay on some of them, but the rest were way worse than they are now," said McLaughlin.

Once freshman year ended for McLaughlin, she took the summer to reflect on her past choices.

"I stopped hanging out with some people who led me to do things that weren't the best," said McLaughlin, "The people that I hung out with at school, I didn't see them when school ended and I started to see my real friends who actually cared about me and school as well. So when I came back for my sophomore year I was ready to try again."

Starting as a sophomore, McLaughlin began to find the positives in school. After actively being involved in classes like Algebra II and Chemistry, she found that she had a true passion for math and science, which led her to

getting straight A's and breaking her habit of skipping school.

"Being around more positive influences helped, but overall it was more of a self-realization that I could be doing so much better," said McLaughlin

Today, Loy Norrix has many assistance programs including one specifically for freshman, known as Link Crew, as well as teachers dedicated to helping struggling students.

"I think this is all why I joined Link Crew, as a junior, because I thought that I would bring a unique perspective. Even though I did poorly my freshmen year, I was able to turn it all around," said McLaughlin, "My junior year I still kept my grades up and even now, as a senior, I still get good grades."

During McLaughlin's junior year she was a student in Claudia Witt's AP Chemistry class. Although challenging at times, McLaughlin was able to master and truly enjoy the course, as well as create a strong teacher-student relationship with Witt.

"Daisy asked when she had questions," said Witt, "She didn't just sit and hope that she would eventually understand. She spoke up when she was confused, which always helps."

It was this confident and proactive behavior that Witt observed, along with McLaughlin staying after to receive extra help and meeting with a study group regularly which led her to her success.

"I think that Daisy became even more responsible for her learning and understanding of materials. She learned how to better prioritize her time and worked towards being more self-sufficient in her learning endeavors," said Witt.

As senior year comes to end, McLaughlin now reflects back at her high school more positively. Finding her interests in school, a positive social circle, and most importantly self-motivation, she has managed to leave high school better than she arrived.

"I have plans to go to Kalamazoo College to be a math major next year. I'm just really proud of myself for finishing high school this strong," said McLaughlin.



**Top:** McLaughlin during freshman year with Sam Gulliver. McLaughlin and Gulliver have been friends for years as well as been dating since 8th grade.

**Photo Credit/Olivia Stier**

**Middle:** McLaughlin sits in class working on her AP Calculus work. Over the years she has grown to love this subject.

**Bottom:** McLaughlin and Gulliver stand discussing their future college plans. Both plan on attending Kalamazoo College in the fall. **Photo Credit/Hannah Stempky**



# KALAMAZOO COLLEGE NO LONGER LOOKING AT ACT SCORES

Caitlin **Commissaris**

This year Kalamazoo College has made some huge changes to their acceptance requirements. As of this year K College will be accepting the Kalamazoo Promise. They are also no longer requiring student ACT or SAT scores. Providing them with your score will now be optional when applying.

“I don’t think that the test optional application will bring about too much change because we never really looked at standardized testing scores as a large part of the application process,” said Emily Suchomfki, a counselor at K College.

The change in application requirements might make applying seem more easily accessible to students. There has been a lot of research done that shows that test scores do not show how well a student may thrive at universities. Instead of ACT and SAT scores we will be looking more closely at student GPA, according to Suchomfki.

At some universities test optional applications seems totally absurd. Large colleges need to use student ACT and SAT scores to limit the number of applications they will have

to look at. If a school with a big campus decided not to look at ACT scores it would take them twice as long to look through all of the applicants.

K College is not the only university who is making this change. About 800 other universities around the country have made their admissions test optional. Instead of looking at a student’s ACT/SAT score, colleges will be basing their decisions off of GPA, difficulty of classes taken in high school and college essays.

The dean of admissions and financial aid at Kalamazoo College, Erik Staab, made a remark about the ACT representing a student’s economic status more than their academic potential.

Daisy McLaughlin, who is planning on attending K College in the fall, said, “I think it’s true that the ACT measures a student’s economic status because students with money can afford to retake the test as many times as they want; however, other students can’t afford to retake the test at all.”

Kalamazoo College is going to be the first elite liberal arts college in Michigan to join the movement, opening the doorway for other colleges

to follow their lead by making their applications, test optional.

“I’ve heard a lot about how the ACT doesn’t necessarily measure intelligence but more of how good of a test taker you are, and I think that is still an important thing to measure, so I am kind of on the fence about it,” said Sam Gulliver, a potential Kalamazoo

College student.


These new test optional guidelines have opened the door for many students to apply to Kalamazoo College that may have never tried before. It will be interesting to see how these changes will effect the students who apply to Kalamazoo College within the next couple years.



Kalamazoo College campus in the spring. As the flowers are blooming, new applications are being submitted.

## The Kalamazoo Promise

**The Kalamazoo Promise is better than ever!**  
We have expanded to include 15 private colleges in partnership with the Michigan Colleges Alliance.  
We still continue to offer scholarships at 15 public universities in Michigan, as well as 28 community colleges.



### Colleges

Alpena Community College  
Bay de Noc Community College  
Delta College  
Glen Oaks Community College  
Gogebic Community College  
Grand Rapids Community College  
Henry Ford Community College  
Jackson Community College  
Kalamazoo Valley Community College  
Kellogg Community College  
Kirtland Community College

Lake Michigan College  
Lansing Community College  
Macomb Community College  
Mid Michigan Community College  
Monroe County Community College  
Mott Community College  
Muskegon Community College  
North Central Michigan College  
Northwestern Michigan College  
Great Lakes Maritime College  
Oakland Community College

Schoolcraft College  
Southwestern Michigan College  
St. Clair County Community College  
Washtenaw Community College  
Wayne County Community College  
West Shore Community College

### Universities

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

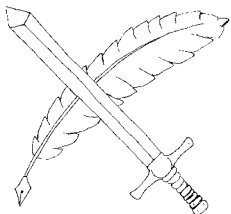
### Michigan Colleges Alliance

Adrian College  
Albion College  
Alma College  
Andrews University  
Aquinas College  
Calvin College  
Hillsdale College  
Hope College  
Kalamazoo College  
Madonna University  
Marygrove College  
Olivet College  
Siena Heights University  
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**see Bob Jorth with questions:**

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# STAFF EDITORIAL COMPARATIVE RELIGION



Photo Illustration / Lori Umbanhowar

Religion is everywhere. There isn't a single day in your life when religion hasn't somehow been intertwined with your daily ongoings, as you see billboards and even have church on Sunday morning television. Religion, more importantly Christianity, is ubiquitous in America.

As Americans it's obvious that we tend to dislike other religions because of our own tight roots with Christianity. We reject religions because of our own ignorance. As Martin Luther King Jr once said, "Nothing in the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity." Our ignorance on religion in America has fueled many problems specifically hatred toward Islam.

In September 2013, a Tennessee high school canceled a field trip which was scheduled to go to a Mosque and Hindu temple for their comparative religion class. The field trip was canceled because an irate parent accused the school of promoting "Islamic tolerance." The field trip was also canceled because of the inability to go to all the religious places taught in class due to lack of school funding.

Public schooling systems have debated heavily on whether they should have a comparative religions class

like the one in Tennessee. This idea at glance is highly controversial and scary to many.

A comparative religion class isn't meant to cause upheaval or to anger students and parents. This class would specifically provide students with informative knowledge on each major world religion.

As said earlier, religion is held dear to many hearts, yet many Americans are very ignorant when it comes down to religion. This ignorance can stem from closed-mindedness or just lack of knowledge of their own religion and others. Many Americans claim to be Christian yet can't even cite the Ten Commandments, while others have never been to church.

The idea that Americans are very intolerant towards certain religions yet have no understanding of their own is very troubling. Comparative religion needs to be taught in public schools to promote understanding of the religion that we practice and those that we don't.

Some parents fear that a comparative religion class would uproot traditional values that they have taught their children. Others fear that this class will be biased because of the teacher possibly trying to influence and

convert students to their own faith. Parents also fear spending more time discussing one religion rather than another.

One thing to keep in mind is that a comparative religions class would be a choice. Taking this class is completely up to the student and the parents. The class would also be curriculum-based. The teacher would use a textbook, to insure they wouldn't teach on their own platform of ideas and beliefs. A lot of people debating this subject also suggest that the teacher should not be religious whatsoever. Having fewer religious ties as a teacher of a comparative religion class would eliminate the potential for bias.

Many high schoolers agree that they are a product of their parents' beliefs. If their parents are religious, they most likely will be too, many high schoolers also agree that although they're religious and faithful to their beliefs, most don't actually know what they believe.

Kristina from "New York Daily News" said, "My family is very biased against other religions. They are Christians, but I don't fully believe in the Christian faith. I am hoping this class gives me some insight to help me find my own path," speaking on the comparative religion class in Tennessee.

To have a public school teach on religion is to help strengthen the already formed beliefs of students and further their knowledge on their religion and others. Not only will a comparative religion class help them better understand their own religious stance it will also give them a understanding and sympathetic view on people of the religions and cultures different from their own.

A comparative religion class needs to be offered in public schools to break down the stereotypical barriers of different religions and hatred towards the opposition. Breaking down these barriers will create strength in friendship and love in the faith we disregard.

**KS**  
KNIGHTS SPEAK

Should a world/  
comparative  
religion class be  
held in school,  
and if so, should it  
be an elective or  
mandatory?



Jarrel Taylor, Freshman

Yes, because  
everyone has their  
own religion and  
they should be  
able to learn the  
other ones.



Eddie Gillon, Senior

Nah, unless  
it's a Christian  
school.



# CANDLELIGHT CEREMONY GOES DOWN IN FLAMES



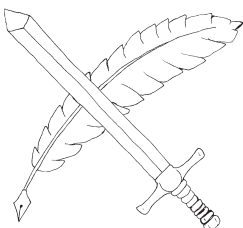
Katie**Srodes**

No need to dive and take cover during candlelight this year because the graduating class has had all luminescent objects to pass down to or throw at next year's graduates revoked. This year, "Candlelight" will consist of both junior and seniors sitting in the auditorium while the official ceremony means only the president of each class will be doing the honors of passing down the light and honor of Loy Norrix into the hands of the juniors. The rest is a surprise! Administration has crafted a

wonderful plan for what will be occurring at this year's ceremony. Younger generations have an unfortunate habit of killing old traditions. Young people want to make their own mark even when there is a long-standing tradition at risk. Students want to have fun in their own way and make sure that they are involved in those heat of the moment events and, therefore, most students participated in the throwing of the glow sticks last year. After the ceremonies mishap, there were blue and yellow glow sticks littering the auditorium floor. The actual throwing of the glow sticks caused harm to those parents, grandparents and children sitting in between both classes. Parents felt under attack while the glow sticks were thrown from the seniors to the juniors and back again. Juniors and seniors held the glow sticks as tradition for past

years before it went wrong. "It's been a tradition that seniors and juniors look forward to, and I feel like now it doesn't hold the same purpose and meaning anymore," said senior class president Naomi Sarelis. Last year's mishap of the glow stick war led to privileges being revoked. Since the glow sticks were something classes the of 2014 and 2015 couldn't handle, they were taken away for future classes. Administration speaks of this event from last year more in terms of lack of safety instead of the disappointment in the students. "Most importantly I have to think about the safety and security of my kids," said Dean of Students Atiba McKissack, "and when it comes to my kids I can't leave [them] all to make the decision that I've seen not turn out well." Traditions change all the time and along the way, people lose track of why

SEE CANDLELIGHT ON PAGE 18



## PUBLICATION POLICY

Got an opinion? Disagree with something we've said? Just want to be in the paper? Write us!

**Direct Lettitors to:**  
Loy Norrix Knight Life  
606 E Kilgore  
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

**OR**  
Submit to Room K6

**OR**  
pankoptl@kalamazoo.k12.mi.us

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- 250 words or less
- Must contain author's name, 3rd period & ID number

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Guest columns and personal opinion pieces may be withheld if the piece contains libel or obscenities, disrupts the school environment, invades the privacy of others, or if space is limited.

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

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# FOR-PROFIT COLLEGES: A FLAWED SYSTEM THAT NEEDS REGULATION



Jake**Heasley**

As seniors are inundated with emails from colleges and universities, they might see some unfamiliar faces. Colleges like Davenport University, the University of Phoenix and ITT Technical Institute are massive institutions, some of the biggest in the country, with University of Phoenix currently enrolling 300 thousand students. Universities like the University of Phoenix are known as "for-profit colleges," colleges or universities that have shares publicly traded on the stock market. The main difference between a for-profit college and other colleges is that they are designed to make money. These institutions have stock that is publicly traded with shareholders to please. These colleges are designed to make money, and that can cause serious problems for the students.

College tuition is a massive financial investment for students. Even a big state school can cost tens of thousands of dollars, and it is important to realize what you're getting into when you apply for student loans or financial aid. For-profit colleges emphasize their ability to make the daunting task of applying for student loans easy, but that comes with a catch. According to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, internal documents, interviews with former employees and undercover recordings, found that companies trained for-profit college recruiters to emotionally manipulate prospective students into enrolling. According to "The Atlantic," fifteen students who attended Corinthian colleges created a "debt strike," the first of it's kind. The Corinthian 15 claim that Corinthian Colleges defrauded them, u sing predatory lending and collection techniques, among other problems. These students have refused to pay the student loans that they took out in order to attend. For-profit colleges are also expensive. According to the College Board, the cost of attending a for-

profit college for one year in 2014-2015 averaged fifteen thousand dollars. This is compared to 32 hundred at two year public colleges for in-state students and around nine thousand for in-state students attending four year public universities. If a student were to attend a for-profit college, they would spend around 1.5 times the amount of money than if they were attending a public university in their home state. A 2014 study from the National Center for Analysis of Longitudinal Data in Education Research found that students who attend community colleges or no college at all have just as high a chance of being called back for a job interview as people who attended for-profit colleges. While for-profit colleges claim that they prepare people for the current job market more than other universities, the opposite is true. A 2010 study found that only 22 percent of students pursuing a bachelor's degree at for-profit colleges graduate, compared to 55 percent of students at public universities. Seventy-two percent of students from for-profit colleges earn less than high school dropouts. All these facts show

SEE FOR-PROFIT ON PAGE 17



Officer Williams, Security

Definitely. It's the best way to find out what you do or do not believe, to learn about as many as possible.



Jonathan Schmidt, Senior

Sure, I mean we have one in Germany, and I like Germany, and I like religion.



Drew Strand, Freshman

Yes, because some people want to travel and they need to know about religion, so they don't offend anybody.



# LET'S TAKE FLIGHT: SAVE THE HONEYBEES



**Clayton**Barker

Food in America is reliable. Go to a gas station and you will find food. Go to your local pharmacy and you will also find food. Go to school, yes you guessed it, food is in the cafeteria and many classrooms. One day, though, food could be a scarcity. The food industry wholly depends on certain non-renewable resources, one of which would be the Apoidea. In simpler terms, honey bees.

According to the American Beekeeping Federation, honey bees supply us one third of our food through entomophily, or plant pollination. If the vast amount of food honey bees render us doesn't scare you, think about this. A honey bee is the width of your finger, yet honey bees pollinate a massive number of plants just for us. Honey bees pollinate plants that produce foods such as apples, cranberries,

almonds and broccoli.

Maybe you suspect that honey bees only play a role in the foods like fruits and vegetables. A serious consequence if bees die out wouldn't only include the loss of fruits and vegetables, but most meats at the supermarket could be gone. Honey bees specifically pollinate alfalfa which is then fed to industry cows and chickens occasionally. Without alfalfa pollinated by honey bees, America could possibly run low on meat.

If you haven't yet come to the conclusion that honey bees are important, try going a week without eating food and realize you are going to starve.

Honey bees again are the source for one third of our food. The problem with this though is that the honey bees are disappearing, and it is threatening to mankind and all other living creatures. There are many suggested reasons for the disappearing honey bees, but no one knows for sure.

Colony Collapse Disorder is a major problem is the disappearing bees. According to National Resources Defense Council CCD is very common and is when bees abruptly disappear from their beehive. Another idea that is thought to have contributed to the

death of over 50 percent of honey bees would be chemicals. Antibiotics have been used on honey bees to stop the bacterial disease "foulbrood" which turns bee larvae into a brown mush. Antibiotics are supposed to help even though there is speculation that these drugs could increase toxicity according to Phys Org.

Along with this problem there is Nosema a fungus that can kill whole honey bee colonies. Nosema is treated using fungicides.

Along with all these chemicals layered over the honey bees, comes the pesticides put on plants. The honey bees come in contact with these pesticide layered plants for pollination. Pollination and pesticide is another susceptible cause to the honey bee deaths.

According to University of Kentucky, the Varroa Mite is also contributing to the honey bee obliteration. The Varroa Mite is an arachnid and a very small one. These mites attach themselves to the bees and suck their blood. This usually leads to infection in the honey bees' wings, disabling their ability to fly.

When the honey bee loses the ability to fly, this is then called Deformed Wing Virus (DWV).

Acaricides is a common pesticide used to kill the Varroa Mite but also can hurt the colony as a whole. The acaricide pesticide is always a last resort option.

Thankfully honey bees aren't extinct yet. There are many things humans can do to help prevent the decreasing population of honey bees. Plant flowers for the honey bees such as lilacs, sunflowers and fuchsia. Stop using pesticides and other forms of chemicals on your lawn and garden, which is not only killing the honey bees but hurting the soil and possibly affecting your water. When buying honey, buy the real stuff at a farmer's market that's locally produced. At minimum, buy honey which has the USDA organic label on it. Lastly, let your government know how you feel about the honey bees. Write letters to your local congress persuading and informing them the struggles honey bees are facing and get congress' help to protect them.

Let's treasure what we have while we still have it. Preserve and protect Earth. Remember without honey bees, we as humans will be without food, and without food, life will cease. Fight for the honey bees.

## REPRESENTATION IN CHILDREN'S MEDIA IMPROVES THE SELF-ESTEEM OF THE MINORITY



**Kyron**Williams

There is no doubt that there is a lack of minority leads in media meant for children and young adults (YA). This leaves the minority feeling like they are inferior to the majority. Recently in television media, there have been more characters to represent the oppressed (the African American, LGBTQ, and female populous), but more representation in the media for minorities would continue to raise the self esteem of the minority.

In some of the most popular shows on television right now, there aren't many characters that deviate from the straight, white male variety.

"Male characters are portrayed as powerful, strong, rational, and the main

character, while in contrast, female characters are portrayed as emotional, sensitive, and more likely to be a sidekick or love interest," said Marissa Lee in an article about representation from the Race Bending website.

This is an obvious problem because if a child grows up thinking they are inferior or they can't be as powerful as the majority then that is exactly what will happen. Recently in the media it has been said that there will be an all-female "Ghostbusters" movie released on July 22, 2016. The original "Ghostbusters" movie that was released in 1984 featured the paranormal-smashing team of Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd, Harold Ramis, and Ernie Hudson.

In 2016, the original team will be in competition with the new female cast which will feature Kristen Wiig, Melissa McCarthy, Kate McKinnon, and Leslie Jones. Though busting ghosts is not something everyone can relate to, showing four strong, female leads in roles previously held by men will ensure little girls that they can grow up

to take roles that are predominantly held by men in real life: presidents, CEOs, astronauts, police officers, and possibly, actual ghost busters.

There is a reason everyone needs to see someone who represents them as a child, and it ties in with mental health and self-esteem. Stephanie Goldberg from CNN wrote an article about a survey done by Kristen Harrison, a professor of communications studies at the University of Michigan, and Nicole Martins, an assistant professor of telecommunications at Indiana University. The survey proved that television improved the self-esteem of white males, but lowered the self-esteem of black males.

"That's So Raven" is an example of a TV show that helped a broad spectrum of people from different ethnicities, races, body sizes, etc. More specifically it helped female African American children. Before the final episode aired on Disney Channel in November of 2007, Raven Baxter (Raven-Symoné Pearman) was a strong female lead that everyone could learn

from.

In an episode called "That's So Not Raven" from season two, Baxter's dress design was featured for a teen talent show, but she was told by the woman who ran the show that she couldn't model it because she didn't wear a size two. Obviously Baxter was upset by the statement, but after she was told by a fan that a size two is not the only "look," Baxter walked out on the catwalk and modeled her dress. She also added "People come in all shapes and sizes, and they're all beautiful." If that's not empowering, I don't know what is.

Along with black and female children, the LGBTQ youth are another social group that don't have enough representation in children's and YA media. Though there are shows that include LGBTQ characters—"Steven Universe" on Cartoon Network, The Amazon original series "Transparent," and "The Fosters" on ABC Family—more programs that show LGBTQ characters as leads will give LGBTQ teens hope that they can grow up and

SEE SELF-ESTEEM PAGE 17



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Dear Editor,**

I read the article about the loss of Carl Bragg. The article was very sad, but it was a good way to show how people really cared about Carl. Taylor Timmerman did a very good job of expressing everyone's feelings about what happened. One of the things that stood out to me was that one of our very own teachers has a reserved spot in her classroom for Carl.

*Destiny Brown*  
*Senior*

**Dear Editor,**

I liked the article on page 2 in memory of Carl Bragg III. I didn't know this guy but I heard about him and I feel sorry for his friends and his family. I think it's a good thing that a school newspaper talked about him because what happened to this kid should not happen anymore. People should get some help.

*Nathan Carletto*  
*Senior*

**Dear Editor,**

I enjoyed reading your story on Carl Bragg. Interesting on hearing about how he acted, and about his friends. He was a loving person. You really did good on your article and everything I read, I liked.

*Traci Eason*  
*Sophomore*

**Dear Editor,**

I read the article "Face Eater: Local Band Takes Kalamazoo By Storm," written by Ginny Creamer. I really appreciated reading about this band that not many have gotten to know. I have personally listened to their music, and they're amazing. They deserved recognition, and that article was sure to help them out significantly.

*Kendra Eaton*  
*Freshman*

**Dear Editor,**

This is a good article on Truancy. Truancy is an important topic and it needed to be addressed. In my opinion, only seniors should be allowed the ability to leave school grounds, and if you're not 18, then you should just get a form from your parents that allows you. If you do not return then you should have to face consequences. You shouldn't have to stay in school all day and students should get a bit of responsibility.

*Anthony Goggans*  
*Senior*

**Dear Editor,**

I read about the wrestling section and how they had come from city districts to going to state regionals, and I know that can be hard because it takes a lot of hard work and dedication as not only a single person, but as a whole team. I just really liked all the details and facts. They really grabbed my attention and made me want more. I just wish it could have been a little longer and you could have added some other players, especially some freshmen.

*Rhyan Moore*  
*Freshman*

**Dear Editor,**

I read the "Evolution of Sagging" comic by Paul Vallier, and I think it is inaccurate. Don't get me wrong, it was funny and whatnot, but it made me think about sagging history. I think that the timeline of events from 2005 to 2035 is somewhat backwards. With music as an example, if you look at any major Rap or Hip-Hop song from 2005, most of their pants are by their knees. A 2015 Hip-Hop/Rap song however, most of the time their pants are too tight to even pull down. That being said, shout out to Paul for the funny comic but the accuracy is off, not that it matters that much anyways.

*Roe Warner*  
*Junior*

**Dear Editor,**

I read "Norrix Wrestling team Journey From Districts to States," by Scott May. I enjoyed that this article was personal for May. I enjoyed reading about May's story and thought it was great that he added Brady James to it. He didn't just make the article about himself. I also like how his mom gave a quote and another family member of his took the picture. One last thing I thought was good was that he explained all the wrestling lingo, and didn't expect people to know it.

*Deborah Williams*  
*Sophomore*

## CONTINUATIONS

### FOR-PROFIT FROM PAGE 15

how little students get out of attending for-profit colleges. Why should a person pay more for a college that only seems to hurt them? All these studies point to one direction, if a student attends a for-profit college, they are paying much more money for fewer job opportunities and a higher chance of dropping out. These studies aren't statistical anomalies either, they are nation-wide studies conducted by multiple institutions at different times and they all come to the same conclusion, for-profit colleges aren't worth it.

In 2012, senator Tom Harkin, Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee released a 1 thousand page report on for-profit education.

"In this report, you will find overwhelming documentation of overpriced tuition, predatory recruiting practices, sky-high dropout rates, billions of taxpayer dollars spent on aggressive marketing and advertising, and companies gaming regulations to maximize profits. These practices are not the exception -- they are the norm; they are systemic throughout the industry, with very few exceptions," Harkin said.

One of the most notorious examples of illegal activity comes from one of the largest for-profit college chains, Corinthian Colleges Inc.

According to an investigation conducted by WFAA news, a Texas television station, this chain

used incorrect statistics about job opportunities to convince students to take out large loans. However, this wasn't the first problem that Corinthian faced. After failing to send the required financial statements, Corinthian was delisted from the NASDAQ, stock exchange and the California Student Aid Commission announced that it would no longer give grants to CCI students.

After this, Corinthian was forced to close down 14 Everest (a company owned by Corinthian) campuses in Ontario in February. This left approximately 24 hundred students saddled with student loans without a college to attend. These students have a chance to apply for a refund or credit transfer, but as of February 2015, nothing is set in stone. However, this isn't to say that all for-profit college programs are bad. For-profit colleges do not have any entrance requirements and for a person that had no intention of initially going to college, this can be a godsend. For-profit colleges also have flexible schedules, so a person with a job will be able to retain that job while getting an education.

For-profit colleges offer counseling and guidance for student loans and financial aid. These colleges say that they make these difficult tasks easier, which is true. These colleges have recruiters trained in helping students. However, these colleges use incorrect statistics to trick students into spending massive amounts of money while the students get little in return. The many scandals surrounding for-profit colleges is proof enough that this type of education needs much more oversight than it currently is

receiving. Hopefully future regulation will make for-profit colleges more reliable institutions.

### SELF-ESTEEM FROM PAGE 16

be assured that there are people like them, people who have gone through what they have gone through, and people that know their potential.

Most recently in LGBTQ teens media, "The Fosters" featured a kiss between Hayden Byerly (Jude Foster) and Gavin Macintosh (Connor Stevens). This event made history as the youngest same-sex kiss on television. This could've done wonders for LGBTQ citizens, making them see that there are people going through the same problems as them.

"Women, people of color, and LGBTQ people of all shapes and sizes should have representation within children and young adult media in order for children and YA to be not only more accepting, but to know that there isn't one set beauty standard," said Norrix senior Valeria Montero.

Everyone needs to be represented in the media as it gives basic dignity to all humans and shapes a better adulthood.



# THE TRADE OF TALENT FOR AN EDUCATION

Andrew**Streitel**

To young and upcoming athletes in high school, college sports look like a great time. You meet new friends, play the sport you love, and follow your dreams. However with all the time college athletes put into the sport, many people think that they should be getting paid to play in college.

There has been a lot of debate about whether or not college athletes should be getting paid to play. The NCAA, the governing body of college sports, makes six billion dollars a year, and the colleges and universities themselves make millions off their athletes.

For example all of the top five college football teams make over \$100 million per year with Alabama taking first with their total revenue of \$123,769,841. There is a big debate that the colleges are making so much money on the players that the athletes should receive some of that money. According to CBS Sports the average college football player is worth \$178 thousand; however, the student athlete does not see any of that money. The huge amount of money being made off college sports has led some to



Seniors, Malyk Thomas, Paige Blinkiewicz, Eddie Gillon and Austin Thompson sign their forms to play collegeate athletics. **Photo Credit / Andrew Streitel**

question whether student-athletes can be considered amateurs any longer or should they be paid for their efforts.

“The colleges make so much money off of the athletes they should receive some of the profit,” said senior prospect Eddie Gillon.

On the flip side, the argument can be made that the opportunity to both receive an education and get the exposure to win a major professional contract is enough for the college

athlete.

“They shouldn’t be paid to play because they are getting paid for their college education,” said Athletic Director Andrew Laboe.

The NCAA has many restrictions on colleges with what they can and cannot do with future recruits and players. Recruiters cannot take recruits out to dinner or pay for any expenses they might have in college. Ohio State’s football team was under investigation

because of random people were giving the players free tattoos and gifts. The NCAA has very strict rules about how colleges should handle their athletes, and they are not looking to loosen the restrictions anytime soon.

There are many opinions on whether or not college athletes should be paid. However there are some things that colleges can do to help the average athlete with the struggle of having spending money in college. “[Colleges should] pay for their books, transportation, meal plans and give them priority to on campus jobs,” said senior and Adrian College football commit Malike Thomas.

College athletes struggle to find a source of income in college with all the time they have to dedicate to their respective sports. College athletes do not have time to have a job and if they do have the time, it is very hard to work full time while in college.

The verdict is still up in the air about whether or not college athletes should be paid for their performance on the field. It could take awhile before we see the NCAA change the rule regarding paying college athletes.

**FROM MULTIPLE PAGE 6**

“When we went there [the Invitational], we were known. There were people who came up to us, and they knew we did Multiple because we all dressed alike and we were all matching,” unior Multiple team member Savonna Rush said, “But I remember somebody asking ‘are you guys ‘Carrie’?’ (Portage Central’s Multiple piece) and we were like ‘no we’re ‘In the Heights,’ and they were gasping because they heard so much about us.”

With the end of the forensics season, Multiple chapter ended on a high note. The schools all around Michigan have recognized Loy Norrix High School for their achievements in forensics.

“In the Heights’ I believe has changed the game. Honestly after the State’s performance that we did, we’ve been told that we have changed lives, we’ve impacted a lot of people,” junior Multiple team member Sidney Ellis continued. “Loy Norrix and forensics across Michigan is not going to be the same after this season.”

**FROM CANDLELIGHT PAGE 15**

these special ceremonies happen in the first place. Candlelight was first around as a senior awards ceremony and as time went on, seniors wanted juniors to be involved as a “passing of the torch” to the younger generation.

The literal passing of real life flames using candles became a fire hazard and wax problem. Following that, fake candles with batteries were used which led to damage and theft of school property. Finally came the glow sticks and they were abused once again.

Students now a days want to make sure they are remembered in the worst way. To make their mark on Loy Norrix, students believe it takes rebellion. But students can make a bigger impact on Loy Norrix if they try to change it for the better.

“I want to protect your ceremony, that your ceremony does not go down in infamy, I would love for your ceremony to be beautiful, I think we’re going to keep the light alive,” said McKissack.

collects plastic to be recycled and Peace Jam hosts a trash cleanup event every spring.

“It’s all about not just practicing but educating our students to become stewards of our environment and be consciously caring,” said Young.

Along with recycling, LN also has other characteristics which contributed towards becoming certified. Norrix has motion detecting lights to save energy and a wetland right outside the school which collects runoff and filters matter before going into the Kalamazoo River. These two things as well as many others were included on our application. There are ten school districts within Kalamazoo County and out of all the schools, only three are certified Green including Loy Norrix. Receiving a Green School certificate means LN continues to rethink the school’s actions so as a community, they can be environmentally conscious.

The act of receiving this certificate from Michigan Green Schools is not just for the sake of wanting the title of being a Green school, but it has a stronger meaning.

“I don’t think a lot of people know that we are a certified Green school but they should. It’s great that students take the time and energy to help our school and our Earth,” said senior Cassidy Haan.



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**FROM GREEN PAGE 1**

“I talked to officials to get this club started. I set up meeting dates, got a team, then we got to work,” said Camarillo.

Several other organizations at

Norrix contribute to being a Green school such as the National Honor Society which collects and recycles paper throughout the school every Wednesday. The Recyclizers club



# CHANGE WITHIN KNIGHTS FOOTBALL

Nick**May**

Changes aren't always bad, as we are seeing in our football program. For many years now the Knights football program has not been very successful, in fact the Knights haven't had a winning season in 16 years.

The new head football coach Jason Porter is looking for not just a change, but the change for success. You see here at Loy Norrix the football program is given no respect, not only from opponents but the school itself, the number of players is low as well as the fan base which Porter is looking to change.

"The main change I want to make is to bring back the pride, loyalty, integrity and support of the Loy Norrix football program," said Porter.

Porter is a Kalamazoo native, attending Hackett Catholic prep during his high school days. With the background of growing up in Kalamazoo, Porter has great faith in Loy Norrix having the knowledge of all the talent within the school.

"I grew up in Kalamazoo and have a lot of pride towards where I grew up," said Porter.

Some challenges the program may face is academics, as well as the perception and attitude of the program. Porter wants to do more than just implement a great passion for football upon the players, but to also be a productive member in society. He believes being educated is a necessity, and a major goal of his is to

be sure all players understand the importance of education and their participation within society.

Porter also want to take challenges head on changing the perception and attitude of the program, if his plan is successful it will form into a championship caliber program, a team that is looking to win conference, district, regional, and state titles. However the participation supports from the students fans, and players is a crucial aspect in order for it to work.

It all starts with youth football. If you have already implemented the attitude you want in your football program at a young age, it will not be a challenge when coming into the high school level. A successful, and positive experience as a kid is also very important to inspire students to continue playing and working hard in order to succeed.



Junior quarterback Traver Parlato takes a snap against Mattawan. This game was on October 10th and was also senior night for the football team. **Photo Credit / Jordan Liddle**

Porter plans to incorporate his offensive and defensive system into the middle school and hopefully the rocket football programs as well. This is necessary so that upcoming Norrix football players will know the system well before entering high school.

Many of the players are looking forward to the season and are already beginning to see the changes.

"I'm excited about the energy he is bringing and is putting a winning mindset into our heads," said junior quarterback Traver Parlato.

For some, such as Parlato will be participating in his last year of high school football and are looking to end their high school career on a good note. A winning season would mean a lot to the seniors, and the program itself.

Taylor**Timmerman**

## FUTURE SOCCER COACH ENFORCES COMPETITIVENESS



On May 13th, at St. Joseph High School, the women's soccer team lost to St. Joe. Coach McKenzie is pictured just to the right of junior Grace Labadie (#12).

**Photo Credit / Ashtyn Kenbeek**

Loy Norrix men's soccer team has invested in getting a new soccer coach. The new soccer coach, John McKenzie, has already been the women's soccer coach for seven years. He is also a math teacher at Portage Northern

Senior Czoey Hohler has been on women's varsity team for four years and she couldn't ask for a better coach.

"He's an amazing coach because he tells you what you do wrong, then tells you exactly how to fix it," said Hohler.

Hohler remembers a specific time when she crossed over with her left foot and then the coach pulled her over immediately to tell her to use her right foot.

Junior Jesus Zuniga, has been on men's junior varsity team for three years, and he's excited to see what the new coach will bring to the table.

"I'm hoping he can deliver us a better season than these past two years," said Zuniga.

Junior GK Wells has been on the men's varsity team for two years and he can't wait for a new year of hard work.

"Come next year with a mentality that's ready to win every game," said Wells.

According to McKenzie, he believes that over the course of the past seven years, he's transformed the women's soccer team into being a more competitive team overall. One way he accomplished this, is by not letting a player participate in a game until they have reached a certain height in the pacer test. His first plans with the men's soccer team is to make them more competitive team every time they play.

"We've got nowhere to go but up," said McKenzie.



# Q+A WITH JORIAH FLEMING

Jordan Liddle

Loy Norrix senior Jorjah Fleming has written over 200 songs, performed in multiple musicals such as “Footloose,” “Sweeney Todd,” and “Urinetown.” He has also written many of his own musicals like “Dream,” and “Underdog.” Fleming also has his own album called “Alive” with twelve original songs. He also taught himself how to play piano.

“When I was younger, I only knew how to play one part of a song, so I just played that one part over and over again and my parents would get so annoyed. I remember my mom got mad and told me I had to learn another part of the song because that’s super annoying. I got so mad, so while my parents were at dinner I learned to play the rest of the song, just so when they got back I could play it,” said Fleming.

That sort of determination and drive has carried on throughout Jorjah’s life. Next fall, Fleming will be attending Western Michigan University to major in Musical Theater. He was admitted in the program after a long audition process.

“For a long time I was convinced I wanted to be an OBGYN, just because I thought I had to make a lot of money, I didn’t know it was okay to do something in musical theater. Sophomore year was when I began thinking of what I was going to do,” said Fleming.

Fleming auditioned for “Young Frankenstein” and soon after realized that he didn’t want a part in this musical, which was really hard for him to decide because it would have been the first musical at Loy Norrix that he would not perform in. He also had a hard time with this decision because he felt that others would ridicule him because they would think he quit just because he did not get the part he wanted, but there were other factors weighing his decision.

This decision to not perform helped him because he had the time to write musicals that led to him finishing “Underdog,” which was performed at the Little Theater on Western’s campus in April.

