



## GETTING GRADED ON GIVING GRADES TEACHERS DISCONTENTED WITH THE EVALUATION PROCESS



PHOTO CREDIT / ANNA KUSHNER

Math Teacher Corey O'Bryan responds to emails during his lunch period. After receiving an ineffective rating in content knowledge despite helping author the district curriculum and possessing a masters degree in mathematics, O'Bryan continues to teach Mathematics at Loy Norrix High School.

### ANNA KUSHNER CHIEF COPY EDITOR

"When an administrator walks in the room, the students' demeanor automatically changes to one that is more guarded, and their nervous energy sometimes transcends to my own," said drama teacher Paige Carrow.

Recently, many teachers at Loy Norrix and within the Kalamazoo Public Schools community have been frustrated with the evaluation process. Loy Norrix currently uses the Charlotte Danielson Model to evaluate their teachers. This model breaks up the aspects of teaching into four different domains. State mandates, codes 380.1248 and 380.1249, add a fifth domain, Student Growth, which ties teacher evaluations to government funding for public schools. These domains include: Planning and Preparation, Classroom Environment, Instruction, Professional Responsibility, and Student Growth. Within these domains there are up to 80 subcategories, known as elements, where teachers are rated ineffective, minimally effective, effective, or highly effective.

Domain five, Student Growth, is measured by the differentiation of grades between pre and post assessments and/or another teacher chosen assessment. State standardized tests can also be calculated into the data for this domain. Michigan State Law

mandates that this domain must make up 25 percent of a teacher's total evaluation. This is one of the major conflicts regarding teacher evaluations.

Teachers of Advanced Placement, honors, regular, and strategic learning classes are all rated using the same rubric. Many educators who teach students with more behavioral and educational challenges argue that this sets them up for failure in their evaluations because it is not accounted for in the rubric.

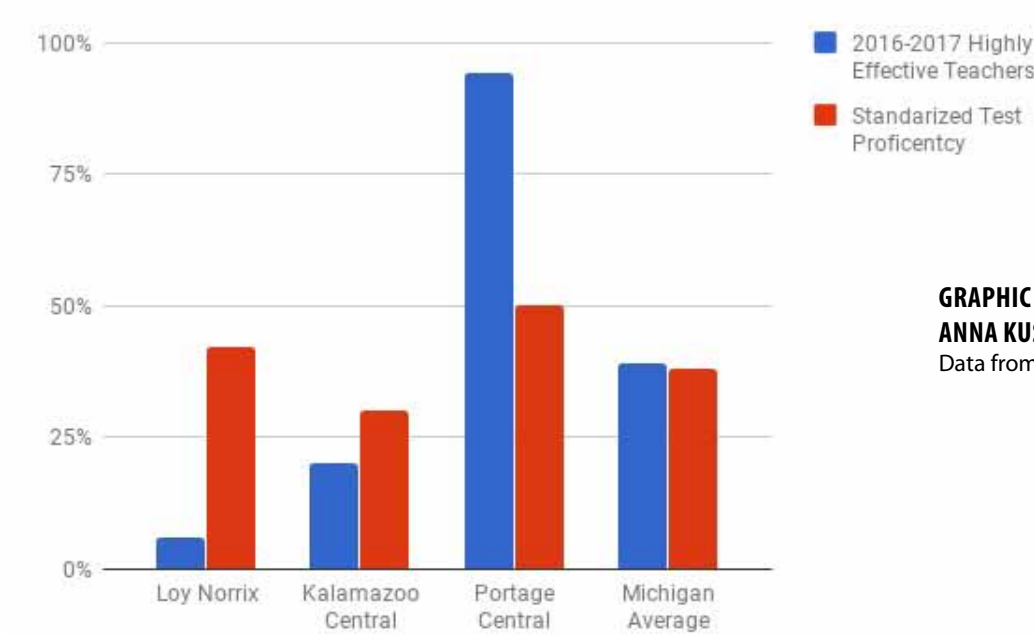
"Instead of setting them [the individuals being evaluated] up to succeed, it seems like they are being scrutinized," said Carrow.

On the other hand, teachers that teach higher performing and more naturally disciplined students feel that it is harder to prove student growth because there is less of a knowledge gap to fill.

Social studies teacher James Johnson expresses the lack of control teachers have in their ratings in some categories such as domain five.

"There are other student and family circumstances beyond our control that influence our evaluation process," said Johnson.

These circumstances reference student performance as well as classroom demeanor, which is reflected in domain two and



GRAPHIC CREDIT/  
ANNA KUSHNER  
Data from mi.gov.

three of the evaluation rubric, Classroom Environment and Instruction. When students are sleeping, on their phones, or not engaged in class, their actions can reflect poorly on their teachers. Teachers have many methods of refocusing students, but they can't always account for a student's reaction. This can result in a greater disruption in the learning environment.

Tisha Pankop, English teacher and member of the KPS Evaluation Committee said, "It's [the evaluation process is] a disincentive for teachers that are willing to teach students that have the greatest number of challenges and obstacles."

The weight of domain five, student test scores, is set to increase to 40 percent in the upcoming years as mandated by the state of Michigan. Loy Norrix Dean of Students and evaluator Christopher Aguinaga believes is "absolutely too high."

Aguinaga believes the model is meant to challenge teachers stating, "Our model is that teachers should constantly be striving to improve. Many teachers are highly effective in some categories but not overall."

In the 2016-17 school year, only six percent of Loy Norrix teachers scored highly effective in their teacher evaluations, compared to Kalamazoo Central with 20 percent, Portage Central with a 94 percent highly effective rating and Michigan's average is 39 percent.

Science teacher Daniel Houvener argues, "If you [a school] have too many teachers that are highly effective, you might not be giving actual feedback or leaving room for growth."

While Portage Central does use a

different evaluation system, these statistics bring about another major concern for teachers with the evaluation process, subjectivity and lack of continuity.

According to Amanda Miller, a union representative and the president of the Kalamazoo Education Association, "If [some] principals don't like you, they will often use that category [Professional Responsibilities] to mark you down," said Miller.

At Loy Norrix there are five administrators who are each tasked with evaluating a portion of the 80 plus teachers, with the principal evaluating department heads, according to Aguinaga. At the beginning of each school year, evaluators will help teachers set up a minimum of two to three professional goals for the year.

Throughout the year, evaluators will perform one to two formal observations, where they observe for the majority of a class period, as well as periodic walkthroughs. These observations only last a few minutes and are meant to, in Aguinaga's words, "gauge the climate of the class."

At the end of the year there is a summative evaluation, which takes all previous observations into account along with parent input and whether or not the educator has achieved their goals. Teachers may also have the opportunity to contribute and bring evidence to their final evaluation, which Loy Norrix principal Johnny Edwards says that many teachers choose to do.

SEE TEACHER EVALUATIONS PAGE 3

## VALE, 17-18 SCHOOL YEAR LOY NORRIX LATIN FINISHES OUT THE YEAR



PHOTO CREDIT / BRANDON SCHNURR

Magistra Felkel discusses a chapter of 'Ecce, Romani!' with her Latin III class. Group discussions are a way of including all of the students and allow students to get help correcting thier work.

### BRANDON SCHNURR NEWS EDITOR

The 2017-2018 school year has been quite memorable for Loy Norrix, for both its ups and downs, but for the Loy Norrix Latin classes, the year is coming to a strong close.

The National Latin Exams have been wrapped up, students are doing superb on their work, and most importantly, students are having fun and making memories, some sure to last awhile.

A huge contributor to these great times and important lessons is our very own Latin teacher, Magistra (Latin for teacher) Barbara Felkel, who has confirmed that she plans to retire at the end of this school year.

After 38 years of hard work to help the Loy Norrix students open their minds to Latin, English and other Romance languages, and their hearts to each other, it is finally time to say goodbye.

Magistra Felkel has shown her ability to create a friendly teaching environment. She is always trying to help those who didn't quite understand the instructions or are stuck on a piece of the work, whether that be by staying to help students after school or offering one-on-one help and a place to hang out at lunch.

"She's really accessible and a helpful person at our school," said sophomore Montana Thommes, who has had Felkel as a teacher for two years now.

Thommes isn't the only student of Felkel that feels this way. Many students find her to be a huge impact on them and a great teacher.

"She's a dedicated teacher," said sophomore Akkadian Jackson, who has had Felkel for two years. "She does a very good job at teaching kids Latin."

"She's probably the most intense teacher I've ever had," said three year Latin student and junior Will Keller, "She is incredibly devoted to the classes she teaches."

Over the years, students of Felkel have shown how much they've learned from her through participation in the National Latin Exam, an exam given in the first and third trimesters that grades students on their knowledge of the Latin language, Roman history and geography and more. A total of 28 students, 20 Latin II students and 8 Latin III students, took the National Latin Exam this year.

Out of these 28 students, 9 received gold medals, 11 received silver medals, and 8 received certificate awards.

This is a special occasion: not once in

Loy Norrix history, has every student who has taken the exam earned a prize on the National Latin Exam. There was even a perfect paper belonging to Jackson.

"It wasn't too hard, but it was still challenging," said Jackson. "I was very prepared because Magistra had prepared a few practice tests from earlier years to show what it was like."

"We get a perfect paper about once every five years, so it's quite rare," said Felkel.

Over the years, the students of Latin haven't been the only ones learning. Magistra Felkel has learned many things from her students, some that have stuck with her throughout her teaching career.

"It's the questions asked by the kids that keeps us teachers going," said Felkel.

Unfortunately for Loy Norrix, this is the last year Felkel plans to keep teaching. She will retire at the end of this school year, with 38 years of experience under her belt at Norrix. As of this moment, there is no definite replacement to take on the Norrix Latin program, yet Felkel has great confidence in KPS to find a replacement just as good as her to continue the Latin legacy.

"She's laid such a strong foundation for the program that as long as we get a decent teacher, the program will continue to be strong," said Keller.

"I'm gonna miss Magistra Felkel. She's my absolute favorite teacher," said Thommes.

When asked how she wanted to be remembered by the generations of students she has taught at Norrix, she only had one thing to say.

"I want to be remembered as someone who had a mission and fulfilled it, of sharing the Latin language with kids."





LEAH DUNHAM STAFF WRITER



SUSAN BENTON WITH MICHEAL HUGHES

Susan Benton has been a counselor here at Loy Norrix for the past 22 years. She and her close friend and fellow counselor, Rebecca Learner obtained their master’s degrees at Western Michigan University and then went on to team teach elementary school, finally ending up at Norrix.

Benton’s favorite memories have been the accomplishments of students when dealing with difficult situations like getting into college, winningscholarships and passing their classes.

Her most challenging situations telling students about a death or that they’re not graduating. The large caseload was also sometimes difficult to handle, as she would has around 400 students to serve at a time.

Benton says that being at Loy Norrix and the relationships she’s formed has enriched her life deeply.

“I feel so grateful to have had the chance to be part of such a loving and inspiring community,” said Benton.

She will miss the counseling department and staff, as well as students, and the funny, unique experiences she has encountered.

The Loy Norrix staff and students will be missing 5 impactful women next school year, who have all made many positive changes in our school. Loy Norrix thanks all the retirees for their effort and passion they have put into all of our students in the past years. Your talents and contributions to the LN family will be missed!



MARY HENTSCHL-EARLY WITH A STUDENT

Mary Hentschl-Early has been on the Loy Norrix childcare staff for 14 years. She moved from the Old Central building (what is now KAMSC) with the Continuing Educacation for Young Families (CEYF) program, along with Barbara Wiedmayer.

Hentschl-Early’s favorite memories have been the smiles and hugs of children, which she got many of over the years.

Her most challenging situations were when the teens’ parent was not supportive of their educational pursuit.

“Being in this career has confirmed for me the importance of Early Childhood Education. Brain development starts before birth, but the first three years of life are critical years for positive, nurturing experiences for every baby/toddler,” said Hentschl-Early.

She will miss the children, but also the high level activity of the job, as no two days were the same.



BARBARA FELKEL WITH AKKADIAN JACKSON

(Magistra) Barbara Felkel has been teaching Latin at Loy Norrix for 37 years. She previously began teaching Latin at Kalamazoo Central in 1974, where she taught for 6 years. All in all, she has been teaching Latin for 50 years!

Magistra Felkel’s best moments were the trips to Italy with her students, as well as when students go on to study Latin in college, two of whom have expressed interest in continuing the Latin program at LN as she retires.

“That would be absolutely indescribable - to have an LN grad continue the tradition for excellence in Latin here,” said Felkel.

For Felkel, no negative memories came to mind, as her “time at Loy Norrix has been wonderful.”

“I have been able to teach a subject I love and to convince students that Latin is worth their time and effort - that the rewards will be great. I have had enthusiastic students, supportive parents, and helpful administrators,” said Felkel.

She will miss her students and wonderful colleagues, but NOT waking up at 5 a.m. every morning!



BARBARA WIEDMAYER WITH STUDENT

Barbara Wiedmayer has been a KPS district nurse for 23 years and moved to Loy Norrix 14 years ago with the Continuing Education for Young Families program (CEYF), where she worked to continue to coordinate the health of pregnant and parenting young women with their children. Her position evolved into overseeing the health needs of the children in schools, including Loy Norrix.

“My best memory at Loy Norrix was the first day that I was introduced to the wonderful childcare staff and center when my colleagues and I made our first transitioning visit from CEYF to LNHS,” said Wiedmayer. “I was also fortunate enough to have my office next to the childcare where I was able to interact with and see toddlers and preschool go on to graduate kindergarten, including my own two grandchildren!”

Wiedmayer’s most challenging situation has been the triaging of many students that required her to be in many places at once. Also specifically the months of September, October and November, in terms of getting everyone on board with each individual care plan.

Loy Norrix has taught her that there was always someone to help out when things got too busy. Also, the Loy Norrix Childcare Center is the “best kept secret in Kalamazoo!”

She will miss the children, big and small, and the friendships she’s made along the way.

Also retiring: Ms. Valerie Mallory, a Life Management teacher at LN, who was unavailable for interview.

LOY NORRIX REMEMBERS STUDENTS

Ethan Fox 2002-2018

Regan Capps 2001-2018

MIA MAY ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

JASMINE ALOCER SPORTS EDITOR



On April 27th, 2018, at the age of 15 one of the happiest kids passed away. Ethan Fox was a friend, brother, son, student and teammate. He made an impact on a lot of people’s lives, even if they didn’t know him very well.

“No matter what was going on in his life, he still made sure that everybody else was happy and always in a good mood, and that’s one of many reasons everybody loved him and will miss him,” said soccer teammate Tristan Wheeler.

Wheeler knew Ethan for seven years. He played soccer with him at Loy Norrix and on an indoor soccer team called Loy Norrix Soccer Club. Wheeler said his favorite memory of Ethan is when he came and watched Wheeler’s indoor soccer team play.

About a week after Ethan lost his arm due to medical issues, he came and sat on the bench with his team to support them.

“Playing soccer with him made the team a family,” said Wheeler.

No one could be mad at the boy with the biggest smile. English teacher Anne

Bowser had Ethan for one trimester and she absolutely adored him. She said her favorite memory of him was when he would never stop talking in class and he just had the biggest toothy smile that Bowser couldn’t be mad at.

Ethan Fox was such a strong person that could find a way to be cheerful even in the hardest time. He didn’t want the pity of others and he would never take anything seriously.

Bowser said one thing she admired about Ethan was that even when he was struggling, he wanted to keep up on his work.

“He was a reminder, even before he died, of how precious our lives are and how much I love my students,” said Bowser.

Drake Olson has been a close friend with Ethan for 12 years. Olson recalls when he and Ethan hung out after Ethan had surgery just a week prior. Olson says that was the last time that things were normal for him.

“Every moment was awesome with him, he was just an awesome person,” said Olson. One of his favorite things about Ethan was that he could make a joke out of anything and he was always happy.

Maggie Grabemeyer had been a close friend with Ethan since kindergarten. Her favorite memory with him is when they were at their friend and fellow student Carly Loken’s house, and he just started rapping “Ice Ice Baby.” Grabemeyer said it was ‘ridiculous.’

Grabemeyer said her favorite thing about Ethan was that he turned everything into a joke and could make everyone laugh.

Ethan Fox has left an impact on a lot of people’s lives. He was a funny, happy kid with a toothy smile that will fondly be remembered. He would light up a room when he walked in. He may be gone, but our memories of him will stay shining.



Regan Lee Cap was a bright and colorful person with lots of spunk. You could spot her in the hall with her bright and fun colorful hair with her hipster style, white glasses and an array of fun printed leggings. Regan had a unique sense of style and warm smile that certainly set her apart.

Regan enjoyed watching anime, playing instruments and just making people laugh. Regan enjoyed spending time with her friends and playing with her pet snake. Regan loved hot wings, tacos and really anything that was spicy.

“Regan was a very brave and strong person ” said Loy Norrix alumni Audrey Tillison.

Regan was a very outgoing person and very real person.

She knew that her time was coming to an end, but kept it real and never let it bring her down. Even through her last few day she kept on staying positive and furthering her education.

Jen Aniano said she enjoyed having Regan in her class was described as a student who wanted to learn. Jen said “Regan spoke her mind” referring to the free spirit that Reagan had.

“Regan is also described as a person who often put others before herself,” said Aniano.

When asked what were some things that stood out about Regan, Taylor Gray said “She made sure everyone was happy first before herself.” Taylor had also said “ Her bold personality to pursue what she wanted” and “Regan’s sweet personality with an adventurous mind .

Regan was a caring and unique person. She will forever be missed for her sweet personality and the way she cared for others. Reagan showed us her strength her realness and her love. A truly remarkable young lady who will be missed.

*“I hope that Ethan’s fight brought awareness of childhood cancer to the Loy Norrix community and the realization to live every day to the fullest with lots of love and laughter”*

*-Kenzie Fox, sister of Ethan*

A logo for the Summer of RAWK! featuring a stylized 'A' with 'Summer of' written inside it and 'RAWK!' written below it. There are also some small icons of a flame and a pencil.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES!

· Youth Leadership Camp — June 18 - 22

· Youth Advisory Council (writing a magazine this summer!)

· We need youth mentors for Drop-In Writing mornings (Music Mondays, Comic Book Wednesdays, Science Fridays)

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# DRAG QUEENS ‘LIVING’ IN KALAMAZOO

ANNA GUNNERSON  
STAFF WRITER



Today, a drag race no longer refers to cars on a racetrack. Rather, men dressing up and acting as a woman for entertainment. Furthermore, with the help of social media and the TV show “RuPaul’s Drag Race,” drag has increased in popularity nationwide. Drag shows are usually lip-syncing performances or live-singing performances and while not as glamorous or well-funded as in bigger cities, drag shows are still something to see in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

While the drag community is tiny in Kalamazoo due to the lack of gay bars, where drag shows are commonly held, it is still a close-knit community where everyone knows each other. Much like various other communities, drag queens are often judged by those who don’t understand what they do and who they are but queens still ‘live’ for themselves.

Even though drag has generally been accepted in the theatre community, drag is still judged by some in society as something “weird” or “gay.” Drag queens often face extreme criticism for



their passion like hateful comments left under videos or pictures posted on social media.

While hateful comments that include racial and homophobic slurs and death wishes are left under many drag queens’ pictures and videos on social media, Kalamazoo drag queen Irtia B. Syndrome said, “The Kalamazoo area is pretty liberal, and I personally have never felt unsafe, but I’ve heard of queens having terrible experiences before.” She continued, “Know your safe spaces and don’t stray away from them and you’ll be fine.”

Despite these altercations, drag queens continue to push through the hate and put a lot of effort into their day to day routines. Each drag queen goes through hours of work to design every look they create.

A drag queen often spends hundreds of dollars on fabrics, makeup, shoes, wigs, nails and gemstones just to create one look. It takes even longer to physically sew the outfit together and draw out the



makeup look on paper to match. Once the ensemble is completed, drag queens have to produce an act to perform like lip-syncing or actually singing a song. Then they must pick a song, memorize it, and rehearse until it’s perfect, which can take 12 hours or more. Then, after all the preparation is done, each queen puts on their makeup, wig, outfit, nails and shoes early in the afternoon for their show later that night.

Even though here in Kalamazoo we don’t have any gay bars for drag performances, there are still opportunities for drag queens to shine. At Western Michigan University they have the OUTspoken Drag show directed by Austin Russell a.k.a Irtia B. Syndrome.

The OUTspoken show is one of the largest drag shows in the Kalamazoo area and a major launch pad for drag queens. Syndrome often performs there but has performed other places as well like the Union restaurant in downtown Kalamazoo. During Kalamazoo Pride you can also see many drag queens walking around, or



you can attend the Miss(ter) Kalamazoo Pride Pageant which is a drag pageant show. We may not have a large drag community in Kalamazoo, but there are still multiple occasions for drag queens to shine.

Overall, the point of drag is to have fun. Syndrome makes sure her numbers are fun for the audience by always incorporating comedy. “I always try to make people laugh,” said Synrome. That has been her mission since she began doing drag after a Halloween party where she dressed up in drag. That one night led her to a new favorite activity and, “cemented my idea that I was going to do drag.”

Ever since Syndrome has started she’s had great experiences and performances. Her favorite experience was performing for the Cares Dining Out for Life event. She spent the evening talking to people and encouraging them to help a cause she believes in. “Always be yourself and do what you love,” said Syndrome.

# STARBUCKS RESPONDS TO CLAIMS OF RACISM

AUDREANNA DUNTON  
ASSISTANT BUSINESS MANAGER

Starbucks, the popular coffee chain where friends and loved ones can gather together and enjoy their favorite drinks and small bites in their community, have come across some trouble with race. However, the limits have been tested in recent months when two black men entered a Starbucks cafe in Philadelphia. The men were casually standing in the cafe when a Starbucks employee called the police, resulting in their arrest. The men were taken into custody shortly thereafter.

However this event stands out in the way Starbucks has chosen to respond. Chief Executive, Kevin R. Johnson, stated that on May 29, 8 thousand Starbucks stores will be closed in order to train all 175 thousand employees in racial bias education.

“The actions taken by the specific Starbucks employee was poor but that doesn’t necessarily mean all Starbucks are ‘bad’. I think this is more of a problem with our society as a whole. There are individuals out there who still generalize people based on the color of their skin. As well as there are police who abuse their power, the system is flawed,” said sophomore, Ava Bernhard. Bernhard is an avid Starbucks drinker.

Since the arrest on April 12, the coffee empire has had a major decline in business due to the backlash that came afterwards.

“I think sadly but truly this is becoming a common part of our culture

in America, but it should not. With Trump being our president and people feeling more empowered as racism goes, these occurrences will become more prevalent, similar to those of the black lives matter movement,” said junior Ty Morales.

The incident has given the company time to re-evaluate what their company represents. In response, Johnson has apologized, calling the Philadelphia incident “reprehensible” and the employees actions “not representative of our Starbucks mission and values.”

The diverse student body of Loy Norrix had something to say about this topic.

“I didn’t feel like it was right for them to do that. I still will go back I just won’t go inside,” said junior Samari Lipsey.

Additionally, the plan to shut down the chain for a day will be very costly to the company, but their plan will not be altered.

“Industry bean counters say it’ll take plenty of coffee sales to offset Starbucks’ lost revenue on May 29 as baristas take notes,” as stated in “The New York Times.”

“I feel like it’s racist. I don’t think it’s Starbuck’s fault. I don’t usually go to Starbucks but I’m not going to go now,” stated Willis Johnson, sophomore.

The coffee chain plans to eliminate all bias related to race and ethnicity in order to make the chain a more welcoming place for all coffee and pastry lovers.

## FROM TEACHER EVALUATIONS PAGE 1

For teachers who don’t have tenure, a mid-year review is conducted. This review takes into account domain five but no rating is given at this time.

A lot of teachers see both formal and periodic observations as subjective.

“One of the biggest divides between teachers and administrators is the fact that they [administrators] sometimes fail to see all that we do in and outside our classrooms for students,” said Carrow. “It’s frustrating that they [evaluators] come in and only see part of what you do.”

“The immediate challenge is that those with the responsibility to ensure good teaching in schools—primarily building administrators—don’t always have the skill to differentiate great teaching from that which is merely good, or perhaps even mediocre... There is also little consensus on how the profession should define ‘good teaching,’” said Charlotte Danielson, author of “Framework for Teaching,” in “Charlotte Danielson on Rethinking Teacher Evaluation from Education Week.”

While Aguinaga believes the evaluation system is effective and critical to a teacher’s success, having helped develop the current model with the teachers union as a former educator, he does note that during observations, “sometimes the details escape us.”

The misperceptions within the evaluation system have left some teachers fearing for their jobs and questioning the motives of their evaluators. When a teacher is rated as ineffective, they are put on a plan known as Track III which, if left on long enough, can eventually lead to their termination.

Teachers are allowed to appeal their evaluation and rating to their school district

superintendent, intermediate superintendent of chief administrator within twenty days of being informed of their rating per “Enrolled House Bill No. 4627” from Michigan State Legislature. However, this option is only available to teachers who have tenure.

“Some administrators use the evaluation process as a stick to beat people over the head with. Teachers fear it [the evaluation process], its scary, [and] it’s a bad experience for most teachers,” said Miller.

Math teacher Corey O’Bryan has felt this trepidation firsthand, “People can have their own motivations for giving different ratings,” said O’Bryan.

*“It’s hard not to take it personally. When your heart is in the job, it’s hard to have someone label you [in even one category] as ineffective,” said Carrow.*

Last school year, O’Bryan received his first negative evaluation after ten years of working at Loy Norrix, which surprised and confused many of his colleagues. O’Bryan has a Masters in Mathematics Education and has been teaching curriculum, which he helped author and has been adopted by Kalamazoo Public Schools districtwide. O’Bryan has received a different rating in each evaluation cycle over the past three years. He received his first negative evaluation in 2017, which included an ineffective rating in content knowledge despite his extensive qualifications.

An ineffective rating in content knowledge is defined as “Makes content errors or does not correct errors made by students” and “Displaying little or no understanding of the range of pedagogical approaches

suitable to student learning of the content,” according to Kalamazoo Public Schools adaptation of “Enhancing Professional Practice: A Framework for Teaching” by Charlotte Danielson.

Negative marks on teacher evaluations can bring on a range of emotions for teachers, from anger and frustration to shame and dejection.

“It’s hard not to take it personally. When your heart is in the job, it’s hard to have someone label you [in even one category] as ineffective,” said Carrow

“It’s hard for [on] teachers not to get good grades,” said Pankop

To help improve these ratings, Aguinaga says that the district wants to emphasize consistency and realistic goal setting for teachers.

“This [the districts goals] will stretch our teachers and better our teachers,” said Aguinaga

This push for consistency is meant to improve the subjectivity of the rubric.

Assistant Superintendent and head of the evaluation committee, Sheila Dorsey-Smith, stated in an interview with Knight Life that she cannot comment on the Kalamazoo Public Schools teacher evaluation process or rubric due the inclusion of personnel matters in this article.

Charlotte Danielson sums up this discontent and need for change stating, “I’m deeply troubled by the transformation of teaching from a complex profession requiring nuanced judgment to the performance of certain behaviors that can be ticked off on a checklist.” Danielson continued, “In fact, I believe it’s time for a major rethinking of how we structure teacher evaluation to ensure that teachers, as professionals, can benefit from numerous opportunities to continually refine their craft.”

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“A LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS” CAST DELIVERS A KILLER PERFORMANCE



Seniors Grace Erway and Drew Strand perform the final number with the rest of the “Little Shop of Horrors” cast.

ANNA KUSHNER CHIEF COPY EDITOR

The lights dim, the curtains pull back, and one is transported to Skid Row, where lonely flower shop assistant Seymour, played by senior Victor Moss, gambles his chance for love and success on an obscure new plant which he names Audrey II, after his friend and crush, Audrey, played by senior Grace Erway.

While Audrey II brings him everything he has ever wanted, Seymour soon learns that it comes with a price. Based on the 1960’s film, Loy Norrix’s production of Howard Ashman’s “Little Shop of Horrors” made people laugh, cry, and left them amazed at the amount of talent this school possesses.

From the moment this musical began I was taken aback. I have seen every musical at Norrix over the past four years and “Little Shop of Horrors” has been by far my favorite. It was the perfect combination of quirky comedy and horror.

Senior Victor Moss has delivered as the lead role in multiple school productions over the past three years and can definitely be defined as Loy Norrix’s breakout theatrical star. However, every part Moss has ever played was put to shame by his portrayal of Seymour. It’s as if the role was written to accentuate all of Moss’s acting strengths. From Seymour’s original shy, complacent deposition at the beginning to his paranoid persona in the second act, Moss is able to capture the complexities and growing desperation of Seymour’s character.

At Moss’s side throughout this production is senior, Grace Erway, who plays Audrey, Seymour’s love interest who is also battling her own demons. Grace Erway is one

of the most talented and humble individuals you will ever meet. Every time Erway sings, you are left breathless by the pure amount of raw aptitude and beauty in her voice. Her performance of “Suddenly, Seymour” was the absolute peak of the show and really showcased every aspect of her range of talent. Much like Moss, “Little Shop of Horrors” was Erway’s best performance yet, and I can’t wait to see what the future holds for her.

Even Erway admitted, “This is my favorite show of the four shows I’ve done at Norrix.” One admirable aspect about the Loy Norrix production of “Little Shop of Horrors” is how the cast and crew addressed the issue and presence of domestic violence in this musical. In the show, Erway’s character, Audrey, is emotionally and physically abused by her boyfriend Orin, played by senior Drew Strand. Prior to the production, director Paige Carrow informed the audience the a percentage of the ticket sales would be donated to our communities local YWCA to help women suffering from domestic violence. This was very inspiring and a great use of the platform.

While senior Drew Strand played an abusive antagonist, he is anything but. “It’s purely acting. It’s fun to play someone who’s mean, but it’s not fun to hit people.” Strand continued, “It’s nice to change from the cute little kid I always play.” Having seen Strand play numerous one-dimensional, superficial characters it was extremely refreshing to see him in a more intricate role. Strand is able to make you simultaneously laugh and hate him all

within the span of one song. Strand’s facial expressions and tone throughout the show captured the audience, even through a giant glass-like bubble mask. He was effortlessly able to capture the complexity of a character the audience loves to hate.

Loy Norrix’s “Little Shop of Horrors” heavily consists of and is lead by seniors. Nevertheless, the theatre department has little to fear once the seniors graduate. Sophomore Ella Ledbetter-Newton is a rising star in the Loy Norrix Theater department. Her voice in “Skid Row (Downtown)” left us in awe. Ledbetter-Newton’s voice filled the room and is just so whole and pure.

Junior Chris Aranda also gave an amazing and very professional performance. Aranda has an incredible ability to perform at a high maturity level that allows him to take on roles well beyond his years.

Furthermore, freshman Harmony Holt is a performer that will really be blossoming into a true master of her craft in the up-and-coming years. “Little Shop of Horrors” is Holt’s first theatrical production ever, however, you would never guess. Holt has this beautiful, soulful voice that really comes alive on stage. She can only really be described as fame in the making. Holt’s solo at the beginning of “Finale Ultimo (“Don’t Feed the Plants”))” left the audience stunned at how much raw talent and potential she possesses.

“There are a lot of great people with experience. Being a freshman, I really didn’t think I would get [such] a good part,” said Holt.

Lastly, this show wouldn’t have been

complete without the sophomore Katie Grey and seniors Ava Stoops and Griffin Abbott as Audrey II. Stoops and Abbott were seamlessly able to synchronize the movements of the puppet to Grey’s show-stopping voice. However, while Grey’s voice was truly heart-stopping, it was quite hard to hear and understand the lyrics throughout the production due to how loud the instrumentals were.

Everything about “Little Shop of Horrors,” from the cast to the set to the costumes, really brought the Loy Norrix theatre department to a whole new level this year. The set was beautifully crafted and fluidly able to transition from scene to scene. The supporting cast also really helped the show come alive in the best way possible.

“This is the ideal show to showcase our seniors’ talent and end our year strong. The cast and crew is amazing and brings justice to the script,” said director Paige Carrow.



PHOTOS BY MARIAH SARELIS

Senior Victor Moss, as Seymour, sings to his plant Audrey II to try and convince it to grow.



Sophomore Ella Ledbetter-Newton and freshman Harmony Holt sing on stage with the rest of their quintet.

LOY NORRIX FORENSICS TEAM TAKES STATE COMPETITION



PHOTO CREDIT / AMARRA LYONS

Junior Abby Hauke and seniors Henry Muscara, Drew Strand and Victor Moss rehearse blocking. They make up 4/5th of the multiple “Blast From the Past.”

AMARRA LYONS GUEST WRITER

After working hard all season long, the time finally came for the Knight’s forensics team to head to the final States tournament.

After coming in the top groups at regionals, the qualifying group consisted of six alternates and 23 competitors. The team left Thursday afternoon and spent the day at coach Paige Carrow’s old high school preparing for the tournament ahead.

Bright and early on Friday morning, the team headed to Oakland Community College to compete. They all performed in three preliminary rounds to begin determining who would

advance, and after a short night’s sleep, competed in the final preliminary round at 8:30 am Saturday morning. From there, there was a long, drawn out hour of stress in which the team awaited the much feared, yet anticipated, postings of the semifinalists. As each event was announced, cheers and screams were heard around the building as competitors learned their fate.

For some, postings was a relief as they moved on to the next round, but for others, their season ended there.

“It’s always disappointing to not break, but Joey [my duo partner]

and I were excited to have made it to state anyways and were happy with how we did,” said sophomore Riley Dominianni.

Among the Norrix semifinalists were sophomores Michaela Martin and Caila Chapman. Martin was a second year competitor in sales.

“I learned a lot from my experience in Sales 9/10 my freshman year, which allowed me to perfect my piece for this year. I felt really great about making it to semis because my style is different than a lot of the other competitors, so I wasn’t sure how the judges would take it. I was happy

that I was allowed to do it my way, and still break,” said Martin.

Chapman was competing in Impromptu 9/10, one of the two 9/10 events of the year, meaning she only competed against underclassmen like herself. This is a great way for beginners to get some experience without being forced to compete against seniors who had been practicing for years.

There was a stampede of people as the semifinalists rushed off to their rounds and disappointed competitors split off to watch them perform.

After the round, everyone regrouped and once again awaited postings, this time for finals. As the first two scrolls of yellow paper containing the list of finalists was walked up to the balcony, a rush of people ran to gather below and see what it was. A scream and a chant was heard from the Loy Norrix team as senior Anna Kushner was revealed as a finalist in oratory.

After waiting in angst and anxiety, the only posting left was multiple. Both multiples had already made it through semi-finals, and huddled together hoping they’d both make it. Finally, the fateful yellow paper was brought to the balcony and rolled over the edge. Both Knights’ multiples qualified. “The Family Stone,” who had won their regional, consisted of seniors Amarra Lyons, Grace Erway, Joseph Michael,

Abby Guimond, sophomore Ella Ledbetter-Newton and freshmen Keegan Cameron and Kamryn Kimbrough.

“Blast from the Past,” a regional finalist, showcased seniors Drew Strand, Victor Moss, Henry Muscara and juniors Abby Hauke and Rebecca Thompson. For the first time ever, both Loy Norrix multiples beat out all competitors from Portage and Bloomfield schools, the previous state champions, to make it to finals.

Both teams ran to their room and began to file in to the lecture hall where they were performed and were startled to find it full with over a hundred audience members.

“Blast from the Past” performed first, and were greeted with tons of laughs, cheers and a standing ovation from their energetic, polished and overall incredible piece.

“Finals was really cool for me because we all knew it was the last time we’d be performing our piece in a competitive environment, so I feel like it was one of our best performances because we all gave it our all,” said captain Victor Moss.

After another multiple performed and the clapping died down, “The Family Stone” performed and left the audience in tears from their emotional piece and were also greeted with a standing ovation. For some of the members on these two multiples, it was their last ever forensics

round so the moment was bittersweet.

“The thought of leaving the friends I had just met and the sport I had just spent four years perfecting kind of crushed me, but looking forward I’m so excited to see what the next generation of captains and team members can do. Forensics really helped me develop as a person, and I suggest it to anyone who’s interested,” said “Family Stone” captain Grace Erway.

A few hours later, awards began. Kushner, an incredibly talented public speaker, received second in the state, and was seen crying with joy.

“After not placing in finals last year, I felt I had some unfinished business at states. I didn’t have the strongest season so I felt my dream to make finals again was already dying. So I was ecstatic getting to semis and finals and second place is more than I could ever have hoped for. My speech this year is so personal to me and I just wanted to do it justice,” said Kushner.

Then it was time for multiples. Holding hands, they all filed to the front of the gym, where “The Family Stone” was presented with a fourth place trophy, and “Blast from the Past” was given third. It was an overall accomplishment for the Knights, who as a whole won seventh place in the state out of twenty-eight schools.



# MARVEL IS KEEPING SECRETS ABOUT THE FUTURE



ZACHARY LIDDLE CHIEF PHOTO EDITOR

If there is one thing about life that is certain, it’s the fact that Marvel Studios has planned out their next 30 films.

The Marvel Cinematic Universe, or MCU, is well known for their well-developed stories and connected characters.

Soon we will enter into the fourth phase of the MCU superhero films. The phases are sets of films, for example, the first introduction of Iron Man and Captain America was phase one.

They used phase two to introduce the minor heroes. This includes the introduction of Scarlet Witch, Quicksilver and Ant-Man. The mass of superhero goodness that we are currently experiencing is Marvel’s phase three, otherwise known as the Infinity Saga.

This is the introduction of the interstellar story arch of the infinity stones. This phase

will be completed after the release of the Avengers series’ fourth installment which has yet to be named.

The story is supposed to start after the events of “Avengers: Infinity War,” however, it will be less of a part two and more of its own standalone film. Before its release in 2019, we still have “Ant-man and The Wasp” as well as “Captain Marvel” to look forward to.

A huge question is “What will happen at the end of phase three and how will Marvel begin the next phase?” Well the ending of phase three is for the most part unknown aside from some confirmed sequels taking place in phase four like the second installment of Marvel’s Spider Man, not to be confused with Sony’s previous adaptations of Spider Man.

The ending of phase three, however,

is almost guaranteed to have quite a bit of death. Some character deaths may be for story development and others might be for financial reasons. Robert Downey Jr. cost a whopping \$200 million to play Iron Man in the new “Avengers: Infinity War.” There is a good chance he doesn’t make it to phase four because of how expensive he is.

Phase four is going to be used to introduce a whole new set of characters, but Kevin Feige, the president of Marvel Studios, has said he is not releasing any information about phase four until the release of the fourth Avengers film.

“Ideally, I think that’s what we’d like to do,” said Feige in an interview with reporter, Charles Barfield, with “The Playlist.” “We did a big event a couple of years ago where we announced like ten movies between 2014 and 2019 and we haven’t delivered all

of those yet and we haven’t delivered the promise when we made that really big deal of announcing all those movies.”

And so now to make a big deal of ‘even more movies, before the movies that we already announced!’ doesn’t seem like the right thing to do.”

It is safe to say that we won’t truly know what is going to happen until the next Avengers; however, it is very likely that there will be leaks throughout the year. A leak is when either an employee or an outside source manages to release information on the internet.

Accidental leaks about films is very common. Actors can post on Instagram and accidentally reveal too much. We will most likely know more about the films before Marvel announces any set dates or characters.

# J. COLE’S “KOD” BREAKS RECORDS AND SPEAKS THE TRUTH



EMILY LEWMAN ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Jermaine Lamarr Cole, more famously known as rapper J. Cole, released his fifth studio album, “KOD”, on April 20, 2018. According to “Vulture,” the album has broken the record for most streams in a day on Spotify and Apple Music, 36.7 and 64.5 million respectively, a record previously held by Taylor Swift for her lead single, “Look What You Made Me Do.”

The album consists of 12 different songs that delve into how people use sex, money, drugs, alcohol and even social media to escape the pain of life.

“We live in a society where all this drug use is normalized, it’s the norm, it’s okay” said Cole in an interview with Vulture. Some of the top songs from the album discuss a powerful message that many rappers today don’t talk about anymore. “ATM” discusses wealth addiction, “Photograph” goes into the overuse of social media, and “Kevin’s Heart” discusses the consequences of sex and cheating.

The theme of the album has touched many, as his

message is the truth that most people don’t speak up about. For example, the song “Brackets” talks about his concerns about where government taxes are really going and how “the white man” doesn’t do anything when it comes to violence in “the ghetto.”

*Let me pick the things I’m funding from an app on my screen  
Better than letting wack congressman I’ve never seen  
Dictate where my money go, straight into the palms of some  
Money-hungry company that make guns that circulate the country  
And then wind up in my hood, making bloody clothes  
Stray bullet hit a young boy with a snotty nose*  
- “Brackets”, “KOD”, J. Cole

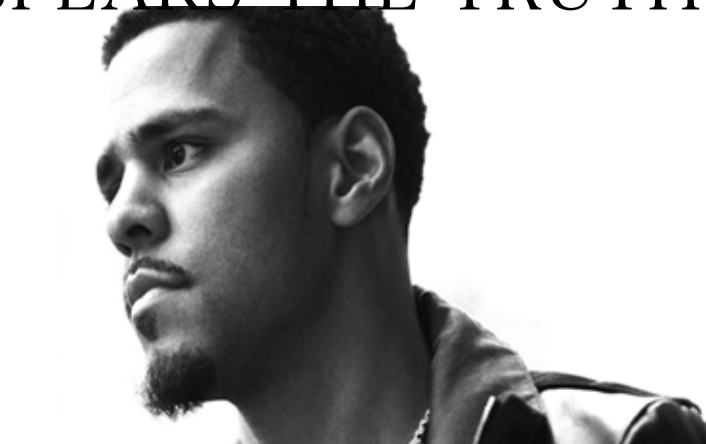
The last song on the album, “1985 (Intro to “The Fall Off”)”, lectures young people about how using drugs and doing everything just to earn money isn’t the way to go.

*Now your show’s lookin’ light cause they don’t show up  
Which unfortunately means the money slow up  
Now you scramblin’ and hopin’ to get hot again  
But you forgot you only popped ‘cause you was ridin’ trends  
Now you old news and you goin’ through regrets  
‘Cause you never bought that house, but you got a Benz  
And a bunch of jewels and a bunch of shoes  
And a bunch of fake friends, I ain’t judgin’ you  
I’m just tellin’ you what’s probably gon’ happen when you rappin’  
‘Bout the type of shit you rappin’*  
- “1985 (Intro to ‘The Fall Off;)”, “K.O.D.”, J. Cole.

The record found it’s way to many people including some at our own school. Senior Jim Youngs has loved the album since it was dropped and feels the lyrics have a deeper meaning than other modern hip-hop artists today.

“It’s an album that talks about the struggles of addictions. People say the album isn’t any good but they’re simply not listening to the lyrics,” said Youngs, “In each song you hear a story and it opens you up to a chapter in his [J. Cole] life. I personally have listened to it everyday since it’s dropped.”

There are some people out there who don’t appreciate



the message behind Cole’s music, like SoundCloud rapper Lil Pump, who made a diss track about Cole. The seventeen year-old rapper became famous off of his bass-filled songs and constantly yelling “ESKEETIT” all over social media. The rapper preaches about “leaning” or “popping pills” such as xanax or fentanyl which late rapper Lil Peep overdosed on last November.

After KOD dropped, later that night at a concert in Atlanta, rapper Smokepurpp, friend of Lil Pump, started a chant against Cole.

“It’s really a ‘shoe fits’ situation — several people can wear that shoe,” said Cole in an interview with Vulture, “Why you yelling at your show? You must feel attacked in some kind of way, must feel offended, and if you feel offended, then that means something rings true, something struck a chord. That’s cool with me. That’s all I ever want to do.”

Cole knows that some people don’t take him seriously or don’t consider him the best rapper in the game, but that’s not his goal. He’s trying to spread information about the level of addiction that holds back many of us from our true potential. He wants to let you know there is more to life than just drugs, sex, and wealth.

# THE WEEKND SHARES ABOUT BREAK-UP IN NEW ALBUM

NIA ALEXOPOULOS  
STAFF WRITER

In our modern day era, a large amount of rap songs have meaningless and graphic lyrics with a catchy beats to appeal to its listeners. Therefore, it’s exciting to see an artist use their abilities to convey a story through their words. In this fashion, Canadian singer and songwriter, Abel Tesfaye, more commonly known by his stage name, The Weeknd, recently released the album “My Dear Melancholy,” which reached number one in the R&B/ soul charts on iTunes at the beginning of April.

So what has made this album so appealing to The Weeknd’s fans? Well, not only are the songs musically

pleasing, but lyrically as well. The Weeknd chose to include allusions to the break-up between him and pop singer, Selena Gomez, throughout the entirety of the album.

According to “Elle Magazine,” The Weeknd and Gomez were dating for approximately 10 months, until it abruptly ended when Gomez was spotted hanging out in public with fellow pop star Justin Bieber, who is also Gomez’s ex.

As a result, The Weeknd was very broken up about the situation, considering his previous break-up with American model, Bella Hadid. To respond to this milestone in his life, The Weeknd decided to express his feelings in his new album. “My Dear Melancholy,” is



a six song “mini-album” that possesses a gentle vibe The Weeknd uses to reach the ears of his listeners. He takes them along this journey and approaches the meaning of heartbreak in a very serious way.

Many of us know the feeling of heartbreak, and

knowing our biggest icons and famous people are sharing the same emotions can really help during those times in struggle.

The most popular song on the album is “Call Out My Name,” and in this piece The Weeknd reflects mostly on the mistake of getting involved with Gomez. One of the lines that expresses this idea the most is “falling for you was my mistake.” By including this line, The Weeknd shows that what he is going through is partially his fault and that he has learned many life lessons from the relationship he has endured with Gomez.

In the song, he also states “I helped you out of a broken place,” referring to when Gomez was still

recovering from her kidney transplant due to the inflammatory disease, Lupus. He goes on about how once he had helped her recover, she became stronger and realized that she no longer needed The Weeknd’s support, hence their break-up.

Because music is such a helpful accessory to have alongside the emotions we feel, The Weeknd did an amazing job of providing an outlet to those who are going through a feeling of loss and heartbreak. Without his considerate and passionate approach, many of his fans wouldn’t see the soft and delicate side of his personality.



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THE #ONELESS CHALLENGE DESTROYING ARS FOR AWARENESS IS INEFFECTIVE



**BRANDON SCHNURR**  
NEWS EDITOR

On February 18, 2018, at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High in Parkland, Florida, 17 people lost their lives when a former student came to the school, pulled the fire alarm, and opened fire on fleeing students. The weapon used in this shooting was a semi-automatic, civilian AR-15, and once again sparked controversy and scrutiny against ARs.

The #OneLess Challenge is a challenge that has recently popped up in light of the shooting. There's an interesting twist on this challenge though. Rather than focusing on anti-gun activists, this challenge is for current gun owners, specifically those who own ARs, standing for ArmaLite Rifle, a classification of weapon based upon the look of military rifles and carbines, but not the capabilities of military weaponry.

Owners of ARs are taking their AR and destroying them in some way, such as sawing it in half to make it inoperable, taking one less AR away from the world, hence the name of the challenge. There's only one major problem with this challenge: it's solving nothing.

The #OneLess Challenge is for those who feel ARs are useless to everyday people and cause too much harm and that ARs should be restricted and taken away from millions of owners due to a select few that use them for harm. AR

owners destroy their AR despite the fact that they are legally allowed to own an AR and are law-abiding citizens.

This effectively stops nothing as the only people destroying their weapons are anti-gun and against gun violence. This means they would not use the weapon they are destroying to harm others, and, as a result, have no reason to destroy it, but destroy it anyway.

*No potential criminal will dare do this challenge and lose their gun[s].*

No potential criminal will dare do this challenge and lose their gun[s]. All this challenge does is take guns that are perfectly viable for hunting, self-defense and sport-shooting away from law abiding citizens. People perform this challenge to bring attention to the supposed uselessness of ARs and to bring awareness to school shootings.

Despite these attempts, the challenge has gained little awareness and is even being mocked publicly by many gun owners more than it is being performed by them. It is at its core a drastic statement on how people personally feel about ARs by destroying an item that costs hundreds or thousands of dollars.

*The #OneLess Challenge is one of the many new attempts to put forth actions instead of words, but it has failed.*

People around the world are at a point where thoughts and prayers are not enough, and everybody knows it. The #OneLess Challenge is one of the many new attempts to put forth actions instead of words, but it has failed. Videos of participants in the challenge are just someone explaining the challenge, several minutes of people destroying their gun and then sending their thoughts and prayers at the end of the video. Rather than gun crime or overall crime itself being lowered by this challenge, it only reduces the number of guns citizens have.

Buyback programs are a better alternative. The police will pay you for your weapons and confiscate them either for later use by the police or to be scrapped. This puts both money in a gun owner's pocket and helps to support local police forces instead of just losing money by destroying a valuable item and helping no one.

*Red flag laws allow law enforcement to prevent purchase of firearms and take away firearms from those who are deemed dangerous or a possible threat.*

Red flag laws allow law enforcement to prevent purchase of firearms and take away firearms from those who are deemed dangerous or a possible threat. This would be a much more effective alternative to the challenge, as it takes guns away from those who may actually use them for harming others or themselves rather than encouraging non-violent individuals to give up theirs.


There can also be very harsh legal complications behind the challenge. Back in March, Virginia Congressional candidate Karen Mallard (Democrat) decided to destroy her family's AR-15 on video for the #OneLess Challenge. Afterwards, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) launched an investigation due to the process they used to attempt to destroy the gun, which was incorrectly done and instead just broke part of it, converting it into an illegal weapon called a Short Barrel Rifle (SBR).

The laws outlined by the National Firearms Act prohibits shotguns and rifles, not just ARs, from being modified to have a barrel shorter than 16 inches or being shorter than 26 inches overall. The process Mallard used made the barrel shorter than 16 inches and, as a result, the ATF confiscated the weapon after it was dropped off by the family at the police station.

The #OneLess challenge also co-exists with another #OneLess Challenge that focuses on cutting back on carbonated and unhealthy drinks. This makes it hard to search for on media outlets and platforms such as Facebook and Instagram and often buries the less popular #OneLess Challenge related to guns.

As predicted by many, the challenge didn't gain much popularity and failed to gain mass media attention. A challenge against guns to be carried out by gun owners may not have been the ideal approach. Gun owners are typically pro-gun, so they value their 2nd Amendment rights and uphold and practice their rights when they can.

BEAUTY STANDARDS AND BODY IMAGE HOW SOCIETY USES SOCIAL MEDIA TO TARGET YOUNG GIRLS



**OLIVIA ELY**  
OPINION EDITOR

It's an average afternoon for a sixteen-year-old girl, she is sitting in bed after school scrolling through her Instagram feed full of perfectly photoshopped models. She checks her calorie tracking app and starts to panic when she sees that she ate over 12 hundred calories. She skips dinner and stays in bed all night wishing that she looked as beautiful as the girls on Instagram and regretting what she ate that day.

*"I think that our current society and social media is causing girls to act unnatural or not be their true selves just to fit in with their friends or social standards," said junior Stephanie Hoogerhide.*

Currently 95 percent of young girls with eating disorders such as anorexia, bulimia and binge eating disorders are between the ages of twelve and twenty five, according to the Huffington Post. These disorders are caused by the unrealistic societal standards that have been created over time. Young girls want to match the

ideal body image so much that they create bad habits and force themselves into diets that don't nourish their bodies. They also obsess over unrealistic goals and complete grueling amounts of exercise.

Junior Stephanie Hoogerheide said, "I think that it's not right for society to be pushing young girls and teens to try to be perfect because no one is perfect. We shouldn't have to fit into a certain image, and we should want to be who we are without wanting to be someone else."

Social media perpetuates trends that encourage women to work out, try fad diets and use ridiculous products like waist-trainers. Waist-trainers are steel boned corsets that are worn around the midsection that supposedly help to shape your waist into an hourglass figure.

Also, many women base their careers off of dieting and exercising to make money by posting pictures of themselves, and marketing the latest fat loss products and skinny teas, which are promoted on social media platforms that include multiple teas, extracts and herbs that are supposed to help people lose weight.

"Instead of wanting to work out and eat healthy just to take care of your own well being, many people are doing it [publicizing a healthy lifestyle] just to say they are and to take a mirror selfie at the gym or eat a healthy salad to post on social media," said junior Zoe Srackangast.

Some of these standards enforced by social media go unnoticed everyday. Think about this: almost every movie that

you watch features a female love interest that has pretty long hair, is skinny and is desired by every guy. Almost every commercial on TV has a family with perfect looking kids and seemingly great parents. These aren't just coincidences; media sources purposely project these images to show the standard of beauty that is expected out of young girls.

Zoe wants young women to be themselves and ignore societies harsh standards.

Zoe continued with her concerns, "I think that it's also causing more anxiety and mental problems in girls with the idea that you're not good enough and

confidence.

English teacher Anne Bowser said, "I'm not sure it [society's standards] has changed as much as you might think. I think that women have always been required to be concerned with how they look, more so than men. I'm not talking about hygiene, I'm talking about how one presents oneself. What you highlight in yourself is what you're presenting to the world. The fact that this is happening with younger girls is the problem." Bowser continued, "What we don't realize is that we tend to sexualize ourselves by saying, 'I can make my eyebrows look this way or my lips this way.' That's the problem."

We as young women can try to uplift each other by doing the little things like giving out compliments about someone's talents or skills in a subject rather than just how they look or what they are wearing. That takes less than thirty seconds out of your day.

Also, young women can try to take t-he media with a grain of salt. We need to have a filter for the media and realize that most of these women are photoshopped, and these ideas of women are unrealistic. No one needs to conform to societal standards created by social media to be deemed beautiful or liked by others.

We have to realize that every single one of us is beautiful and we are all unique, and the things we like and our personalities are more important than how we look. Everyone has their own journey to self-love and that is okay.

KNIGHTS

SPEAK

In your opinion, what makes a good teacher?



**Caleb Gonzalez, 11th**  
"One that understands where a student is coming from."



**Darius White, 10th**  
"A teacher that you always ask for help and a teacher that always makes sure you are on top of your grades."



**Evelyn Bartley, 12th**  
"I think a good teacher is someone who understands what the students are going through and who accommodates the student's need."



**Emma Scheele, 10th**  
"One that cares about the students and also doesn't only assign busy work."





**PHOTO CREDIT / SOFIE NEHLSSEN**  
Jay Peterson helping junior Tatyahna Scott with her work. Peterson believes that it’s important to have a connection with his students.

**SOFIE NEHLSSEN** ASSISTANT LAYOUT EDITOR

Teachers play a huge role in students day-to-day lives. Students spend about one-third of their time at school being taught and influenced by their teachers. Many teachers have vastly different teaching methods. While some like being practical and really letting their students work with the materials, others prefer to work with the theories behind each topic and get into great detail about the subject. “Everybody has a

different idea of what a good teacher should be,” said biology teacher Valerie Long, “I think a good teacher is a teacher who is concerned with their students academically and also with their social and emotional development.” Long has been a teacher for 20 years and mostly teaches ninth graders. She thinks that being a good student is a lot like being a good athlete; you have to practice and be committed even though you may not like

it all the time. “The number one thing that makes a good teacher is how much do you care about your students. There’s an old saying: People don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care,” said government and world history teacher Jay Peterson, “I think you could be an incredibly intelligent teacher with lots of content knowledge, but you’re only going to get through to a small percentage of students if you don’t demonstrate

how much you care about them and their particular success.” Jayne A. Downey conducted research about student-teacher relationships and how they affect at-risk students. In his research paper he concluded, “Students need teachers to build strong interpersonal relationships with them, focusing on strengths of the students while maintaining high and realistic expectations for success.” Many students here at Norrix agree with him. “A good teacher should be fun and also strict for the students safety, but for the most part they should make learning fun. The difference a good teacher can make is that they can make a student want to actually come to the class and put some effort into the class and hopefully pass,” said freshman Chris May. May likes a teacher that offers their help and cares about their students. He believes that for a teacher to be able to do their job well, students need to help them. When students are being attentive and respectful to teachers, the teachers can focus on teaching the subject and help those who need it instead of focusing on sending kids out. “I never go into a

classroom expecting that many people are going to automatically love my subject,” said social studies teacher James Johnson. “It’s realistic that probably half the class doesn’t like the stuff that I’m about to teach, and so I don’t ask them to make it their favorite class just to give me their attention and do their best.” Johnson cares a lot about being a good teacher and making sure that his students are comfortable in the classroom. “A good teacher cares about the job and especially the students. Our primary job is to help people learn so that kind of guides everything we should be doing. We should have high standards for our students but at the same time try to get to know our students so we can have a connection,” said Johnson. For teachers to help students be successful, students need to help them too. Students need to put in their best effort and not be disruptive in class. If students and teachers work together to create a harmonic teaching environment then the chance of kids succeeding will increase.



“A good teacher is accessible to help their students and knows a lot about the topic they are teaching. They have to be friendly, so students like coming to class,” said 10th grader Finn Brent.



“A good teacher has to be chill and understand that a lot of teenagers deal with lot of stress outside of school and maybe be flexible when it comes to homework,” said tenth grader Michael Lara-Sanchez.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### STUDENTS RESPOND TO NATIONAL WALKOUT COVERAGE

Dear Editor, I read the Knights Speak opinions about the walkout. I really liked the answers because they really captivated the thoughts of those who protested and those who opted-out. I know now that I opted-out for the same reason as others but now that I read other opinions to protest, I feel the most positive impact possible. And I don’t think opting-out would give me that. So thanks to Tramae Powell’s comment, next time I will also be protesting for peace in our place of education. Emmanuel Anderson freshman

Dear Editor, I read the article about the organized walkout. I did like the article, seeing the emotion that the kids who participated really showed something itself. People sometimes don’t understand that even if people aren’t directly affected by the violent acts such as school shootings they are still very much affected. So many different aspects on the way things are and the way things should be. Me personally, reading that article I understand that everybody who was at the walkout felt strongly about the school shooting. Deandre Buchanan senior

Dear Editor, I like the basic outline of the “walkout” article, however I wish you would have given more students a chance to speak. The comments by students seemed vague. I think in my personal opinion if you focused more on the cause and students’ opinions it would be more interesting. I was hoping to hear more about it. It was a demonstrated [planned] assembly but there was only one or two comments on

it. A well written article but lacks focal point of others. Not to completely criticize, I did enjoy the layout and the main focal points. Taylor Gray senior

Dear Editor, I read “Loy Norrix Participates in National Walkout.” I really liked this article, it gave me goosebumps while I was reading it. It’s an issue and thing that needs to be addressed and not just for a few days because things like this happen everyday. I was absent on the day of the walkout and didn’t get to participate, so I’m glad I read this article. Saryna Pineau junior

### STUDENTS SHARE OPINIONS ON GUN CONTROL

Dear Editor, I liked the article about teachers having and not having guns. I thought it was interesting to see the claims and argument they had. I like the one saying teachers should not have guns because I agree with them. I like how they both had articles side by side like if it was a compare and contrast. I think teachers should not have guns because it is too much responsibility for a teacher, especially if they accidentally fire the gun. Luis Mireles freshman

Dear Editor, I read “Teachers Should Have Guns,” and I agree completely. I feel agree teachers would be a great thing for a school shooting scenario. For no other reason will a teacher need a gun in school, but since school shootings happen as often as they do, it’s smart to just keep staff members armed, as far as teachers and security. Yeah, shooting a child may feel terrible, but that one life could’ve been the cause of many other children’s lives lost, right

along with his/hers. Leandre Anderson senior

Dear Editor, I read the opinion article on teachers having guns. I really liked the pro teacher side because it’s obviously not a popular opinion, but the spokesperson for that side not only got straight to the point but brought up some interesting ideas. Liam Dalrymple sophomore

Dear Editor, I read “18 Isn’t a Safe Age to Own a Gun.” I liked it because we are talking about the issue, but I disagree with it. One of the first points is that our brains at 18 are not developed fully. If you advocate for not being able to own a firearm at 18, then should you have to wait to join the military? Or to get your license?

Another big problem in the debate on guns is the vocabulary used. Terms like “assault rifle” and “fully semi-automatic” are often used by people who have no prior knowledge of guns. I have seen people advocate for a ban on automatic firearms, and they do not know that they are already banned. Just the lack of knowledge on the subject is already worrying. Some anti-gun supporters advocate for the banning of semi-automatic rifle caliber weapons, but they don’t know that while rifles such as the AR-15 caused 245 murders and handguns caused 5,562 deaths in 2014. A majority of handgun deaths each year are also suicide. I could talk about gun control all day but I don’t want to. Personally, I view our problem rests with the mental health side of things. We all know Nikolas Cruz has had the police called on him various times before, the FBI knew about him and how he was a danger to his family and classmates. Rickie Greyer sophomore

### COMPLIMENTS AND CRITIQUES OF THE NEWSPAPER

Dear Editor, I read a fair amount of your writing and I’ve just stopped to say that as good as this paper was, it still had its negatives. I liked how each page had a subject for something else. I liked how the stories were driven by passion, but I disliked how the more potential that the newspaper had wasn’t there. If you ask why, it’s because you could have added smaller stories or at least tried to add something that we wouldn’t expect. Ramsey Prieto junior

Dear Editor, I read Knights Speak in the newspaper. I liked how it included everyone’s opinions and didn’t put any bias. I like this because everyone should have a voice here. One thing I didn’t like was nothing. I really liked everything and it was just an all around good paper. Keep doing what you’re doing. Jaime Madas freshman

### STUDENTS RESPOND TO MENTAL ILLNESS

Dear Editor, When reading “Mental Illness in School and the Unheard Pleas for Help,” I thought the article addressed the more taboo topics most people avoid talking about. I thought the author went about addressing the topics and how a lot of teens really do feel very well. The only thing I would have liked to see more of is more quotes from the other people. It would have been nice to hear from more than just two people. Other than that the article did a really good job talking about how most students feel about talking to peers and adults. Elaina Gross freshman

Dear Editor, I read the article about mental illness and suffering from depression and other mental disorders. I liked the article because I understand the point where Nelson is coming from about all these different illnesses or disorders. I liked how they use lots of examples too. For example, teachers or peers not being or giving enough help or not enough attention, they aren’t communicating enough with the students. I understand the points that Nelson makes with kids with mental illness or disorder being treated differently and that alienates them. Nelson also mentions a 504 plan for students with medical conditions. Nelson said that if the teachers or parents communicate better with these students about these problems or illnesses, then kids would know the options of receiving the help they need. I like how Nelson used other students that respond on how they treat kids with mental illness or how they feel toward them. The article is very bright and I enjoyed reading it. Shatonia Anderson freshmen

Dear Editor, In this edition of KnightLife (Issue 4), I read the mental illness article by Raili Nelson. I always think it is important to inform people about what people are dealing with in our school. I appreciate the regular reports on important topics like gun control, mental illnesses, and bullying. To further better the newspaper, I would include more deep topics that people can question and relate to. I also appreciate the amount of effort it takes to come out with these articles. I’m looking forward to the next edition and the conversations that will occur in this newspaper. Evalynn Hurley freshman

### STUDENTS SHARE OPINIONS ON KNIGHT LIFE ARTICLES

Dear Editor, I read “What it’s Like to be in an EFE; The Surprising Truth.” I really enjoyed reading this article. Mainly because it gave the readers a lot of insight into what EFE’s are really and how they work. I also liked it because it gave really good perspectives for the students of Loy Norrix and the emotions that people may be feeling while starting the class. The whole article is really great for people who are not sure if they want to take a class. Mariah Underwood sophomore


Dear Editor, I totally agreed with the article “Loy Norrix Winters.” I could relate to how it’s always freezing. It’s like the air conditioner comes on at the wrong time. I remember my sophomore year, I kid you not, during the middle of winter the AC came on. I wrote that down and when the summer came, the AC didn’t come on and we had to open the window. So in the winter that’s why I could relate when the dude said why is it so cold? Do the heaters even work? Kavon Conley junior

Dear Editor, I read “Nonla Burger: A Retro Sit-Down with A Modern Twist” by Abigail Lindblade. I liked the article because it was about food of course. I also liked it because it gave me an idea on a new restaurant to eat at. Lindblade persuaded me to make me want to try this restaurant immediately. What I didn’t like was you kind of down talked on McDonalds when you didn’t have to to get your point across. Ishia Canda sophomore




**Shontrel Pritchett, 10th**

“When they let you charge your phone.”




**DQ Myles, 12th**

“A teacher that’s cool and inspires hope and learning.”



**Keegan Cameron, 9th**

“They have some sort of comedy, they don’t go overboard with too much work, they’re laid back, they know how to grade stuff, they update grades in the home access center.”



**Mitchell Barker, 11th**

“A teacher that helps you through stuff and works with you and doesn’t just give you the answers but helps you out.”



# A PICTURE TO REMEMBER

## PROM PHOTOS FROM THE 2018 PROM ‘A KNIGHT TO REMEMBER’

**ABBIE LINDBLADE** SOCIAL MEDIA TEAM

Prom is a memorable experience for high school students across the country. Students spend hundreds, even thousands of dollars on the ‘perfect’ dress, nails, tux, makeup, hair and everything else involved in the prom tradition. This year, Loy Norrix held it’s prom at Niko’s Landing in Comstock, MI, with the theme ‘A Knight to Remember.’ Norrix students invested exorbitant amounts of their time and money into this prom to truly make it a night to remember, and through their enchanting fashion choices and fun new ways of expressing themselves through style, May 5th, 2018 will forever be a night Loy Norrix students will look back on and remember fondly.



**PHOTO CREDIT / HEATHER GERAND**  
Junior Marleigh Vandenburg went for a simple dress so she could ‘amp it up’ with her hair and makeup. She’s never been one for sparkly and flashy fashion, so she felt her dress represented her personality well.



**PHOTO CREDIT / MICHAELA MARTIN**  
Senior Nuru Lewis stunned the crowd as she and junior De’Andre Worthy switched from their normal sports apparel to their blue and pink prom attire. “I traveled so much for this dress but, little did I know, it was at David’s Bridal and as soon as I put it on I knew it was the one that would shock everyone,” said Lewis.



**PHOTO CREDIT / BEATRIX DAMASHEK**  
Former student Sidney Richardson wanted to look like the Prince Charming to his girlfriends Cinderella. He loved his suit because it had subtle pinstripes and he enjoys patterns.



**PHOTO CREDIT / ABBIE LINDBLADE**  
Junior Beatrix Damashek was inspired by a 1920’s flapper girl style. She loved the classic look of her dress and felt like it was the perfect throwback style. She bought it because it made her eyes pop and curved around her body.



As soon as Senior Tiana Boyd tried on her dress she felt like a princess. She decided to stick with a Cinderella/princess theme because it’s not a style she would’ve normally gone for.



**PHOTO CREDIT / ABBIE LINDBLADE**



**PHOTO CREDIT / MICHAELA MARTIN**  
Seniors Paul Juriga, Jadyn Hazzard, and Jose Solis smile together for a picture. All students made sure their tuxedos and dresses were memorable. “[My tuxedo] was Calvin Klein and I chose it because I looked in the mirror and was feelin’ myself,” said Hazzard.



Junior Marco McDade was inspired by his best friend Beatrix’s dress. He wanted to buy a navy suit to match her navy dress.



**PHOTO CREDIT / ABBIE LINDBLADE**



**PHOTO CREDIT / TISHA PANKOP**  
Senior Jada Lassiter loved her dress because of the different type of style it was, featuring bright turquoise and metallic gold. She was inspired by her own middle name, which is Turquoise, and felt taller and beautiful in her dress.



**PHOTO CREDIT / MICHAELA MARTIN**  
Seniors Adam Dorstewitz and Naomi Verne smile together in Crane Park. Verne dazzled students with her beautiful maroon dress. “I actually chose a different dress at first, and then returned it. I chose this one because it was a lot more comfortable and it was something I never would have originally guessed to get,” said Verne.



**PHOTO CREDIT / MICHAELA MARTIN**



Seniors Molly Ratliff, Mey Wong, and Abby Guimond pose together for a picture. Many students met at Crane Park for pictures then parted ways for dinner. “I liked getting to go to Maru’s Sushi and Grill with friends and hanging with them while we danced the night away,” said Wong.



**PHOTO CREDIT / MICHAELA MARTIN**  
Seniors Rhiannon Pitcock, Jenni Peterson, and Kenzie Fox smile for pictures at Crane Park. The trio are good friends who looked beautiful all night.



# SENIOR SECTION

VOLUME 58 - MAY 2018

WE HAVE SEEN A LOT OF THINGS TOGETHER AS THE SENIOR CLASS. WE'VE BEEN THROUGH LOCKDOWNS, RIOTS, MARCHED FOR GUN CONTROL AND WELCOMED NEW ADMINISTRATORS AND TEACHERS. WE HAVE BOTH FOUGHT FOR CHANGE AND EMBRACED IT AS IT CAME. COLLECTIVELY WE HAVE SHOWN GREAT RESILIENCE AND GROWTH AS A CLASS.

**THE SENIOR SECTION OF KNIGHT LIFE HONORS THE FOUR YEARS SENIORS HAVE SPENT AT LOY NORRIX AS THEY PREPARE TO GO OUT INTO THE WORLD AS HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES.**



## GOODBYE NORRIX

In the great courtyard  
There was a gazebo  
And lunch tables  
And a couple of  
Security officers standing guard  
And there were three little seniors  
Sitting on benches  
And two little juniors  
And a pair of sophomores  
That snuck in from their lunches  
And a little bee  
Going where the wind would blow  
And a young freshman  
Watching from the class window  
And a phone and a book  
And a tray full of mush  
And a quiet super senior  
Who was whispering "hush"

Goodbye courtyard  
Goodbye gazebo  
Goodbye security standing guard  
Goodbye graffiti  
Scrawled on the lunch tables  
Goodbye seniors  
Goodbye benches  
Goodbye juniors  
And goodbye sophomores  
That snuck in  
Goodbye clocks  
Screaming at us about 7:23 am  
Goodbye Porco  
And goodbye Witt  
Goodbye Layton  
And goodbye Van Lieu  
Goodbye Felkel  
Goodbye mush  
And goodbye to the super senior  
Whispering "hush"  
Goodbye rusty water  
Goodbye tower stairs  
Goodbye Norrix students everywhere

An adaptation of "Goodnight Moon"  
by Margaret Wise Brown  
Adapted by Connor Wilger



KNIGHT LIFE SENIOR REPORTERS  
SAY GOODBYE TO LOY NORRIX!



# SENIOR SURVEY

## FAVORITE TEACHERS OF THE CLASS OF 2018



PHOTO CREDIT / OLIVIA ELY

These five teachers have been chosen as many seniors’ favorite teachers and their quotes to the graduating class are written below.

English teacher Ms. English: “High school is only the first step to a long journey ahead of you have the opportunity to do such amazing things with your lives, be kind, show that you care about others, and do things that make you happy.”

Law and Government teacher Mrs. Pringle: “Have fun on our next journey, but realize this is your first big step into adulthood; so be reckoning yet responsible.”

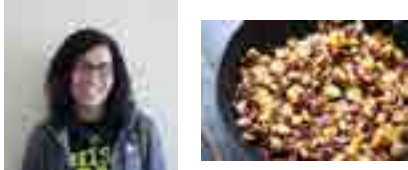
Drama teacher Mrs. Carrow: “Never apologize for your emotions, beliefs, or personality. You are uniquely perfect, don’t listen to the haters.”

Track Coach, Coach Duckett (not pictured) : “Nothing is free, and anything you want you have to work for. Nothing lasts forever, so you must be ready for change.”

English teacher Mrs. Bowser: “Open the eyes of your heart to the world and see that all things are possible.”

## THE CLASS OF 2018’S FAVORITE FOODS

**Tihnae Bennett**  
Corn Beef Hash.



**Trentin Hohler**  
Shepards Pie.



**Zaviona Woodruff**  
Pancakes.



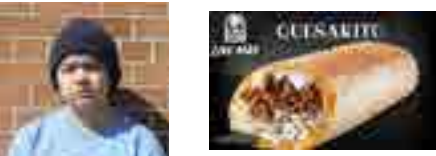
**Valerie Lamb**  
Arroz con Leche.



**Sydney Apperley**  
Anchovies.



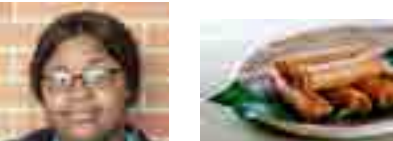
**Conor Wilger**  
Quesaritos from Taco bell



**Alex Johnson**  
Captain Crunch cereal.



**Diamond Shannon**  
Eggrolls



## WHAT ARE THE SENIORS PERSUING AFTER HIGH SCHOOL?



**ANDREW GAUNT**  
PAPER ENGINEERING  
I love chemistry and physics and they are both entertaining.



**NICK STRODES**  
BIOCHEMISTRY  
I’m really interested in biology and chemistry and science in general.



**IZZY WIKLE**  
ANTHROPOLOGY  
It has both modern and past implications and knowing how we got here and why, can help us get to a better place than what we are in now.



**TAIJJANAYE BEAMON**  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
I like law and it interests me.



**JADA LASSITER**  
SLEEP SPECIALIST  
I love naps and I want to learn more about why we need sleep.



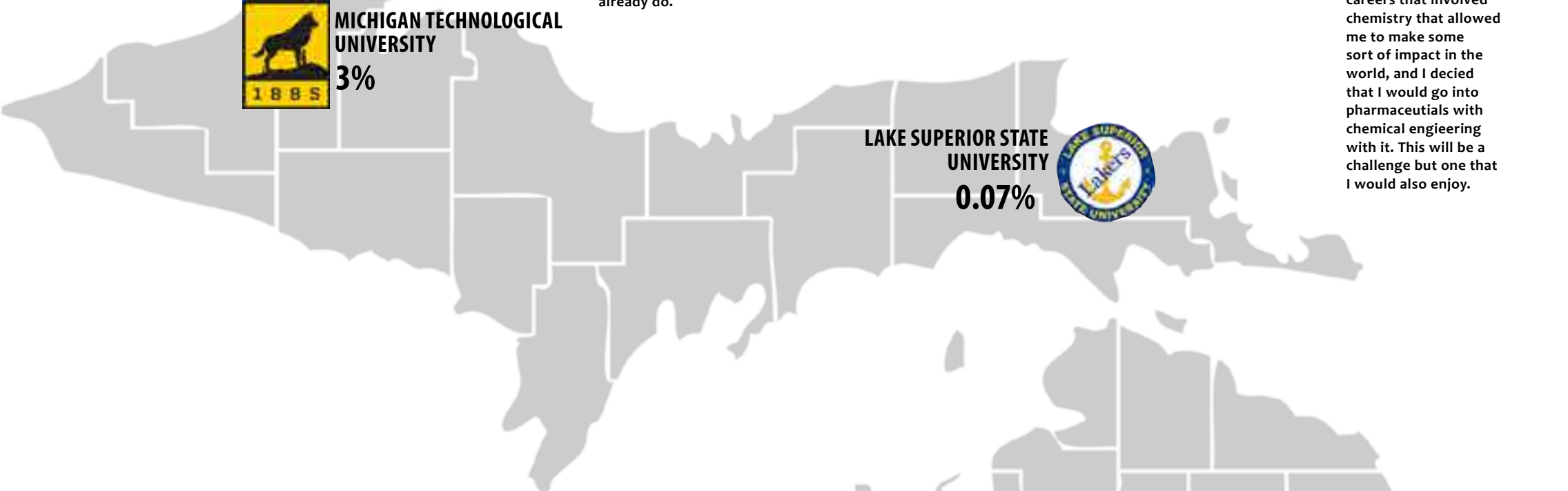
**LIANA LUCIANO**  
ANIMAL PSYCHOLOGY  
I really love psychology and animals, and I would like to understand them more than I already do.



**JT MITCHELL**  
CONSERVATION BIOLOGY  
I really like outside and I enjoy the outdoors.



**TAMARA ROBERTSON**  
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING  
When I first took chemistry during sophomore year, I fell in love with it. I started to look into careers that involved chemistry that allowed me to make some sort of impact in the world, and I decided that I would go into pharmaceuticals with chemical engineering with it. This will be a challenge but one that I would also enjoy.



## TOP 3 ALBUMS OF 2017-18



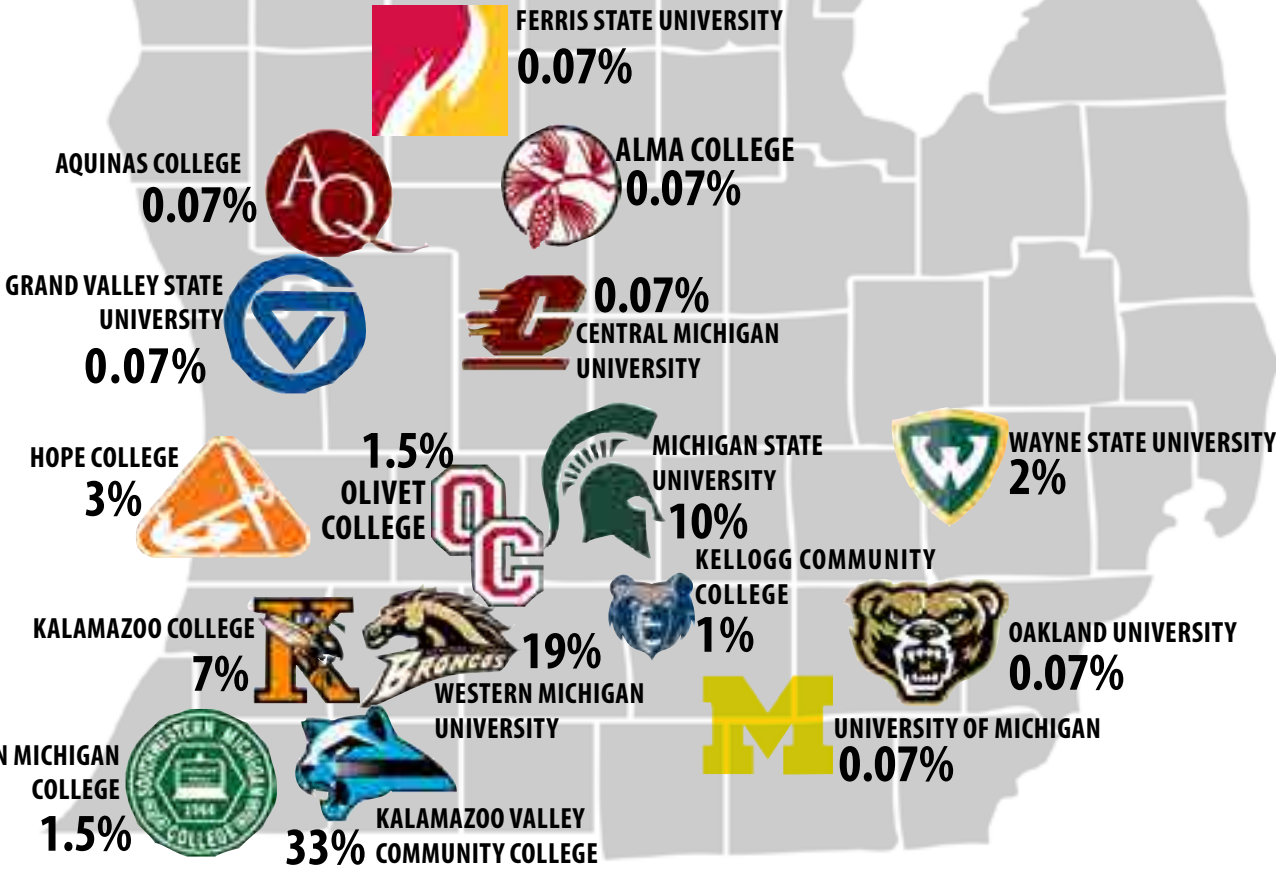
**KOD**  
KOD, BY J. COLE.  
SENIORS LOVE IT BECAUSE IT TALKS ABOUT COMMON PROBLEMS AND DEALING WITH PAIN.



**Invasion of privacy**  
INVASION OF PRIVACY, BY CARDI B.  
SENIORS LOVE IT BECAUSE IT HAS THAT ‘I DON’T CARE WHAT ANYONE THINKS KIND OF A MOOD.’ CARDI IS VERY CONFIDENT IN HERSELF AND EXPRESSES THAT THROUGH HER MUSIC.

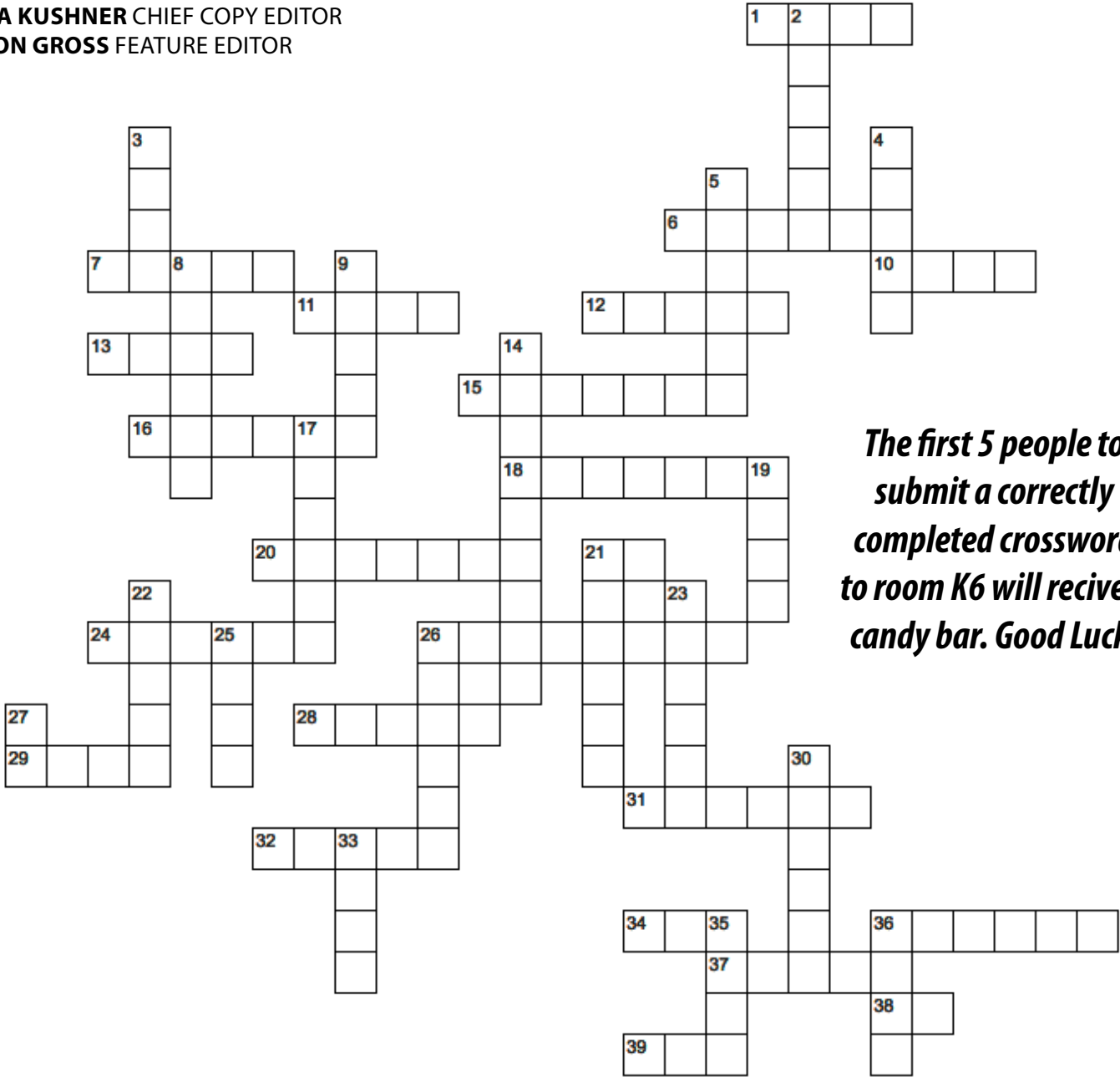


**BEERBONGS AND BENTLEYS**  
BEERBONGS & BENTLEYS, BY POST MALONE.  
SENIORS LOVE IT BECAUSE HIS MUSIC IS A NICE MIX OF HIP HOP BEATS AND GUITAR, MAKING HIS MUSIC VERY UNIQUE.





ANNA KUSHNER CHIEF COPY EDITOR  
DEVON GROSS FEATURE EDITOR



*The first 5 people to submit a correctly completed crossword to room K6 will recive a candy bar. Good Luck!*

Everyone is unique in their own way. From their personality, to their hobbies and interests. High school is a memorable time in a person's life where they come to make a mark in a small community. Forty-three seniors were asked what they are most known for at Loy Norrix. In this crossword puzzle, **the clues are the seniors achievements and their first names are the answers.** How well do you know the Class of 2018?

Across

- 1 Has one of the most infectious laughs and is known for her love of animals.
- 6 Is a four-year varsity softball player and was voted Homecoming queen this year.
- 7 He swims, does forensics, and is a self-identified “K-pop star.”
- 10 He is an allstate diver and holds two school diving records.
- 11 Has long hair, and he will never be caught without repping the Spartans.
- 12 She is president of the National English Honor Society and has been diving for Loy Norrix’s swim and dive team for four years.
- 13 Most known for his hobby of opera singing.
- 15 His last name is a synonym for sofa.
- 16 Number 23 on the basketball court, and he plays as number 1 on the football field.
- 18 Is known for wearing his shorts and sandals year-round.
- 20 Was a puppeteer for “Little Shop of Horrors” and he posed as the Knight at the Candlelight ceremony last year.
- 21 Won biggest heart senior superlative, and he was injured two years in a row in football.
- 24 Lived in Africa for seven months during her junior year.
- 26 Is a nine year violinist for the Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Orchestra. She also plays for the Loy Norrix Orchestra.
- 28 The only female, four-year varsity soccer player.
- 29 Known for his art skills and often paints pro wrestlers and superheros
- 31 A cellist for the Kalamazoo Junior symphony Orchestra, and she is a two-year varsity soccer player.
- 32 She has been the varsity volleyball setter for the past three years.
- 34 Is a drum major in the Loy Norrix Marching Band and she was a puppeteer in “Little Shop of Horrors.”
- 36 Was the Winterfest king and was voted best dressed by the class of 2018.
- 37 Works at Foot Locker and refers to himself as Loy Norrix’s “Shoe Plug.”
- 38 He goes by the name \_\_\_\_ Silk.
- 39 Is a swimmer. He is also goes by “\_\_\_\_michanga”

Down

- 2 Played Seymour in “Little Shop of Horrors” this year.
- 3 Is known for being extremely kind and outgoing. She also plays the bass drum in the Loy Norrix Marching Band.
- 4 He is the starting lacrosse goalie.
- 5 Is the only female football player.
- 8 Is a four-year varsity bowler, and he placed third in the state this year.
- 9 Has taken a cosmetology EFE and is known for her killer makeup skills.
- 14 She was voted best artist by the class of 2018.
- 17 Has been on the homecoming court for the past two years and is known for her glow.
- 19 Runs varsity track, cross country and she is number 10 on the varsity basketball team.
- 21 Editor and Chief for the yearbook.
- 22 She is a nationally competitive Olympic style weight lifter.
- 23 The only girl on the improv team her sophomore year.
- 25 She is the president of National Honor Society and the valedictorian for the class of 2018.
- 26 Three-year varsity swimmer, and he will be swimming for Kalamazoo College next year.
- 27 He also goes by “Allstar.”
- 30 Is a future Wolverine and she participates in PeaceJam, Link Crew and National Honor Society.
- 33 Has a fishbone in his foot and played Orin, the dentist, in “Little Shop of Horrors” this year.
- 35 He is a co-founder of Balance Clothing Co. and is a self-described “businessman.”
- 36 A self-proclaimed “meme king” and he is a co-founder of Balance Clothing Co.

KEEGAN CAMERON

Freshman Keegan Cameron says he’ll miss senior Victor Moss the most next year because he’s so funny and talented. “He’s an all around good guy,” said Cameron. Cameron met Victor at a rehearsal for the school musical, “Little Shop of Horrors.” “He’s like my twin,” Cameron continued. Cameron’s favorite memory of Victor was when they went to Steak and Shake with their forensics multiples because they had so much fun laughing and talking.



PHOTO CREDIT / MARIAH SARELIS

Senior Victor Moss and freshman Keegan Cameron pose for a photo after performing in Loy Norrix’s ‘Little Shop of Horrors’. Moss and Cameron met during rehearsal for the production.

EMMA SCHEELE

Sophomore Emma Scheele says she will miss seniors Katie Stamper and Alex Vonhof the most next year. Emma met Catie through soccer and really cherishes their time spent together driving home after soccer and listening to music. “I’ll also miss playing soccer with Catie. She’s really good and fun to play with,” said Emma. Emma met Alex through mutual classes and enjoys hanging out at his house or in the woods. “I’ll miss hanging out with Alex. He’s really funny,” said Emma.

UNDERCLASSMEN DESCRIBE SENIORS THEY WILL MISS NEXT YEAR

ANNA KUSHNER CHIEF COPY EDITOR

VIVIAN SEGOVIA

Sophomore Vivian Segovia says she will miss senior Andrew Gaunt the most next year. Vivian met Andrew in gym class last year. “We were playing badminton and he played really well,” said Vivian. Vivian admires Andrew’s sense of style but says she’ll miss his smile and kindness the most. “He reminds me of [one of] my idols,” said Segovia.

MICHAELA MARTIN

Sophomore Michaela Martin is going to miss senior Bonnie Bremmer the most next year. Martin met Bonnie when Bonnie interviewed her for the People’s Choice Awards Michaela’s freshman year and further got to know her through forensics. “Bonnie’s never switched up on me,” said Michaela while discussing what makes Bonnie such a good friend. Martin also admires Bonnies sense of style, saying it inspires her to want to put her best face forward. “I remember one time Bonnie had this really cute gold locket, so I ended up buying a gold locket,” said Martin. Michaela’s favorite memory with Bonnie was when Bonnie drove her home from yearbook after a hard deadline, and they lost track of time just talking about college and life.



PHOTO CREDIT / ANNA KUSHNER

Sophomore Michaela Martin and senior Bonnie Bremmer sit outside talking during lunch. Martin and Bremmer often spend their lunch time together in the yearbook computer lab.

ZEKE LINK

Sophomore Zeke Links will miss seniors Sophie Fox and Jordyn Carlton the most next year. Zeke met Jordan through his brother, fellow senior Max Link and thinks he’s really cool and funny. “Jordyn’s just a really funny guy,” said Zeke. Zeke met Sophie through their mutual food and nutrition class and loves how she is able to make the class more enjoyable. “I’ll definitely miss both of their personalities next year. They are just fun to be around,” said Zeke.

LEXI ANTISDALE

Sophomore Lexi Antisdale says she will miss senior Nathan Platte the most next year. Lexi met Nathan through a mutual friend and enjoys their time at lunch together where he makes her laugh. “He keeps me from going insane at lunch,” Lexi continued, “He’s so down to earth and always makes my day better,” Lexie really admires how Nathan doesn’t care how straight-forward she can be sometimes.

LUCY WALLIS

Freshman Lucy Wallis says she will miss seniors Abby and Maddy Guimond the most next year. Lucy’s family is close family friends with Abby and Maddy’s family and has known them since they were kids. “They’re great role models. I’ll miss their humor and caring hearts,” said Lucy. Lucy always enjoys her yearly trip to go apple picking with Abby and Maddy, but her favorite memory with them is when they went to Mexico for Spring Break this year. “For Spring Break we went swimming in the pool. It was super fun and we were all having a good time and none of us were stressed about homework,” said Lucy.



PHOTO CREDIT / ANNE GUIMOND

Freshman Lucy Wallis poses with seniors Abby and Maddy Guimond in a pumpkin patch. Wallis and the Guimonds have an annual tradition of going apple picking together.

BAKHTY HIGGINS

Sophomore Bakhty Higgings is going to miss seniors Jordan Cox and JT Mitchell the most next year. Bakhty met Jordan through his physics class and values their time talking and messing around in that class. Bakhty met JT through JT’s younger brother and really likes playing baseball with him. “They’re both really funny and pretty nice to me as the only underclassman in a senior class,” said Bakhty.

KAMRYN KIMBROUGH

Freshman Kamryn Kimbrough will miss seniors Amarra Lyons, Abby Guimond, Victor Moss and Grace Erway next year. “The absence of their presence is going to be boring,” said Kamryn. Kimbrough met these seniors through forensics and always looks forward to practicing with them. However, Kamryn does admit that she looks up to and will miss Grace the most. “Grace has been doing the musical and forensics for four years, and I feel like I want to do that. So I connect with her in that way,” said Kamryn.



PHOTO CREDIT / MARIAH SARELIS

Freshman Kamryn Kimbrough and senior Grace Erway sing together in ‘Little Shop of Horrors’. Kimbrough really looks up to Erway and admires her talent and drive.



CLASS OF 2018 BEST MOMENTS

EMILY LEWMAN ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

FATI DIALLO



"My best high school memories are joining the marching band and performing during halftime. I also loved meeting amazing teachers and friends."

RHIANNON PITCOCK



"My best high school memory is doing my first musical here, "Bye Bye Birdie," and "Little Shop of Horrors" was the most fun production I've ever been a part of."

CODY WILKINS



"My best high school memory by far was beating Kalamazoo Central in football this year."

ALEX JOHNSON



"My favorite high school memory was playing varsity basketball freshmen year and winning districts against Holt."

KARINA SALAZAR



"I guess I'd say all the times in choir with the field trips and stuff were my favorite memories made in high school. I like being with friends and having a good time."

NICK SRODES




"My favorite moment of high school was running on the 4 x 400 relay that won the Don Lukens invitational last year."

LAST WORDS FROM SENIORS


GLENNA ALDAG GRAPHICS EDITOR

ADRIAN EVANS




"To all of my underclassmen friends: hold down the fort while I'm gone."

EDDIE KNUDSEN




"Hang on, let me think of something."

CONNOR WILGER




"@science teachers, Prince EA is not a reliable or credible source for enviornmental issues."

BONNIE BREMER



"Thanks for the memories, but spelled Fall Out Boy style."

AMARRA LYONS





"You are gonna regret EVERYTHING."

JORDYN CARLTON



"You think that you's a shark, but you's a goldfish."

BLAISE BOULDING



"The level of hygiene at this school will not be missed."

IZZY WIKLE



"Much love, get REKT."

KIERNAN DEAN-HALL



"HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA, You'll never find out."



LEARNING THE ROPES: COLLEGE ADVICE FROM LOY NORRIX GRADS

LEAH DUNHAM STAFF WRITER

No matter what you're doing after high school, you'll encounter many new challenges and obstacles that you haven't been presented with before. As the class of 2018 sets off on their journey, previous Loy Norrix students and graduates have shared some of their best advice for navigating college and the rest of life after high school. Meet four individuals and the paths they took after high school:

BENJAMIN MILLER

CLASS OF 2015



**What are your study habits? When do you study best, where and using what methods?**

**Carsten:** I really just have to lock myself in for a few hours and really focus on getting what I need to get done. I like to study in the middle of the day after my classes get out, that way I am still in that learning mindset and I can focus.

**Lars:** As much as I like studying with friends, they usually distract me, which is why I prefer studying alone or in a silent space. My tactics include rewatching recorded lectures, making flashcards and rewriting notes.

**Did you use a meal plan and stay in the dorms the first year(s) and how did you make it work best for you? What were the most essential items you have brought with you?**

**Jillian:** The most essential items I brought were probably my clip-on lamp (it clips onto the bed and you can angle it for reading without disturbing your roommates) and light-up makeup mirror that I still use today.

**Ben:** I started with community college to avoid things like dorms, meal plans, etc (not to mention how much less expensive it is). Many universities require you to live in a dorm your first year or so of school, but if you're above a certain age, you can avoid this.

**Do you prefer a house or apartment? Why or why not?**

**Jillian:** I haven't lived in an apartment, but I love living in my house currently. I've lived with the same seven other girls my junior and senior year, so if you ever want to go and do anything, chances are someone will join you.

**Carsten:** I would probably prefer a house, but seeing as houses and apartments are more expensive than living in a dorm in Detroit, I will continue to live in the dorm that I live in now next year.



**How did you manage your sleep schedule?**

**Ben:** I have balanced my work and school schedule, which gives me small breaks from waking up early without deviating too far from my sleep schedule. Don't underestimate this. Your body can't handle massive, regular changes in waking up and going to bed.

**Jillian:** You have to understand that your sleep schedule is going to be pretty erratic when you're first adjusting. You've been waking up for class at 7:30 for so long, you grow accustomed to either napping an insane amount in college, or pulling all nighters.

JILLIAN KO

CLASS OF 2014



**What are your study habits? When do you study best, where and using what methods?**

**Carsten:** I have met mainly all my friends from either living in the same hall or the same house. Class is sometimes a good way to meet friends as well, but sharing a living space makes it really easy to bond.

**Carsten:** This year, I lived in a dorm that was only for people attending the College for Performing and Communication Arts, so that really introduced me to a tight community of people who all have the same interests as me

**How did you cope with being away from home for the first time?**

**Lars:** Finding new friends helped, but it was just as important to keep in touch with people from back home. It also was nice that I had a family member here, my sister.

**Ben:** My "first time away from home" was when I hiked the Appalachian Trail in 2015. It got lonely sometimes, but that was because I was living (mostly) alone in the woods for six months. Don't worry about that at college. You'll find friends.

**Do you have a car, and if so when did you start using it in college?**

**Carsten:** I had a car for my senior year of high school, but I did not take it with me to college. Of course, there have been times where I wish I had a car, but I take advantage of a new rail system in Detroit called the QLine. I ride the QLine to work at my job in the new Little Caesars Arena, and really I have been just fine without a car.

**Lars:** I do not have a car. Parking is very expensive at U of M, and the parking lots for students in the dorms are not conveniently located.



**Are there any extra tips or advice you think an incoming college freshman should know?**

**Ben:** Take a year off, or even just a semester. Go traveling, meet wacky people and enjoy learning about yourself. You'll have a way better head on your shoulders for making life decisions, such as which major to choose. I know too many people who lost The Promise or a lot of money because they didn't know that they weren't actually ready for school. Take care of yourself so you can take care of others.

**Lars:** Don't stress too much about grades, your major, or if you feel lonely at first.

CARSTEN STRAND

CLASS OF 2016



**How did you find your crowd and get involved?**

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Junior Alysia Smith leaps over in a hurdle in the 100m hurdles placing 12th place overall. “I was trying to conitune running and not laugh because someone fell next to me,” said Smith.

PHOTO CREDIT / JAELYN ANDERSON

## LOY NORRIX HOSTS DON LUKENS INVITATIONAL ANOTHER YEAR

**JAELYN ANDERSON** BUSINESS MANAGER  
**CJ WASHINGTON** GUEST WRITER

The Don Lukens Invitational is the biggest invitational that Loy Norrix hosts all year. For the past 31 years over fifteen teams have come from all over the state of Michigan to compete against each other in this huge all day event. From shotput to 4x400m relay, the Don Lukens started at 10am and went on till the late in the evening. Everyone looks forward to coming and competing at their peak performances in this meet. At the end of the night, the winning team gets to take home a trophy claiming to be the victors of the Don Lukens Invitational.



Junior Tristen Morales prepares to burst out of the blocks to win the 110m hurdles. “Before this race I was getting myself whelmed,” said Morales.

PHOTO CREDIT / JAELYN ANDERSON



Senior Nuru Lewis strides out as she runs 4x400 relay. “It was the 100m home stretch and I couldn’t feel my body, but I had to continue to running with the envy I had left,” said Lewis.

PHOTO CREDIT / JAELYN ANDERSON

## SETTING THEIR SIGHTS: WOMEN’S VARSITY SOFTBALL SHOWCASES TALENT FROM ALL AGES

**BONNIE BREMER** GUEST WRITER

The crowd falls silent as the batter steps up to plate. Getting into position, her cleats sink further into the dirt as the anticipation builds. The golden sphere is pitched into the air, as she tightens her grip on the bat. Crack! The ball flies across the field.

“[Hitting a home-run felt like] it was finally my time, I can’t tell you how long I was waiting to hit a home run, and when it finally happened I was just overwhelmed,” said junior Sierra Knight.

If you were to take a look at the Loy Norrix varsity softball team, you’d be surprised to find out the diversity of ages that have contributed to their growing success. Currently, the team consists of two freshman, three sophomores, four juniors and two seniors. These underclassmen have big shoes to fill in order to keep their position.

“It’s nerve wracking because I am so young, so all eyes are watching me to not make a mistake,” said freshman Khyra Dilley.

Dilley, whose nerves may be felt but not shown, also hit a home run during the game against Berrien Springs on April 26th. The

underclassmen are expected to perform at the same level as those with three or four years of experience on the team, which as a result makes them work even harder.

“I think the underclassmen are very strong, it’s not easy playing with people who have been playing a lot longer than you... there’s a lot of pressure on them,” said senior Bethany Dunham who co-captains with fellow senior Lauren Johnson.

When you’re watching the girls practice or compete their united spirit is shown. Through pats on the back, encouraging cheers, and team huddles their bond despite class difference is evident.

“At times [I feel pressure]. During games, but all of the older teammates are really supportive of the younger people on the team,” said freshman Annie Mansfield.

This melting pot of experience is finally showcasing the spirit and talent the softball team deserves. These girls have worked tirelessly to train against rival teams and their bright light at the end of the tunnel is approaching in the distance.

“I think we are getting a lot stronger because of the increased conditioning, I think that if everyone works on their mental strength we can improve and reach our full potential,” said Dunham.



The varsity women’s softball team pose for a picture in front of the dug-out.

PHOTO CREDIT / KRISTI JOHNSON





PHOTO CREDIT / TIM BAKER  
Loy Norrix senior Nyla Baker practices Brazillian Jiu Jitzu at Snyder’s Dojo. Jiu Jitzu is one of Baker’s favirote activities to practice.

## NORRIX SENIOR DEFEATS THE COMPETITION

GLENN AALDAG GRAPHICS EDITOR

Looking into Southside Dojo, a surprising sight meets the eye. A five foot nothing individual, who might seem a lot younger than she actually is, facing off against her much larger opponent. Suddenly, the smaller opponent moves. With quick efficient movements, she takes him down. A thud resounds as he hits the mat. The little warrior stands tall over her defeated foe.

This individual is Loy Norrix senior Nyla Baker. Baker has been participating in martial arts since the first grade.

“My dad got me into it because I was the smallest person in my age group,” Baker said, “He wanted me to have confidence.”

Watching Baker on the mat is a sight to behold, she utterly dominates.

“The strategy of it is sweet. It’s a chess game, it’s a mind game. It’s so strategic, it’s so much fun.” Baker continued, “I’m a competitive person, I like that

challenge.” Baker participates in karate, kobudo [chinese weapons fighting], Brazilian jiu jitsu and mixed martial arts. She is a first degree black belt in karate and kobudo, which is the highest level belt. She also has a brown belt in Brazilian jiu jitsu, which is the second highest belt level.

“My favorite is the jiu jitsu,” said Baker, “but that’s probably just because it’s the newest, it’s like a new toy to play with.”

Baker has only recently begun to participate in tournaments for martial arts, but that doesn’t stop her from utterly crushing the competition. She has managed to place in the top five of every competition she has participated in.

In addition to participating in these martial art disciplines, Baker also teaches karate and kobudo at Southside Dojo.

“For a while I was the only black belt that was there, and we had

a bunch of new kids and no one to teach them,” said Baker, “so I kinda got thrown into the deep end.”

When asked what she likes most about teaching the incoming students Baker replied, “They’re funny, and when they get something and you are the one that taught them? That’s so rewarding.”

In addition to martial arts, Baker also participates in pool tournaments.

“One of my dad’s friends got him into pool, which got me into it, and I’m really competitive, so that’s why I started really doing tournaments,” said Baker.

Baker competes in pool mostly in a team with her dad, but she also competes on a junior league team and sometimes competes solo.

“I like doing it solo best,” Baker said. “I like to be in charge of myself, and I don’t have to listen to people trying to tell me the best strategy, nor am I

relying on other people performing well.”

In addition, Baker also recently took up curling.

“Dude I don’t even know, one day my dad just texted me and was all like, curling? I don’t even know how he found that crowd,” said Baker.

When asked what she likes best about curling Baker replied, “It’s a new challenge, and it’s also really a lot like pool. And also, again, I just really like the competition.”

In response to what sport is her favorite Baker said, “Martial arts is for sure my favorite; I’ve been doing it since I was five. Pool is the most challenging, it’s a whole different mind game, but I find that all of the sports I play are like a chess game. You have to think four steps ahead of your opponent and that’s what really draws me to those sports.” She continued, “I have no idea why I’m so competitive. I have to be the best, and I will go through anybody to prove that.”

## A COACH LOST TOO SOON: THE PAT STIER FOUNDATION IS FORMED IN MEMORY OF COACH STIER

BETHANY DUNHAM GUEST WRITER

Pat Stier was a man lost too early to cancer, a dedicated and selfless individual who treated his players like family.

Stier coached JV softball for three years but had previously been a coach and umpire at Milwood Little League for twelve years. Stier passed away in 2017 after a battle with cancer.

“Pat Stier died way too young of cancer. DICK diagnosed I did not know we would only have five months together. He always thought he would beat this and be back on the field with his girls. He was so proud to be the JV coach and the girls meant so much him and taught him a lot. He thought of them like his own children,” said Lana Stier, his wife.

Stier was many girls’ coach from little league through high school as he watched his players develop and gain skill and confidence. He spent most of his days on a softball field coaching or being an

umpire.

“My father volunteered all his spare time in making sure field were weeded, raked and ready to go. He talked constantly about the game, about the girls, about the field- it was everything to him,” said Olivia Stier, his daughter and LN alum.

*“He talked constantly about the game, about the girls, about the field- it was everything to him,” said Olivia Stier.*

Recently, Stier’s wife Lana Stier with the help of others who knew Pat have begun to form the Pat Stier Foundation. The foundation’s primary goal is to create scholarships for two softball girls in his name with the funds that they raise. They also want to get the Loy Norrix softball field officially

named ‘Stier Field,’ as a lasting reminder of Pat and all of his hard work and commitment.

“Pat was one of the best coaches I have ever had, and I have been playing softball almost my entire life. He died of something that was really unfair. He deserves to have the field named after him for the sole purpose that he was a great coach and a great person who we lost too early. Having the field named after him would mean something to all of the girls who had him as a coach for all of the years he coached here and it gives us a way to honor him and keep his spirit alive in the sport,” said senior Rhiannon Pitcock.

In addition to forming scholarships and naming the field, the foundation’s main goal is to remind people of the great man that Pat was and how much he meant to all of his players. He was a man who truly deserves to live in our memories forever.



FROM THE LOY NORRIX SOFTBALL FACEBOOK PAGE  
Pat Stier poses with the JV softball team during the 2016 season. “He always liked to joke around, if someone was feeling down he always had that humorous personality to help cheer them up,” said junior Jaylee Lesatz.

## ATHLETES ACROSS KALAMAZOO JOIN FORCES ON LACROSSE TEAM

DEVON GROSS FEATURE EDITOR

It’s a cool misty day in early April. After a long, tiring day of school, girls both from Loy Norrix and Kalamazoo Central high schools march onto the lacrosse field to prepare for their upcoming game.

The Kalamazoo United Lacrosse program brings together high school students from the Kalamazoo area to form separate lacrosse teams for men and women. The athletes on this team, as lacrosse representatives for both Loy Norrix and Kalamazoo Central, earn varsity letters recognized by the two high schools.

This year, the women’s lacrosse team

has a total of 18 players. The three team captains, Norrix Junior Aria Kleber, Norrix senior, Mariah Sareils, and Kalamazoo Central senior, Ellie Matuz have high hopes for this season.

“I feel like the team this year has a lot more potential than we have in the past, and I think we could go somewhere,” said Kleber.

“There seems to be a lot of enthusiasm and internal motivation from the team. We have a lot of new girls that are showing amazing potential and it’s really exciting,” added Matuz.

So far this season, the Lady Warriors have won five of their 13

games, blowing away their zero win season from 2017.

The girls on the team work together to communicate and support each other to improve the game as a whole.

The Kalamazoo United Women’s Lacrosse team has three seniors graduating this year: from Kalamazoo Central, Anna Gunnerson and Ellie Matuz and from Loy Norrix, Mariah Sareils.

Though none of the seniors are sure whether or not they plan to play in college, they are excited for their teammates to continue playing and come back with full force next season.



**TOP PHOTO** From Kalamazoo United, Julia Weller catches the ball to block the other team from scoring a goal. Intercepting catches is a key way for the players to stop the opposing team from scoring more points.

**BOTTOM LEFT PHOTO**The players chase after the ball during their lacrosse game. Kalamazoo United uses this as an opportunity to take the ball and score points in their favor.

**BOTTOM RIGHT PHOTO** Pictured from left to right, Loy Norrix Junior Aria Kleber, Norrix Senior Mariah Sareils and Kalamazoo Central Senior Ellie Mutaz. The three Kalamazoo United team captins pose after their first game of the season.

PHOTOS BY DEVON GROSS





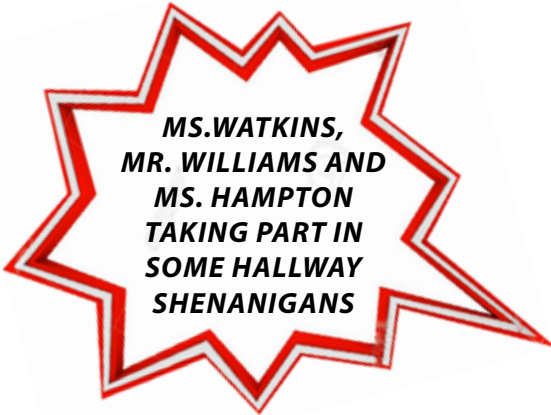
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