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KNIGHT LIFE

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KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN LOY NORRIX HIGH SCHOOL

LOY NORRIX CURB APPEAL IS ABOUT TO INCREASE

Carsten **Strand**

Loy Norrix High School has been open since 1961. For fifty-four years, thousands of students have circulated through these halls, along with thousands of teachers, custodians, lunchroom staff and security guards. While the culture and society within the school has changed wildly since 1961, the constant common denominator for all of these teachers and students has been the school building. Finally, after years of small refurbishing projects during the summer, KPS has slated Loy Norrix as the next school in line to receive major updates.

At a KPS school board meeting on Feb. 16th a plan was presented by two representatives from Tower Pinkster, a design firm based out of Grand Rapids. KPS has worked with Tower Pinkster previously to design three new school buildings: Prairie Ridge Elementary School, which opened in 2008; Linden Grove Middle School which opened in 2009; and the new Washington Writers Academy, which opened in 2015. This time, the Tower Pinkster officials presented a major renovation plan to upgrade the exterior of Loy Norrix.

The report plans to replace 65 thousand square feet of windows and wall systems, and ninety-two exterior doors. This means that every single exterior window will be replaced and the new ones remounted. Every teal wall panel that adorns the outside of Loy Norrix will be replaced, possibly even re-colored. All of the exterior doors will

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CURB APPEAL FROM PAGE 1

be replaced, and door jambs repaired. All of the anodized aluminum frame will be replaced with insulated aluminum frame. The insulated frame will help to solve one of the greatest issues with the infrastructure of Loy Norrix, heating.

The cost to heat Loy Norrix high school is astronomical. According to Kip Davidson, the Energy Educator for Kalamazoo Public Schools, it cost KPS \$411,119.75 to heat Loy Norrix during the 2014-15 winter. Loy Norrix is already a large building, but because of how spread out the school is and the overabundance of windows, the building is even harder to keep warm through the winter months.

Every exterior window at Loy Norrix is single pane, and the new upgrades will make the windows double-pane. Double-pane windows are not only much better at keeping the heat in, but much sturdier and more secure than the current windows. These new upgrades aim to insulate Loy Norrix through the winter months for a lot less money than the school currently pays.

The new windows will also provide a new level of security. The windows may be one way windows, so that you cannot see into the school. The windows will also be stronger and be less prone to breaking.

English teacher Anne Lewis

believes that the windows on Norrix perfectly reflect the soul of Norrix.

"We need to feel connected to the world around us, and the windows reinforce that idea. They were an integral part of the design when Norrix was first built, and all the future updates should try and stay true to the original design of the school," said Lewis.

This major renovation comes with a pricetag. An estimated \$5.5 million dollars will be taken out of the 2013 KPS bond for this project.

Some people are still in need of some convincing when it comes to these upgrades. Sophomore Jordan Cox is one of these people.

"I think that it's a good idea to replace the windows, seeing as one is broken every week or so. I just don't think that updating the exterior is incredibly necessary. Wouldn't just simple insulation fix that without having to change the entire look of the school?," said Cox.

It is still unclear whether the upgrades will include a color change or not, but when the district released a survey to students, parents and community members, there were three options. Norrix could keep its current teal colors or make the transition to navy blue or white.

Future KPS students will also be excited to hear that the school board has approved a move to use \$1.3 million from the 2013 bond to upgrade

the wireless networks at not only Norrix but at the two other KPS high schools and at all four middle schools.

This 2013 bond has allotted \$11.6 million dollars in total to technological upgrades. The upgrade will be partially funded by a federal E-Rate program. The E-Rate program aims to reimburse non-profit K-12 school systems for upgrading their telecommunication systems. KPS has been awarded over \$4.7 million in E-Rate funding since the federal program was created in 1996. That money was used in most part to bring KPS into the 21st century with computers, projectors and large wireless networks.

Junior Erika Wagoner thinks that the Wi-Fi upgrades are a necessity.

"When we took the SAT's, we had a lot of problems with connecting to the Norrix Wi-Fi. We had to do the M-STEP on computers and laptops, and the Wi-Fi was just not working at all. We had to move around the room and find the perfect place so that we could get connection. It pushed back everyone's testing time,"

Now, these exterior upgrades are not set to begin until the summer of 2017. Tower Pinkster and KPS plan to use 2016 to collect feedback and general public opinion on the upgrades. So far, they have distributed a survey to gauge student and staff opinion, and plan to reach out to the greater community through surveys and questionnaires before construction

begins.

A common fear among current Norrix students and alumni is that the new changes will taint the history of Norrix.

"I don't like them changing the color. The colors are very reflective of the the time period that the school was built in," said Lewis.

At the school board meeting, Carol McGlinn asked for an estimate on how much it would cost to build an entirely new high school. Jim Ross of Tower Pinkster responded that current estimates sit in the range of 35 to 40 million dollars.

Lewis finished, "We can't just build new things all the time, we need to take care of the things we have. We have this wonderful building, and we should continue to take care of it,"

Loy Norrix will soon look sharper, newer, and function at an even higher technological level. It will cost less to heat Norrix, and the level of security will increase. Norrix will never change in terms of its communal impact, but everyone's view of the school from the curb is about to become a lot more positive.

Photo from page 1: Eva DeYoung walks into Loy Norrix after returning from KAMSC. DeYoung likes the teal on the exterior of the building.
Photo Credit / Carsten Strand

Congratulations Loy Norrix Class of 2016!

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TRAGIC BOMBING DEVESTATES BRUSSELS



Illustration / Taylor Krupianik

Meghan Lewis

On March 22, 2016, 30 people died and 260 were wounded after the bombings at Zaventem airport and Maelbeek metro station in Brussels. Authorities issued a level four attack canceling all flights in and out of Brussels. Zaventem Airport and Maelbeek Station were then evacuated and closed to gather evidence of who

was responsible for these attacks. The timeline of the day moved fast as authorities took action. MSNBC reported the timeline of the events as follows:

At 7:55 a.m. three suspicious people were seen pushing luggage through Zaventem airport after getting out of a taxi. At 8:00 a.m. gunshots were heard in the airport. Less than a second later another explosion was heard and chaos broke out. Forty

minutes later the explosions were confirmed and the area was evacuated.

Explosions were reported at Maalbeek Metro Station at 9:10 a.m. and the system was closed minutes after. French President Francois Hollande held an emergency meeting with government officials at 9:27 a.m. Thirty-three minutes later the decision was made at this meeting to shut down all public transportation. This included streets, cars, buses, trains and flights going in and out of Belgium. Two hundred twenty-five troops and 16 hundred police officers were dispatched to monitor Brussels at 11:30 a.m. followed shortly after by an announcement from the Belgian federal prosecutor confirming that the attacks had in fact been terror attacks.

ISIS took credit for the attacks by saying, "Islamic State fighters carried out a series of bombings with explosive belts and devices on Tuesday, targeting an airport and a central metro station in the center of the Belgian capital, Brussels, a country participating in the international coalition against the Islamic State," according to the ISIS-affiliated Amaq news agency.

"It's definitely a tragedy and all of Europe is sadly being targeted," said junior Aidan Merritt.

Europe should become more prepared and be more coordinated with the attacks. ISIS is starting to focus

more on terror attacks in western cities, specifically in Europe. This is different from ISIS's original goal of territorial domination in the Middle East.

ISIS targeting Europe endangers the refugee population because they are being sought out by recruiters. ISIS is able to recruit soldiers easily by taking advantage of popular apps and hacking into them. Popular apps such as WhatsApp, Skype and Viber are used to communicate to purchase weapons and fake ID's. These are then used to enter countries by ISIS terrorists without detection. Currently, 78 ISIS channels have been shut down on these apps. Lastly, the number of younger recruits is growing by the day. They are more impressionable and expand quicker than adults.

After the attacks in Brussels, the home of NATO is not going to back down in their fight against terror. The victims of the attack, came from all over including Belgium, Colombia, Peru, France, Germany, Britain, Hungary, Portugal, Romania, Spain and the US. Police say the task of identifying the dead in the attacks was slowed by the violence of the explosions and because there were so many foreigners. The victims who were identified are still in the hospital and recovering.

One month after the attack, Zaventem Airport has been reopened while Maelbeek Station remains closed.

LOY NORRIX STUDENT RECOGNIZED AS FINALIST FOR NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP



Dean of Students Chris Aguinaga and Principal Rodney Prewitt give Koichi Anderson his certificate for being a finalist for the National Merit Scholarship. He has been working since his sophomore year to achieve this goal. **Photo Credit / Jordan Brown**

Jordan Brown

Loy Norrix senior Koichi Anderson, has had the high honor of being recognized as a finalist for the National Merit Scholarship.

"When I went to Milwood Middle, there was a group of us that felt like the math class that we were in was just too

easy. So we worked with the counselors and principal to have an independent study so that we could delve farther and faster into math," Anderson said.

In four years at Norrix, Adam Hosler has been Anderson's only math teacher here at Norrix.

"I had Koichi when he was a

freshman," said Hosler. "He was in my AP Calculus class. He was obviously very gifted. He kept to himself a lot though. Not that he was anti-social, but when you are the only freshman in a sea of seniors, it's a little intimidating."

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) recognize, and honor, academically talented students of the United States.

Anderson has had a minimum of a 4.0 GPA all through high school and has been enrolled in dual enrollment courses at WMU since the 10th grade. His main focus is math.

"I took a two part math course. It was a five thousand level course, so it was really high up there. There were a lot of people in there that were in graduate programs," said Anderson.

As far as college is concerned, Anderson has applied and been accepted to Michigan. He has also applied to Columbia, Harvard and Princeton. He remains hopeful that he gets accepted into Columbia or Harvard as Princeton has rejected him. Anderson remains hopeful, but he recognizes that those the colleges are

very selective about who they accept.

"It's nice to get the recognition," Anderson said. "It's nice to see all my hard work pay off. Getting the certificate and being publically recognized as part of the top one percent of high school seniors is great."

Anderson didn't really set getting the scholarship as a goal for his high school career. He knew about the scholarship from teachers and took the PSAT to start the process, but he didn't keep it in his mind the whole time.

"I don't hyper focus on studying. I'm on the baseball team, and I volunteer when I have the chance. Focusing on school hasn't consumed my life," said Anderson.

Despite all this success, Anderson doesn't like to call himself a perfectionist.

"I don't like to tell myself over and over that I have to get A's. I like to have a normal life. Having said that though, it is great when I do get them." Anderson continued "I like the challenge. I think that it drives me to do better."

SEE NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PAGE 12

THE RISE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SIGNALS HUMANITY'S DOWNFALL



The field of artificial intelligence is rising in popularity and depth. However, its rise could signal humanity's downfall at the hands of a smarter entity. **Photo Illustration / Mitchell Rockwell**

Mitchell **Rockwell**

Artificial intelligence (AI) exists all around us. Generally speaking, artificial intelligence is both the level of intelligence of a computer and a synonym for any technology that uses human-like thought to operate. AI powers our phones, it tags our photos, it runs our search engines and keeps our data safe while we sleep at night. However, AI's rise as a technology spells our doom.

Hollywood has known AI is dangerous for a long time. Skynet from the Terminator series, the robots from "The Matrix," the Cylons from "Battlestar Galactica," Maria from "Metropolis," HAL 9000 from "2001 A Space Odyssey;" every portrayal of AI in movies and television sees evil machines looking to destroy humanity. There's a big scare with how fast artificial intelligence is growing because machines are improving so quickly that in the next few decades they might leave the human race behind when their intelligence surpasses ours. What if, when artificial intelligence machines become smarter and better than us, they decide to take control?

In the coming decades, artificial intelligence will become as commonplace as televisions and smartphones. AI will drive us to work, show us where to buy our luxury items and take our coats as we walk through the door after a long day at work.

For all artificial intelligence will

do as a consumer product, the real revolutions in daily life will arise from its use as an industrial product. Artificial intelligence will assist the healthcare industry in providing research and making breakthroughs in medicine. AI will guide Fortune 500 companies to financial success through analyzing the financial aspects of business. In the coming decades, AI will even unite electronics and create the internet of 'things,' where the AI in your phone will talk with the AI in your Wi-Fi, the AI in the lamppost outside, the AI measuring the crop growth on local farms and the AI in Washington D.C. keeping tabs on your stocks. No humans needed.

While artificial intelligence will completely change our daily lives and routines, the creation of a computer able to think on the level of a human brain will be humanity's greatest innovation. However, if machines learn to be independent, there's nothing to say it also won't be humanity's last innovation.

Recently, artificial intelligence reached a milestone in its development. Lee Sedol, "one of the greatest human players" of the Chinese board game "Go," competed in a tournament with AlphaGo, a computer system designed by a Google-owned research group base, and by March 16th "had lost four of five rounds to the AI," according to the website Wired's article 'In Two Moves, AlphaGo and Lee Sedol

Redefined the Future.'

This development wasn't predicted to occur for decades, and the machine's victory is hailed as a milestone marker.

Google, Facebook, Twitter, International Business Machines (IBM) and other multi-million dollar companies use AI in almost all of their entertainment products, from recognizing people in your Facebook photos to driving search engines. Talk into your smartphone? A neural network translates your words into text. Tag a picture on Facebook? A neural network finds faces based on general facial features and matches them to previously tagged photos.

For all AI does now, its growth will see personal devices like smartphones, computers and televisions replaced. In response to the victory of AlphaGo recently Google Chief Executive Officer Sundar Pichai wrote on the official Google blog, "Looking to the future, the next big step will be for the very concept of the 'device' to fade away. Over time, the computer itself—whatever its form factor—will be an intelligent assistant helping you through your day. We will move from mobile-first to an AI-first world."

There are massive plans for the future for artificial intelligence, and many see the upcoming technological revolutions with AI development as the largest steps in the history of humankind.

In fact, as the United Nations Chief

Information Technology Officer Atefeh Riaziy told TechRepublic, "artificial intelligence will be humanity's final innovation."

However, big names like Microsoft's Bill Gates, Apple's Steve Wozniak, Elon Musk, the chief executive officer of SpaceX, Tesla Motors and cofounder of Paypal, as well as physicist Stephen Hawking all came forward to sign a letter warning that artificial intelligence can potentially be "more dangerous than nuclear weapons."

"Humans like to control things that aren't as smart as them. My concern is what would a machine do if it were smarter than humans? Would it follow our footsteps?" said Loy Norrix senior and KAMSC student Eryka Swank.

The fact is, when true artificial intelligence rolls around, it will likely quickly supersede us with its speed. Human minds are dynamic systems, able to change and improve, and an AI won't need to sleep or have an urge to laze about.

If artificial intelligence reaches the level of human thought in the next few centuries, many believe these independent, self-improving robots would likely recognize their advantages over humans and wish for control. What sounds like a science fiction plot could become a dark reality if machines became too advanced. Or, as Dr. Nils Nilsson, a professor emeritus at Stanford University, explained to Techcrunch.com in the article, 'Exploring the risks of artificial intelligence,' "Machines will be singing the song, 'Anything you can do, I can do better; I can do anything better than you'."

In fact, as the past director of the Artificial Brains Lab in China's Xiamen University, Dr. Hugo de Garis, told Russia Today, "[...] once these 'artilects', artificial intellects, artificial brain, once they reach human level of intelligence, and I predict that's probably just a matter of few decades away from now. Once they achieve it, then they would start modifying themselves [...] Once they start designing themselves, God knows what direction they will go in, because they're the boss, and if they decide that human beings are a pest and decide to wipe us out - then for human beings, not only will it be the last thing we invent, it's the last thing we do, and that's scary."

Artificial intelligence is an exciting, rising field, but its growth signals both an ascent in our understanding of how we function as well as our descent as we pave the road for a better, electronic "us."

PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT HELPS STUDENTS GAIN INDEPENDENCE



Junior Austin Root works at Lee's Famous Chicken part-time. Root has been working there for nearly a month. **Photo Credit / Jonnie Palone**

Jonnie Palone

Money in your pocket and the sense of growing out of being a student to becoming an adult is what after school jobs are all about. As high schoolers, most of our responsibilities revolve around our education. One in four high school students 16 years and older eventually take on the responsibility of a part-time job, according to the United States (U.S.) Census. There are plenty of reasons students get jobs and luckily, there are a lot of local places that hire teens. Students with jobs have less control over their free time and tend to be more organized.

Drue Burkey, a 17 year old junior

at Loy Norrix, has worked as a grocery bagger for over 10 months at Harding's Friendly Market on West Main in Kalamazoo. Burkey, having a high school job since sophomore year, knows the ropes.

"Having a job, I spend my free time more wisely and I'm better at planning stuff. Having free time makes me appreciate it more. Once you get a job you don't have as much free time," said Burkey.

Austin Root, a 16 year old junior at Loy Norrix, works at Lee's Famous Chicken because of how close it is to where he lives. Root has a different perspective of his job since he's only been working for about a month. This is Root's first job and he works around 10 to 20 hours per week.

"Starting my first job was overwhelming at times, but it's pretty easy to catch on and they're lenient. They know you have to learn at first. My first day was pretty overwhelming because they show you everything quickly, but it's easy to adapt," said Root.

Starting a first job has its pros and cons. After being employed for a certain amount of time, it makes an impact. It can affect a person's personal and school life. Root got a job for the same reason as many, independence and

extra cash. Along with advantages of working as a high school student, there comes sacrifice.

"Having a job negatively affects my schooling. I don't have time to do homework, and when I work late, it makes me tired at school the next day," said Root.

Burkey works on average 16 hours per week, that's close to a full day of his free time. With that in mind, students with jobs must balance school with work which can be challenging for those with more demanding academic commitments.

Although a job may take up some free time, it can still help with school in many ways.

"Having a job positively affects my schooling because it gives [me a] good work ethic," said Burkey.

"There are many other reasons having a job can positively affect high schoolers. It can teach responsibility as well as time management" explained Burkey, "two important characteristics of being successful in high school."

Students get jobs for different reasons, but just like Root for a majority of students, it's for the extra cash.

"I have a job so I can learn to be more independent. Along with it comes my car, more freedom and money so I

can pay for gas," said Burkey.

When you're comfortable in your routine schedule, finding a job can be a hard new experience for some people. Students often go job hunting together in hopes of working with their friends to make the job less awkward and have more support. When first becoming an employee, it will take time to adjust and get into the routine of having a job.

"I chose Harding's because I knew the manager. My first day was really awkward because I didn't know anyone else, and I hadn't ever had a job before," said Burkey.

Just like starting anything new, becoming familiar with a job takes time even if it isn't someone's first job. All jobs have their own advantages and perks that an employee should take into consideration when choosing where to work. Most jobs offer employee discounts; for example, a fast food restaurant may offer employees free food as an incentive, and working for a toy store can offer employee discounts. Grocery store baggers and restaurant servers get tips from their customers.

"I once got a 10 dollar tip for a carry out," said Burkey.

All employees look forward to the

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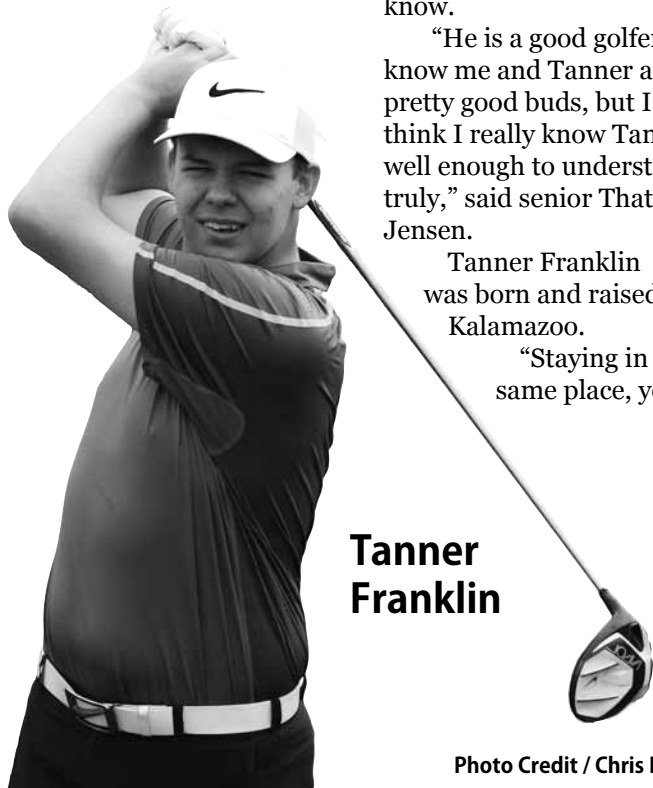
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THE MAN BEHIND THE GOLFER: TANNER FRANKLIN

Chris Hybels

The Tan-Man, Tan Frank, T-Frank, Tiger, the list goes on and, dare I say, goes on even further. Senior Tanner Franklin is arguably the most recognizable student here



Tanner Franklin

Photo Credit / Chris Hybels

at Loy Norrix High School. However, many do not know the man beyond his career as a golfer. Franklin is like a good book, underneath his paperback cover, there is a story many people do not know.

"He is a good golfer. You know me and Tanner are pretty good buds, but I don't think I really know Tanner well enough to understand him truly," said senior Thatcher Jensen.

Tanner Franklin was born and raised in Kalamazoo.

"Staying in the same place, you

get to know everyone [and] get to socialize with the same people," said Franklin.

Franklin currently lives a bachelor lifestyle and works at Milham Park Golf Course, a short walk from Loy Norrix. Franklin has worked at the same golf course since he was 14 years old, climbing up the management ranks. He currently runs the registration counter for people looking to play a couple rounds of golf. He predicts though that by the end of the season, he will be managing and closing the pro shop up.

Franklin said he handles the stresses of being a student, employee and golfer by mixing the fun with the professional work.

Like many teenagers, Franklin has also struggled with a caffeine addiction, the drug, or beverage in this case was Mountain Dew. Franklin started when he was a young child, consuming anywhere between two bottles (or a

Speedway 44 oz) a day.

Senior Joe Fette, a classmate of Franklin's since seventh grade, noticed and grew concerned about his friends usage of the vile substance.

"It's like he is drinking acid. How long before his teeth fall out?" said Fette.

Perhaps the most devastating part about his dependency on the sugar filled soda was the infliction of harm upon himself.

"Mountain Dew was holding my golf game back," said Franklin.

As a replacement for the Dew, he stays clean and hydrated with water. He explained how he was inspired by the new Nike Golf ideology of "training like an athlete." This single notion from a company that sponsored his golf idols, Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy, would change his life for the better.

According to "STACK," a magazine for the modern

athlete, "Water transports oxygen and nutrients throughout the body," which transfers to a better performance on the greens.

An added benefit to giving up the Dew is he now has more funds to purchase more golfing equipment. He also said he feels healthier since quitting in early 2016.

Franklin has been playing golf since an early age and told a story of one of his first and worst experiences.

"I was playing mini-golf and I fell into the water twice," said Franklin. "I was standing near the mini bridge and in order to avoid getting a penalty stroke, I stood near the water. After taking a putt, I lost my balance and fell back-first into the water. The second time was just not learning from my previous mistake of standing too close to the water."

Franklin's career also includes an impressive win in the hot summer of 2014,

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SENIORS REFLECT ON HIGH SCHOOL MEMORIES

Taylor Krupianik

It's finally 2016 and here at Loy Norrix High School most of our seniors are preparing for graduation. Since June 9th is getting closer, seniors are becoming more emotional because of the realization that high school is coming to an end.

Between preparing for graduation, trying to attend all the last high school festivities, and starting orientation at the colleges of their choice, students enjoy looking back on some of the memories from the past four years.

Dakota Lee

"My four years at Norrix was nothing short of a wild rollercoaster. When I came to Norrix I was the new kid. I knew nobody but my cousin. I settled to Norrix quick, but I made a lot of mistakes. Skipping class, not doing work, getting in trouble and I started to hate Norrix. When my sophomore year was over [or] I didn't think I'd graduate on time or even at all. I debated on leaving Norrix, but

I decided to stay and actually try to see if it got better. When I went to class and did my work and passed everything I started to see the good side of Norrix," Lee continued.

"If you actually see your counselor and talk to them whether it be serious or just small talk in the hall, they will try their hardest to make sure you graduate. My four years at Norrix have been

the worst days of my life but also my best. I love this school for what it is, and I'm proud to be [a] Knight."

There are some seniors that struggled during their four years in high school. It may have been due to family problems or illness, however that didn't faze them from trying and working as hard as possible.



Emma Barker

"My freshman year was okay, my mom had been diagnosed with cancer during that time so it was hard to balance school and trying to help her out. I kept trying though, even though I wasn't doing as well as I could've," said senior Emma Barker. "Sophomore year was really rough, on January 22nd my mom had passed away from a blood infection due to unsterilized needles at the hospital. I couldn't focus on school because of that."

After that Barker didn't care about anything school-related because she didn't see it as a big deal. Then during junior year everything started to go downhill for her. She was diagnosed with

anxiety and depression and stopped coming to school and tried to end her own life. However she came back this year as things have started to improve for her.

"I went back to school this year though, I haven't gotten a grade under a B. I'm actually trying to make friends, study, and I finally got my life back on track. I decided to work my way up to being a psychologist. High school can be super rough, but with the right help and resources it'll be somewhat easier to get through," Barker continued. "The four years go by very fast, and some days may feel like they drag on, but it really zooms by. Some days you try to think back on some things and it's hard to remember what all had happened that year."

Andrew Samuelson

Senior Andrew Samuelson moved to Norrix last year from Springfield High School located in Springfield, Illinois. He has since then made a connection with Norrix.

"Norrix is my home and I am glad and super proud to be a knight and to fight for our school on the swim team my junior and senior year. Once a knight always a knight. Overall, I loved my high school

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Alex Lutz and Kate Puca slow dance to Justin Bieber's, "Sorry." They stare into each others eyes as they dance under the purple lights on the dance floor. **Photo Credit / Jordan Brown**



Senior Luis Juarez dabs at Crane Park. Many students went to Crane Park to have pictures taken before prom. **Photo Credit / Jordan Brown**



Senior Megan Zabik and junior Lena Wood dance together during, "Stay With Me." They are longtime friends. **Photo Credit / Jordan Brown**



Senior Roe Warner breaking it down to "Work" at prom. He prefers rapping to dancing. **Photo Credit / Jordan Brown**



Seniors Dawn Hendrix and Brooke Washington pose for a picture on the red carpet. They went to prom as friends. **Photo Credit / Jordan Brown**



Senior Zoe Branson and Quantre Jennings arrive at prom in the famous Banana car. Both have very eccentric personalities, so pulling up to prom in the Banana car made sense. **Photo Credit / Jordan Brown**

HOME LIFE VS. THE DORM LIFE

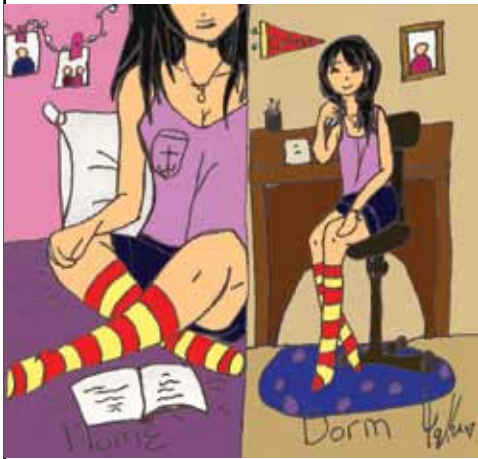


Photo Illustration / Taylor Krupianik

Cindy Bravo

Choosing a college and trying to figure out where to live after high school is really important for a senior. Some students go away, while many choose to stay home. One reason why someone would stay home is to save money. Saving money is very important, especially for those students who don't have the Kalamazoo

Promise. Without having funds, living at home is one of the best options.

"I chose to stay home for my first year because I'm not ready to live on my own, it's very inexpensive and I like to save money," said senior Alisabeth Shigwadja, who will be attending Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

Other than saving money, there are many perks of living with your parents. Home-cooked meals, no major bills and no annoying roommates.

"There is always a place to do laundry. You don't have to worry about paying room and board, you will always have a home cooked meal," said Shigwadja.

Staying at home gives the opportunity to save money and pay off student loans. There will always be distractions everywhere you go, but being at home helps you avoid these things.

"I would recommend other students to live at home if they can't support living by themselves. I feel like there is a lot of pressure to move out

and I think that it's ok if you don't," said Shigwadja.

According to the website Pew Research Center, 36 percent of the Millennial generation from ages 18 to 31 are living with their parents. But like those students who are staying at home, there are also those who are moving away from home and going into dorms.

Living in a dorm can be good for some students. You experience the real college life by getting involved with your school and making friends more easily.

"College is one of the few times to move far away without the normal confidences. I don't have to worry about finding a job or an apartment. I can work for the school through work study which makes it easier," said Loy Norrix senior Cori VanOstran.

She will be one of the 48 percent of students attending Michigan Technological University in the fall who live on campus or college owned buildings according to the website

UsNews.

"I wanted to leave. I really missed the outdoors and seeing the stars. Michigan Tech which has the education and environment I want. It's actually really good for my health being in a more rural area and I'll have more things to do outdoors. I'm excited to be mostly on my own. It's a trial run of being an adult and being away from my family," VanOstran continued,

"I'm a little bit nervous. I have health issues because my family has always been there [and] I haven't been able to really learn to deal with it on my own. But I'm excited to learn how to deal with it on my own. It's a life skill I know I would not get if I stayed home and I'll be able to develop good life skills being away from physical support system," said VanOstran

Students are becoming young adults and need to make responsible choices for their future and one of them is debating on whether or not to stay home or leave.

GRADUATE DEFERS COLLEGE FOR HER CAREER



Senior Isabella Cowles is rehearsing her dances the Kalamazoo Ballet dance studio. She is planning to practice daily to prepare herself for the Alabama Ballet. **Photo Credit / Hannah Lane-Davies**

Audra Penny

As May arrives, seniors are finalizing what their ideas are for what they plan to do after high school. While many intend to sign up for summer orientations and dorms, one senior has the unique opportunity to be a part of the Alabama Ballet.

Senior Isabella Cowles was offered an apprenticeship under the Alabama Ballet in February. The Alabama Ballet began in 1981, and is focused on "the development of classical and

contemporary ballet through high quality performances, dance education and community outreach."

The apprenticeship that Cowles has been offered is a one to two year program that allows her to be taught by the artistic directors Tracey Alvey and Roger Van Fleteren, who are famous for being in big ballet companies. Cowles also does everything that a company member would do but without getting paid.

After taking some time to think about it, she accepted the apprenticeship shortly after.

"[I chose the Alabama Ballet] because it's a really great starting point for me," said Cowles. "It is a little bit smaller than the bigger dance companies, and when I went down there for my audition, I noticed they were all really close to each other, and they wanted to help each other and make their art beautiful together. I loved that."

After the apprenticeship, the company decides if they want to offer her a job with them or not.

"If I get into the company, I'd plan to be there around three to five years, and then when I've built up my strength enough, I might try to venture out and see if I can fit in some bigger companies," said Cowles, "I'm never going to stop looking up."

Since Cowles has accepted to be

part of the Alabama Ballet, she has decided against going to college for a few years while she pursues her dancing career. However, she does plan to go to college after she is done dancing.

"Once I find a career with the Alabama Ballet, then when I come back, I will go to the University of Michigan so that I can use the Kalamazoo Promise. [However], if I don't really find a career with that company, which I highly doubt, I know Butler [University] has one of the best ballet programs, so I'd want to go there to get a better chance of being in the ballet world," said Cowles.

Although Cowles has made the decision of deferring college for the time being and accepting this opportunity, there is a sacrifice she has to make in order to prepare for the apprenticeship.

"I have to be down there the Monday after we get out of school on June third for the summer intensives, which are classes that will strengthen and get me prepared to dance full days, and graduation is that Thursday," said Cowles, "I would really love to graduate and walk across the stage with everyone, and although I'm not very happy about it, it's the sacrifice I have to make to continue my training and prepare for the fall."

Besides missing graduation, Cowles

is excited for the experience as an apprentice.

"They gave me an opportunity when bigger companies wouldn't as willingly, and I think it's going to be a good start for me," said Cowles.

Cowles will be performing in the following shows this upcoming year:

"At Home"
September 23rd-25th & September 30th-October 2nd, 2016 at Alabama Ballet Center for Dance.

"Bonnie & Clyde"
October 28th-October 30th, 2016 at Dorothy Jemison Day Theatre at Alabama School of Fine Arts.

"George Balanchine's The Nutcracker"
December 9th-11th & 16th-18th, 2016 at Leslie S. Wright Fine Arts Center Sanford University.

"Giselle"
February 17th-19th, 2017 at Leslie S. Wright Fine Arts Center, Sanford University.

"Ovation Featuring Twyla Tharp's 'In The Upper Room'"
April 6th-9th, 2017 at Dorothy Jemison Day Theatre, Alabama School of Fine Arts.

“SENIOR GLOW UP” Q&A



Brooks Eisenbise

What would you tell your freshman self?

Don't care so much about what other people think of you. Make time with friends a priority and learn to relax.

In what ways have you changed since starting high school?

I've become less hard on myself and I have learned not to be scared of what others think of me. I stopped comparing myself to others and I'm much more confident in who I am.

What was your favorite time at Loy Norrix?

I really enjoyed being in pit band my freshman year. When we performed "Sweeney Todd," it gave me a great sense of community and it was a lot of fun.

What helped you through this transition?

The friends I made in middle school and at Norrix have been my rock throughout high school. How well I was doing in school or how popular I was didn't matter to them. It's been nice to have a few close friends I can do anything with and talk to.



Max Offerman

What would you tell your freshman self?

Lose the glasses, nerd.

In what ways have you changed since starting high school?

My mentality has completely shifted and improved in so many aspects. I'm a happier, more confident person.

What was your favorite time at Loy Norrix?

There was one winter formal that had a good DJ; that was the only dance at Norrix I enjoyed.

What helped you through this transition?

Always thinking about what I can do to improve.



Taylor Krupianik

What would you tell your freshman self?

Don't slack off! Some days I would slack off and other days I would be right on everything, but the slacking off outweighed everything else.

In what ways have you changed since starting high school?

I started to become more aware of the people around me and not trust everyone like I used to because most people stab you in the back. You see less good in people than you did before.

What was your favorite time at Loy Norrix?

Sophomore year I had the best memories! Me and a small group of friends would hang out. One time me, Donovan, Desirae and Michelle all hung out and went to Pizza Hut, ate some pizza and then went to the trails. It was a lot of fun.

What helped you through this transition?

I've had a few friends that have been by my side, but mostly I've just gotten through it by myself.



Sabi Nieves

What would you tell your freshman self?

I would tell my freshman self to keep your head up, you won't always be made fun of for how you look.

In what ways have you changed since starting high school?

I'm a lot more confident now. I used to hate how awkward and weird I was, but now I've learned to just embrace it. I used to be so "straight" and now I'm not.

What was your favorite time at Loy Norrix?

Homecoming senior year hands down! There was so much positive energy around me, and I had so much support from my friends and just the school in general. Everyone important in my life was right there by my side too. It was just a good feeling to see everyone cheering me on and rooting for me.

What helped you through this transition?

My best friends and my mom. They were there for me when I felt like I had nobody else. They helped me be brave enough to be myself in front of anyone. They pushed me through all the hard times. If it wasn't for them, I wouldn't be here today.



Suzy Avidan

What would you tell your freshman self?

I would say that blowing off my responsibilities for more free time was paid back to me by so much avoidable stress and it wasn't worth it all.

In what ways have you changed since starting high school?

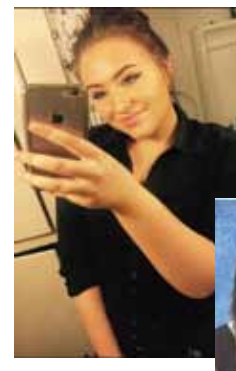
I've changed a lot. I'm a girl now. I don't really want to go into detail about the bad side of transitioning because it's pretty much what you would expect: anxiety, being frequently uncomfortable, and dealing with awful people basically sums it up. However, putting up with all of that negativity is worth it. Every single time that someone, whether it be a close friend or a stranger, refers to me as a girl, it honestly makes me so happy.

What was your favorite time at Loy Norrix?

My senior year! I've met so many interesting people and I've participated in so many fun things, none of which I would have gotten to do if I stayed the same person that I was my freshman year.

What helped you through this transition?

My girlfriend, Lily, and my best friend, Robbie. Both of them have shown me so much love and support. They have given me so much that no matter what I will always be grateful.



Desirae Douglas

What would you tell your freshman self?

Just have hope because it gets better. Also, do not let what people say get to you.

In what ways have you changed since starting high school?

I've become a lot more confident, and I have learned that your real friends will be there through it all. All the little side comments and rumors about you do get really frustrating. They can bring you down quite a bit sometimes, but they mean absolutely nothing.

What was your favorite time at Loy Norrix?

My favorite time at Norrix was the beginning of senior year because it was so exciting to be at the beginning of the end and looking forward to prom, the senior trip, and graduation.

What helped you through this transition?

I kind of found my outlet in makeup. It helped me a lot as an outlet. Learning new things, techniques, products, and how to make myself look different. It was like a stress reliever. I found my passion, and now I'm a month away from being licensed in the field of cosmetology.

A QUICK OVERVIEW OF THE CLASS OF 2016

ZachMason RubyHensley

With the end of the school year rapidly approaching, yet another class of seniors prepares to continue their education elsewhere. Knight Life distributed a survey that asked seniors to reflect back on their favorite moments of high school and to give their future plans. While not every survey was completed seriously, or even completed at all, (in fact, several became paper airplanes that were then thrown around the cafeteria) we recieved enough useful feedback to compile an analysis of the class of 2016. All the information represented below was taken directly from the surveys.



FAVORITE MUSICIAN

- 1. Drake
- 2. Taylor Swift
- 3. J. Cole

FAVORITE SHOWS

- 1. The Office
- 2. The Walking Dead
- 3. Friends

FAVORITE MOVIES

- 1. Deadpool
- 2. Avengers
- 3. Finding Nemo

SENIORITIS

A common problem that most graduating seniors share is finding the motivation to finish out the school year. Affected by preparing for college, stresses about graduation, and just general laziness, this condition is often referred to as “senioritis.” According to our survey, 94 percent of the graduating class has reported a case of senioritis, ranging from brief slip-ups in grades to complete loss of motivation to finish the school year. When suffering from a case of senioritis, the most important key to recovery is to keep your goals in sight and to remember that no matter how close you seem to the finish line, you still need to cross it.

SENIOR ADVICE FOR INCOMING CLASSES:



“Have fun but remember that school is still important.”

- Maddie Olech



“Be patient when Mrs. Pringle won’t open the door for you, even though you can hear her right on the other side.”

- Owen Brenneman



“Take AP classes. Get involved in sports, clubs, anything [extracurricular]. Attend school events and don’t be afraid to make new friends.”

- Megan Zabik



“Don’t look people in the eyes. They take that as a challenge.”

- Jake Link



“The food sucks, and don’t go into the K-wing bathroom. Don’t fail your classes like a dingus.”

- Tajanae Lewis

FAVORITE TEACHERS

- 1. Ms. Bowser/Lewis (below)
- 2. Ms. Pringle (middle)
- 3. Mr. Allen (bottom)
- 4. Ms. Pankop
- 5. Ms. Holmes
- 6. Mr. Greeley
- 7. Ms. Larner



COLLEGE DESTINATIONS OF THE CLASS OF 2016*

Western Michigan: 18	Albion: 2
Michigan State: 10	Hope: 2
KVCC: 8	Eastern Michigan: 1
Olivet: 8	Andrews University: 1
Michigan Tech: 7	Wayne State: 1
Michigan: 4	Northwestern Michigan College: 1
Grand Valley: 4	Muskegon Community College: 1
Kalamazoo College: 3	Kellogg Community College: 1
Northern Michigan: 2	Out of State: 2
Central Michigan: 2	Out of Country: 1

*The numbers shown are compiled only from the surveys completed. These numbers do not reflect the complete statistics of the class of 2016.

MOVING ON: SENIORS PREPARE TO LEAVE THEIR ATHLETIC STAGE

KendraCurtis



In the top photo, Marjorie Wolfe, senior at Loy Norrix High School, starts her soccer career off at age 5 with the AYSO soccer program. In the photo below, she ends her career with the Loy Norrix Women's Varsity Soccer Program.

Photo Credit / Deanne Puca

It's a Friday night and the sun has already hidden itself behind the cheering crowd. Sweat runs down your tired face as bright lights illuminate the field, your version of a stage that you've been performing on since you were a freshman, maybe even longer. Every last ounce of energy that's left inside of you has been used up, making it so that your team is ahead of the opposing team. Finally, the buzzer goes off for the last time or the last out is made.

Your team has won the last game of your senior year and you hear nothing but cheering and yelling and maybe even crying coming from teammates, coaches and family you've been with for years. After a little bit, your stage is empty and the lights switch off, everything's quiet. For some, the sport doesn't end with this last game. They've already signed to future colleges and are getting ready for the next season in college. Yet for others, that last game, that last win, is truly the end of their ongoing performance.

"It's bittersweet, I'm scared of not playing in an organized sport but at the same time, I'm excited for the free time that I'll have" said Jake Link, a senior at Loy Norrix.

Since he can remember, Link has loved and given everything he could in order to play basketball. He has been a part of the Loy Norrix Men's Basketball

program since his freshman year at Norrix. While he's sad to no longer play the organized sport he's put so much time and effort in, he sees it sort of as a refresher.

Marjorie Wolfe, also a senior at Loy Norrix, has been playing soccer for 15 years (since she was three). Wolfe has been a part of the Loy Norrix Women's Soccer program since she was a freshman. While she was on the junior varsity team her freshman year, she proved her skills and began playing for the varsity team her sophomore year.

In high school, there are about 102 thousand student athletes that play soccer their senior year. Only about 5.5 percent of these students go on to play NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) level in college. The percentage of these high school students that will continue on to pro is only 0.07 percent.

When seniors start looking at colleges, there's a lot that goes into the choice making. With student athletes, they have to also factor in whether or not they want to continue on with their sport. This variable has a huge impact on what college they choose to go to.

"When looking for where I wanted to go, soccer wasn't my priority, academics were," said Wolfe.

SEE MOVING ON PAGE 19



In the top photo, Jake Link, senior at Loy Norrix High School, starts his love for basketball at home, at the age of 3. In the bottom photo, Link ends his career with the Loy Norrix Men's Basketball Program.

Photo Credit / Kristy Link

Photo Credit / Kristi Johnson

NATIONAL MERIT FROM PAGE 3

I also don't think that it's that hard honestly. If you really just put your mind to it and focus on the process of it, it's all the same all the time," Anderson said when asked about why he chose to pick math as his main focus.

As most high school students, Anderson doesn't have a crystal clear idea on what he wants to do with his life.

"I don't really know what I'm going to do. I know that I am going to study math in college, but past that I'm not sure," said Anderson.



KALAMAZOO SOCCER CLUB

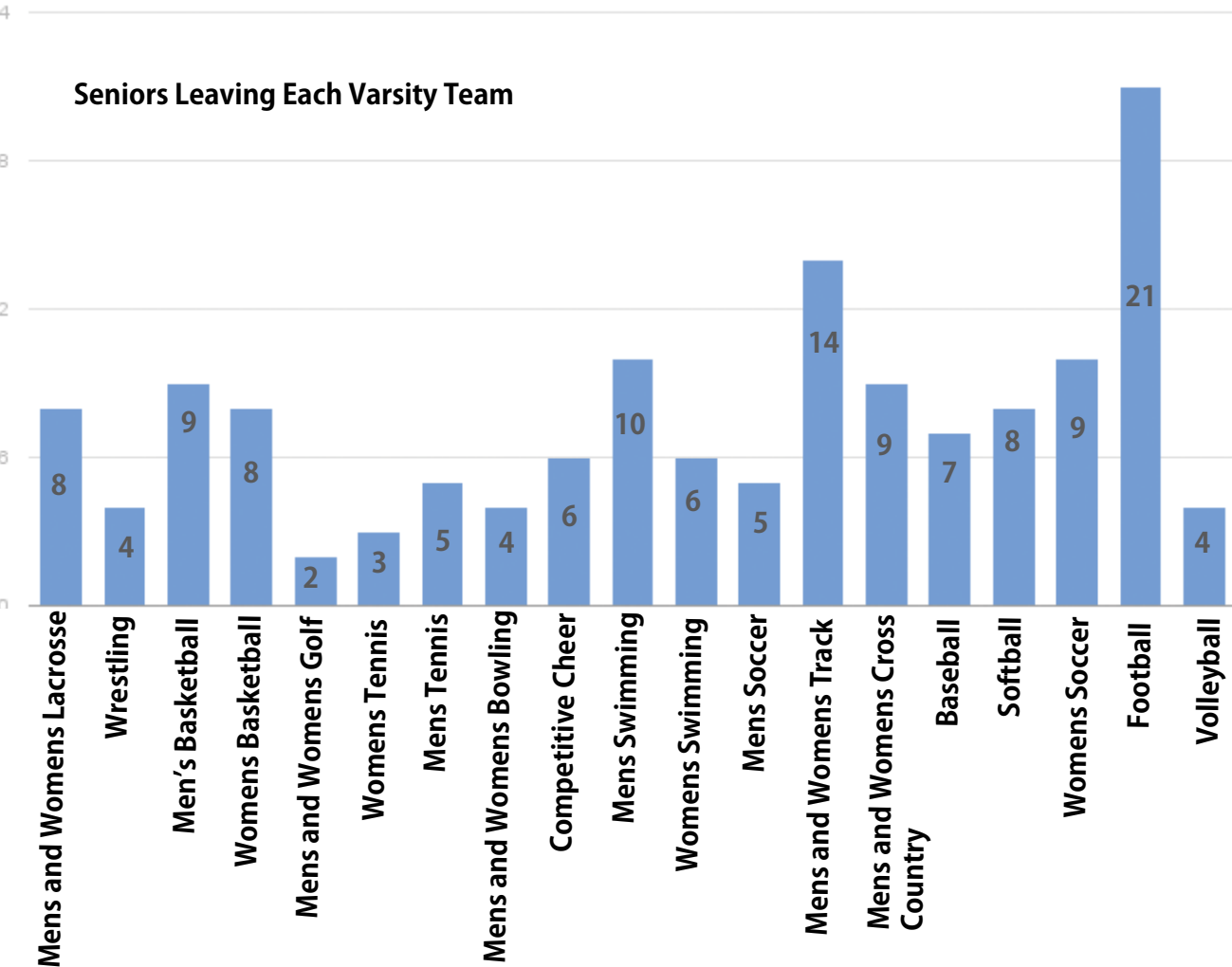
wishes all Loy Norrix teams a successful Spring season! Victoria per Scientiam!

Don't miss KSC try-outs on JUNE 18th!



For try-out info, visit www.KalamazooSoccerClub.com

SENIOR ATHLETES LEAVE WITH STRIKING RESULTS



Paul Vallier

Every year high school teams lose a core group of seniors and plan to fill the positions with younger players for next season. Here at Loy Norrix, there are shoes left behind by the 2016 class that will be hard to fill. With nineteen college commits the class certainly has dominated the last four years.

“This class is the best I’ve seen in my time at Loy Norrix, and that goes back to 2004,” said athletic director Andrew Laboe.

Nearly every sport has had commitments and will lose some of the best athletes in the history of Loy Norrix. However it is up to those younger athletes to take what they have learned from those seniors and fill their positions.

A major key to the class of 2016 is their profound leadership, and Laboe agrees, saying that “a big impact will be made because of the good individual leaders among the class of 2016.”

Just by looking at overall records among teams you couldn’t tell that the 2016 class has been exquisite, but when broken down into an individual level the results are amazing. Senior athletes have broken records and achieved great accolades. Examples include the basketball team’s two district championships, Traver Parlato breaking the career passing record in football, Nick May’s back-to-back state finalist for wrestling, or even the successful seasons by the women’s soccer team.

With these successful and dominant athletes comes a new garnered sense of respect. Loy Norrix has not always been respected by other local area high school sports teams, but the current crop of seniors have reignited that respect within the community.

“It’s the beginning of change, Norrix has produced many outstanding athletes, though there is still a lot to prove,” said senior athlete Nick May.

Through great leadership and offseason work, the 2016 class has truly made an impact on Loy Norrix as a whole, with great people and even greater athletes. The ability to believe in success has grown in four years.

“We have definitely made a positive impact. Kids are realizing the potential they have and want to reach their full potential,” said May.

The 2016 class has made memories and will be remembered by the classes that will follow. Hard work, dedication, and the great personalities of the senior athletes are what made the last four years memorable. It happens every year losing senior athletes, but the class of 2016 will truly be missed.

TOP 5 ACCOMPLISHMENTS BY THE 2016 CLASS

- 1.) Traver Parlato becomes Loy Norrix All Time passing leader.
- 2.) Men’s basketball with two district championships.
- 3.) Steven Finley breaking the record for the 100 meter breaststroke
- 4.) Nick May back to back wrestling state finalist.
- 5.) In 2016 alone, the senior class has 25 All Conference athletes.

FROM EMPLOYMENT PAGE 5

can make a job a better experience for an employee. Sometimes just changing things up may make the job more appealing for them.

When Root originally started working he was on dish duty and cooking food. He was moved because his bosses thought he would be better up front as a cashier, his current position.

“The best thing that happened to me was when I got put to a different position and didn’t have to cook food or do dishes anymore. I looked more like an upfront person that’s basically what they said,” said Root.

He is now working on the register. Root is new to working but has an open mind about his job. Although he only sees it as temporary employment as most high school jobs are.

“Keep a really positive mindset when you’re working, it’ll help you in the long run,” said Root.

There are many considerations and changes to think about when deciding if you want to get a job or not. If you’re not yet eligible for a job, there’s a lot to plan and think about.

“Get a job, the money’s worth it,” said Burkey.

MEMORIES FROM PAGE 6

years and couldn’t say I regret anything. Live life to the full[est], and I think I achieved that throughout high school. My advice is not take for granted your youth, you only have one time, and if I could I would totally go back and relive it,” said Samuelson.

Senior year is the year everyone looks back on when remembering their experience as a high schooler. The seniors have had some fun times and gotten through some tough times. It’s only natural when you run into an old classmate that you will start to reminisce on the old days. High school is a bittersweet time; you’re ready to go, but not ready to leave.

FRANKLIN FROM PAGE 6

where he won the Junior Golf Association championship by four shots. This was his biggest accomplishment at the time.

When asked about his political opinions, he declined to comment.

His advice for people aspiring to be just like him is simple, “No matter what you are doing, you can always get better,” said Franklin.

“Sometimes when I think about my future, I imagine following the footsteps of Mr. Franklin,” said senior Ian Colburn- Jaynes. Colburn-Jaynes had the pleasure of working with Franklin in a class his junior year.

Franklin’s aspirations includes teaching young children the game of golf through The First Tee program this summer. First Tee mission is to instruct kids with life lessons, and also golf skills. A noble and heart-worthy cause that Franklin will be able to lead and will have the opportunity to share stories from his own life to the next generation.

Tanner Franklin plans to attend Western Michigan University next year and pursue a bachelor’s degree in engineering. He also plans to continue his golfing career, despite the fact that WMU does not currently have a men’s golf team.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT ART PREPARES STUDENTS FOR THEIR FUTURE



Senior Luis Morales put his interest in shoes into his art. **Photo Credit / Makenna Sandt**



Senior Chi Zhang shows "Deer." Zhang's concentration revolved around watercolor. For this piece she tried to combine watercolor and nature together. **Photo Credit / Audra Penny**



Senior Greg King shows one of the pieces he completed this year. King will attend Kalamazoo Valley Community College after graduating. **Photo Credit / Makenna Sandt**



Senior Khari Witcher tries to promote unity with his art. Witcher's concentration was based on diversity. **Photo Credit / Audra Penny**



Senior Jeremy Frey shows "Gel Pen Skull." Frey thought it would be cool to try to create a skull for this piece. **Photo Credit / Audra Penny**



Senior Brooke Washington shows "Jelly." Washington wanted to challenge herself in AP Studio Art Portfolio this year. **Photo Credit / Audra Penny**



Senior Mayeesha Nayeem shows one of her paintings of Sleeping Beauty. Nayeem created this piece for her concentration which was based on fairy tales. **Photo Credit / Makenna Sandt**

Makenna Sandt

As the days pass and get closer and closer to the deadline, AP Studio Art Portfolio students feel the stress of finishing their artwork. They start at the beginning of the year on their portfolios that they submitted in May. The artwork they submit will determine if they receive college credit for the class or not.

Student artists feel the uncertainty when they send their art into the college board. Will the judges like their work? Will the judges understand their work? Will they receive college credit for their work?

Instead of taking an exam, AP Studio Art Portfolio students work throughout the year on their portfolio.

"It's a concentration. You have to have twelve pieces for 2D [art] and eight pieces for 3D [art] and it's due at the end of the year," said AP Studio Art

Portfolio student and senior Brooke Washington.

AP Studio Art Portfolio students start the year with experimenting. They experiment with different styles to figure out what their focus is going to be for their portfolio that will be scored. Most students need all year from September to the first week of May to put their portfolio together. Although AP Studio Art Portfolio students do not work on their portfolios everyday.

"We don't work on them every single day. That gets boring. I usually take breaks and work on something else different, so I can come back to it and have that break," said Washington.

AP Studio Art Portfolio is different from AP classes such as AP Calculus or AP Language and Composition because there is no written test. Students have to prove what they can do through only

their artwork in portfolios.

Art Portfolios are scored on their use of design elements, originality, imagination, risk-taking, technical competence and the overall accomplishment.

"It's not a curriculum, there is no book," Washington continued, "I think it's the hardest AP class because there's no right answer. It's based on a panel of judges, not a book or test."

Art students can earn a fine arts college credit by getting a three or higher on their portfolio.

Schools that require a three on the AP Studio Art Portfolio in Michigan are Western Michigan University, Grand Valley State University, Olivet College, Michigan Technological University,

SEE AP ART PAGE 19

“YOU ON POINT PHIFE?” HOW OLD SCHOOL RAP INFLUENCES MUSIC

Ruby Hensley

Driving down the highway with the windows rolled down, you hear a familiar bass line sliding out of the speakers in your car. The wind screams through your hair, but the sounds of the unknown song pull your ears back to the radio. The old-school beat, jazz samples and simple, yet witty rhymes pull you in. You find yourself stuck in an auditory daze in a matter of minutes. This is what many rap and hip-hop groups of the 80s and 90s did for the past few generations.

Although you may not have heard their music, Phife Dawg (also known as Malik Izaak Taylor) and his fellow bandmates, Q-Tip and Ali Shaheed Muhammad, made waves in the mid to late 80s with their deeply sincere lyrics and their artistic sound. These aspects quickly became the overarching symbol of their group, “A Tribe Called Quest,” and ranked them among many of the pioneers of hip-hop and rap.

With the recent passing of Phife Dawg on March 22, 2016, many people are reliving their younger years spent listening to him and his group.

“[“A Tribe Called Quest” was] a huge cog in my musical upbringing,” said Isaac Turner, History of Rock and Roll professor at Kalamazoo

Valley Community College. “I got the first Tribe Called Quest record out of nowhere in 1991, I think, and it blew my head wide open. I loved what little rap that was on the radio in small-town North Dakota at the time... but this was like something from another planet entirely.”



Album artwork for “Midnight Marauder”

However, some millennials are only just recently getting involved in the music of the 80s or 90s, as not all of them personally grew up with the music. There are many similarities with musicians of 2016 and those in the 80s and 90s, which makes older music so much more compelling to younger generations.

“I think that with the development of new technology that allow us to be

able to create music in a more futuristic way is what has moved [the music industry] forward,” said sophomore Alex Smith. “The production back [in the 80s] definitely has its own style and taste that’s unique as well.”

“Hip-hop is, by far, the most significant cultural development in the western world in the last 200 years,” said Turner.

Smith has what he considers to be a pretty extensive taste in music, ranging from, although not limited to jazz, funk, hip-hop and rap. What he finds most interesting about “A Tribe Called Quest” in particular is their ability to hand the mic over to more unknown artists.

““A Tribe Called Quest’ has been a huge influence on the hip-hop world ever since they came out with their first few albums,” said Smith. “They brought a lot of artists into the public eye, like with Busta Rhymes in their song ‘Scenario.’ I feel like they’re a really influential group.”

Some millennials have been well-informed in old-school music, such as senior Luis Lara. “A Tribe Called Quest” is what he considers to be his first step into the old-school rap and

hip-hop realm.

“When I first started listening to hip-hop, I started listening to A Tribe Called Quest, and I collected all their vinyls,” said Lara. “I’ve been listening to them even more now that Phife Dawg’s dead.”

Lara believes that the words of Phife Dawg are some of the most influential in rap history.

“He was a little man with a big message,” said Lara.

Rap and hip-hop from the past few decades has vastly changed, however, there are new artists that are bringing back the dynamic, no-nonsense feel of the past. Artists like Chance the Rapper, Kendrick Lamar, and MIA have sought to make rap and hip-hop the new Rosetta Stone. Simply put, these artists are paving the new way to expand the voice of the people, similar to how artists like A Tribe Called Quest, De La Soul, and KRS-One had done.

“Hip-hop is, by far, the most significant cultural development in the western world in the last 200 years,” said Turner. “The roots are deep and twisted and complex.”

KANYE WEST: THE LIFE OF PABLO REVIEW



Album artwork for “The Life of Pablo”

Luis Juarez

“The Life of Pablo” is the 7th studio album from the hip-hop artist Kanye West, released February 14, 2016. It consists of 19 tracks and accomplished mostly positive reviews.

“Mr. West, he’s becoming more arrogant, but I still like him and TLOP,” said senior Alex Esquivel.

As the release of TLOP came about, the album went through many phases and delays during production such as album name changes -like “Waves,” “Swish,” and “So Help Me God”- release dates, track listing, and mixing

and finalizing the tracks.

TLOP’s release was different compared to West’s previous six albums as TLOP was only available to Tidal, a music-streaming service owned by hip-hop artist Jay-Z. Due to Tidal not wanting to hand over its streaming data to Nielsen ratings, TLOP did not chart or feature on the U.S. Billboards.

Gloriously, the album opens with the song “Ultralight Beam” featuring Chance the Rapper and Kirk Franklin. It’s a powerful song in the way that it features a mighty church choir singing the lyrics. In the song, Kanye gives his condolences to the parents and victims of the Paris attacks and refers to life as being “a god dream.” If you’re more into the old school College Dropout Kanye West then this track will give you positive vibes as this track is different than the rest. It will give you that goosebump feeling and make you look towards the “Ultralight Beam” for a better tomorrow. This song is slow, spiritual and gospel heavy.

Tracks 2 and 3 are “Father Stretch My Hands” (parts 1 and 2), featuring hip-hop artists Kid Cudi and Designer.

The 1st part starts slow, the synthesizer comes in, you hear Future’s uncredited ad-lib, and then after that the song kicks off. This song will uplift you with Cudi’s hook, “beautiful morning, you’re the sun in my morning babe, nothing unwanted.”

The second part of “Father Stretch My Hands” is more upbeat. You can tell when the 2nd part of “Father Stretch My Hands” starts because the slow start from part 1 is sped up in this track, you hear snares and then West comes in with a couple of lyrical rhymes.

Sub-genres of hip-hop/rap, such as trap, is a big influence on this track until the end. The song ends with the slow start again from part one, and then a robotic voice saying, “How can I find you? Who do you turn to? How do I find you?” West’s willingness to change things up, to alter and transform his music is seen all together.

Tempos like “30 Hours” featuring Andre 3000, is a good jam-out song if you had a long day at work or want to do some massive cleaning. In the 15th track of TLOP, West raps about

how he would drive 30 hours from Los Angeles, California to Chicago, Illinois just to go see his ex-girlfriend. It turns out his ex-girlfriend was cheating on him, yet West was still committed to seeing her. This track is probably one of the most upbeat of beats, yet the most detailed description of a part of his life story.

What happened to West isn’t right, but the instrumental is phenomenal. West took this song to the next level by using a sample by the late-music artist Arthur Russell. Where Russell says, “baby lions go, where the islands go,” West and his two producers Mike Dean and Karriem Riggins manipulated the “where the islands go” part to make it sound like he’s saying “30 hours.” It takes true craftsmanship to be able to pull something off like that and incorporate it into West’s TLOP.

West may get a lot of heat for being egocentric, but at the end of the day, people like him because he’s able to pull out the samples and get crafty like a pro making him a skilled music artist.

SEE KANYE PAGE 18

PERSONAL FINANCE SHOULD BE A MANDATORY CLASS

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Do you know how to pay taxes, set up a bank account, create a budget or take out loans? Probably not, but then again, it is not required for students to learn some of the most important life tools in high school. That is why personal finance should be a required class for all students.

In order to be successful and financially stable, you need to know how to manage your money. This is especially important for college students who need to budget their money and manage their loans, nevertheless there is no required class at Loy Norrix that teaches you these things.

Loy Norrix offers a non-required extra-curricular math credit called personal literacy finance. You learn how to develop a budget, calculate income and outcome, manage debt, file taxes, calculate salary, and maintain good credit. It also teaches more personal things such as, determining wants versus needs, choosing a career,

the importance of health/life insurance, and how to build a resumé. Since this class is not mandatory, many students do not learn this information in high school and struggle with it after they graduate.

"Budgeting wasn't something I had to do when I was living with my parents. Then after high school you are pushed into college and you have to figure it out, or you don't eat, and it's still something that I struggle with. There was no class like personal finance at my high school, so I didn't learn how to be practical with my money," said English teacher Paige O'Shea.

Teachers and students both agree that not everyone learns these important life skills and that it affects their life later on.

"Personal finance is more important than any other math class. I think it's the one class that students find the most relevant and they can relate to the most," said Loy Norrix math teacher Samantha Maxwell, who is currently teaching the course.

Loy Norrix requires college readiness, a class that is supposed to fully prepare you for college, but it doesn't. Most students take it their freshman year, so they don't remember the information when it's time to apply to colleges. It teaches you more about the experiential side of life, like

choosing your backup colleges, how to be prepared for balancing a job with school, and looking at future careers but it doesn't teach you everything. The rest of what you need to know, such as information about college and living expenses, the dangers of credit cards and how to get a job are all taught in personal finance.

"I took away the ability to understand my own finances for now and in the future. Every student should take it cause it's not just a class you will use in high school, it's a life long class," said junior Maggie Swafford, who has taken the course.

Since this is such an important class you would assume that it would be required. However, getting a class to be required is much harder than just complaining to the school board.

"Most of all the required courses are determined by state law. Then our school board interprets it, taking input from the local community and thinking about our college going culture, saying we should have that course mandated for graduation," said Christopher Aguinaga, the Dean of Students at Loy Norrix.

Personal finance is not required because it falls into a math extra-curricular category that is optional for seniors who don't want to take precalculus or AP calculus. It is a practical elective that fulfills the required senior math elective.

"The question of should we ever require [personal finance] hasn't ever been formally investigated by administration and by teachers. Personally, I think it is something that really needs to be looked at whether the concepts are required in that class or it is required that we incorporate them into another course," said Aguinaga.

Many students don't realize the importance of this class and don't think they will use the information later in life, until they get in the classroom and see how applicable it is. Every student needs to know how to be financially independent and the reality is that you will use the course curriculum throughout your entire life.



Illustration / Taylor Krupniak

KS

KNIGHTS SPEAK

Should Personal Finance be a mandatory class in high school?



Freshman Trent Curtis

I think it should be mandatory because everyone always complains how schools teach us everything but paying taxes.



Senior Kate Puca

No, because it should be a part of regular math curriculum.

THE ANSWER TO ENCRYPTION IS NOT UNLIMITED PHONE ACCESS



Jake Heasley

Imagine that you have a safe. But, this isn't just a normal safe, this safe is literally unbreakable for anyone who doesn't have a key. If a law enforcement agency wanted to open the safe, they couldn't blow it up, they couldn't pick the lock, they would explicitly need your consent or it would not open. This is the state of modern encryption technology and it has created a massive problem for law enforcement.

Over the past few months, the tech-giant, Apple has been in a conflict with the FBI over the phone of one of the San Bernardino shooters. For those who don't remember, the San Bernardino shooters were a married couple, alleged ISIS sympathizers, that killed 14 people and injured 22. Initially, a court mandated that Apple provide a loophole so the FBI could bypass the iPhone's passcode system. Apple refused, saying that the loophole would compromise their entire security system. This immediately raised questions about privacy and the ramifications that such a loophole would have.

The FBI's request was for Apple to provide a backdoor so the FBI could gain access to the shooter's iPhone. This backdoor would circumvent Apple's passcode system by ensuring that the phone would not erase its data after multiple failed attempts to gain access. This technology would allow the FBI to "brute force" its way into any iPhone it wanted.

There were many issues with the FBI's request. While the FBI initially said that the backdoor would only be used on one iPhone, Apple was then faced with nine more requests to unlock similar phones. This gave credence to those who believed that the FBI's demand would be a slippery slope when it comes to cyber-technology. While all nine iPhones were involved in criminal investigations, providing



Illustration / Taylor Krupianik

a backdoor to the FBI would be giving the government another way to illegally investigate citizens of the US.

Another issue with the backdoor is the threat of hackers obtaining it. If the FBI were to obtain the software necessary for unlocking the phone, it is inevitable that hackers would also obtain the technology. Whether someone hacked into the FBI to obtain the software, or they found it on their own, being able to access any iPhone would be catastrophic. The risk of leaking personal information or the threat of someone's identity being stolen would increase astronomically when hackers gained access to this form of technology.

This put Apple in an uncomfortable situation with other countries. If Apple were to give the U.S. this backdoor into iPhones, would they have to do the same for Russia and China? Russia and China are known for their more authoritarian forms of government and they may show a less altruistic attitude when it comes to spying on their populations than the U.S. This precedent that the FBI tried to set could potentially compromise every

iPhone on the planet. What about other companies? If Apple acquiesced to the FBI's request what about other companies like Microsoft? Microsoft, which has backed Apple, would be put in an equally bad situation.

However, the FBI says it has found a way to access the iPhone without Apple's help. While the details are still unclear, it seems like a third party has given the FBI a way to access the phone. It is unknown whether or not this software could be used on other phones, but we do know that the FBI has refused to give Apple its new technology. It's sort of ironic that Apple is now asking the FBI for a backdoor into its own iPhone but it raises an interesting question, "Should the government be required to disclose security loopholes to tech companies?" Apple obviously wants to patch whatever loophole the FBI is using and the FBI obviously wants the loophole to stay in place.

This question is incredibly complicated. Leaving a loophole of this nature open could potentially leave millions of people in danger of hacking or identity theft, but closing

the loophole would prevent the government and the police from getting vital information about terrorists and criminals.

These digital "keys" are immensely problematic for iPhone owners. Not only is there a very real possibility that hackers or other groups could obtain them, but this allows the government to get into any iPhone it wants, without any oversight from Apple or the American people. There are real issues with cyber-security and unbreakable "digital-safes," but the answer to that problem is not giving the government a master-key to every iPhone in the country.

Security vs. privacy will always be a problem in modern society; however, the answer to the problem is to limit the FBI from unlimited access to iPhones. Beyond that, this loophole compromises Apple's security system and potentially exposes people's personal information to hackers. This new loophole could be devastating for millions of people around the world.



Senior James Robinson

Yes, I think it should be a mandatory class because it's the only class that will help me in the future.



Freshman Marshawn Bell

Yes, I think it should because this is the time when you're supposed to become an adult. You don't need to be struggling.



Sophomore Sonota Davis

It should be a mandatory class because these are the skill sets for real life.

READING IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS: PUT DOWN THAT PHONE



Dagnija Tomsons

You walk into a restaurant with a huge line, surprised that your favorite place has a bunch of people here this early in the morning. The person behind the counter tells you the wait is twenty minutes max, giving you that look that all workers give when they think they know you won't wait that long for food. You decide to stay and wait, stepping back to find a place to stand or sit awkwardly. Do you take out your phone and surf some kind of social media page, or do you take out a book to read?

Phone people have their phone. You need that little thin rectangular box of plastic, glass and electronic parts to keep in contact with those important people. Though nothing's wrong with that. You would most likely

go to social media pages or play games when bored, right?

Book people tend to carry books with them if they know that they are going somewhere with a long wait. Often times, we feel lost if we don't have one on us and can become extremely bored. Rather than being bored, we bring out the paperback we'd tucked under our arm on the way in and begin to read from where we left off.

"I would be prepared with a book because then it doesn't seem quite as rude as when you're staring at your phone. I would much rather the person I'm with be reading a book than staring at their phone and I think the other person would probably prefer that too," said junior Kierra Grado.

Phones are addictive and provide many more distractions than a book in your hands, which is easier to put down versus your phone.

There are the options of having a kindle with you or books on your phone, which can be helpful in this case. Going freehanded without anything to weigh you down seems like an easier option. That's fine, it is your

choice. Though staring at a phone or screen for too long can produce a strain on your eyes and cause them to become dry as we blink less.

Think about the last time you picked up a book that you enjoyed. Is there something you wish to escape from right at this moment, but have nothing around you (don't you dare touch that phone) that you can use to submerge yourself from the reality of the world around you?

"No matter how much stress you have at work, in your personal relationships, or countless other issues faced in daily life, it all just slips away when you lose yourself in a great story. A well-written novel can transport you to other realms, while an engaging article will distract you and keep you in the present moment, letting tensions drain away and allowing you to relax," said Lana Winter-Hebret who wrote "10 Benefits of Reading: Why You Should Read Every Day."

Reading a good book has its benefits. It'll keep you equally distracted and entertained from that cellular device and the real world going on around you. With time and practice,

eventually you'll be able to block the noise around you as you get into that good book in your hands.

The only negative to reading is that you get connected to the storyline and the characters. If the author deems one single character's life useless, they will kill them off. You will very likely get mad at the author and swear never to read their books again, only to find yourself many days later checking out a different book written by that same author. It's just a price you'll have to pay for reading any single story written by someone who only wants their stories to be read, even if that means losing your favorite fictional character to a hysterical stalker with a knife.

Reading has its ups and downs in every aspect, but it's far more enticing than that cellular device. Picking up any book is just another beautiful story waiting to be read. So get out there, find yourself a good book and lock yourself in your room for an amazing adventure that is just waiting for your eyes to suck in every word on its yellowed or white pages.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I read "Teens Struggling with Attention-Deficit-Hyperactivity Disorder" and I thought of how nice it is to expose and explain something that not many people know about and believe if those that have it, they are immediately deemed as crazy. However, I would like to add that the term ADD is an outdated way to identify those solely with predominantly inattentive presentation. Also, I would like to recommend interviewing more than one person, even if you are close friends, I would like to see a more in depth description of the three categories of ADHD, instead of one small paragraph that barely manages to squeeze them in.

Junior, Montana Conrad

Dear Editor,

I read "An Astrological Change In Identity Shocks Everyone," by Caitlin Commissaris. The article itself was very well written and informative, but as someone with a tattoo of their original zodiac sign I have to say I disagree with the addition of Ophiuchus. It's almost ridiculous, astrologers expecting people to accept a new sign into their lives after being used to 100's of years of the same 12

zodiac signs. Personally, I relate to Taurus so much more than Aries and I'm not even as involved in the Zodiac as others!

Astrology can make up a part of someone's identity and changing that is like forcing a person to change their name. Many people, including me, won't accept this new addition.

Sophomore, Abigail Lindblade

Dear Editor,

I read "Loy Norrix Softball Commits Their Outfield to the Next Level." I really like the article because it concentrates on three specific players and the quotes of Ray Lohner highlight their skills.

I would like to see more about sports and specific athletes because I think they are an important part of Norrix.

Senior, Luisa Stock

Dear Editor,

I read "Illegal Immigration: An Unknown Key Role in Society" written by Vanessa Rodriguez and I really enjoyed [it]. I thought it was well written and she made great points. I learned a lot about my own ideologies on immigration and how wording plays a huge role in people's ideas on immigration. I myself am an

immigrant and it angers me that the U.S. government and their people love to use the word "illegal" so freely. It first confuses me how a human being can be deemed illegal. It makes no sense to me and I feel like it's been hasty generalization of all immigrants. Not everyone is "illegal" some of us just don't have the right papers yet. Overall, it was great and I hope many people take time to read it.

Senior, Sarah Giramia

Dear Editor,

I read the article "Practicing Intersectional Feminism at Loy Norrix." I think this article provides some much needed clarification on the definition of feminism. It clearly and precisely covered some feminism history that might not be as well-known. I liked that it did not shy away from what some might consider to be uncomfortable topics. I liked that [it] included what this club can [and] will do for the community.

I also believe this article leaves most readers feeling encouraged to learn more, or go to a meeting. I personally used to feel reserved about attending. Mostly due to doubts on whether or not the club would actually be able to achieve intersectionality. However, this article has made me

consider and I plan to renew my efforts to attend meetings.

Sophomore, Izzy Wikle

KANYE FROM PAGE 15

Some prominent tracks from TLOP are: "Waves" featuring Chris Brown, "Famous" feat. Rihanna, "FML" feat. The Weeknd, "Real Friends" feat. Ty Dolla Sign, "Wolves" feat. Frank Ocean and Caroline Shaw, "No Parties in LA" feat. Kendrick Lamar and "Facts (Charlie Heat Version)." These tracks stand out because they have meaning and when music has meaning, listeners enjoy that because it leaves them with a message that they can grasp on to.

For example, in "Famous" featuring Rihanna, West calls out Taylor Swift by saying that he made her famous. The statement West made about Swift is not true, but it did brew up a storm.

Foreshadowing the significance of "The Life of Pablo" is key. The reason for that is because it's a living and moving album, literally. You could be listening to one track one minute and then you get some weird transition that leads into something else. Overall, I give this album a 10/10. What's your opinion on this album?

FROM THE BEAT TO THE BAT: COACH PINCUS BECOMES THE NEW LOY NORRIX HEAD BASEBALL COACH



Rob Pincus’s junior pitcher, James Rinehart, throws in the third inning against Mattawan High School on May 3rd. Rinehart is one of many pitchers on the Loy Norrix Baseball team. Norrix finished the game with a 5-2 loss. **Photo Credit / Jonnie Palone**

Max **Link**

Loy Norrix baseball says goodbye to coach Brian Neel as he resigned in the fall of 2015. Now Loy Norrix is welcoming new coach, Rob Pincus.

Pincus is a very respected man. He was in law enforcement for 14 years. He worked for the Atlantic City Police Department. He also worked as an undercover narcotics officer and homicide detective. Pincus said he had many fears for his safety and others. He never wanted anyone to get hurt on his squad or on the other side they were trying to arrest. Pincus worked as an officer for 14 long years. He resigned due to injury to his neck on an upper vertebrae and his lower back during a drug raid.

Pincus has learned a lot from being a homicide officer that has helped him as a teacher and coach today.

“I understand where a lot of students are coming from. Some students come from a bad home life and that helps me see successes in every little thing. It also gives me a lot of patience with students,” said Pincus.

Pincus has had a lot of experience coaching. Whether it be baseball, football or teaching. He has been coaching baseball for 8 years at Portage Northern High School as an assistant coach. He is also the head football coach for Maple Street Middle School and helped out former head baseball coach

Brian Neel when needed.

“I’ve had quite a bit of experience, and I’ve always felt it’s better to have a coach in house,” said Pincus.

He thinks it’s important to have a coach that teaches at the same school the players attend.

“I like Pincus as the new coach, and I think he has done a good job trying to change the program. He has put a lot of effort in, and I think he will do a good job in the future,” said senior outfielder Grant Mitchell.

Becoming a new coach for a varsity high school sport can be very tough. You will run into many roadblocks, some of them being fears of players lacking commitment, respect and the pressure to win games.

“I don’t have any fears going into the upcoming season. The only concern I have is a buy-in from players,” said Pincus.

One of Pincus’s favorite things about being a coach is being able to watch his players grow from freshmen to seniors and then graduating to go off to college. Pincus loves the relationships that he makes with players and the personal friendships that he gains along the way.

Loy Norrix has had the privilege to have Pincus as a teacher for 10 years, as a special educator for all grades. The reason he started to teach at Loy Norrix was to grow closer with his son. He has more free time as a teacher than a police officer because he gets off work at a certain time everyday. As a police officer, Pincus was called into work whenever they needed him.

The whole school is curious to see what coach Pincus can bring to our baseball program and to this school. We’ll all have our eyes on the baseball team this year as they kick off their season with a record of 10 wins and 15 losses as of May 19th 2016.

MOVING ON FROM PAGE 12

Wolfe made her decision to go to K College in the fall to focus on schooling and to get the education she wants to achieve. Like Link, she believes that with the decreased pressure of playing an organized sport, she will be able to focus on her education and herself.

While there are summer leagues and intramural (recreational sports organized within an institution) teams that play for fun, it won’t be the same. It won’t be the constant, non-stop type of lifestyle that most student athletes are used to. It’s a change of pace that many are either very scared or very excited to transition into. The consistency of playing a sport they love and have loved for years and years will end when the season and final year at Loy Norrix comes to an end.

Just this year, nineteen Loy Norrix student athletes have already signed to colleges to continue their performance. But for some, the final curtain has fallen on their stage and they must step onto another stage to begin another progressing, successful future.

“It’s going to be really sad not playing soccer in college, that hasn’t really hit me yet ... I can always play intramural, but it will definitely be a lifestyle change,” said Wolfe.

AP ART FROM PAGE 14

Central Michigan University, Ferris State University, Eastern Michigan University and many more. Schools that require a four on the AP Studio Art Portfolio in Michigan are Michigan State University, Kalamazoo College, Oakland University, Albion College and many more.

“They have the opportunity to have their artwork reviewed at Portfolio Days where colleges from all over review their work,” said AP Studio Art Portfolio teacher Cindy VanLieu.

AP Studio Art Portfolio students also connect with Loy Norrix alumni who have gone to art school or have pursued a career in art. The alumni come into the class or even connect through VanLieu as well. The students have a support system with the alumni who have found success in art.

While also getting advice from people who are successful in the world of art, AP Studio Art Portfolio students also learn about careers they can pursue after graduating.

“They learn about jobs in design careers with field trips and guest speakers,” said VanLieu.

AP Studio Art Portfolio can open many doors for artists who want to move on to a future career in art.

“I’ve sold my art, had it in shows and had a lot of opportunities that I wouldn’t have in art,” said Washington.

The students have the opportunity to earn large scholarships to art schools.

“They get recruited just like athletes because [AP Studio Art Portfolio students] get scholarships on top of the Promise,” said VanLieu.

College recruiters even come right into Loy Norrix looking for talented art students to come to their college.

“The college recruiters come to the room at Loy Norrix because it is very diverse and they’re looking for diversity,” said VanLieu.

AP Studio Art Portfolio is only exclusive to Loy Norrix High School, as the class is not offered at Kalamazoo Central or Phoenix High School.

“Not a lot of schools have the AP Art program, so it gets you a head start,” said Washington.

Some of VanLieu’s previous students have went on to succeed in the art world.

“About 75 percent have gone on for a career in arts and have gone on for a masters in fine arts. Many also work internationally,” said VanLieu.

AP Studio Art Portfolio is a rewarding class because it not only teaches students about different careers in art, but it also helps artists develop their artwork as well. AP Studio Art Portfolio is very beneficial for students who want to succeed in the world of art.



Junior Myron Sykes stayed optimistic even though he wasn't able to donate a full pint of blood. The nurses couldn't properly place the needle in one of his arms so they had to take blood from the other arm. **Photo Credit / Jonathan Lo**

STUDENTS DONATE BLOOD DESPITE FEARS

Jonathan**Lo**

Tables are organized in a circle and nurses are in the center preparing for the incoming crowd of students. The students wait to donate a pint of blood which can save up to three lives. Every year in the middle of April, Loy Norrix High School hosts a blood drive in the gym in order to donate blood for those in need.

The school's National Honor Society hosts the event and ensure that students donate at their scheduled times and are given an adequate amount of food and rest in order to go about the rest of their day.

According to the Red Cross, "Every two seconds a person in the U.S. is in need of a blood transfusion, whether it be directly or for surgery."

When in surgery a person may need blood in order to replace the amount they lost and other times may just need a blood transfusion directly in order to cleanse the blood in case of kidney failure.

"It's really gratifying that I'm able to donate blood and save three lives with it," said junior Myron Sykes. "It's something that everyone should consider doing if they are able to."

All students giving blood have to go through a step-by-step process in order to participate. It is recommended that students are 17 or older. Student's that are 16 years old must have parent consent before they can participate.

First, students must sign in and read a packet that explains the risks and benefits of donating blood and plasma. Students then need to answer questions regarding their eligibility to contribute, such as their weight, any illnesses they have or may have had and whether or not they have traveled out of the country

in the last year or so.

Afterwards, students must get their iron levels tested in order to confirm that it is safe enough for the donor to give blood. If all goes well, the student will be escorted to a nurse's bed to donate their pint of blood.

"I'm really scared of needles, even the needles used for your vaccines," said senior Sarah Giramia.

Many students found that the finger prick used to test their iron levels hurt more than the needle used to draw blood.

"Both the finger prick and the needle hurt, but if I would have to pick, the finger prick hurt a bit more," said junior Mikayla Stover.

After students give blood and have a little time to lay on the bed, they are allowed to go to the catering table and eat food. They then must stay seated for at least 15 minutes before trying to do any strenuous activities.

"A perk that comes with giving blood is that you get free food," said senior Kate Puca.

If a student doesn't rest for the amount of time or eat enough food after donating blood, a student might feel nauseous and dizzy where they might pass out and need a moment to lay down.

"After I ate food and rested, I began to feel very nauseous and dizzy," said senior Brooke Washington. "The nurse had to come and take me to a separate bed to lay on. I ended up staying down at the blood drive for about two and a half hours after I gave blood."

Students may have a sense of fear and anxiety before they donate their blood. Even though they're scared, there is an underlying feeling of gratitude and pride after knowing that the students are making a difference in other people's lives.



Senior Audrey Lyons is experienced in donating her blood. Senior Kimberly Romph is trying her best to comfort her even though Audrey has done it before. **Photo Credit / Jonathan Lo**



Senior Luis Lara is donating blood for the first time. After donating, Luis immediately passed out due to not getting enough rest. **Photo Credit / Jonathan Lo**