"This book is dedicated to everyone who added a little chapter to this year's story."

TABLE OF CONTENTS

STUDENT LIFE ........................................ 6
SENIORS ............................................... 38
UNDERCLASSMEN ............................... 48
ORGANIZATIONS ................................. 74
SPORTS ............................................... 106
SENIOR ADS ..................................... 152
INDEX ............................................... 168

2011 Totem Pole
Bonner Springs High School
100 McDaniels
Bonner Springs, KS 66012
913-422-5121
www.usd204.net
Enrollment: 717
begins on August 17, 2011, when a unique cast of characters consisting of 717 students and about 70 staff members came together within a common setting to write one amazing story.

In the first chapter, the plotline was altered a bit with a new schedule that never quite felt right. Call us old-fashioned, but we think seventh hour should come at the end of every day.

There were other changes that we loved. No one will forget the powerful addition of the Warrior Walk, where we all felt a sense of pride as the dance team, band, and cheerleaders led our football team down the hill and through a tunnel of adoring fans.

Of course, every great story needs a little conflict. We witnessed the humorous battle of Mr. Hull and Mr. Mitchell when they duked it out in a fierce round of musical chairs during the first Renaissance assembly, and the not-so-comical fight over the disappearance of the beloved senior benches.

Some battles, however, were more intense than others—like the soccer team’s first-ever journey to the state tournament. Who can forget the adrenaline rush when we stormed our home field after they captured a regional championship, the excitement of cheering them on in Topeka in the brisk November air and the heartbreak of a 1-0 loss to St. James Academy to end their magical season?
We wrote chapters of charity when we helped Stormi Gaunce collect approximately 400 coats to warm those less fortunate and when we spent the night sweating it out in the commons to support Project Grad at Michael Saldivar’s Brave Rave. We tied a wish to John Dean’s Memorial Walkway tree and bought 860 shirts to turn the gym from a sea of orange to a ribbon of pink, raising money to benefit the Susan G. Komen Foundation for breast cancer awareness.

There were moments we hoped to remember forever, like playing a game of tag in the pouring rain with your closest friends after only one quarter of football against Mill Valley, linking arms and singing “Lean on Me” while fighting back the tears at the end of every dance, celebrating the success of wrestling state champions Jon Blackwell and Caleb Seaton, and enjoying a quick kick of caffeine in the new Brave Café.

And there were moments we wanted to forget, such as the trickling down of the painful project forms to the underclassmen, the difficulty of taking college classes in high school, and the stress of trying to juggle school, jobs, relationships, and extra-curricular activities.

In the end, we held on to the good. Ten years from now, we’ll look back on our high school days and remember these key chapters, along with the cast of characters who pulled us through the tough times.

These were the moments that defined our story...
"The main highlights of my school year came from sports. I had a blast during football and basketball seasons. The atmosphere was much different and really fun to play in. The only bad thing was all of the drama and people pestering me about who I was going to take to a dance, and little things like that."

—Jordan Jackson, 9

The transition to high school was harder than I thought because there were so many people I didn't know. After a while you get used to it, but it's still hard to be yourself around people you don't know. Freshman year is all about learning from your mistakes, learning who your true friends are, and having fun.

—Citlally Fernandez, 9

"My year was one of self-discovery. I found out who I wanted to be even though it took me all of 2010 to do so. I spent 2011 being the person I wanted to be, surrounding myself with people who made me happy and living life to the fullest."

—Sammy Ricci-Weller, 10

"This year was a new experience for me because after losing my father, my mom and I had to re-teach ourselves how to go through everyday life. Yet, this tragedy has brought my family closer together—in fact, every Sunday we have a huge family dinner. I took over a lot of the responsibilities at home to help my mom. Through it all, I have grown so much as a person."

—Joseph Arnett, 10
“I went through so much this year and grew a lot as a person. My family took a much-needed vacation to Hawaii, which was phenomenal. In early November, my best friend Sidni moved into my house. It's been great because I always wanted a sister around my age. I feel like this year just flew by so fast, and I have high hopes for next year.”

—Miriah Bailey, 11

“I came to this school as a new student who knew nothing about the students or the school in general. I really like the environment and the way everyone takes pride in this school. My experience has been great. Playing varsity basketball for the first time and succeeding in college classes makes me feel like I made the right choice to come here.”

—Ivory Elijah, 11

“I've had a pretty good year overall other than blowing out my knee for the third time. The hardest part was not the physical recovery, but not being able to play soccer with my teammates. It was painful at times to watch from the sidelines, but when they made it to state, I felt very honored.”

—Cody Duncan, 12

“My senior year has been one long, learning period. I'm learning so much about people, paradigms, and personal growth. It's a roller coaster of internal struggles and realizations as I fight off events in my past that try to shape me and mold myself into the person I want to be.”

—Taylor Hunt, 12
"My year has been the most interesting, amazing year I've had in high school so far." Courtney Brouhard, 10

"I'll never forget the debates in newspaper, the pun-offs in Quiz Bowl, or the innuendos in Science Olympiad." Courtney Wheeler, 10
"I liked wearing my favorite college t-shirt after I plan on attending KSU, so it was cool to sport my future team's colors." — Tyllynn Glenn, 10

Senior E.J. Walker and sophomores Kyle Sears, Tyllynn Glenn, and Kayla Horn.

At the end of first hour, seniors Erica Smith, Taylor Hunt, Lauren Goves, Katie Ellingsworth, Aly Eagy, Lindsey Hunt, and Alexis Moore gather round in their tie-dyed T-shirts.

"The real reason I got dressed up was to get extra credit in Anatomy, but it was still fun to get into spirit week." — Austin Epp, 12

Junior Yessemia Hernandez and senior Brandon Clark.

"It was hard to get the picture just right, we took them the day before." — Emily Pyles, 12

Seniors Kaylie Holloway, Emily Pyles, Josie Freeby

Teacher Jim Mitchell and sophomore Jacob Sopher.
Surrounded by cardboard, freshman Lee Scott reflects on a rectangle on his class float. "The best part of float construction was that everyone cooperated and worked as a team," Scott said.

Attending to detail, from left, sophomore Cassidy Holloway, freshman Alex Carter, and junior Ashton Isias add the final element of lettering to their floats. "This was the first year we actually had a plan," Isias said.

Creating a camera, sophomore Amber Bright painted a piece that was used to convey a Hollywood paparazzi theme on her class float. Each class received $100 and eight hours to create the perfect float.

Wearing a chicken wire crown, sophomore Arden Lewis constructs a football player that was featured on his class float. "Putting the football player together was an adventure. We had a really rough time getting him to stand up," Lewis said.

"The most disastrous thing for us came on the second day of float construction when we had to start all over from scratch because we were doing things wrong. Everyone got pretty stressed, and we weren't sure we would have enough supplies. Brianna Robinette and I even ran up the street to get paint from my house; we literally RAN! I think it was somewhat worth it in the end. We all learned a lot on how to do things, and I think our interesting freshman-year experience built us up for bigger and better ideas in years to come."

—Elizabeth Barger, freshman class president

And the winner is...
Along with the royal crowning moments of homecoming, we also gained the movie star experience with the Hollywood theme. The magical weekend began with a parade down the newly opened K-32. The road had been long under construction for 19 months, making the reopening of this route very memorable.

Another addition was the appearance of colorful banners supporting the royalty candidates at the assembly.

We partied like rock stars and dougie'd the night away at the dance Saturday night. With 220 in attendance, it was a star struck event with a mixture of current hits and oldies we love, making for an exciting evening with something for everyone to dance to.

With a sweet serenade, senior Lauren Groves and her date Bobby Courtney sing along to a slow dance.

Riding in style, senior candidates Zachary Reed and Kaylie Holloway greet the community during the Homecoming parade.

Moving to the music, freshmen Erin Walters and Cody Crider enjoy the dance.

Showing their support, seniors Devlin Caldwell and Stephanie King support homecoming candidate Brenna Hoch at the royalty assembly.

Hoping for a win, seniors Michael Saldívar and Santiago Garcia cheer on homecoming queen Lindsay Hunt at the royalty assembly. "I enjoy bringing a new vibe to the crowd," Garcia said.

With the dance team, sophomore Lauren Culter marches in the parade. "Homecoming is a lot of fun because it's the first big event where the school comes together," Culter said.
"I've been carrying that camera around since I joined newspaper staff my sophomore year."
— Riley Mortensen, 12

"Party Like a Rockstar" is a great song to let loose to. The beat almost commands your body to move with it."
— Caitlin Hilliard, 12

To wear the crown, a once-in-a-lifetime moment to shine in front of your peers as Homecoming king and queen. Of the ten nominees, Lindsay Hunt and Dalton Vitt were chosen as the royal members of the 2011 class.

"I will never forget the way the crowd sounded when they announced my name; it was very emotional and something I will always remember," senior Lindsay Hunt said.

Vitt was equally pleased with his win.

"It was an honor to be voted Homecoming King by my friends and I'm glad that I had the opportunity to be nominated."

For the first time in four years, underclassmen were represented with prince and princess nominees.

"We brought back the nominations of prince and princesses to get more students involved with hopes of more school spirit," Stuco sponsor Adrianne Law said.
"I love my hat! I got it for Christmas. It adds a little bit of uniqueness to my outfit."
—Sidni Sprenkle, 11

"First, my hat keeps my ears warm, and second, I look really good walking into school with it on."
—Jared Clements, 10

“Simplicity and variety are two good elements when putting together an outfit. You don’t want to overdo it, but at the same time you want it to have spark.”
—Winter Luttrel, 10

“My favorite piece of clothing would be my Chuck Taylor’s. I try to wear something different than everyone else, to not follow every trend exactly.”
—Kelin Woolridge, 11

Sophomore Salina Duarte has a sense of style that seems to come across as an art. ‘I love putting clothes together and wearing what I want and not what other people think is normal, thus creating my own style.”

Top Five Trends

1. Bracelets
   From Silly Bandz to breast cancer awareness, you could display your style and your causes in a variety of ways.

2. Jeggings
   Whether you wear them for comfort or style, jaggings are softer than jeans and move with you better.

3. Gauges
   Gauges have been around a while but seemed to gain popularity this year especially with females.

4. TOMS
   Thanks to the TOMS movement, for every pair you purchase, a child in need also receives a pair or shoes.

5. Bangs & Streaks
   Bangs were back along with bright streaks of color and mohawks for the soccer team.

And so the tail begins...

"I like wearing a tail because it's fluffy, and it looks awesome. The color combination of red and black is my favorite."
—Ashlyn Swan, 11

"My mom got my tail for me at the Renaissance Festival. I like it because it looks like and reminds me of a husky's tail, and I love huskies!"
—Jessica Carroll, 11
From natural disasters to an uncertain future, we've seen it all.

Every generation has symbols and icons that define who they are and what they stand for. From books to movies, characters have a way of telling a story that connects with our lives. Characters such as Harry Potter and Edward Cullen have been standing idols and influences in our years growing up.

"The Twilight series had me waiting to read more. Plus, Edward is more of the romantic type, the kind of guy every girl dreams about having as a boyfriend," senior Lindsay Mauk said.

But we're so much more than wizards and vampires, and we see the world much differently than our parents.

Born from 1980 to 2000 and 80.1 million strong, we are Generation Y—also known as "The Millennials"—and we grew up with school shootings, Hurricane Katrina, 9/11 and wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

We've witnessed the inauguration of the first African-American president, the pain of the worst recession since The Great Depression, and the uncertain realization that we may not earn as much as past generations.

We are unafraid of technology and use it to embrace the world around us. According to Teenage Research Unlimited, we are "the first truly global generation," sharing values and behaviors with our peers around the world more than any other previous generation.

We are confident, social, collaborative, and we celebrate diversity. We've seen natural disasters, parents losing jobs, and cutbacks everywhere. Through these troubles, we've learned what it takes to survive.

We are Generation Y.

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Harry vs. Edward

Harry Potter 74%
Edward Cullen 26%

—Information provided by BSMS student survey

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The first Starbucks opened in Seattle, Washington.
The first LG cell phone network was launched.
Tim Berners-Lee created the World Wide Web.
Google was released to the public.
The first iPod was introduced to the world.


"The last Twilight book was my favorite. I am completely team Edward all the way."
—Lauren Dahlke, 9

"I love Harry Potter because it's full of mystery and you never know what's going to happen."
—Renae Maxey, 10
In her Harry Potter wardrobe, senior Amelia Sheldon flashes her ticket before seeing Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1 for the fourth time at the Legends.

Ready for the movie, sophomore Peter Swanson buys his ticket at the Legends Theatre. Swanson has been a fan of the Harry Potter series since his elementary days. "It has encouraged kids to become interested in reading actual stories, so I'm a fan of anything that manages to do that," Swanson said.

Waiting patiently, sophomore Courtney Wheeler prepares to see the Harry Potter movie for the third time. "I went to the midnight showing of Harry Potter because I couldn't handle the anticipation of waiting anymore," Wheeler said.

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1

Opening Weekend Ticket Sales

$125,017,372

The Twilight Saga: Eclipse

$64,832,191

The first version of Facebook was released.

Chad Hurley, Steve Chen & Jawed Karim created Youtube.

It was announced that Pluto is no longer a planet.

Phone named best invention of the year.

Gibb attacks on the U.S.

Barack Obama was inaugurated as president.

BP oil rig explodes resulting in an all-season cleanup.

The first version of Facebook was released.

2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010

Who we are by the numbers

75% Have a Facebook profile

3,339 AVERAGE TEXT MESSAGES SENT PER MONTH

53% BLOG

1/2 OF

YOU TUBE'S USERS ARE 20 YEARS OLD

36% DEPEND FINANCIALLY ON THEIR FAMILIES.

61% WILL EVENTUALLY CARRY

AT LEAST $10,000 IN DEBT.

6% WE SPEND AN AVERAGE OF 2 YEARS ON THE PHONE.

30% HAVE TATTOOS

40% WILL ATTEND COLLEGE

- Facts taken from RosettaHuman.com & ChaCha.com

"I thought Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows was awesome. I cried like 10 times because it was so great and so intense."

— Bailey Hightower, 9

"I think that vampires are way better than wizards; I could connect to the story better in Twilight than in Harry Potter."

— Rebecca Pena, 11

"The Twilight series is a love story that every girl can relate to in some way or another."

— Shelby Smith, 9

"I like Twilight because it's a good mixture of romance and action."

— Eleanor Lynch, 9

"Harry Potter is a great series because it's full of action, mystery, and adventure—everything a kid needs in their life."

— Kelsey Addie, 10

"I love Harry Potter and his magical powers; he's trustworthy, loyal, brave and just a great person."

— Caroline Clark, 9

"I couldn't put the Twilight books down; I read the entire series in one week. The books are addicting but fun."

— Angelina Barajas, 12
It's the adrenaline rush of watching your team score a touchdown, the thrill of throwing your hands in the air after a three-point shot, and the way we link arms and sway in "BSHS Braaaaaves" as the clock on the scoreboard descends into victory. We are the many fans who create one sea of orange at home and away games. This club is a great way to meet new people, hang out with friends, and support our teams. These are the steps we take to become what we call Orange Crush.

**Get your game face on.**
Show some spirit and show your war paint. The fun begins in the senior parking lot.

**Make your way to the tailgate.**
Get there early; the hot dogs will be gone in a flash.
**Step 3**

**Game time!**
Get ready to get loud and proud.

It's all about the front row. You have to get there early to get the best seats, and don't even think about taking the standing place of a senior or a captain. Knowing the cheers and yelling your loudest makes the experience worthwhile.

"You scream your heart out and hope it rubs off," senior captain Riley Mortensen said. "We get so pumped up, and we just hope that the team is as excited as we are."

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**Step 4**

**Post-game at the golden arches.**
Whether you're hungry for a 50-piece box of nuggets or a Big Mac, McDonald's is the place to be.

Win or lose it's tradition for Crush Members and players to make their way from the game to the McDonald's off of Highway K-7. Even if students don't have money or aren't hungry, they still go to socialize.

"It's always fun to see all of our friends after the game, and it's a good way to finish up a night," senior captain Cordell Duncan said.

If you weren't familiar with the tradition and stopped by McDonald's for a snack, you would be greeted by a massive crowd in orange-and-black pushing its way to the front of the line. Waiting for the cashier to call your name (often made up), grabbing your grub and trying to find a seat is a difficult task but well worth it.

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- **Steven Caswell, 11**
- **Jacob Moulin, 12**
- **Asha Mosau, 11**
- **Kylee Timberlake, 11**
A walk on the Wild side

With a last chance to make a unique impression to the student body and their teachers, seven brave seniors showed us another side of themselves along with getting a few disapproving looks from their parents. The winter assembly is not only enormously entertaining, but it also gives the contestants a competitive edge to see how far they are willing to go out of their comfort zone. After competing against bunny ears, wigs and glitter, senior Austin Epp took the title of Mr. Bonner Springs.

Dressed as Santa, business teacher Bryce McFarland gestures to one of the contestants as they strut across the basketball court.

Contemplating the results, teachers Adrienne Law and Jennifer Schlicht, senior Chelsea Crawford and guidance counselor Lisa Terrell go over the scores before announcing the winner.

"As I walked out, I wasn't thinking of anything but the crowd. I wanted to make them laugh, so I did what I had to do. If that meant crawling on the floor, then dam it, I'm gonna do it. I'm not proud of myself either!"

—Camron Callahan

"It was all so ridiculous, but my favorite part was the bunny ears. I think they made me look sexy. It wasn't as bad as I thought, everyone laughed and had a good time. It's always good to have one of those days."

—Kyle Day

"All I was wanting to do was make people laugh. Nobody expected me to do something to that extreme. Would I ever do it again? No, I wouldn't, but it sure was something to remember."

—Tyler Dubin

"It was an experience I probably won't forget."

—Cordell Duncan

"At first I kept thinking, 'What did I get myself into, am I going to mess up?' I also wondered if I was really going to do this, but then it was all cool. My favorite part was definitely my dogie."

—Juan Pichardo

"It was fun to see all of my buddies with dresses on. My favorite part of my outfit was the tutu for sure. The light-up Santa hat came in a close second place."

—Austin Epp

"My favorite part about Mr. Bonner Springs was having everyone come up to me after the assembly and saying they had never seen that side of me."

—Jonathan Price

Staying in character, senior Austin Epp shows his excitement as the judges announce him as Mr. Bonner Springs. "I wanted to see everybody else, but I didn't get a chance to because I was last in the competition. As I walked out onto the gym floor with the entire school watching, I didn't really think about it. I just went out and had fun. It was time to give these guys a show," Epp said.


New AND Improved

Thanks to the Student Teacher Recognition committee, the Renaissance program was restructured. The main switch-up involved a transition from four assemblies to just one assembly per semester. Instead of only focusing on student achievement, the committee also introduced Teacher of the Quarter, which gave students a chance to recognize outstanding educators.

"It usually takes us about four meetings to organize an assembly," business teacher Adrienne Law said, "The most difficult part is thinking of something that is not only entertaining, but that also promotes the Renaissance program."

Shouting out their warrior cries, senior Kaylie Holloway and junior Toni Stock prepare themselves to compete in the first round of the second quarter Renaissance assembly.

Pacing themselves, contestants hurry to complete a remove-all-the-tissues race as the first stage of competition during the second Renaissance assembly of the year. As part of each assembly, orange or black card holders were randomly picked to participate in wacky relays.

Taking off, sophomore Sammy Rickett-Weller and senior Alyson Epsy rush to reach the middle of the basketball court to pop a balloon containing a note during the first Renaissance assembly.

Showing off their pennies, sophomore Sarah Canon and teacher Ryan Hull back in their glory after being the first to get the pennies out of a panty hose.

All About Assemblies

Reading off the script, Stuco executive president Lindsay Hunt keeps the first pep assembly going by announcing each event. Letting her team get her ready, senior Riley Mortensen is dressed in an Indian headdress as part of a "Build A Brave" competition at the fall pep assembly. Mortensen and sophomore Cassady Holloway had a dance-off to break the tie and determine a winner. "I was really surprised when they announced me as the winner. I didn't expect it at all. I'm used to acting goofy in front of anyone, but I never thought I would actually win," Mortensen said.

Standing still while her teammates work on her, sophomore Cassady Holloway has sophomore Jeni Williams accessorize her with a makeshift headband in the "Build a Brave" competition.

"Assemblies help us build spirit and get people involved," Holloway said.

"I enjoy the assemblies since it is the one time that it is all right to be loud and get out of class," said Sophia Sprinkle.

"Assemblies are fun because they bring out a different side of teachers," said Miranda McCullough.
This year's Courtwarming celebration was less than warm, and the traditional Spirit Week consisted of just two days: Superhero Monday and War Party Friday due to a three-day snow break. However, some students took the initiative to combine the days that were missed—Lumberjack Day, Neon Day and Ugly Sweater Day—into their Friday war party attire. Luckily things warmed up on Friday night with the coronation of the king and queen and a big win against Bishop Ward.

The short week came to a quick and exciting end at the dance where students joined together and moved to the music in the commons. Whether with a date or just a group of friends, it was a night of bright lights and funky dancing.

"Complete with my snuggie cape, I felt heroic all day. Who knows, I may adapt this look for my day-to-day style."

—Kathryn Clark, 12

"We began by researching superhero names on the Internet and came up with Knockout for myself and Vixen for my friend Victoria. Then we decided to have a team name, The Forbidden Angels. It was quite empowering walking around in my cape all day."

—Katie Ellingsworth, 12

"We were discussing Spirit Week at lunch and decided we wanted to go all out for Superhero Day."

—Andrea Wiglesworth, 10
Dressed as a Super Brave, freshman Chris Hoytland models the T-shirt he made for Superhero Monday.

Singing along and feeling the beat, senior Irene Crump enjoys the dance. "I would describe this year's Courtwarming as fun, classy and wild," Crump said.

In a caring moment, Lucas Isaacs and Jordan Merino show their friendship with an adoring hug at their last Courtwarming as seniors. "With Spirit Week shortened by snow days, the highlight of the week had to be walking out at halftime as royalty with my only-time friend Erica Smith," Isaacs said.

With a sensational sound, the music this year involved some of our favorite oldies. Students joined together in the dance that we all know and love, the YMCA.

Enjoying the evening, senior Bobby Hodge and sophomore Lillie Wilson slow dance to the beat.

"I liked the Spirit Days since that is too bad," Britney Huffman, 12, "I was excited because I had the opportunity to be part of the royal court. It was a fun experience." Angelica Harris, 12.
Coming Together for a Cure

Despite a two-day snow break in the middle of the week, the third annual Coming Together for a Cure fundraiser was still a success.

"Having the snow days was scary because our pre-orders were down from where they were in the past, but the community really came through and overwhelmingly supported this event," Pink Crush co-coordinator Jennifer Schlcht said.

With lots of improvising and teamwork, BSHS and Turner High school managed to raise $3,600, which was donated to the local chapter of the Susan G. Komen Foundation for breast cancer research.

"We set a goal to make anywhere from $3,000 to $3,500, but with the snow days we figured we wouldn't come close. To surpass our goal in spite of several days off the week of the event was incredible," Schlcht said.

Whether students showed their support by wearing a T-shirt or a bracelet, the event encouraged pride both inside and outside of school.

"I believe awareness and getting regular check-ups is the only way to prevent breast cancer. I can't tell you how many times I see patients who almost refuse to get mammograms because they're uninformed. This event is a good way to inform people where they have to listen," said Peggy Callahan, a nurse at the KU Medical Center who was the featured speaker at halftime.

In pink from head to toe, sophomores - Taylor Coleman, Sydney Turner, Amber Brillhart, Brenna McGuyt, Madison Epp, and Amanda Huggins show their support.

Promoting awareness, freshman Hannah Hurt encourages the ladies in the crowd to get screened for breast cancer during a special cheer created by guest speaker Peggy Callahan.

750
Pink Crush T-shirts sold
to BSHS and THS fans

1,500
Approximate number
of bracelets sold

Fans in attendance
The Birdhouse Project

In May of 2009, teachers Kris Munsch and Jeff Fouquet started a movement at BSHS. By collaborating to write The Birdhouse Project, an interactive healing series where readers work through personal crises by rebuilding their lives through the symbolism of a birdhouse, they created a support network for people of all ages, particularly teenagers at BSHS. In the process of publishing the book, the two invited interested students to build a birdhouse, and certain students were so transformed by the process that they stayed actively involved. Some of these students accompanied Fouquet and Munsch at speaking events once the project took flight with astounding success.

Seniors Katie Ellingsworth, Taylor Hunt, and Erica Smith, shown left, even built their Senior Projects around The Birdhouse Project series and traveled throughout the state to share their movement.

"I'm different now. Everything's different," Hunt said. "My paradigms, my ideals, my confidence. It's all changed because of this project. It's not just some dog-and-pony show, it's life. It's real."

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"The Birdhouse Project has helped me be able to overcome the sadness and shyness that has socially crippled me. Now I am able to share what is going on in my head, which is something I could never do before getting involved."
—Bradley Shonkwiler, 11

"The Birdhouse Project has made me feel more comfortable with talking about my dad and his death. I can now talk about him without crying every time."
—Emily Pyles, 12

"The Birdhouse Project has helped me talk more in depth about my brother's death. It is a great coping mechanism. This project has also helped me make some really good friends along the way."
—George Docking, 11

Braves Build Character

Whether through a John Lennon video or a presentation on the dangers of texting and driving, the Braves Build Character committee did its best to make BSHS a kinder, gentler place. Under the direction of art teacher Jason Romanishin, one of the committee's most popular projects came in December when students made tags expressing a wish for the world.

"I wanted a hands-on project that would get students out of the classroom, make them think, and hopefully leave a positive effect on them," Romanishin said.

As it turns out, the committee was able to grant one wish. They bought a pair of shoes and some groceries to brighten a family's holiday.
From school to work, we stay busy 24/7

How do you spend your Friday nights? For some students, it's cheering on the Braves from the bleachers while others work or hang out with friends. During the school week, things are more difficult, as students spend their nights juggling homework with part-time jobs and other pastimes beyond the books.

For example, junior Bobbi Allred works 30 hours a week at the Bonner Springs Sonic restaurant.

"I have worked at Sonic for a little over a year now," Allred said. "It was hard at first because the more I would work the less time I had with family and friends. I had to take all of this into consideration when I took the position. The customers can be rude sometimes but the money I earn, along with tips, makes it worth it."

Some students are involved with hobbies outside of school, like senior Lucas Isaacs. In his spare time, he spends every Saturday from October through April racing his stock car at the Central Missouri Speedway in Warrensburg. During the school week, he fixes any damages and gets his car ready for the next race. Yet with all of this, he still has time to play on the varsity tennis team.

"Racing is a really tough sport, but I enjoy the challenge and it's something my family has always done," Isaacs said.

Laura Allbee
Grade: 12
Hours Per Week: 25
Job: Walgreens
Quote: "I enjoy my job despite the hours. It has taught me responsibility. Most teens don't have money management skills because they get all of their money from their parents."

Tyler McMahan
Grade: 12
Hours Per Week: 20
Job: Quiznos
Quote: "Making sandwiches is fun, especially the different types. I don't like working all the time, but I enjoy the money I get so I don't have to rely on my parents."

Hannah Mauk
Grade: 11
Hours Per Week: 25
Job: Chick-Fil-A
Quote: "I love my job because my managers are flexible with my busy schedule. It's great because I have learned valuable life skills and how to deal with money."

Nicholas Whalen
Grade: 11
Hours per week: 40
Job: Anderson Rental
Quote: "My job pays for my bills; however, it's kind of boring but as a part-time worker I have plenty of hours, and I work all the time."
Motocross

Ready to race, freshman Nathan Schaber takes a break while cleaning his motocross bike. Schaber has been involved in motocross since age 6 and began racing when he was 9. "I do something related to racing almost every day. I lift weights and do sit-ups to improve my strength and endurance, and I ride every day when I can. Normally, I race every Sunday, and my two favorite tracks are Dragoon and Kingsville," Schaber said. "I enjoy the thrill and excitement you get when riding. It's not a sport you can give half to; you must commit to it 100 percent in everything you do."

Alexandria Lies, 10

Years Involved: 10

4-H Activities: Showing Sheep, Public Speaking, Citizenship and Leadership

“My favorite part of 4-H is when I get to volunteer and work with the younger kids to get them excited and involved.”
Dedicated to making a

Difference

Green Team, Stuco do their best to improve life at BSHS

The Green Team took an influential lead in encouraging students to care for the environment by making their presence known through several new projects.

At the beginning of the year the group set high hopes and goals and did not let them waste away. With approximately 10 dedicated members, they made the rounds weekly to collect recyclables from teachers' classrooms. Regular meetings were held on Fridays after school where the group processed recyclables and brainstormed on ways to better serve BSHS and the community.

The goal of the Green Team is to save the planet, but the first step was increasing awareness and respect for Mother Earth. In doing so, they placed numerous plastic bins around the building to encourage students to recycle their bottles, and they initiated a Tap and Stack program in the cafeteria to ease the strain on landfills.

“The fact that young individuals care enough about the planet to be a part of the Green Team means a lot to me,” sponsor Jason Romanishin said.

Equally as involved and influential is Student Council. Headed by business teacher Adrianne Law, Stuco sponsors “all things BSHS,” from welcoming the freshmen to the school to hosting pep assemblies, dances, and a year-end appreciation barbecue for the staff. Not only does Student Council lead the way on the main events, but they also do their best to keep boost school morale.

“I have enjoyed seeing the impact Stuco made on students. By spreading school spirit, we spread involvement which brought the student body together as one,” senior historian Victoria Porter said.

“I think it's important to be involved in things that really matter to you. The world would be so much better if everyone took the time to recycle.”

—Kaysi Bias, 10

“I joined the Green Team because I think it is a great cause and a great way to be involved. There are a lot of good-hearted people are on the Green Team.”

—Madison Morris, 11

Doing her part, sophomore Sarah Catron weaves plastic bags together to create a recycled blanket at a Green Team meeting. “We made the blankets for the homeless who had nothing to stay warm with. It was very fun and interesting.” Catron said.

During Project Time, junior Austin Cobb takes recyclables to the Deffenbaugh dumpster in the parking lot. “It helps out to protect the earth and to protect the future,” Cobb said.

While making the rounds, junior George Docking does his part in contributing to the Green Team. “It's good to keep the earth clean and safe for everyone,” Docking said.
Brought to you by Stuco

1. Dances
Student Council sponsors Homecoming, WPA, Courtwarming, the Father-Daughter-Mother Son Dance and the Spirit Weeks accompanying those events.

2. Coming Together for a Cure
"Coming Together for a Cure" is a joint benefit with the Turner High School Student Council to raise money and increase awareness for breast cancer research.

3. Mr. Bonner Springs
To kick off the winter sports season, Stuco hosts the Mr. Bonner Springs assembly where seven senior guys strut their stuff in a "fashion" show.

4. Tacos for Toys
Tacos for Toys was a new fundraiser where staff members could enjoy a taco luncheon in exchange for a donation to buy toys for underprivileged children.

5. Seasonal Celebrations
During the Valentine's Day season, Student Council sells Candy Crushes to be sent to your Valentine. They also do their best to give teachers a little gift for every season, whether it's candy at Christmas or an egg during Easter.

"I think I'll always remember the last time we decorated for a dance and several of us had one of those moments where we realized that we'd never be doing this again."
—Chelsea Crawford, 12

"I like Student Council because I get to have a say on dance themes and Spirit Week days, fun things like that."
—Trey May, 11

"Being involved in Student Council is great for staying involved. I like being able to know what is going on before anyone else and to give my input on events around the school."
—Lauren Culter, 10

"It makes me feel good helping out the school by being in Student Council. I feel like I'm doing my part."
—Jordan Jackson, 9
From A to Z

Taking in the action, freshman Izel Soto watches the action during the first Warrior Walk. "It felt good being a freshman and being able to be a part of something new and this exciting," Soto said. Focused on the action ahead, senior Brian Callahan walks down the hill with his teammates before the season opener against Mill Valley. The Warrior Walk was put into place by business teacher Bryce McFarland and the Student-Teacher Recognition committee.

National Anthem
performed by the varsity basketball team

COFFEE
Served steaming hot in the new Brave Cave.

"It really doesn't matter to me. In 4A you have to win three games and in 3A only two. So I really don't care."
— Clay Oakes

icy roads, icy driveways, icy parking lots.

Kicking off the year as a 4A school

icy roads, icy driveways, icy parking lots.

MOLD
in Mrs. Schlicht's room, causing a temporary relocation.

OMG!
No early release or late start.

Resting at home on the six snow days.

The soccer team's mohawks.

"I don't even remember whose idea it was, but I think it brought our team closer when everyone did it. Most players kept them, but we were originally supposed to cut them after our first lost."
— Jason VanMaren, 10

styled and shaved

Warrior Walk
Brave Rave!
for the dog that interrupted the Homecoming game by running onto the field.

Juggling college courses
"I feel like it's very challenging, but it's a great opportunity, and I know I'll be thankful I took them when I get to college."
—Madison Epp, 10

Welcome back Fight song!

New boys' basketball coaches:
Andy Price, Dan Streit,
Bill Downing, Andrew Addington

New technology together through texting and tweeting

Underclassmen royalty returns
"I felt happy when I found out I was the freshman homecoming princess because I wasn't expecting it. But I was glad I got it."
—Cheyenne Hale

Project forms for underclassmen

Quest for knowledge
From dissecting cats to brilliant filmmaking in foreign language classes

Homecoming victory!

Dreaded homework

Waiting for Superman
"I thought the movie was very interesting and eye-opening. It shows us that education is really going down the drain. The extra credit was helpful also."
—Miranda Hackney, 11

The disappearance of zebra cakes and other unhealthy snacks

Growth of the Birdhouse Project.

"It was pretty cool that Coach Price bought us all socks and dyed them for us so we could play in pink socks for the Coming Together for a Cure game."
—B.J. Watson, 12

Extra credit movie day
"I felt like it's very challenging, but it's a great opportunity, and I know I'll be thankful I took them when I get to college."
—Madison Epp, 10
Passion

n. /'pa-shen/: intense, driving, overmastering feeling or conviction

Passion is a very powerful word that has many different meanings to people but the thing that is consistent in our personal definition is that a passion is something that drives us and gives us a reason to strive. Everyone has a passion in life—whether it is art, a sport or even helping others. We’ve selected three students who choose to express and live their passions everyday. This is passion in their eyes, what is it in yours?

Drama

“Acting exhilarates me in the highest fashion. I began acting at the age of 8 and was drawn to it because it lets me be whoever I want and allows me to think about things in many different perspectives. I can be in virtually any scenario I want and, depending on the character, work out different solutions to different problems. Acting also (and let’s be splendid about this) shows people that there is no limit to their imaginations. In order to be any of these lovely, gorgeous, beautiful characters, one only has to believe that they are lovely, gorgeous and beautiful. That’s the secret of my passion really.”

Zack Sharpe, 12

Showing his skills, Zack Sharpe reveals a move from the stage combat classes he takes once a week at Hillside Christian Church to further his dramatic capabilities. “We learn various things such as how to punch and kick effectively and how to make the punches sound real, which is called knapping. We also focus on ways to best look the part,” said Sharpe, who plans to study acting after graduation.
Writing

"Passion is something that you think about every day, something that you can’t live without, something that calls to you and that you commit yourself to even if it’s the difficult choice. If you have a passion for something, then you love it through all the good parts and the bad.

My passion is my love of writing. I am a bookworm, and I aspire to turn someone else into a bookworm with my writing.

I could NOT imagine living without writing; sometimes it’s almost like I’ll explode if I don’t have a way to write my ideas down. Writing to me is a way to vent, admit my secrets, and organize my ideas all on paper.

I hear from a lot of people that you should do what you love, so it doesn’t feel like work and that is what I am going to do."

Music

Makayla Mefferd, 12

"I discovered my passion for music when I was very young, singing along to Britney Spears in my bedroom. When I was in fifth or sixth grade, I sang in my first choir, and I fell in love with that atmosphere. I’m currently in four choirs, and at one point in my life I sang with six different groups.

Without passion, nothing would ever be pursued. Passion is the uncontrollable emotion towards something or someone. Passion is the fuel behind the fire.

Desire becomes the driving force behind passion because people want to do well at things other’s can’t. My passion for music will most definitely find a place in my career. What would life be if there wasn’t something to strive for that I love?"
They see in color, they see in black-and-white, they see with an eye of creativity; they are the artists of Bonner Springs High School, and this is a display of some of their best works. From paintings and drawings to pottery and photos, these students create things that intrigue us and cause us to wonder: How did they do that? These are their stories and emotions conveyed through words, canvas, and clay. These are the tales of the art room...

Artist's Angle

Name: SaraFina Hill, 9
Classes Taken: 2D Concepts and Painting
Best Projects: Color study and pop art painting of lollipops and suckers

Artist's Angle

Name: Courtney Brouhard, 11
Classes: Photography
"Processing pictures in the darkroom was a new experience for me. I enjoyed watching the images develop in the chemical trays."
"Good art is art that allows you to enter it from a variety of angles and to emerge with a variety of views."

—Mary Schmich

**Artist’s Angle**

Name: Michael Saldivar  
Grade: 12  
Inspiration: "I like to capture the beauty of the natural world."
Taking the Lead

Students step out of the box in a chapter of role reversal

By Victoria Porter

In our society, it is expected that guys take the initiative to ask girls out on dates and that parents are the leaders of their children. However, twice a year BSHS students forget about these guidelines and create standards of their own.

For the Nov. 14 Women-Pay-All dance, girls had to be the brave ones by choosing a date and asking them to accompany them to the dance in matching attire. To complement the Nintendo theme, some couples dressed as Mario and Princess Peach while others dressed as Yoshi.

“IT was nerve-wracking asking a guy out because you don’t know what they are going to say,” freshman Alex Carter said.

The techno music helped to provide a gaming-type atmosphere with songs like “Sandstorm” and “Americano.”

Another event where students took the initiative came on Jan. 15 when juniors and seniors asked their parents to join them at the third annual Parent Dance.

A new addition to the night was the Johnny Dollar Band, who played songs for every age to enjoy. Special education teacher Jim Mitchell rocked the commons as the band’s guitarist and lead singer.

“We decided to have live music to give the event an atmosphere that would be unique from every other dance. It added a great vibe to the night,” Stuco sponsor Adrienne Law said.

Overall, the night provided many memorable moments to last a lifetime.
Styling the suspenders, senior Chelsea Crawford and her date Andrew Gross enjoy a moment of costume-inspired dance moves. "After the dance, we skipped down to Power Play and partied the night away," Crawford said.

"I thought the music at WFA was lame, but it was a great night of family fun. My mom has great dance moves," Brian Callahan, 12.

He's with the band

The performance: "I enjoyed the fact that the parents were involved. It was fun to watch the kids not know how to dance at first.

Timeless Passion: "The drummer was my best friend in high school and the guitarist was my roommate in college. We've been playing music together for 30 years, mostly in garages."

Inspiration: "My favorite musician of all time is James Taylor."

How it began: "I've been around music all of my life. I taught myself to play guitar. Music is my release."
FOUQUET’S FEATS

As an American Literature teacher, Jeff Fouquet does his absolute best to link what his students are learning in class to each of their own lives. When asked about the importance of his approach, Fouquet said, “That’s the only way education matters.”

Along with senior Riley Mortensen, Fouquet organized an educational field trip to the Legends Theatre to see Waiting for Superman, a controversial documentary on the American educational system. Nearly 100 students showed up on an October In-Service Day to see the film.

“I decided to organize the field trip because the most powerful tool we have in all the universe is to be informed. Not only did I want to be informed, but I wanted everyone else to be informed because masses make changes. Groups get things done,” Mortensen said.

“It provided us with knowledge to work as a team without adults.”
—Christien Nobles, 9

“It taught me to work together and trust others with their own ideas.”
—Cheyenne Hale, 9

“We had to work together without fighting, and we had to listen to everyone.”
—Kassandra McKelvin, 9

“I liked the project because it let me use some of my Boy Scout skills.”
—Demetri Hart, 9
With 717 students all taking English classes, there are bound to be some interesting times. Teachers must find new ways to connect what is being taught in class to each individual student.

When Ann Smith's freshmen English classes began to read Lord of the Flies, she wanted her students to experience what the boys within the story felt and dealt with, so she gave each class a tarp and some twine and instructed them to build a shelter big enough for everyone on the art patio.

"It showed them how natural leaders emerge and how hard it is to work together," Smith said.

Juniors taking American Literature with Jeff Fouquet also experienced a few new techniques. Instead of teaching one novel to all students, Fouquet taught multiple novels at one time, allowing students to choose what novels they wanted to read.

"It was a bit confusing to read them all at first, but a great opportunity," junior Lauren Callahan said.

Other new opportunities came with the expansion of the college partnership program. Adjunct professors from Kansas City Kansas Community College and Donnelly College came to BSHS to teach classes three days a week. On block days, classes convened in the library for study hall.

College classes forced students to use higher level thinking skills, in turn making them contemplate everything. When students start to envision how work in English classes connects to their lives, that is when it becomes a Living Language.

"Everyone should take Fouquet's class because he prepares you for writing in college."
— Katelyn Smith

"My favorite part was when he taught us how to write about what is going on in our lives through poetry."
— Mikayla Burgoon

"It made you realize how good I have it because some do not have a quality education."
— JaVante Young

"Since I want to be a teacher, it opened my eyes to what teachers can get away with. They are here for a reason."
— Jessica Carroll

"If everyone in the community went to board meetings, the education system could be improved with community opinion."
— Allen Maness

"No matter what our age, we know something about archaeology— King Tut's tomb, the ancient caves with ossified remains holding clues to the human race, the sandstone cliff dwellings in America's southwest—yes, we know those pictures. In short, that's the story of my room, Room 228, aka 160, at Bonner Springs High School, layers of student productions I just can't throw out, art work of former students, student productions of postcards and illuminated manuscripts...the list goes on. (OK, sorry. Class of 76, I did recycle some of your papers at the end of last year.) Otherwise—about The Museum of 22B: It's a teaching device for mental aerobic exercises, making connections with anything we're studying! For those with ADHD (myself included), when attention wanders, it always finds something to think about and build on! Other wonders are student production left-behinds, like the monster from Where the Wild Things Are (20 years old) and student art work—museum-quality! Oh, yeah, and everyone needs the Bayeaux tapestry laminated, in miniature! CULTURAL LITERACY! That's it! Everything has a meaning! All in all, I love my room, and I want students to feel comfortable (even if challenged to use HOIS, BSV's, and MTS) and to know that making order out of chaos is a Prime Directive, and they'll all have memories to keep sometime!"
— Chris Wood, World Literature teacher
Senior Favorites

Most Athletic
Brian Callahan and Erica Smith

Most Artistic
Tyler Walker and Victoria Porter

Most Likely to Make a Difference
Tyler Dubin and Kathryn Clark

Most School Sprited
Austin Epp and Samee Sprenkle

Best Smile
Jordan Merino and Connor Harrington
Best Friends
Cordell Duncan and Lucas Issacs
MacKenzie Anderson and Chelsea Crawford

Cutest Couple
Dalton Vitt and Kaylie Holloway

Most Likely to Succeed
Riley Mortensen and Zachary Reed

Most Likely to Live in a Foreign Country
Amelia Sheldon and Michael Saldivar

Class Clowns
April Isley and Santiago Garcia
Laura Allbee
Iesha Anderson
MacKenzie Anderson
Shirelle Anderson
Maya Banks

Angelina Barajas
Lindsey Baska
Jonathan Bonnett
Bridgett Bradley
Jessica Brown

Devlin Caldwell
Brian Callahan
Camron Callahan
Joshua Carlson
Nicholas Carver

Dustin Catron
Alexis Clark
Brandon Clark
Chandler Clark
Kathryn Clark

Melody Coones
Aracely Correa
Tyler Covington
Chelsea Crawford
Irene Crump
"This year is incomparable to my past years because this is my senior year, the only senior year in high school I'll ever experience."
—Jessica Brown

"This has been an elaborate year full of work, and more work, on top of speeches that I didn't enjoy giving. Overall, I had a lot of fun, and I really enjoyed my Senior Project, which was shadowing an architect."
—Joshua Carlson

"Senioritis kicked in second semester because you realize the year is almost over, but then you're so excited and nervous all at the same time."
—Angelina Barajas

"When the senior benches went missing, I was upset. I even tried to hunt them down, but they were locked up."
—Kaylyn Colston

"After I graduate I'm going to take a road trip to Canada. My friends and I have wanted to go since sixth grade."
—Jhonathon Davis

"This year in relation to others is so much less stressful. Yes, you do have the Senior project but I was able to get ahead on it freely."
—Tyler Johnson

"High school taught me how to make friends, learn to trust people, and get along with others."
—Bobby Hodge

"This year I've had fun with my friends and building memories that will last me a lifetime."
—David Williams
Class of 2012

Class Officers
President: Breanna Tendick
Vice President: Kylee Timberlake
Secretary: Toni Stock

201 characters in this chapter
Cell Mates

Whose phone is that?

A

"Pray"
by Justin Beiber

B

"Super Bass"
by Nicki Minaj

C

"Super Bass"
by Nicki Minaj

D

"Guitar 2"
Sprint default

Ringtone
"I've had like 30 phones already. I'm clumsy and break them."
—Joey Trotta

"I would be lost without my phone."
—Ashton Ista

"This is my first touch screen phone."
—Tyreka Johnson

"My phone is wonderfully great. It does anything you want it to."
—Toby Sullivan

"My phone is wonderfully great. It does anything you want it to."
—Toby Sullivan
Talking... Dating...

He said: "Talking is nonflirtatious conversation between two people."
—Kaleb Kivett

She said: "The stage before a relationship when you're getting to know each other."
—Haley Meier

He said: "Two people have an attraction with each other and can publicly show their love."
—Dustin Gilbert

She said: "When two people have fun together in an exclusive way."
—Asha Musau
On a break...

"Seeing other people and not talking to one another any more."
—Joey Mills

"When you're broken up and don't want to be with each other any more."
—Yessenia Hernandez

Just friends...

"It can be awkward and sometimes misinterpreted; it's not talking as much."
—Steven Caswell

"When you aren't dating and don't like each other more than friends."
—Anna Baker
Clockwise: Pedal to the metal. Gabe Jessie works in his Processing and Welding class. All in good fun. Jacob Sophier puts a pie in teacher Jim Mitchell’s face while students look on. Sophier was allowed to “pie” Mitchell and other staff members if he raised a certain amount of money to benefit Down’s Syndrome. All nerves. Sammy Ricci-Weller gets ready to donate blood at the SAAD drive. With concentration, Falcon Murillo uses a magnifying glass during a biology project.

Class of 2013

Class Officers
President: Tessa Newberry
Vice President: Skyler Taylor
Treasurer: Chad Uhl

182 characters in this chapter
Kelsey Addie
Joseph Arnett
Stephanie Arnold
Gabriela Arzabala
Alli Augustine

Bethany Bailey
Kendall Bailey
Patrick Ballard
Mandy Ballou
Caleb Bennett

Loren Bergstrom
Kaysi Bias
Jonathan Blackwell
Marissa Bledsoe
Joshua Bonwell

Johnathan Brantley
Mark Brantley
Michelle Briggs
Amber Brillhart
Paige Brooks-Cobbins

Jordan Brown
Shawn Bryant
Coltin Bulkley
Buddy Burnett
Devin Butler

Matthew Call
Cord Cannon
Nicholas Casteel
Sarah Catron
Drew Clark

Tanner Clark
Jared Clements
Haley Close
Taylor Coleman
William Collins
Q: What inspired you to sing?

Deidra: Poetry inspired me to sing because it's a way to release your inner feelings. Ultimately, I found that same release in Gospel, R&B, and even a few country songs.

Q: How long have you been singing?

Deidra: I started singing at the age of two, and I've been singing ever since.

Q: Where do you sing?

Deidra: I sing at different venues such as banquets, Freedom Fund events, jazz clubs and the Gem Theater.

Q: Where's your favorite place to sing?

Deidra: My favorite place to sing is the Gem Theater because I am able to sing with a jazz band.

Q: What was your biggest audience?

Deidra: My biggest audience was about 2,000 people in downtown Kansas City for a NAACP convention.

Q: Who is your biggest inspiration?

Deidra: It would be Aretha Franklin and Jasmine Sullivan.

Q: Do you plan on pursuing a singing career?

Deidra: I would love to keep singing. I'm planning to audition for American Idol next year. If that doesn't work out, then I want to be a psychologist and keep singing as a hobby.
**Kevin London**

**Q:** What inspired you to start singing?
**Kevin:** I started singing because I love music.

**Q:** How long have you been singing?
**Kevin:** I have been singing in my church choir since I was seven years old.

**Q:** Who is your biggest inspiration?
**Kevin:** My biggest inspiration is Michael Jackson because he was a terrific singer, and he's a person to look up to in the music world.

**Q:** Why did you decide to make the BSHS-inspired YouTube hit sensation Black and Orange?
**Kevin:** I made it up because I was bored, and I thought it would be original to be the only school to do that, so why not?

**Q:** Were you surprised when you found out that people were watching your video?
**Kevin:** After my song got like 500 views within the first two hours, I realized people were going to watch it. I was pretty excited that it had the most views compared to anything else I had put on YouTube. I was happy that the response to the song was mostly positive.

**Q:** How many views does it have now?
**Kevin:** Last time I checked it had more than 6,000 views. I'm thinking about writing another song about Bonner next year.

**Q:** Do you plan on pursuing a singing career?
**Kevin:** As of right now, I think I might keep it as a hobby.
Ashlee King
Austin King
Nicholas Korosec
Jordan Lackner
Morgan LaFon

Keith Lambie
Joseph Lentz
Tyler Lentz
Aaron Lewis
Stephen Lewis

Savannah Lochert
Kevin London
Carlee Love
Yesenia Lugo
Cheyenne Luth

Chandra Luttrell
Winter Luttrell
Breana Lynn
Alexander Martinez
Alexes Martinez

Anna Martinez
Shyla Mason
Renae Maxey
Aspen Maxwell
Cassie McClain

Blingin'

Megan McCullough

Cost: $300
On the side: My volleyball nickname "1-Re," Class of 2013 emblem, my first name and a volleyball symbol
Stone color: Alexandrite

Elliott Nickell

Cost: $285
On the side: My last name, my initials, Class of 2013 emblem, a brave head, and the zodiac sign for Leo.
Stone color: Alexandrite
Micaela Reed

Cost: $101

On the side: My name, rock music emblem, Class of 2013 emblem, a brave head, and the school name.

Stone color: Sapphire

Peter Swanson

Cost: $399

On the side: A diamond star, the zodiac sign for Scorpio, my initials, my last name and a peace sign

Stone color: Aquamarine
"Class of 2-0-1-3, everything you wanna be."

With sparks flying, Leonoy Garcia works on a welding project in his second hour class.

Kicking off the celebration, French II students show off the harlequins they while celebrating Mardi Gras.

Creating an advertisement, Coleman Isaacs works on a poster for his fifth hour Business and Marketing class.

Playing the part, Ciara Sweeney portrays police officer Lily White in the spring play, "Dare's Back."
Clockwise: Tying the knot, Mikayla Utsey works on a class shelter while studying Lord of the Flies. Entertaining his peers, Robby Glenn builds a cup tower before the start of his sixth hour class. Sitting in the front row, Dominic Salvino checks out the action at the first Renaissance Assembly. Marching in line, Tie Scott takes part in an outdoor band practice. Fully focused, Thomas Hook works on a project in his social studies class. Doing his best, Grant Lewis tries to keep the ball away from his Tonganoxie opponent at a home game. Cutting with precision, Kayleigh Clark helps with float construction during Homecoming.

Class of 2014

Class Officers
President: Elizabeth Barger
Vice President: Alex Carter
Secretary: Shelby Mata
Treasurer: Itzel Soto

174 characters in this chapter
"She's trash. She needs to stop singing."

"I think she's a horrible singer. She needs to stop."

"I like Facebook because it's got cool stuff."

"Definitely Facebook because it's easier and there are more people on it."

— Jacob Korosec — Destini Colvin — Andrew Conn — Sasha Bingaman
"Britney Spears because she's a lot hotter."
—A.J. Adkins

"Lady Gaga, because she dresses awesome. She wears meat!"
—Kristina Holgerson

"Britney Spears or Lady Gaga..."

"The commercial is funny because of how she's dancing. It makes me want to try it."
—Jacob Laing

"I like the commercial because it makes me want to dance. I really want to try it."
—Alex Carter

"Sun Drop commercial..."
What are you packing?

- Abigail Ward
  Backpack weight: 13.75 lbs.
  Unusual item: Random cat

- Tyler Eickhoff
  Backpack weight: 24.75 lbs.
  Unusual item: Play-Doh and cookie with pencil
Unusual item: Madagascar Hippo flash drive; plays I Like to Move it

—Kim Sanchez

Backpack weight
7.25 lbs.

Unusual item: smelly houseshoes

—Corey Williams

Backpack weight
13.75 lbs.
Our Leader

My favorite memory of school this year wasn't at school at all. It was when I stopped by Mr. Hornback's house and watched him orchestrate lunch for his four children. It was like watching a robot build a circuit board. I learned at that moment why he seldom gets shaken.

—Kris Munsch, Wood Technology teacher

Joe Hornback

What has been the best part about becoming principal?

The opportunity to work with students in a more positive way. I didn't have to deal with suspensions and expulsions the way that assistant principals do. Instead, I got to deal with students when they did things well. Being principal was a lot more fun than I thought it would be. It gave me the opportunity to express my personality in almost every aspect of the school.

What has been the toughest part of the job?

The cuts and decisions we have had to make with the budget and the lack of resources has probably been the worst part. Another thing was dealing with staff issues. That was something I never had to deal with as an assistant principal, but this year I had to and it was a challenge.

What were some of your goals for the year? Did you achieve them?

My biggest goal was developing a professional development program that helps teachers grow in teaching. My role as a principal is to make teachers better, and I think we got a pretty positive response to what we were doing.

Our Rock

With passion and even humor, she isn't just teaching, she's sharing her own knowledge. Her excitement about what she's teaching is contagious and her room is a place where you can be whatever you want to be. You can be smart, funny and even wise. Unknowingly, she gives each student validation and lets you explore a side of yourself that doesn't always get a chance to shine. Basically, she's the bomb!

—Kathryn Clark, 12

Chris Wood

What got you through this school year after losing Mr. Wood?

The incredible support from my students, who understood why I was there. Lewis told me right before the brain bleed, "Go to school tomorrow, they'll babysit you." So I did, and everyone treated me like I was still human; I was treated with kindness and understanding. I saw what was best in humanity after I lost Lewis.

What will you remember most about the senior class?

Their creativity in thinking, their willingness to think on a higher level, and their willingness to work together on whatever I assigned them to create something awesome.

Out of all the life lessons you give your seniors, which is most important?

Always let people know you care. Let them know that they are human and they are wonderful. If I had to add anything else, it would be to learn from others and always keep your standards high. Keep in touch, Class of 2011.
Andrew Addington, Social Studies
Lucinda Arnett, Paraprofessional
Nancy Baker, Language Arts
Monty Bechard, Physical Education
Kaci Beichley, Special Education

Maria Betzen, Paraprofessional
Kimberly Bolewski, Nurse
Twila Bolton, Food Services
Diane Bonner, Success Center
Tom Borengasser, Paraprofessional

Dan Burns, Industrial Technology
Bob Caldwell, Mathematics
Heather Campbell, Mathematics
Carla Cline, Food Services
Bill Downing, Language Arts

Sally Finck, Music Accompanist
Debbie Foley, Secretary
Jeff Fouquet, Language Arts
Martha Gamble, Food Services
Carol Hahner, Paraprofessional

Jennie Hale, Food Services
Theresa Hamm, Paraprofessional
Kelly Hammond, Foreign Language
Cindy Hayes, Science
John Hilton, Vice Principal/Athletic Director

Jill Holder, Journalism
Joe Hornback, Principal
Linda Horvath, Art
Chris Klager, Science
Tara Kemp, Family and Consumer Science

Sarah Kolle, Mathematics
Cheryl Lacer, Mathematics
Mary Lauber, Library Media Aide
Jennifer Laughlin, Science
Adrienne Law, Business

Lisa Lugar, Language Arts
Debbi Maddy, Media Center Specialist
Judie McDonnell, Paraprofessional
Bryce McFarland, Business
Brett Misse, Guidance Counselor
Not Pictured:
Danny Colvin, Custodian
Armando Herrera, Custodian
Justin Howe, Social Studies
Ryan Hull, Social Studies
Brandon Jobe, Physical Education
Lew Kasselman, Science
Jamie Kelsey, Librarian Aide
Rosemary Kruger, Custodian

Rob Marriott, Science
Mike McDonald, Custodian
Steve Miller, Special Education
Connie Mosher, Food Services
Hannah Oberg, Language Arts
Andy Price, Industrial Technology
Herman Randle, ISS/Study Hall
Elias Trujillo, Custodian

Jim Mitchell, Special Education
Sarabeth Morgan, Special Education
Rick Moulin, Vice Principal
Kris Munsch, Industrial Technology
Jenny Myers, Social Studies

Marsha Nelson, Foreign Language
Clay Oakes, Science
Linda Orangkhadivi, Special Education
Karen Parsons, Paraprofessional
Rebecca Plaschka, Guidance Counselor

Cynthia Ready, Mathematics
Linda Reed, Food Services
Barry Richards, Mathematics
Crystal Richardson, Physical Education
Jason Romanishin, Art

Frances Schaber, Food Services Manager
Jennifer Schlicht, Social Studies
Katie Schumm, Special Education
Barb Scott, Secretary
Donna Sharpnack, Mathematics

Ann Smith, Language Arts
Kay Smith, Student Services Secretary
Tom Smotherman, Head Custodian
Dan Streit, Industrial Technology
Jennifer Stricherz, Language Arts

Susan Swabb, Foreign Language
Lisa Terrell, Guidance Counselor
Jessica Thomas, Secretary
William Turley, Instrumental Music
Carolyln Welliver, Special Education

Brian J. White, Vocal Music
Chris Wood, Language Arts
Kyle Wright, Social Studies
David Yantz, Paraprofessional
One very busy Room

Never a dull moment in the FACS department

Whether it's a cooking class whipping up a batch of chocolate chip muffins or preschoolers running wild while playing Duck, Duck Goose in a Child Development class, second-year teacher Tara Kemp has her hands full in the FACS department. Throw in faculty get-togethers and team dinners and this room turns into one of the busiest.

"I grew up in a family where someone was always coming and going, so I enjoy lots of activity," Kemp said. "I want my classroom to reflect this, and I do my best to create an inviting atmosphere where there is always something meaningful going on."

Hanging out with the kids, senior Devere Salerno and junior Katelyn Smith take part in story time during their fifth-hour Child Development class. Students in the course operate a preschool program on block days and had to make daily lesson plans on subjects like the alphabet. Students also had to plan an activity, an art project, and a snack for each day just like in a real preschool. "Taking this class taught me that kids are fun, but they are a lot of work. The best part was being able to interact with them and the worst was when they wouldn't listen," Smith said.

Surrounded by princesses, senior Stephanie King accompanies preschool children while they go trick-or-treating. "My favorite part of helping out was seeing how excited the kids were while going around and getting candy," King said.

Making the rounds, senior Yvette Flores helps out as little trick-or-treaters storm the halls during their preschool Halloween party.

Enjoying the fun and games, junior Mindy Bailey dances with one of the children participating in the FACS preschool program. "I thought working with the kids was pretty cool, and I definitely learned a lot about kids," Bailey said. "But it also reinforced how much I don't want kids right now and how much of a responsibility they are."

Creative Cooking

Q: What was your favorite dish to cook?
A: The best thing I made in class had to be homemade apple pie. Nothing better than pie straight from the oven.

—Lucas Isaacs, 12

Q: What was the best part of taking a cooking class?
A: I loved everything. A cooking class is a good way to learn how to cook new things and to learn how to cook for your family for people like me, who don't cook.

—Valerie Torres, 9
One of the highlights of the Clothing Construction courses was the Junkyard Trends fashion show held in the commons on April 20. As part of a unit to encourage "green" thinking, students had to design or create an outfit or an accessory from recycled materials, and the fashion show was their opportunity to showcase those items along with other class projects.

"The best part was seeing the kids in the spotlight," instructor Tara Kemp said. "You could see their faces light up when they walked down the runway."

Meet the models

"My shirt reflected breast cancer awareness. I wanted it to stand out." — Amber Tomasevic, 12

"As I was walking down the runway, I was feeling confident in myself. I would say this was a memorable experience for me." — Cesar Diaz, 10

"I wasn't even supposed to be in the fashion show. I was helping with make-up and kind of just got thrown in at the last minute." — Emily Prince, 9

"Making my dress was really hard, but I got it done in about three weeks. I messed up the top of it really bad. I basically didn't even have a top to my dress." — Kassidy Clark, 9

"The most rewarding part of Clothing Construction was making my dress. It made the class go by really fast. I learned lots of good sewing tricks that I might use in the future." — Carol Laster, 11

"During the process of making my dress I was lucky to not have any issues. I wanted to be able to wear my dress all of the time, so the hardest part was deciding what size to make it." — Cassandra McClain, 10

"The class was a memorable part of my senior year because a lot of my friends were in it. It was a pretty crazy experience, particularly when I managed to sew my finger, but overall I enjoyed it. It was tougher than I expected, but you eventually get the hang of things." — Jessie Kelly, 12

"The best part of Clothing Construction is being able to make your own clothes; you can pick your own design and what you want to make. It lets you express yourself." — Devene Salvino, 12
One Conversation
Many Angles

What do you have to say?

The world we live in is one filled with opinions and controversy. The beautiful thing about America is that everyone has the freedom to share their thoughts and beliefs. We decided to find out what you really think about some of the major topics we face in today. Here's what we discovered.

Religion . . .
Is there a higher power?

Tyler McMahan: There is only one true God.

Riley Mortensen: I think there is one God, but different religions call it different things.

Amelia Sheldon: When I die, I will be reincarnated.

Demetri Hart: I have no problem with what people believe just as long as they don't hate other people.

Dakota Nason: I really don't have a belief system. All I know is that something created this place and that science and religion both explain it. Religion describes life and life has religion in it.

Persephone Hart: Religion is humanity's attempt to explain life.

Kristina Holgerson: Everything is here just because it happened.
Social issues...

What is your stand?

Abortion

**Tyler McMahan**: If a pregnant woman is murdered, the murder charge is for the woman and the child. Abortion is murder, and I do not want to support it with my tax dollars.

**Riley Mortensen**: I am pro-choice because I believe the government should not have any say in what I do with my body because it is mine.

**Amelia Sheldon**: I don’t think it’s a good idea, but I don’t think someone should be able to say you can’t do this with your body.

Gay Marriage

**Skyler Lucas**: I think people should be able to marry whoever they love.

**Kristina Holgerson**: Who are we to judge the line on love?

**Tessa Newberry**: Marriage was originally an adjoining of a man and a woman. It’s not a matter of love; it is a matter of legal rights. If two people are in love, who needs a certificate saying you’re married? If it’s the legal aspect, who says it has to be classified as marriage? Why can’t there be a different type of union that gives them the same legal aspects. In England “gay marriage” is a civil partnership.

High school

**Amelia Sheldon**: Schooling should be all about education and learning and preparing for your future, yet we get so caught up in things like sports and cliques and what we look like.

**Riley Mortensen**: There are other schools out there that are so about preparing for the future that they lose all of those things that make high school so special.

Social groups

**Persephone Hart**: Because of hormones in our minds as teenagers, we are trained to notice differences, so naturally we don’t want to be with people who are different from us. We want to be around people who are just like us.

**Kristina Holgerson**: I have different groups of friends, but we all have something in common.
WE ARE NHS

✓ Scholarship
✓ Service
✓ Leadership
✓ Character

Seniors


November Inductees


Lighting the way, juniors Blaine Edmondson and Jairo Diaz pass the community flame during the National Honor Society induction ceremony. The initiation made me feel proud because I am one of the few males to accept the honor and leadership duties of NHS. I chose my father as my sponsor because he always motivates me to do my best and keeps me aware on how my future may play out without an education.

Our Angle

With the motto "To whom much is given, much is expected," National Honor Society members learn to keep high standards of scholarship, service, leadership, and character through performing community service. To be eligible for selection, juniors and seniors must have a minimum GPA of 3.2 and be approved by the Faculty Council. Those who are selected are officially inducted in a special ceremony. Once in, members dedicate their time to complete 10 service points for the year: seven individual, two large groups, and one small group.

My Angle

"I was extremely surprised and disappointed to see how much trash there was out on the highway. I found things like hubcaps, mufflers, and boat loads of cigarette butts. I still have that action figurine. It's in the glove box of my car.

— Makayla Mefferd, 12

"I was really nervous during the initiation. I felt a little out of place and embarrassed that I hadn't gotten in the year before. There were two other seniors with me, so I didn't feel alone, but it was still really awkward."

— Amelia Sheldon, 12

"The work didn't seem so difficult when you had a friend to help pass the time. Maryssa Peterson and I had fun laughing and talking while working."

— Emily Wilson, 11

"My favorite part of NHS was volunteering for child watch during Parent-Teacher conferences. It was fun to see the different personalities of each child. Being a member of NHS has helped me to become more involved in the community and to consider ways I can help people out."

— Allie Twombly, 12

Sharing the light, junior Maryssa Peterson helps junior Ashley Maldoon ignite her candle with the community flame so she can pass it on to the remaining NHS inductees during the induction ceremony Oct. 20.

Making it official, junior Eliza Scott signs her name into the membership book during the NHS initiation ceremony. "The initiation was pretty simple. The thing I was most worried about was walking off the stage with the candle in my hand and not falling. I chose my mom as my sponsor because she is the person who tells me I can do anything as long as I try. She inspires me to try new things," Scott said.
"My favorite part of being a cheerleader was seeing the crowd go wild for our cartwheels. The one thing I will always remember is how amazing we looked in our uniforms."

— Nick Carver, 12

"I'll always remember the laughter when we fell down while attempting to build a pyramid."

— Joshua Carlson, 12

"My favorite part would have to be getting the crowd pumped up and making cheer cards. The memory I will always have is the look people gave me in the hallways when they saw me in my uniform."

— Cordell Duncan, 12

Planning their next move, the junior-sophomore team listens carefully to coach Bryce McFarland while consulting the playbook. "Everyone knew their assignment, and they executed each play with perfection," McFarland said.

Pumping up the crowd, senior Jacob Nay sits on the shoulders of fellow senior Dustin Ross and yells to the crowd during the Powder Puff game on Sept. 18. "Having rhythm was the hardest part of cheering," Ross said.

Ready to play, the junior-sophomore team (top) shows their unity before taking the field and ultimately claiming victory. "Before the game I felt pumped, nervous and excited. Taking the guys' role was great because we got a chance to be on the field and feel the same way the guys do," sophomore Tesia Franchett said. Showing their spirit, seniors Joshua Carlson, Cordell Duncan, A.J. Gidden, and Austin Epp (top right) entertain the crowd. Preparing for action, the senior-freshmen team displays their game faces.
Kayettes
From sponsoring Powder Puff to making blankets, Kayettes make a difference

by the numbers

500 cans collected in the annual food drive for the Vaughn-Trent food pantry

2 sponsors: Jennifer Schlicht and Linda Orangkhadivi

160 Christmas cards sent to the Red Cross for distribution to soldiers in hospitals around the country

$700 proceeds from the Powder Puff football game

48 members in Kayettes, the school’s only all-female club

My Angle

“I enjoy the Powder Puff game the most because it gives us a chance to get out of our comfort zones as we raise money for our many projects. It’s also a way to make memories that will last because there are so many crazy moments.”

—Katie Ellingsworth, 12

“Being the president of Kayettes was rewarding yet stressful. On my end, it was a challenge to practice time management and a challenge with the girls to keep them motivated and coming to events.”

—Chandler Clark, 12

“My favorite project is when we make cards to give to our soldiers at Christmas. I love writing the cards because it makes me feel good about myself, knowing that I am letting others know how much I appreciate them and all that they do for me.”

—Samee Sprenkle, 12

Working together (clockwise), freshmen Stephanie Gear and Hannah Hurst along with junior Cynthia Ebertz help cut and tie 18 blankets to donate to Project Linus for families with babies in need. “Being a part of Kayettes has given me the chance to be helpful to a wide range of people. It’s always a good feeling when you know you’ve helped someone out,” Ebertz said. The fabric for the project was donated by English teacher Lisa Lugar and former staff member DiAnne Berning.
Holding out a note, junior Samantha Pearson, sophomore Yessenia Lugo, and senior Lindsay Maxx perform at the fall concert on Oct. 7.

Taking a bow, sophomore Jacob Sopher and choir director Brian J. White show their respect to the audience at the fall choir concert. Sopher played the harmonica while performing with the A Cappella group. "It was awesome playing the harmonica with the choir," Sopher said.

With intensity, sophomore Alex Martinez and senior T.J. Walker perform with A Cappella at the winter concert. "Singing has been a passion of mine since grade school. It's just something I've always wanted to excel in," Martinez said.

One song
one family
175 voices

"We like to call ourselves an extended family. We learn together, grow together, fail together, and succeed together. We truly are a team," said vocal music director Brian J. White. In his eighth year at BSHS, White continues his passion for music by instructing five vocal groups with a total of 175 students.

The groups performed four traditional concerts throughout the year, and they also participated in a solo competition for regionals and state as well as a state large group competition. One significant outside-of-school event was a Christmas holiday performance that was taped at the NBC Action News studio where three songs were performed and aired on Christmas day.

"This was a wonderful opportunity for us to sing in a new environment in front of four or five cameramen instead of a live audience. It was exciting to see ourselves on TV; it gave us exposure, and it was posted online for those who live outside of Kansas City to see. Also, it served as a valuable learning tool as we were forced to see and hear our strengths and weaknesses," White said.
"We challenge ourselves to take black and white notes on a piece of paper and bring it to life and make them meaningful to ourselves and our audience. This journey is difficult, but it brings us closer and demands that we take a deeper look at ourselves to see what is important in our lives and how we can better live our own lives."

—Brian J. White, director

Our Accomplishments

The music department has several accomplishments to be proud of, but most impressive were the 17 students who competed in the regional solo contest at Baker University in Baldwin. With 12 student soloists qualifying for state with a superior rating in two songs, a new benchmark was set. Qualifiers included Kayla McPherson, Kortni Sanborn, Rebekah Thompson, Sarah Caton, Deidra Elijah, Kevin London, Ashley Muldoon, Kelin Woolridge, Cordell Duncan, Jonathan Price, Samee Sprenkle, and T.J. Walker. At the state competition, Duncan, Elijah, London and Walker each took home a "I" superior rating and achieved the highest honor possible.

Our Leader

Senior T.J. Walker has made the most of his music career at BSHS and proved it when he was voted as Choir President by his peers. Among his many accomplishments, Walker has competed in regional and state competitions, receiving a "I" rating for superior performances each year. Not only that, Walker has also broken the school record for having the most "I" ratings throughout an entire high school career.

"Out of the many things I have accomplished, I'm most proud of the fact that I gained respect from the choir members," Walker said.

Walker, Samee Sprenkle and Cordell Duncan each received the Tim Ney Outstanding Choral Music Award.

"Being choir president has given me a lot of responsibility. I have nobody else above me to rely on. I also had to sacrifice my social standing because people no longer see you as cool when you are trying to keep control of the room."

—T.J. Walker, 12

Our Angles

"Singing is a big part of my life; I like coming in and doing what I love. When you are having a bad day, music can make you forget about it."

—Samee Sprenkle, 12

"Singing was something I was good at since I was born. I figured I might as well do it in high school. Going to contests are fun and they don't feel like you are doing school work."

—Kelin Woolridge, 11

"Going on to State for my solo is crazy, I didn't expect it. I feel like I've accomplished something big. Singing is my life. Music is my life. I wouldn't mind having singing as my career."

—Kortni Sanborn, 9
Do you plan to further your band career?
Yes, I plan on going to KCKCC to do jazz, pep, marching, and any other band classes they offer.

What is it like watching all of your classmates leave band for other things?
Oh, it's like they really don't care. I guess they didn't have enough passion to be there in the first place.

Which year in band has been your best?
Probably my sophomore year because we still had jazz band, and I became so much better at marching and concert band that year.

Do you plan to further your band career?
Yes, I plan on getting a degree in music and then after college, getting into a military band.

What is it like watching all of your classmates leave band for other things?
Well, I expected some of them to leave, but not as many as I have seen. It is kind of disappointing.

Which year in band has been your best?
I would have to say this year because the band finally started to get really good while playing a variety of challenging music.

Do you plan to further your band career?
No, I don't really see myself going any further in band than I already have.

What is it like watching all of your classmates leave band for other things?
It's not really sad; they are just moving on with their lives like we all eventually will.

Which year in band has been your best?
It would probably have to be the first time I marched on the field during band camp my freshman year. I was really excited to try something new.

In reflection, senior Brandon Clark practices with the rest of the band in the final moments before their performance at the University of Kansas Marching Festival.

With a mighty gust, sophomore Tyler Jenkins plays a note during the first-ever BSHS Marching Festival. Instructors from KSU came to critique and advise each band on how they could improve their performances.

Revealing a few trumpet secrets, drum major Dylan Mackey, a junior, passes on knowledge to the underclassmen before marching at KSU. "I loved leading the band and encouraging the other students," Mackey said.

One band, ONE Sound

Band turns up the volume in performances and structure

Under the direction of Bill Turley, the 50-member band took a huge leap forward with many notable new accomplishments.

It was the first year that the band hosted its own marching festival, competed at the Heart of America Marching Festival, tried out small ensemble groups, and participated in 24 different competitions.

In August, the band invited the director of bands from Kansas State University and his associates to judge and help run their first-ever marching festival. The KSU musicians also gave students pointers along with running a clinic in between performances.

Along with the festival, the band attended the Heart of America Marching Festival at Kansas University.

"They performed very well, probably the best they have ever done," Turley said in retrospect.

In addition to group performances, several self-directed students participated in small ensembles where they would play by themselves, separate from the whole band. A handful of students also participated in solo competitions.

"I liked playing a different instrument in our small group," sophomore Tyler Jenkins said.

Students also had the opportunity to play in the community-sponsored City Band over the summer and teamed up with that organization for a joint performance in January.

City Band encompasses the whole city of Bonner Springs and all who play an instrument are accepted.

Overall, the band definitely turned up the volume on their performances.

"We were able to pick better music because we were performing at a much higher level," Turley said...
Tuched the beat, freshman D.J. Simpson plays the snare drum with the drum line at a home basketball game. "I am always tapping my feet or bobbing my head along with the beat," Simpson said.

During a Renaissance Assembly, sophomore Joe Arnett utilizes his percussion skills. Musicians alternated playing at the assemblies, so everyone could gain that experience.

1. Do not touch each other. It just causes problems.
2. Keep appropriate levels of nakedness at all times when changing into band uniforms.
3. Always respect your instrument.

**Tight-Knit Family**

"The band is like a big family in that we always look out for each other and not a day goes by that we do not have each other's back."

—Daniel Mejia, 9

"You get to hang out with everyone before and after (competitions), and it just comes to a point where you know everyone and what they play. We become really close."

—Melissa Cisneros, 11

"One way the band is a family is that we all communicate through music and we always have a great time together, whether it be on the bus or in class."

—Joshua Bonwell, 10

**Marching Festival**

Eyes on the beat, freshmen Shelby Smith and D.J. Simpson receive instruction from a Kansas State drum major.

Through gasps of breath, junior Allen Maness and freshman Luke Bolejack play during their last performance at the BSHS Marching Festival and Clinic.
In the time, students from all grade levels worked hard outside of class to compete to the best of their ability. For example, Academic Decathletes studied their materials and selected literature down to the last letter. Scholars Bowl participants answered trivia and shared more than a few puns. With only two returning members, the Science Olympiad team did well despite missing regionals due to bad weather. All of these clubs were pushed to their limits this year.

Academic Decathletes were given more than 600 pages of “materials” and The Grapes of Wrath as selected literature to study for their competitions. These students did very well, acquiring over 30 medals as a whole.

The junior varsity Scholars Bowl team also medaled this year. As usual, the varsity Scholars Bowl team traveled to several different schools to compete along with going to Washburn University for Quest, a competition with three levels of college-level questions.

The Mock Trial team was set back awhile because of a change made in their case. Under the direction of Linda Orangkhadivi and Jennifer Stricherz, the students practiced hard for their assigned court case. Assuming the role of attorneys, these students filled their legal pads with notes and thought up cunning questions they could ask witnesses.

Headed by new coach Chris Klager, the Science Olympiad team did its best to come together after a late start. Students competed at Saint James Academy, scoring higher than the other Wyandotte County schools.

All of the students who participated in these clubs put in a ton of effort into their activities, and nearly all of them underwent some type of change which threw a small wrinkle into their routines.

Overall, each club was pushed to it limits with new members and new ideas that took hold in the brains of the students.

Deep in thought, freshman Rebekah Thompson and sophomore Sierra Seacat participate in the “Super Quiz” portion of the state Academic Decathlon meet.
How Many Clubs?!

"It can get slightly stressful, but if you know how to manage your time, then your coaches will work with you. I once heard that idle hands are the devil's play things, so I like to be busy."

—Courtney Wheeler, 10

Clubs: Science Olympiad, Mock Trial, Scholars Bowl, Academic Decathlon, Spanish Honor Society, Model UN, SADD, Newspaper, Band

“Scholars Bowl is probably my favorite activity because we don't have to meet after school and there are a lot of meets. Being in so many clubs is not as difficult as you would think.”

—Sierra Seacat, 10

Clubs: Science Olympiad, Mock Trial, Scholars Bowl, Academic Decathlon, Band

“I like the extra activities, because when I am not doing anything I get bored. My favorite club is Mock Trial because I enjoyed the courtroom setting and the coaches were eccentric.”

—Tre Scott, 9

Clubs: Science Olympiad, Mock Trial, Scholars Bowl, Academic Decathlon, Model UN, Band

Sullivan becomes two-time state forensics qualifier

How many years have you been in forensics?

I have been in forensics all four years.

Is this the first year you qualified for state?

No, I have qualified both my junior and senior years. I was the only qualifier from Bonner this season, and since it was my senior year, it made that accomplishment even more exciting.

In what category did you qualify for state?

In the past I have done poetry readings, but this year I decided to compete in Prose, where you tell a story with emotion.

How many hours do you usually practice for competitions?

Actually I don't practice. I usually just get really into the story once I get to the meet.

What makes forensics different from other organizations?

Well, It's not as "nerdy" as people think and it's a lot of fun. It's one of those clubs that everyone can enjoy.

What has been your weirdest experience in forensics?

The most common thing that we see at meets is people talking to inanimate objects like doors and walls while they are getting mentally ready to compete. It's quite strange.

State Rating: 2

Lesly Sullivan
Dealing with Deadlines

How hard-working student journalists deal with constant stress

Taylor Hunt, 12: Newspaper
Dealing with stress: “This was my first year as a writer for the newspaper. I don’t really get stressed because I am confident in my writing ability.”
One goal: “To produce a publication that is relevant to the student body and to have students excited to read it.”

Matthew Coffman, 11: Tee Pee Talk
Dealing with stress: “This was my first year in Tee Pee Talk, and when I am running down to the deadline, I just have to pull everything together and hope that it’s the best it can be.”
One goal: “Creating videos that are visually appealing and that will inform students in the best way possible.”

Erin Mills, 12: Newspaper
Dealing with stress: “Since I have been in newspaper for two years, I have had time to learn how to deal with stress. All I do is put in my headphones and listen to music.”
One goal: “Being the business manager, my goal was to fully fund the publication and create ads for the student body and community.”

Cesar Diaz, 11: Tee Pee Talk
Dealing with stress: “This was my first year in Tee Pee Talk, and I hope it’s something I can continue for the rest of high school. When faced with a deadline, I just set my mind to it and get it done.”
One goal: “I want to learn as much as possible and after seeing other classmates work, it pushes me to go even further.”

Sitting down with the editors

Riley Mortensen
Zachary Reed

Job Title: Pow Wow Newspaper Editor-in-Chief
Years Involved: Three years
Your View: “I sincerely hope that each student finds the thing in life that makes them truly happy. That is what newspaper is to me. It’s where I belong and what I’m meant to do. It’s a euphoric relationship if you will; my face lights up just telling someone about what I do. There’s no greater feeling than to feel like you belong to something. Find what excites you just at the thought of it. Find something that drives you to be more and want more. That’s what I wish for everyone who is involved in something they are passionate about.”

Job Title: Tee Pee Talk Producer
Years Involved: Three years
Your View: “Ever since I was a child, I have always been interested in new and exciting things. After messing around in Windows Movie Maker in seventh grade, I felt like I had been introduced to something that would allow me to share my creativity, thoughts, and feelings into a medium that can impact people. Filmmaking is more than filming and editing; it’s an art form that speaks through the camera angles and effects, and when you add music to it, you have a masterpiece. This is what I strive for; this is what I am passionate about.”
Pow Wow Newspaper Staff


Tee Pee Talk Staff


Jotting down ideas, junior Devyn Hayes works intently on her article for the next issue of the Pow Wow. "I love all the experiences and fun we had in newspaper class," Hayes said.

Making the final cut, junior Jourdatae Smallwood works to complete his Lawrence Film Festival contest piece.

Speaking out, senior Amelia Sheldon expresses her opinion on the importance of strengthening the U.S. educational system during a staff discussion. The newspaper staff would begin each class by talking about relevant current events.

Top 5 Journalism Essentials

1. Creativity
2. Food
3. Music
4. Parties
5. Hard Work

By the numbers

Newspaper

17 New
3 Canon
Cameras

Tee Pee Talk

14 Newspaper
14 Students

Students

23 Issues of

Pow Wow

Newspaper

17 Episodes

Tee Pee Talk

24 KSPA
24 State
Qualifiers

Tri-Caster

7

1 New

24

23
A Cappella


Project X


Women's Ensemble


Chorale


Freshman Choir


Kayettes


FCCLA

Front row: Rebekah Thompson, Makayla Mefford, Sierra Seacat, Alii Augustine, Tyler Jenkins, Courtney Wheeler.
Row 2: Jordan Lackner, Jacob Palmer, Aaron Lewis, Paul Dykes, Chad Uhl, Persephone Hart, Melissa Conereds. Row 3: Demetri Hart, Jessica Carroll, Tye Scott, Daniel Mejia, Jonathan Price, Jacob Ney


Spanish Honor Society

Lighting the way, sponsors Kelly Hammond and Susan Swabb begin the induction ceremony for the new Spanish Honor Society members on Sept. 14. "We hope to provide extra learning opportunities for our students," Swabb said. The club had a membership of 75 in its inaugural year.


Peer Helpers


SADD

Forensics


Mock Trial


The Green Team

Mayor's Youth Council


Providing updates, Bonner Springs Mayor Clausie Smith provides information about new projects with the Mayor's Youth Council, which met once a month during Project Time to learn about city government and to discuss community issues affecting teenagers.

Ready to work, junior Toni Stock listens while Youth Council activities are outlined. The council helped to light the Mayor's Christmas Tree in December and concluded the year with a field trip to the new Sporting Kansas City LiveStrong Park at the Legends.
Crossing Cultures

Foreign language department goes all out for film project

With the formation of the Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica (Spanish Honor Society) and the French Club, the foreign language department was busier than ever.

Both departments were committed to building cultural literacy through ongoing celebrations. For example, the French classes celebrated Mardi Gras by making traditional French dishes such as jambalaya and by creating masquerade masks and jester hats. The classes also absorbed the Cajun culture by listening to French and jazz music.

The Spanish classes celebrated several events such as Día de Los Muertos (Day of the Dead) and Cinco de Mayo. Every class brought in Mexican or Tex-Mex dishes to share with the class along with a variety of crafts related to both holidays.

Another highlight for both departments was participation in foreign film festival sponsored by Central Missouri State University. Students in upper level classes wrote their own scripts and then filmed them.

Sponsors Marsha Nelson and Susan Swabb held a Premiere Night on March 8 where parents and friends could come and watch all of the film entries. A red carpet stretched from the front doors to the auditorium, so students could make a Hollywood style entrance. Wooden, Oscar-style statuettes were then presented to all participants.

At the CMSU festival on April 1, the French IV film took first in eight different categories, including best overall. The Spanish IV film that parodied the popular TV show GLEE finished third.

"I had a lot of fun making the movie, and it was great getting to know the upperclassmen better."

—Kim Sanchez, 9

"I am looking forward to learning more of the customs of Spanish speaking culture."

—Taylor Coleman, 10

"Memorizing our lines and communicating during the filming was pretty hard, but overall I think it was worth it."

—Hector Flores, 11

"My favorite part of the competition was getting to see other schools and knowing we had fair competition, but we won anyway."

—Lindsey Baska, 12
and the OSCAR goes to...

"I felt like a pro, I felt proud of myself because I have never done anything like this before."
— Joe Hilario, 11

"As I was walking in, I felt like a star. It seemed that all of my hard work had paid off."
— Tyreka Johnson, 11

"I wasn't really nervous about the competition because I had seen all the other films."
— Cullen Sager, 11

In a moment of remembrance, senior Zachary Reed shares a laugh with Mrs. Nelson while recalling the adventures his class had while making their film.

At the premiere, teachers Marsha Nelson and Susan Swabb make their red carpet entrance.

Awwed by their awards, seniors Victoria Porter (above) and Taylor Hunt (left) receive golden statuettes in honor of the hard work each put into their films. Porter’s group created an original drama about a girl torn between two worlds and was filmed at the Screenland theater in north Kansas City. At the CMSU festival, Porter and junior B.J. Watson were honored as Best Actress and Best Actor.
Drac's Back

Plotting vampires steal the stage

With 19 performers, the spring play featured the largest cast on the BSHS stage since 1999. Director Dan Streit chose *Drac's Back* because it had a lot of comedy, displayed a teenage style of thought and kept the audience guessing as the action unfolded.

A spoof of *Dracula* and *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, the action begins when two vampires—Drac (Zack Sharpe) and his girlfriend Trisie (Katie Ellingsworth)—return to Transylvania to win back the family home from Drac's two older sisters.

Instead of craving blood, the vampire sisters (Kaylie Holloway and Samee Spenkle) need energy drawn from their victims to replenish their youth.

As part of his plot, Drac sends for doctors who will help him get his sisters committed to Happy Acres Mental Institute. However, things get mixed up when a group of students on their way home from a science fair stop by, thus creating a crazy and confusing night.

"These kids really put on a show," Streit said. "We were worried because we never had a full cast practice, but they nailed it."

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Under watch, Troy (Zack Reed) shows his astonishment after he awakens from a trance induced by the sisters, Delia and Bella. Officer Betty Stark (Brenna Hoch), left, and officer Lily White (Ciera Sweeney) were called to investigate the odd abode where Troy and his classmates ended up after their van ran out of gas.

With great power, Drac attempts to bite teacher Mary Cale (Angelica Harris) in order to receive his much-needed blood transfusion. "This was my first play at BSHS," Sharpe said. "But I have done 12 plays on other stages. I have a lot of fun and I love making people laugh. This was one of the largest roles I've played."
Making My Stage Debut

Micaela Reed, 10

“I’ve always wanted to be in plays and I was so nervous about memorizing my lines, but the cast made it fun. The best part was doing the improv. This was my first play, but I will definitely be coming back,” said Reed, who played Dr. Bloodstone.

Dustin Gilbert, 11

“The first time I went on stage I about had a heart attack. But after my first few lines, people started to laugh and I felt a lot more comfortable and just had fun with it,” said Gilbert, who played the undercover maid Reinfeld.

Nathan Schaber, 9

“When I was younger, I acted in a few library plays, so I thought this would be easy. But when the night came for the show, I got so nervous! The full experience was a lot of fun, and it gave me the chance to meet a lot of new people,” said Schaber, who played the butler.
Jessica Brown

**Project:** To host a fashion show in honor of my mother to raise money for the American Autoimmune Related Disease Association. Raised over $300.

During my sophomore year, my mom mentioned having a fashion show and donating the proceeds to a charity that helps with something we've suffered through. She had suffered from autoimmune diseases for some time and when she passed my junior year I was determined to make our little dream of the fashion show a reality. The hardest part was searching for help; I had to reach out to the community because I couldn't do it alone. But everyone was willing to help, whether it was to set up or a form of donation. I wish I had developed my idea into a concrete plan during the summer. The most time-consuming element of my project was creating the outfits. Before senior boards, I was a nervous wreck because of my fear of public speaking. But after everything, I felt tired and a bit sad since it was the final thing holding me to my senior year. In the end I gained a better understanding of money management and how to stay organized even in times of high stress. The truth is that I'm absolutely thrilled with how it turned out.

Camron Callahan

**Project:** To explore what it would be like to be a music producer. Produced a compilation CD of instrumental music which was sold to friends and family. The proceeds went to the VH1's Save the Music Foundation. Sold a total of 30 CDs.

I decided on making music and compiling a CD because I love music so much and thought it would be a fun experience. I spent over 50 hours on the project, but it was well worth it. Through it all, I got to know more about music and learned how to play the piano better. I also learned to make songs quicker. The hardest part was balancing school work and sports along with the Senior Project; it was demanding. Producing the songs was the most time-consuming because I wanted them to sound really good, so I spent as much time needed to get a decent sound. Before the Senior Boards, I was actually pumped to get it over with but during my presentation I was pretty nervous. After I was done, so much weight was off my shoulders and I was pretty darn happy.

Melody Coones

**Project:** To shed light on the fact that children can be affected just as greatly by Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder as war veterans.

I am a victim of PTSD myself and I know how hard it is to find help, so I organized a support group for others with the same problem and held meetings. I spent a little over 30 hours, but I wish I could have spent more time. The hardest part was getting the word out about the meetings and getting people to show up. What I enjoyed most was seeing the attendees grow and open up more; they started to smile and have more fun the further we got into the meetings. I have gained better self-awareness and know now that I'm truly not alone and there are people that care. It also helped me realize that child psychology is something I want to pursue. I was very proud of my results.
Enjoying our **Final days**

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**ONE Groovy Week**

The Spirit Week for Courtwarming was cut short by a February snowstorm, so the seniors wanted a last chance to dress crazy for school. Instead of having a one-day event, Stuco sponsor Adrienne Law came up with the idea of a Senior Week where the seniors showed their spirit by dressing in various themes which they selected. The first-ever Senior Week, which included Pirate Day, Hippie Day, and Intended College Day, was a huge success and a great way to end the year.

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Leaning against his uncle's tractor, senior Brandon Clark takes pride in showing up for his last day of school in a unique fashion. "Everyone said it was pretty funny. Even the principals thought it was hilarious," Clark said.

"Senior Week was a lot of fun, it set us apart from everyone else in the school."

— Brenna Hoch, 12

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"Nobody was polite with their criticism and really cared about what you did. I can't believe I stressed over it." — Santiago Garcia, 12

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Zach Reed and Kaylie Holloway
Journey to Paris

Juniors Ashton Iistas and Blake Pyles

Junior Bryan Williams and sophomore Kayla Horn

Junior Ashley Muldoon and her date Korey Sanborn

Seniors Zach Povlitzk and Kathryn Clark

Sophomore Samantha Ricci-Weller and junior Jake Carter

Sophomore Alex Martinez and senior Samee Sprenkle

Seniors Jordan Merino and Tyler Covington

Junior Madison Scott and her date Blake Sneed

Juniors Ashton Iistas and Blake Pyles

Sophomore Kaysi Bias and junior Aaron Rudolph
Sophomore Cheyanne Miller and junior Noah Monroy

Seniors Karl Vaughns and Angelica Harris

Juniors Emily Hunt and Brett Steuart

Senior Brandon Clark and sophomore Michelle Briggs

Juniors Thomas Fisher and Salina Duarte

Juniors Samantha Kiely and Chance Stites

Juniors Chance Stites and junior Samantha Kiely

Seniors Angelina Barajas and Jonathan Bonnett

Sophomore Chance Stites and junior Samantha Kiely

Juniors JJ Jackson, Bre Tendick, Toni Stock and Joseph Dooley

Junior Jacob Crawford and his date Devin Messina

Seniors Brenna Hoch and Mario Lazareno

Senior Scintila Capalla and her date John Jenkins

Seniors Karl Vaughn and Angelica Harris

Juniors Emily Hunt and Brett Steuart

Senior Brandon Clark and sophomore Michelle Briggs

Juniors Thomas Fisher and Salina Duarte

Juniors Samantha Kiely and Chance Stites

Seniors Angelina Barajas and Jonathan Bonnett

Sophomore Chance Stites and junior Samantha Kiely

Juniors JJ Jackson, Bre Tendick, Toni Stock and Joseph Dooley

Junior Jacob Crawford and his date Devin Messina

Seniors Brenna Hoch and Mario Lazareno

Junior Scintila Capalla and her date John Jenkins
Prom 2011

When: April 16
Where: Lake of the Forest Clubhouse
Theme: A Journey to Paris
Colors: Black, purple and silver
Favors: Key chains and picture frames
Music: Mix 93.3 DJ
Attendance: 252

—Page compiled by Toni Stock

Showing how it's done, seniors Angeline Harris, Jessie Kelly, and Samee Sprekle dance to the Cupid Shuffle. "My feet were killing me, so I took off my heels as soon as I got there," Harris said.

All by herself, senior Lauren Groves shows off her mad dancing skills. "My boyfriend was talking and not dancing with me so I decided to dance by myself" Groves said.

Prom King Brian Callahan and Prom Queen Kaylie Holloway

Taking a break, senior Cameron Callahan and junior Crethia Ebertz enjoy a candid moment.

Embracing each other, junior Jordan Carter and sophomore Kendall Bailey enjoy dancing at Prom. "In the words of Rebecca Black, we were getting down on prom night," Bailey said.

Tyler Dubin and Kaylie Holloway
Kyle Day and Alyson Espy
Logan Opat and Jordan Merino
Brian Callahan and Maya Banks
Tyler McMahan and Kelsey Leatherbury
Date: Chris Jenkins
Where they dined: Applebee's
Preparation: I woke up really early to get my hair done.
Post-Prom: We went to Orlando's Night Club.
Transportation: Chris' Volvo

Prom Profile: Joy Wallace

Date: William Campbell
Where they dined: Olive Garden
Preparation: I got my hair done at Rumors and I did my own make-up.
Post-Prom: After Prom I went home.
Transportation: By car

Prom Profile: Stormi Gaunce

Date: 9:00 a.m. Juniors, along with sponsors Adrianne Law and Jennifer Schlicht, begin the second round of decorating by adding balloons and flower arrangements to the Lake Forest Clubhouse.

11:00 a.m. Head off to pick up your corsage and boutonniere from the florist.

11:30 a.m. Make a visit to the tanning salon for one last round to make sure you'll have a "summer" glow in the evening.

12:00 p.m. Get your decorative Prom manicure and pedicure.

1:30 p.m. Drive to the hair salon with a picture of your dream Prom hairdo.

3:00 p.m. Return home to do your make-up and add those last-minute touches.

4:30 p.m. It's finally time to take Prom pictures with your group, so smile pretty.
Clockwise: Focused on the action, Junior JJ Jackson watches as his brother, freshman Jordan Jackson, prepares to take a free throw shot. **Eyes on the ball**, sophomore Logan Terrell awaits the next pitch while competing in the Butch Foster Classic at the Community America Ballpark. **Competing head-to-head**, freshman Sasha Bingaman rushes to the finish line in the girls' 100-meter hurdles at the Bonner Invitational. **Taking a break**, freshman soccer player Bailey Highflower hydrates herself after a stressful first half. **Running alongside her teammates**, sophomore Anna Deegan receives high-fives after being called for the starting lineup. **Showing pride**, Junior Cody Miller listens to the national anthem before the Mill Valley football game.
"Seeing my basketball teammates change and improve throughout the season was a highlight." Hannah Reed, 10
With a late-season Surge

Braves advance to state playoff game at Gardner

When the Braves got off to a rocky start by dropping their first four games, they knew they had to step it up. The spark they needed came in the game against Tonganoxie when they rebounded with a huge 41-28 victory.

"Tonganoxie is when we started making big plays. We had high intensity and a better understanding of the team concept," head coach Lew Kasselman said.

The Braves followed that up with a win against Bishop Ward on Homecoming night and then two blowout victories over Schlagel and Washington to secure their place in the state playoffs.

Even though the Braves lost to the Lansing Lions for the district title, they were thrilled to be in the hunt for a state championship. Unfortunately, that meant an opening game matchup against the Gardner-Edgerton Blazers, ranked No. 24 in the nation. The Braves came up short, but the team played their hearts out and still saw it as a great opportunity.

"It felt good to get into the playoffs," said senior Nick Carver, the team's top defender. "People told me it was going to be a rough game, but I didn't know anything about Gardner so it didn't faze me. After that game, emotions were high and people were tearing up. Although we lost, I felt we had achieved something."

Kasselman said the difference this season was "how much we improved from game to game." From 0-4 to the state playoffs, this team never gave up.

"Our first win against Tonganoxie when we scored on our first possession is the one that I’ll remember. We also had some very big defensive stops. It showed us that we could win."

—Jonathan Bonnett, 12

"Tonganoxie was the biggest game to me because we were on a four-game losing streak and if we got a win that night it would turn our season around."

—Steve Williams, 11

"The Gardner game because we were playing in the state playoffs and playing against the best team in the state. The atmosphere was awesome, and I'll remember that game for the rest of my life."

—Brian Callahan, 12

"Making his move, senior Joe Hilario turns the corner in the win against Tonganoxie. Hilario had 46 carries for 218 yards in his final year as a Brave."

"The Gardner game because we were playing in the state playoffs and playing against the best team in the state. The atmosphere was awesome, and I’ll remember that game for the rest of my life."

—Jonathan Bonnett, 12

"The Gardner game because we were playing in the state playoffs and playing against the best team in the state. The atmosphere was awesome, and I’ll remember that game for the rest of my life."

—Brian Callahan, 12

Luke Porras

Position: Wide receiver, cornerback
Season stats: 40 catches for 390 yards
Pre-game ritual: Listening to my iPod and imagining making a big play in my head.

One important memory: Building on the four losses that started the season and then securing a spot in the playoffs.

Non-game memory: Playing Madden 2011 with teammates at my house.

Biggest accomplishment of the season: I felt like I improved throughout the season. I doubled my receptions from the previous year.

Senior year memory: Building relationships with all of the players. My goal was to not be unsociable to the younger players.
Preparing for a tackle, senior Nick Carver tries to stop Washington's offense in a blowout win. Playing offense and defense, Carver had seven receptions for 98 yards and led the team with 67 tackles. Carver earned All-KVL Honorable Mention and was voted "Defensive Player of the Year" by his teammates. Returning a punt, sophomore Jon Blackwell runs past the Washington defenders. "It was a tough game for me because my grandfather passed away earlier in the day. I wrote his initials on my arm to honor him," Blackwell said.

**1st Person**

**Smallwood enjoys the chance to lead team**

It was great to become a varsity starter after watching family members and other players in similar roles through the years. It was something I always dreamed about. Overall, I enjoyed the leadership role and the opportunity to show what I could do. Everything was on my shoulders, and it was very stressful at times. But I knew I could do it.

I think my best game came against Tonganoxie because that was our first win. We were determined to break the losing streak, and we called for a deep pass on the first play. I saw Stevie Williams break open and I just let it go. It was good for a 73-yard touchdown and ignited the whole team.

Another memorable game for me was our first district game against Schlage, which we won in a blowout. It sent the message that we could be a good team and that we were serious about making the playoffs.

I learned a lot throughout the season—mostly little secrets and techniques to take care of the ball better. The mistakes I made as a junior I know not to make again next year.

Overall, I surprised myself. I knew I had the potential to be good, but I never dreamed it would play out so well. I'm ready for next year.

—Jourdaine Smallwood

**STATS:** 105-of-178 for 1,527 yards and 14 touchdowns

**HONORS:** All-KVL Honorable Mention

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**JJ Jackson**

**Position:** Running back

**Season stats:** 149 carries for 1,078 yards

**Team awards:** Offensive Player of the Year and Most Valuable Player

**Pre-game ritual:** Listening to my iPod playlist full of Jack Johnson, Dirty Heads, N.E.R.D., and Rage Against the Machine

**One important memory:** My first high school touchdown against Tonganoxie.

**Non-game memory:**

The pre-game speech from Coach Kasselman before the Gardner game.

**Biggest accomplishment:**

Getting to that playoff game.

**Senior that made a difference:**

Brian Callahan
Shutout [shuht-out] n. sports - a preventing of the opposite side from scoring, or any game in which one side does not score.

Junior goalkeeper Brett Steuart played eight perfect games with the help of his defense, shutting out Tongie, Perry, Topeka Seamen, Ottawa, Piper, Blue Valley, Bishop Ward, and Basehor-Linwood.

“Every shutout game I had wasn’t easy,” Steuart said. “I had to work hard and our defense made it a lot easier to get those games.”

Sweeper Nate Mitchell, the last line of defense before Steuart, is also a junior so the duo will be as strong as ever next year.

**All-KVL**
- Spencer Bush - First Team
- Shawn Jones - First Team
- Jake Moulis - First Team
- Brett Steuart - First Team
- Dalton Vitt - First Team
- Connor Harrington - Second Team
- Nate Mitchell - Second Team
- Spencer Frank - Honorable Mention

**All-Region**
- Spencer Bush - First Team
- Connor Harrington - First Team
- Spencer Frank - Second Team
- Shawn Jones - Second Team
- Brett Steuart - Second Team
- Dalton Vitt - Second Team

**All-State**
- Spencer Bush - First Team
- Connor Harrington - First Team
- Brett Steuart - Honorable Mention

**Outhustling the defense**, junior Shawn Jones moves down the field. Jones was the team’s top scorer with 17 goals.

**With a careful touch**, junior Spencer Bush attempts to fake out the defense at home. Bush led the team in assists with 14.

**Fighting for possession**, junior Jose Lopez battles two Rose Hill defenders in the opening round of the state tournament. “I was disappointed we didn’t win first place at state,” Lopez said.

**With a slide tackle**, junior defender Nate Mitchell (right) stops a Perry player from scoring in a home win.

**As the defense closes in**, sophomore Spencer Frank (far right) passes the ball off to a teammate at state against Rose Hill. Frank has started varsity for the past two years.
Exploring uncharted Territory

Team makes history with first ever trip to the state tournament

The varsity boys soccer team finished their season with an impressive 15-3-3 record and KVL and district championships. The squad also had the honor of being the first soccer team in school history to go to the state tournament.

"The chemistry was unbelievable this year," head coach Mike Moulin said.

This was evident when the varsity squad sported mohawks and kept them as long as they were undefeated. The haircuts were good until a tough 2-4 loss to Turner two games before the end of the season.

The team then came back strong against Basehor-Linwood with an 8-0 road win. Soon after they battled Bishop Ward and then prepared for the regional championships against K.C. Christian at home.

Although they were trailing at halftime, the Braves stormed back after a motivational speech by assistant coach Jimmy Vogel to finish with a 6-2 win. Students and fans rushed onto the field to congratulate the team and in celebration junior Nate Mitchell and senior Austin Epp dumped their water on Moulin.

"The early goal and hustle helped the boys realize they could play with them," Moulin said.

The trip to state tournament in Topeka was a little more disappointing with a tough loss to Rose Hill in the opening round and a heartbreaking 1-0 loss to St. James Academy. "This year was remarkable and all the boys really worked hard," Moulin said.

"Although they fell short, they worked hard. I respect those guys and what they accomplished." — Cordell Duncan, 12

"It was a dream season. It was Austin's senior year; he was team captain, they were 15-3-3, regional champions, and made it to state. It does not get any better than that!" — James Epp, parent

It's the best feeling in the world. Plain and simple. Amazing." — Brett Steuart, junior

"Each and every day I got to practice with some of the tightest dudes, therefore making this soccer season the best yet." — Shawn Jones, 11

"He made the team work and give 110 percent. He always pushed us to our limits and made us better players." — Nate Mitchell, parent

"The coaches did a good job motivating us, and then we worked really hard." — Austin Epp, 12

Competing at state (from top): Caleb Seaton, Jacob Moulin, the varsity squad, and Noah Monroy fight tooth and nail for a title at the state tournament. This was the first year the soccer team qualified for the state championships.
On One

The lowdown on the libero:

If you’ve ever been to a volleyball match, you may have noticed a player wearing a different-colored jersey and wondered why. With the power to substitute into their position at any time, the libero is a defensive specialist with their own set of rules. To answer all your questions is the Braves’ own Cassidy Holloway, a sophomore.

What is a libero?
“Libero is someone who only plays back row and goes in for people who usually only play front row.”

How is it different from other positions?
“It’s different because I can go in at any time and not have to wait for the ref to tell me when. However, I can’t play front row at all, and I also can’t step over the ten-foot line on rotations (a boundary ten feet from the net).”

How did you end up playing libero?
“When tryouts started it was between Kylee and me. Eventually I worked hard enough and improved enough to play libero.”

Did you enjoy playing libero?
“I loved playing libero. I’m not tall so being in the front row wasn’t very easy or fun for me. Being the libero also allowed me to go in for more than one person so I basically played the whole game. Diving and being the one my teammates counted on to get every dig was great and leading the back row was exciting and a good learning experience.

Senior enjoys final season

Savoring the moment, Jessie Kelly is escorted to Senior Night festivities by her parents, Bart and Theresa.

Flying high, Kelly prepares to unleash a powerful serve in a home match. Kelly finished the season with 37 aces.

How do you feel the season turned out?
“We played well and improved a lot from the previous year.”

What were your goals for this season?
“My goals were to jump serve more and to run plays, which I did.”

What obstacles did you face throughout the season?
“I went up against girls who were inches taller than me.”

What do you think was the biggest win?
“Beating Basehor, our rivals, for the first time and only time in my high school career was great, but beating Atchison in an intense third game was my greatest win. The whole game was close, but we pulled ahead in the end and won.”

How do you prepare for matches?
“I listen to some music to pump me up and then warm up my arms with Chelsea.”

What was the best part of Senior Night?
“The best part of Senior Night was having my family come and watch me play.”

Jessie Kelly

Honors: All-Kaw Valley League Honorable Mention, All-Wyandotte County first team.

Fully focused, Junior Madison Scott passes the ball in a victory over Turner. “Madison was one of the reasons for our newfound success,” head coach Heather Campbell said.

Extending as far as they can, sophomore Jene Williams and junior Madison Scott block the Piper attack. The duo combined for 140 blocks on the season.

Passing the ball, sophomore Haley Hoffman sets up the attack. According to head coach Heather Campbell, Hoffman earned All-KV honor roll mention honors for her all-around great play, accurate sets, precise serving, reliable passes and strong hits.

Enjoying a breakout Season

Lady Braves finish with a flurry of victories

After losing only one senior, the Lady Braves’ volleyball team came into the season with high expectations. With six returning lettermen, including two seniors, the strong leadership would prove beneficial.

“Our seniors really led the team,” said head coach Heather Campbell. “Chelsea was very vocal and Jessie led by example. All of our returning lettermen worked really hard. They wanted to be better.”

The hard work definitely paid off as the team finished at 17–19, nearly doubling the number of victories from the previous year.

“We lost some early games, but we were able to use those experiences to move forward,” Campbell said. “We finished up winning our last 13 of 16 matches and played really well against Tonganoxie at regionals.”
Celebrating the point, the JV squad huddles up against Immaculata. The team ended the season with a 16-5 record and a third-place finish at the Atchison tournament.

Dropping to her knees, sophomore Skyler Taylor bumps the ball to the setter at a home meet. “The JV squad was a really fun group,” Taylor said. “We worked well together.”

Wanting a kill, sophomore Jene Williams jumps up to face the Piper blockers. Williams was one of three players selected to the All-Wyandotte County honorable mention team.

“BY the end of the season we were working together better than we did at the start of the season. Playing on the high school level was way more fun than middle school because you get to play with a mix of people.”
—Mariah Seifert, 9

“Standing out was probably against Basehor because they are always our big rivals and it’s usually a very tight game.”
—Kyliee Timberlake, 11

“On the first day of practice we set a goal for our team. We wanted to win 50 percent of our games, and we did. That was a really great.”
—Shelby Mata, 9

“One that stands out”

“I will always remember our last game. Everyone gave it their all and we played beautifully. I couldn’t have asked for more from my team and myself.”
—Chelsea Crawford, 12

“I think we grew a lot as a team and the fact that we had a winning season was great.”
—Sydney Shepherd, 10

“We had a lot of work to do, but we ended up improving a lot and ended up with a good record. Coach Rozak was really helpful.”
—Izzy Soto, 9
The greatest highlight was our trip to state which, even though we didn’t medal or stay for the second day, was a great experience for the girls. It was Breanna Tendick’s second trip and Caitlin Hilliard’s first and last trip to state. Our biggest success this season was the improvement of all the JV players. They had many victories at the JV duals. I was most excited about the number of new freshmen and sophomores that we had out at the beginning of the season. We had eight freshmen alone. Another big success was that we started with 24 girls in August, and we finished with 24 girls in October. That is a success. —Coach Bill Scott

1st Person

“The coaches were really great at helping me learn tennis because I had never played before. I’m really happy I went out because it was a lot of fun and I met and made a lot more great friends. I’m definitely going to keep playing tennis all through high school to try to be like my tennis idol Bre Tendick and get to state some day.”

—Elizabeth Barger, 9

“Tennis was a blast. From tryouts to state, the team was like a close family. Everyone was super nice and there to have fun. Some of the best moments were singing 99 bottles of Pop on the Wall and the seniors getting the whole team to put our hair in ballerina buns.”

—Sam Ricci-Weller, 10

“Making a trip to state two years in a row has been great but now my goal is to actually win a match at state. I really hope to get more girls to state in the future and to continue having more girls go out for tennis.”

—Bre Tendick, 11

“I decided to play my junior year when I learned that I could cheer and participate in another sport at the same time. I had a great time and learned a lot about tennis.”

—Lindsay Hunt, 12

With shades and a wacky hairdo for the Lawrence meet, junior Lauren Callahan prepares to face a forehand. "The hairdo was a success. The whole team decided to do it, and we performed very well," said Callahan, who earned two medals at the Bonner Invitational and the league meet.

During the Summer dual, junior Toni Stock runs down a tough line shot. Stock finished the day with a 6-0 victory in singles play.

Charging hard, senior Persephone Hart gets in position for the upcoming shot while wearing her favorite socks. "I started wearing knee-length, multi-colored socks my junior year because I thought they looked cool," Hart said.

Coming in on a dead sprint, junior Melissa Cisneros reaches for the ball on an underhand volley. "I love running on the courts," Cisneros said. "You are running on pure adrenaline."

Our Spin

"Golden Puffs cereal and dry-roasted peanuts were the official team snacks. Lauren Callahan or I brought multiple bags of the puffs to every tournament," junior Toni Stock said.

During the Bishop Miege dual at the Plaza, some of the players forgot their sunglasses, so they decided to visit the new Forever 21 across the street to buy new shades when they had a break. "It was a great experience as a freshman getting to bond with the tennis girls at Forever 21," freshman Alex Carter said.

Whether by bus or van, traveling to meets was always an adventure. "We know that Mr. Scott has a lead foot and that Mrs. Loker sometimes gets lost trying to keep up with him," sophomore Aubrey Julio said.

For the Lawrence Free State meet, the team decided to put their hair in messy buns. "We were just really bored on the bus, so when my sister Lindsay decided to do her hair that way, it started a chain reaction," junior Emily Hunt said.
Off to state we go
Again

Hilliard, Tendick enjoy post-season opportunity

The doubles team of senior Caitlin Hilliard and junior Bre Tendick traveled to Maize High School for the 4A state tournament, but the pair unfortunately fell in the first round to Winfield 6-3 in game one and 6-1 in game two.

"I was really nervous because I felt we had the ability to go far this year in state," Tendick said. "It was obvious we were very nervous, but considering we played a well-disciplined team, I think we played the best we could."

Unlike Tendick, who had been to state last year as a sophomore, Hilliard experienced her first state appearance in her final season as a Brave.

"It was really exciting just to be there," she said. "There was a lot of pressure because of the single elimination, so I was nervous. Unfortunately, we had an off day at the net, and Winfield took advantage with good hard shots and good placement."

Hilliard and Tendick had emerged as the No. 1 doubles team late in the season after winning the Bonner Invitational, beating Baldwin in the championship. In fact, it was the first time the two were paired together.

Despite the lack of practice time together, the two were very pleased with the way they came together towards the end of the season, finishing with a winning record of 9-6 as a doubles team.

Making her first trip to state, senior Caitlin Hilliard concentrates on her shot.

"It was cool to see all of the schools that we don’t get to face in the regular season," Hilliard said.
Ready to run, rain or shine

Braves qualify two for state meet

Between a switch from Class 5A to 4A and a rather damp season, the cross country squad faced its fair share of challenges. Rain interfered with almost half of the races, starting with the first one. Luckily, the Braves had the upper hand on races and rain.

"When it's raining on a practice day, we will practice in the rain," sophomore Mandy Ballou said. "Personally, I he the rain because a lot of other schools won't practice in the rain, so that gives us a better chance to beat those schools."

Fortunately the weather cooperated at the KVL meet, where the girls placed fourth and the guys placed sixth. Juniors Matt Coffman and Scintilla Capalla earned all-KVL honors along with sophomores Mandy Ballou and T.J. Kimbrough-French.

Highlights for the boys' squad came at the WyCo meet where they placed first, paced by a one-two finish from Coffman and Kimbrough-French. The season ended at regionals on the Braves' home course where Coffman and Kimbrough-French ran well enough to qualify for the state meet at Wamego.

Showing partnership, junior Matt Coffman and sophomore T.J. Kimbrough-French run side-by-side on their way to a strong 15th- and 16th-place finish at Ottawa. "The highlight of the season was T.J. and Matt qualifying for state as individuals," head coach Bill Downing said. "We had a small chance to qualify a team but knew we could get two runners qualified."

Setting the pace, junior Scintilla Capalla turns in her best performance of the year at the WyCo race where she placed second and set a new personal record. "Being voted team captain along with Mandy Ballou really helped our team out," Capalla said. "We formed a strong team and were able to give a lot of constructive criticism."

The prayer huddle wasn't planned, exactly. The first huddle was at the Miege race, when I asked the other girls if they wanted to pray before we ran. We were all Christians of some sort. I was nervous, and they had to be also. I thought it would help calm our nerves. I prayed first, then the rest of the team took turns praying. At the next meet when the five-minute gun went off, one of the girls asked if we were doing our "prayer huddle." After that it became regular. We prayed for safety and to show the glory of God in our running. I hope this tradition will continue throughout the years, even after we are gone.

"My favorite moment was running at Ottawa. I had a really good race on a difficult course and finished in first place on the team and 13th overall. It is known to be the most difficult course in Kansas."

—Tessa Newberry, 10

"My freshman year was my favorite because I got to run at Rim Rock alongside my brother at state."

—Erin Mills, 12

Matt Coffman
Regionals: 17:49, 16th
State: 18:45, 65th
Pr: 17:45, KVL, 12th
T.J. Kimbrough-French
Regionals: 17:59, 16th
State: 19:29, 86th
Pr: 18:15, KVL, 16th

"State was a good experience. I was glad to have a teammate come with me. I hope to bring more individuals next year."

—Matt Coffman, 11

"The quote that I live by is 'I don't run to see who is the fastest, I run to see who has the most guts.' This quote got me through my senior cross country season."

—Stephan Schwab, 12
Without a competitor in sight, junior Joshua Oden races to the finish line at the Ottawa Invitational. Oden placed 19th with a time of 19:19 on one of the most demanding courses in the area. "I never gave up," he said. "I always tried my best and pushed to complete what needed to be done."

Pushing ahead to earn a medal, sophomore Mandy Ballou runs with determination at the WyCo meet where she placed fifth with a time of 18:00. "My season turned out all right," Ballou said. "It started off slowly but improved steadily."

Using every bit of energy to finish the race, sophomore Eliott Kicell pushes to the finish line at the WyCo meet where he placed 10th. "Cross country is more of a team sport than it seems; there is a lot of camaraderie," Kicell said.

Motivating his runner, coach Bill Downing encourages sophomore Tess Newberry to finish strong. Newberry's best race came at the league meet where she posted a time of 18:49.

"Going to state was a great experience since I didn't get to go as a freshman. I liked going as an individual but I hope to get the whole team there next year so Bonner Springs can get on the map."
—T.J. Kimbrough-French, 10

"It was nice to run at the Wyandotte County Park for the last time because next year the course will not be there."
—Zach Povlitzki, 12

"I liked how Tyreka and I would act like we were practicing but we really weren't. Sometimes we would even manage to still get really good times."
—Irene Crump, 12

"There was a lot of encouragement from coaches, parents and other runners that helped me and the rest of the team go out and finish the race with a positive attitude."
—Tyler Johnson, 12
Cheerleading coaches boost unity with special events

Between 6 a.m. practices, manning concession stands as fundraisers, and cheering at games several times a week, the cheerleading squad created memories worth remembering.

"The opportunity to support the soccer team during their first-ever trip to the state tournament was special," junior Emily Hunt said. "I hope we'll get that chance again."

This was the second year with varsity coach Whitney Mitchell and assistant coach Samee Foulk, and both coaches did their best to add variety.

A cheerleading "formal" was one of the most appreciated events that the sponsors initiated.

"Our coaches reserved a clubhouse for the squad and their dates from 8 p.m. to midnight, and we just chilleed, danced, and ate lots of good food. It was a lot of fun and a perfect way to end the cheer season. I think it will turn into a tradition," sophomore Mandy Ballou said.

Another memorable moment came at practice when Foulk showed up in 80s workout gear.

"She really surprised us," senior Kelsey Leatherbury said. "We had a lot of fun working out to 80s music that day."

With enthusiasm, senior Kaylie Holloway and a senior cheerleader from Turner High School show class pride at the Coming Together for a Cure game. "We decided to display the No. 1 sign with our fingers to represent the Class of 2011."

Offering support, sophomore Madison Epp and senior Alyson Espy help steady sophomore Mandy Ballou as she is lifted. All three of the girls are flyers for the varsity squad.

A three-year squad member, junior Ashton Iolas cheers at a home game. "This was a good year, and I think it was our best because there was no drama."

Boosting spirit, senior Lindsay Hunt gets the crowd pumped up at a pep assembly. "This year was special because I got to cheer with two of my sisters," Hunt said. "This was a really fun squad."

Lifted high, senior Alyson Espy waves to the crowd at an away game. Espy has been a varsity flyer since her freshman year.
"Being a senior was great but stressful. I'm glad I was able to grow closer to the girls and the coaches. I went to a private school and when I transferred to Bonner my junior year, I missed tryouts. This year I tried to work my hardest to make myself better and I think my hard work paid off. I hope to continue with cheer or dance."

—Lindsey Mauk, 12

"I've been a flyer all ten years I've been involved in cheerleading. I enjoy flying, but I have based before. I've been to lots of competitions, and stunting and cheerleading have been a big part of my life. I like it a lot."

—Brittany Frentrop, 11

"I love being a flyer, and I have a lot of fun doing it. It's awesome when I'm up there and the crowd is cheering for us. It's also really fun showing off all of the talent that our squad has. The hardest part about flying is learning new skills and performing them in pep assemblies."

—Madison Epp, 10

"Being a flyer is exciting yet scary. You need to be able to trust your bases to catch you, and my teammates were always good about that. We had practice once a week and spent a lot of time working on new stunts. We have so many talented people on our squad, so it's always fun to show what we can do."

—Emily Hunt, 11

"These past four years on the cheerleading squad have made my high school experience better than I ever dreamed. I am going to miss cheer camp, the bus rides, and the other cheerleaders. We made so many awesome memories which I will always remember."

—Kelsey Leatherbury, 12

"It was a lot of fun being able to cheer with all the girls, and I'll miss our pre-game routine where we would go to eat, get ready, and then go cheer. It was great to be on varsity for my first year of cheerleading and my last year of high school."

—Lauren Groves, 12

"The Power Ranger uniform (as we called it) was my favorite, and at the beginning of the year, it was one of the ones that we got the most compliments on. We would rotate through our three uniforms, and we would decide on a different uniform, depending on the event."

—Eliza Scott, 11

"We usually just called this one The Ringer because of the band on the midriff. Of the three uniforms, this was my favorite, and we wore it a lot. The midriff was the only uncomfortable thing about it, and unfortunately there were times that it would really irritate our arms."

—Lauren Callahan, 11

"I think these are the oldest uniforms that we wear. They're not my favorites because they don't have a decorative midriff like the other two. We wore this uniform at the beginning of the season until our new uniforms arrived and didn't wear them that much unless we had multiple games in a week."

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—Lindsay Hunt, 12
A season of Change

Dance and flags teams are united as one

The dance team learned to twirl flags and flag team members learned new dance moves when the two squads were merged to form a single performing unit.

The transition was initially difficult but worked out well in the long run.

"The girls really enjoyed the merger with the flag team. It helped them get a lot more experience and gave them more performances and broadened their dance abilities," coach Tara Kemp said.

Another change included having dance as a first hour class throughout the first semester to replace after-school practice.

"It was chaotic at first, but once the girls were able to get their routine in place the class ran smoothly. It was nice practicing on the field with the band prior to game days," Kemp said.

A major highlight to the team's season was the Elite Dance Camp they participated in during the summer at Lake of the Ozarks.

Kemp said the squad came in as "underdogs," but walked away with almost every award: The Spirit Award, the Superior Team Performance, the Most Improved Team, the Overall Team Performance Award.

Senior Brenna Hoch also received the Team Leadership Award. In total, the squad received 60 superior blue ribbons and a Spirit Stick each night.

Another change involved the addition of dance veteran Cindy Hayes as a coach.

"The two of us worked very well with each other and were able to bring the technique level of the team up from where it had been. I enjoyed having someone to help coach the girls," Kemp said.

"Joining the dance team my senior year was a new experience for me. It was difficult, but in the end everything turned out well. It was a lot of fun, and we grew together as a team and as sisters."

— Alexis Clark, 12

"My favorite memory was at camp when we did the Shower of Love. I'm pretty sure everyone cried. It was a really great bonding moment."

— Nicole Norris, 9

"It was a shock at first to make the transition when dance was combined with the flags, but it ended up being a lot of fun. As the season progressed, we learned that most dance teams in the area do flags and dance to the band."

— Brenna Hoch, 12

"My favorite dance was the Halloween dance. The most difficult thing I had to do on the dance team was trying to land my doubles."

— Tatiana Torres, 10

"The most difficult part of being on the dance team was having to change things like formations and moves all of the time. The upperclassmen dance was my favorite because of the mix of songs."

— Ashley Muldoon, 11
Miranda McCullough, Yesenia Lugo, Loren Bergstrom and Alexis Clark participate in the first Warrior Walk.

Up front, sophomore Andrea Wieglesworth lands after a tum. The team performed a Halloween special as the last routine for the football season during the halftime show. "This dance was my favorite. We had a lot of fun learning it and the crowd's reaction was great," Wiglesworth said.

Striking a pose, senior Jordan Merino performs at the state soccer send-off assembly. The team performed to the song "Jai Ho!, a dance they learned at their summer camp. "I had a lot of fun with this dance; it was something completely different than what we had done before," Merino said.

Orange Dazzlers. Front row: Brittnay Huffman, Tatiana Iones, Miranda McCullough, Citlalli Fernandez, Loren Bergstrom, Megan McCullough, Tylina Greer, Yesenia Lugo, Sammy Weller, Nicole Norris. Row 2: Angelica Harris, Alexis Clark, Chandler Clark, Ashley Muldoon, Cynthia Ebertz, Brenna Hoch, Kathryn Clark, Jordan Merino, Andrea Wieglesworth, Lauren Culter.
Finally turning things Around

Braves post winning season after years of struggling

Compared to previous years, it is safe to say that this season was a complete success for the Braves. They posted an impressive 15-6 mark, doubling the win total for the past two years.

Even though the team had the same players as last year, they gained an entirely new coaching staff.

"It was a lot of fun," head coach Andy Price said. "I always loved coaching, and I missed the thrill of competition and being a part of the growth of the players—both as a basketball team and as individuals on and off the court."

A main highlight for the Braves came at the mid-season Baldwin Tournament where they captured the championship.

"It was especially special the way we won it," Price said. "We played three games within 26 hours and won all three by at least 16 points each."

The squad set many goals, such as winning the Baldwin Tournament and competing for the league championship.

"We had a chance to win three of the six games that we lost, and if we would have pulled them out, we would have been able to win league," Price said.

While they achieved some goals and fell just short of others, the Braves considered this season to be a stepping stone for the future.

"Hopefully we can build on this and get over the humps next year," Price said.

Bringing home the hardware

After winning the Baldwin Tournament, the Braves brought home a championship trophy that now sits in the front office for all visitors to see.

While every player was a contributing factor in this tournament, there were individual players who stood out. Senior Juan Pichardo and juniors B.J. Watson and Steve Williams were selected for the all-tournament team.

"This was proof that we were finally turning the corner to success," Watson said.

Protecting the ball, junior Reeve Williams takes it strong to the basket. Williams was the second leading scorer averaging 10 points per game.

With his eyes up, junior B.J. Watson drives to the lane trying to beat his Baseline opponent. Watson broke the school record for most charges taken in a season with 13.

Getting up, junior Joseph Dooley shoots a jump shot over his Togandee opponent. "The best part of my season was the first Baseline game because they were all saying that they'd beat us by 30 and in the end we only lost by one," Dooley said.

On a break, junior Jourdain Smallwood speed dribbles down the floor looking to pass. "I thought the season as a whole was much better than previous years because we had a winning record for the first time in a few years," Smallwood said.

Showing great athleticism, senior Cameron Callahan hits a reverse layup in a home game. "This season was a step in the right direction. It was our first winning record in a long time. I know that the guys will continue to get better," Callahan said.
Senior leader reflects on season-changing moments

I have always played basketball. I played on random teams when I was a little kid, then I got on the Swoosh. From there I went to middle school and then to high school and hopefully next year to college.

My first three years of high school basketball were tough. I wasn’t very mature, and the coach and I butted heads a lot. We had bad seasons my sophomore and junior years, and we played in a different system that we weren’t successful with.

Right before my senior year started, my best friend moved to Basehor. We were basketball brothers; we would always work out and shoot together, and we also played AAU ball together. I lost my best friend on the court. It changed my entire senior year.

We also got an entirely new coaching staff, a new system, and a new style of play. For that reason, I was excited, but also very nervous because I wasn’t used to it. I had to adjust to a whole new style of game play that I hadn’t played in two years.

Our coaches made us respect them, and we came together as a team and believed in ourselves for once. That was a big difference from the past few years. We went 15-6 and could have accomplished more. I just want to say that I love my team. They will always be my family.

—Juan Pichardo, 12
A significant turning Point

Lady Braves take their game to a heightened level

In their most successful season in a decade, the Lady Braves took a huge step forward with tough games, good wins, and hard losses, going from 5-16 the previous year to 16-5 this year.

The Lady Braves opened their season with a blowout win over the Piper Pirates. Junior captain Yessenia Hernandez had a huge night, getting a double-double with 22 points and 10 steals.

The Lady Braves then stepped into Wellsville High School for the Top Gun Tournament. The highest finish in the past was sixth, and the girls were determined to beat that. The team really stepped up and brought home a third-place trophy.

A tear-jerking, intense win was just around the corner when the Lady Braves met the Lansing Lions. The two teams were back-and-forth all night, but by the end of the third quarter the Lady Braves were looking at defeat.

"We overcame an 11-point deficit in the fourth quarter to beat Lansing for the first time in the past six years. I saw the girls make up their minds during a time-out that they were not going to lose that game," head coach Clay Oakes said. "Their will and determination is what drove them to find that little extra deep inside and pull off the unthinkable."

Next on the schedule was sub-state where the Lady Braves, seeded No. 2 in their bracket, were determined to make it to state. They won their first game against Piper, only to meet up with the Sumner Sabres once again. The first time they met, the Lady Braves held on to a three-point lead to win. This was not the case this time, as the season ended and they fell short of their dream.

"This was the best season our girls have had in several years. The players were very committed to doing what was needed to ensure their success," Oakes said. "The reward for their hard work and time was shown through their accomplishments and an outstanding record of 15-6."

Driving to the basket, sophomore Anna Deegan leads her team to a home victory against Bishop Ward. Deegan was the team's leading scorer with 204 points. She was selected to the Top Gun All-Tournament team, to the All-Kaw Valley League first team, and was named the Best Offensive Player by her teammates. "It was good to be recognized at the tournament and by other coaches for my hard work, but no one can do it without their teammates," Deegan said.

Playing her last game, sophomore Cassidy Holloway dribbles around her opponent in a victory against Tonganoxie where she had a season-high of seven points. Unfortunately, she found out a week later that she had mononucleosis and would miss the rest of the season. "I was very upset," Holloway said. "It was pretty hard to sit back and watch. There were a lot of times that I wanted to just suit up and run out and play."

Getting on the floor, sophomore Haley Hoffine fights for the ball in home game against Lansing. Hoffine's aggressive play as point guard led to 40 steals. "I've played basketball since I was little, it never gets old and it's always fun," Hoffine said.

Battle of the Twins

Q: What was the most memorable moment, game, bus ride, or practice? Something you will never forget about this season.
Emily: When Yess, my sister, and I were singing the whole bus ride home from Bishop Ward.
Erica: Our win against Piper because it was a very positive way to start our season, it was a good feeling to win the opener.
Q: What was the biggest game for you this season?
Emily: When we beat Lansing on their home court because we hadn't beaten them in several years. It was nice to finally break the losing streak.
Erica: The biggest game for me this year was at sub-state against Sumner because I had to go against people who were faster than me and I had one of my best defensive games.
Q: When it comes to basketball, what can you do better than your twin? What are the advantages of being twins and playing on the same team?
Emily: I take pride in being faster than Erica, but it is nice playing with her because I always know where she is on the court without looking.
Erica: I am better at taking it to the basket. It is nice to play with my sister because we just connect; we don't even have to say anything because we know what the other is going to do.

By the Numbers

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>4</th>
<th>all-KVL Selections, which was double from last year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>years since the Lady Braves advanced to the second round of sub-state.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>more wins than last year</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>years since the Lady Braves finished with a record as good as 16-5</td>
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Erica Wilson
Stats: Led the team with 16 blocks

Emily Wilson
Stats: Led the team with 125 total rebounds
Honors: All-KVL Honorable Mention
Smith stands out as the lone senior

I started playing basketball in third grade for the Kerry Roberts League. Once I started, I never stopped. I love basketball so much it’s hard to explain. When I play, I don’t think about anything else. This year was amazing. Being a leader, everyone knew that I expected hard work at practice, and that’s what they gave. I am so proud of them.

The game that meant the most to me was the second game against Lansing. I can’t describe it. It was the first time in six years that we managed to beat them. I scored 21 points, which I think was a career high for me. Even when we were down by 14, I still knew we’d win. During a time-out near the end of the third quarter, I asked everyone if they wanted this game as much as I did. We were a different team after that and went on a big run. The Lansing coach called a time-out to stop the momentum and Coach Oakes told us that we were on the verge of doing something no other Bonner team had done for six years. My heart just dropped and I started breathing really fast, and tears began to form in my eyes. It was by far the best moment of my career.

My passion for basketball stems from Sterling Burgette, my Magic basketball coach. He has definitely made the biggest impact on my life as far as basketball is concerned. He has improved my game, and I continue to learn from him today. He’s more than just a coach to me. He has taught me so many important life lessons that have nothing to do with basketball.

STATS: Led the team with 22 three-pointers
HONORS: All-KVL, Honorable Mention, voted as Most Inspirational Player by teammates
COLLEGE: Signed for basketball at Fort Scott Community College

—Erica Smith

Hernandez moves into leadership role

I play basketball because I enjoy the excitement that it brings to me and my teammates. I started playing basketball when I was in fifth grade. When I first started playing I had no idea what was going on, but that didn’t stop me from trying my hardest to learn the game.

The first Mill Valley game meant a lot to me because the win was very tangible. We played our hearts out and everyone was hustling on the court. Even though we lost to a buzzer-beater, it encouraged us to play even harder the rest of the season.

Being a leader is not the easiest thing to do. You have to know how to tell your teammates to do something without upsetting them or yelling at them in a rude way. Even though it’s tough sometimes, I love being in the leadership role and leading my teams through the good times and the bad.

I would say that my parents have inspired me to play my best game. I want to make them proud of me and represent the family by being one of the few Hispanic basketball players.

After high school I plan to play basketball in college. I still don’t know where I want to play. I hope to inspire younger girls to play their hardest every game because hard work pays off.

STATS: Led the team in steals and assists
HONORS: All-KVL, 4A All-State Honorable Mention, voted Most Valuable Player and Best Defensive Player by teammates

—Yessenia Hernandez
Swimming to Success

Braves swim their way to state meet

On the first day of tryouts, Coach Lynn LaNoue noticed that there were fewer swimmers out than in previous years. Yet despite these small numbers, LaNoue still had some very big goals: To have a few individual swimmers and a relay team qualify for state.

The team focused on technique improvement and race strategies to finish the season strong and to reach their goals.

"The great thing is that they were very supportive of each other and built the bonds of being a team each and every day," LaNoue said.

The team's best finish came at the WyCo swim championships where they finished in second place. The relay team of senior Tyler Dubin and juniors Ryan Cook, Blaine Edmondson and Ethan Hook placed first in the 400-yard freestyle relay and second in the 200-yard freestyle relay. Junior Jesse Anderson added a second-place finish in the 200 freestyle while Hook was second in the butterfly. Sophomore Cody Crier captured a fourth-place finish in the 50 freestyle.

But the season's most memorable moment came at the Inter-League Championship meet at Turner where the 200 freestyle team of Hook, Edmondson, Cook and Dubin qualified for state with a time of 1 minute and 40.36 seconds, dipping below the state mark of 1:41.34.

"It was really good for us to qualify for the state meet," Dubin said. "I wish I would have tried harder in order to qualify for more events."

ONE To Remember

To give his swimmers the broadest experience possible, coach Lynn LaNoue requires each athlete to swim the 500-yard freestyle, a grueling event that demands 20 laps up and back. To support each other, swimmers keep track of a teammate's laps by holding a sign under water as the swimmer nears the end of the lane.

"If I didn't do this, they would probably always choose easier events," LaNoue said.

Although this race might be something swimmers would want to forget quickly, most say the memory of finishing this intense event will always stick with them.

"The 500-yard freestyle is a long and tiring race. It's one of the hardest races to compete in and it's definitely a challenge. Because it is such a challenge, I like it just so I can push myself to do well in the competition."

— Ryan Cook, 11

Receiving congratulations, sophomore Jacob Sopher finishes the 50-yard freestyle at the final home meet of the season where he knocked off 10 seconds from his previous best time.

Finishing strong, senior Jonathan Price competes in the backstroke at a home meet. "The worst thing about state was coming so close to beating the school record in the 200-yard freestyle relay but not being able to reach it," Price said.

Taking a breath, junior Blaine Edmondson competes in the 100-yard butterfly at a home meet. "Blaine had no idea he could be so good at the fly. It was a stroke he avoided, and it just came together for him near the end of the season when he turned in a really good time. From that point, he embraced it and is hoping to qualify for state in it next year," head coach Lynn LaNoue said.

Focusing on the finish, junior Jesse Anderson competes in the breaststroke at a home meet. "Jesse grew up a lot this year and came to understand the importance of his role on the team," coach Lynn LaNoue said. "I think his most memorable moment came when he lost his goggles in the 500 freestyle at Turner and had to swim 20 laps without them."
Team qualifies for state meet

The boys' swim team dove into postseason action on Friday, Feb. 11, when they competed in the Class 5-1A state meet in three different events. Tyler Dubin, Jonathan Price, Ryan Cook, and Blaine Edmondson competed in the 200-yard freestyle relay while Cook, Dubin, Edmondson, and Ethan Hook represented the team in the 200-yard medley relay. Edmondson was the lone Brave to compete in an individual event: the 50-yard freestyle.

"I would not have made it without my team pumping me up and the rest of the team would not have made it if we hadn't pumped each other up," Edmondson said. "That is the only way to make it to state."

The freestyle relay team turned in a season-best time of 1:38.40 to finish 10th while the medley team placed 22nd. Edmondson was 27th in the 50 freestyle with a time of 24.50.

"I learned that it takes the whole team to be successful throughout the season and at state. Coach LaNoe had a workout inspiration speech that he always gave us, and it really helped us perform our best."

—Ryan Cook, 11

Savoring the moment, the state-qualifying relay team of Tyler Dubin, Jonathan Price, Ryan Cook, Ethan Hook, Blaine Edmondson and Coach Lynn LaNoe keep their heads up after a long day of swimming at the Hummer Sports Complex in Topeka for the Class 5-1A championships. "What I can tell you is that they faced a challenge none of them had faced before," LaNoe said.

"They came together as a team to deal with that challenge, and they were not found lacking when dealing with that challenge."

"This was the first time I had ever been to state competition in a sport and I was so excited. I now know that if you put your mind towards your goal you can achieve it, and as a team we had to come together to achieve this goal."

—Tyler Dubin, 12

"The crowd and the team made a huge deal out of the team going to state because we were the first to go in a few years. It was very exciting for every fan of the swim team."

—Ethan Hook, 11

"The most amazing feeling I had during my season is when I qualified for state and my teammates immediately pulled me out of the water to celebrate and I heard the crowd cheering. When I got to state, the best part was watching the intense competition that we were up against."

—Blaine Edmondson, 11

"The most intimidating thing at state is when you see what the top teams in the state are capable of. Comparing our times to other state times was one of the toughest parts of state. I learned that we should always listen to the coach no matter what."

—Jonathan Price, 12
A golden Season

Braves bring home the post-season hardware

The season started with high expectations for the Bonner Springs wrestling team. Preseason coach’s polls had Bonner ranked eighth in the state, along with a few individuals ranked in the top three in their respective weight classes.

“I had a personal goal to finish in the Top Ten,” second-year head coach Brandon Jobe said.

The talent was there with five returning wrestlers who had competed at the state level.

“They really helped out during practice,” Jobe said. “They really helped the younger guys along.”

As the season progressed, Coach Jobe kept his goal in mind.

“We didn’t prepare for individual matches, instead we used them as a way to prepare for the post-season,” he said. “Everyone worked hard to get better as the season went on.”

That mentality didn’t stop them from having a successful regular season with six top ten team finishes, including a second-place finish at the Dick Bums Classic, one of the bigger home meets.

The post-season run started at the league tournament where the Braves finished fifth as a team and had two champions in senior Caleb Seaton (125) and sophomore Jonathan Blackwell (135).

Regionals were even more successful. Along with a first-place team finish, seven Braves qualified for state.

“We worked so hard week in and week out, so it was nice to be rewarded,” Jobe said.

In state competition, the team finished fifth, led by two state champions and two state medalists.

Jobe was also honored with the Kansas Wrestling Coaches Association Regional Coach of the Year Award for his work with the team.

What was the hardest part of practice?

“Having to wake up at six in the morning to be on time to morning workouts made the rest of my day so hard.”

—Shawn Stirling, 10

“The grind matches at practices were brutal, definitely one of the toughest parts of practice.”

—Chance Stites, 10

“Morning workouts. I don’t like being up at six let alone working out that early.”

—Patrick Ballard, 10
STATE CHAMPIONS

Caleb Seaton
Senior Caleb Seaton had one goal for his final season as a BSHS wrestler: a state championship.
"This was my year," said Seaton, who had finished fourth as a junior, sophomore, and freshman. As the season approached, his dream was looking more like a long shot because of an injury that had plagued him for more than a year. His right shoulder had been worn down to the bone...literally. His ligaments were so stretched out that a hole had formed in his rotator cuff.

"I had the option to have surgery before the season, but that would mean I'd lose my last shot to win state," he said. "No way was I willing to let that happen, not my senior year."

After a season full of wins and dislocated shoulders, Seaton won his first two matches at state and found himself only one win away from a state title. Despite a 2-0 deficit with only seconds remaining in his final match against Prairie View's Bo Newport, Seaton scored four points and held on until time expired. He did it.

In his stance, senior Caleb Seaton squares off against Ross Whitmore of Shawnee Mission Northwest during the Dick Burns Mat Classic finals. Seaton won the match 8-4 and finished first at 125 pounds.

Locked in from behind, sophomore Jonathan Blackwell grasps the arm of his opponent. Blackwell ended the season with a record of 42-5.

Waiting for his opening, sophomore Jonathan Blackwell anticipates the moves of his opponent at the Dick Burns Mat Classic where he placed first.

Jonathan Blackwell
As only a sophomore, Jonathan Blackwell has made quite the name for himself in Kansas wrestling. His first year as a high school wrestler, he made it to state and placed second despite being ranked low in the standings. Blackwell followed that up with a busy summer crammed full of workouts and wrestling, which set the ground work for a sophomore season full of accolades. With lots of top finishes, including a second-place medal at regionals and a KVL championship under his belt, Blackwell was expected to do well at state by most.

"I was considered one of the top two," Blackwell said. "There were high expectations."

And he didn't disappoint. He made quick work of his first opponents at state and faced off in the finals with Abilene's Courtney Strauss.

"I got a take down on him early, but the match was never out of reach for either of us," Blackwell said. "Then in the second period he got down by a couple points, and I just held him off."

Tangled and twisted, senior Caleb Seaton battles with Prairie View's Bo Newport at the state finals. Seaton won the match 4-2 in dramatic fashion.
(Photograph/Cris Wistren)

With his opponent's arm locked in, senior Caleb Seaton dominates the finals match of the Dick Burns Classic. Seaton had a career record of 151-20.

Striving to make the finals, sophomore Jonathan Blackwell gives it his all in the state semifinals match. Blackwell won the match in a 7-4 decision against Osawatomie's Devon Dozier.
(Photograph/Cris Wistren)

Justus Seaton, 10
Competed at 125 pounds.
"My first match went great but after that I struggled. The whole trip was a good time, though, and we came home with a good finish as a team."

Aaron Puckett, 10
Placed third at 140 pounds.
"As a team, we did really well this year. Watching those guys win was a rush. Placing third was sort of a bittersweet feeling, though."

Josiah Seaton, 9
Competed at 103 pounds.
"I'm glad I got to go to state as a freshman. It gave me a lot of knowledge and experience I'll need later on."

Jared Clements, 10
Competed at 171 pounds.
"This was my first year going to state, and it was a fun learning experience. Unfortunately I didn't do as well as I wanted to."

Mark Hobson, 11
Placed fifth at 145 pounds.
"I wanted to win, but I did better than last year so I wasn't upset. Having a good coach like Jobe made my first year here that much better."

"Practice wasn't easy, but it was never boring." - Christian Jones, 10
Bigger and Better

Girls' soccer team never stops improving

Always improving, the girls' soccer team showed their strengths with a signature win over Gardner and by putting more wins on the scoreboard from the previous year.

"We were aiming to go .500, and we came pretty close to that at 7-9-1," head coach Mike Moulin said. "Considering the difficulty of our schedule, that was really good. We're a very young team, and we're going to continue to improve."

One of those young players was freshman Bailey Hightower, who started her high school career by making the all-KVL first team, the all-region first team and the honorable mention all-state team. Juniors Yessenia Hernandez and Emily Hunt were also selected to the all-KVL second team.

One of the team's many highlights came in a first-ever, 1-0 victory over Gardner. After a scoreless first half, the Lady Braves took control when senior Alexis Clark knocked in a goal midway through the second period.

"We controlled the middle, switched the ball quickly, played great defense, and just performed well as a team," Moulin said.

Finishing strong, the team defeated Bishop Seabury 4-2 in the first round of regional play and then advanced to meet St. James Academy, the ultimate state champion. Although they lost 5-0, Moulin said there were positives.

"They made some good decisions against a great team, and it was really only 3-0 until the last 10 minutes of the game," Moulin said. "This was an awesome group of young ladies who worked really hard."

Alexis Clark

Position: Striker, center midfield
One important memory: "My most important memory for this year was beating Gardner for the first time ever."
Biggest accomplishment: "Playing well enough through the four years of high school soccer so that I could continue into college."

Chelsea Crawford

Position: Center midfielder
One important memory: "My favorite memory was beating Basehor with my left-footed goal my junior year."
Biggest accomplishment: "I believe our biggest accomplishment was not getting beaten 10-0 by any team this year. We had tough competition, but our team has grown so much and I'm very proud."

Facing the crowd, senior Jamee Sprinkle walks arm-in-arm with her mother during Senior Night festivities.

Fighting for the ball, sophomore Haley Hoffman gets shoulder-to-shoulder while fighting to get the ball. "Our team just continues to get better; our wins say it all," Hoffman said.

Back on offense, junior Emily Hunt pushes ahead of her opponent. "Even though we don't get as much credit as offensive players do when our team does well, I really enjoy playing defense," Hunt said.

Taking a touch, junior Madison Morris settles the ball during a home game against Christ Prep. "I loved playing soccer with all of the girls this year. Our team was really awesome, and we had no drama," Morris said.

Being aggressive, sophomore Anna Deegan refuses to yield to her opponent. "I think playing aggressive makes soccer more fun, and it makes it easier to win the ball," Deegan said.
"My game, or games, to remember were the first two rounds of regionals. I had to play goalie for the first time and it was very nerve-wracking. I didn’t get much action, but that was probably a good thing. It was fun playing goalie, but I probably don’t ever want to do it again."

— Erin Marx, 11

"My favorite game of this season came against Gardner because we played well as a team and finally beat them. I’m proud of all of the girls on the team for working hard and having so much dedication."

— Mikayla Burgoon, 11

"My favorite game was our last against Mill Valley. I felt like our team really came together and I feel like we should have played that way all season."

— Skyler Taylor, 10

"My favorite game was a home game against Bishop Ward when I scored a goal. It was awesome because it was my first year playing soccer and my senior year."

— Lindsay Mauk, 12
Another breakthrough

Season

Small but dedicated squad make steady improvement

With a team of only 10 swimmers, the focus for the girls' swim team was on talent and teamwork. "The strength of this team was the camaraderie and the continuation of new friendships," coach Lynn LaNoue said.

The team's first chance to shine came at the Wyandotte County Championships where the girls did exceptionally well and finished second overall.

Junior Toni Stock and sophomore Cheyenne Miller led the way in individual events with a 1-2 finish in the 100-yard freestyle. Miller added an individual title in the 50 freestyle while Stock placed second in the butterfly. Freshman Elizabeth Barger contributed third-place efforts in the 200 individual medley and the 100 breaststroke, and senior Jordan Merino placed fourth in the 500 freestyle.

LaNoue said the team's best meet was the Turner Invite where they placed sixth and recorded many personal best times.

"Our teams just love to swim at Turner. The girls were pumped and excited to do well that day. It was just a real good meet," LaNoue said.

LaNoue was also pleased with the efforts of his three seniors.

"I was able to lean on Jordan and Chandler for leadership, and Makayla brought lots of joy to the team in her first year out," LaNoue said.

The team's most significant accomplishment came when Toni Stock became the program's first two-time state qualifier.

Iron Man Challenge

In their final home meet on April 20, seniors Chandler Clark and Jordan Merino made history when they successfully completed the Braves' Iron Man Challenge. To take this challenge, a swimmer must compete in all eight individual events at one swim meet. Clark and Merino became only the second and third girls' swimmers at BSHS to accomplish this task.

"The Iron Man was tough to get through but definitely worth it in the end. Knowing you accomplished something most people don't even think about doing was really cool."

— Jordan Merino, 12

"The Iron Man was one of the hardest things I have ever done. But the whole time, I knew I was going to finish it and prove to myself that I can do anything I can set my mind to."

— Chandler Clark, 12
Swimming with intensity, junior Toni Stock pushes ahead in pursuit of a state qualification time.

"The highlight of the season was Toni making state," coach Lynn LaNoue said. "She was very focused and worked hard on her turns." (Photo/Steve Rose)

Junior Toni Stock makes return trip to state meet

As a member of the first group of swimmers to qualify for the state meet last year, junior Toni Stock had big shoes to fill as she pursued her goal of qualifying two years in a row.

"Her continued qualification for the state meet is very important for the girls' swim program," coach Lynn LaNoue said. "It gives the team a visible and tangible example of what it takes to be a state qualifier. This is invaluable to a team because there is nothing that can replace an example like Toni sets."

Stock became the lone qualifier for the state meet when her consideration time of 1:09.81 in the 100-yard butterfly was accepted. Out of the 48 girls who qualified to swim the butterfly, Stock was seeded at 17th and was not expected to advance past the preliminary round.

In the end, though, Stock delivered one of her best races of the season and advanced to Saturday's finals where she placed 16th with a time of 1:10.30.

"Swimming year round got me to state," Stock said. "It's not always fun but in the end it is worth it."

Along with a cap and goggles, a black Sharpie marker is a must-have accessory for members of the swim team. The girls write down their event, lane number, and heat on their arms or feet instead of consulting the heat sheet. "That's been the tradition since I've been here," coach Lynn LaNoue said. "I'm not sure how it started."
Senior leaders take a Stand

Doubles team advances to Class 4A state meet

With strong leadership from seniors Cordell Duncan, Lucas Isaacs, Tyler Johnson, and Jacob Moulin, the Braves varsity tennis team showed its muscle and skill all season long.

One of the team's many highlights came with a first-place finish at the Leavenworth Invitational, where they have always played well.

"We have been first or second at Leavenworth for five of the last six years," head coach Bill Scott said. The Leavenworth meet was particularly good for Cordell Duncan and junior Ryan Cook, who claimed the No. 2 doubles championship.

Another strong performance came when the squad traveled to Mill Valley to defeat the Jaguars 5-3 in a head-to-head dual to avenge Mill Valley's narrow victory over the Braves the week before.

The team's top junior was Spencer Bush, who held down the No. 1 singles spot and handled the position well. Bush finished with a 91-118 record in singles, placing second at the Bonner Invitational and at Leavenworth.

Other team highlights included a first-place finish by the junior varsity at the Paola Invitational and a third-place finish for the varsity at the Bonner Invitational. The team's biggest accomplishment came when the doubles team of Lucas Isaacs and Jacob Moulin earned a trip to Class 4A state meet.

"Our ultimate goal is always to qualify someone for state," Scott said. "So we were really happy for Lucas and Jacob."

"The bus rides were the best, we would just chill and sing random songs."

—Trey May, 11

"I'll never forget a tournament match I played against a kid from Switzerland. I lost 1-6, but I did better than I thought I would do."

—George Docking, 11
Eyes on the ball, senior Cordell Duncan returns a serve while competing in the Bonner Invitational where he placed third in No. 2 singles. Duncan compiled a 66-61 singles record and a 76-86 doubles record in his final season as a Brave.

With a strong serve, junior Jacob Crawford gets off to a good start in a JV dual. Crawford's best match came at the Paola JV tournament where he was first in No. 2 singles.

Returning the volley, senior Tyler Johnson looks for a win. Johnson was fourth in No. 2 singles at the Leavenworth Invitational, helping his team place first.

With an 11-7 record and a fifth-place finish at regionals, seniors Jacob Moulin and Lucas Isaacs earned a trip to Lindsborg for the state tennis meet. Unfortunately, the state meet was the day after graduation and Project Graduation festivities, so the duo had little sleep before their first-round match against Ulysses, which they lost 6-3, 6-4. However, they came back to win their second-round consolation match in a decisive 9-1 fashion. "When Lucas and I were both having good days we were a hard team to beat, which made my senior year everything that I wanted," Moulin said.

Making his mark, freshman Quinton Schneck unleashes a serve at a home match. "This was my first year playing tennis and my most memorable matches came at Paola where I received a first-place medal in No. 2 doubles and against Olathe North when I won my first varsity doubles match with Jake Moulin," Schneck said. According to head coach Bill Scott, Schneck shows the "potential to be a really good varsity player for next year.

Ending their journey with a trip to State: Lucas Isaacs and Jacob Moulin
Taking steps towards Progress

Braves capture first-round win in Class 4A regional action

After dropping a pair of doubleheaders to start the season, the Braves had a long road ahead of them if they wanted to improve their record from the previous year.

"We had a rough start, but after a few games the bats started heating up," head coach Barry Richards said. "We came together on the field, and it started to show in the win column."

The victories started with a two-game sweep of Eudora, followed by a split doubleheader with Mill Valley, who until then was undefeated.

"That win against Mill Valley gave us all the confidence in the world," senior Dalton Vitt said.

Confidence is just what the squad needed before entering the Butch Foster Memorial Baseball Classic at Community America Ballpark. Backed by one of the strongest pitching performances of the season, the Braves won their first game of the tournament against Paola in an assertive manner as senior A.J. Gidden pitched a one-hitter.

"That was the most dominating performance that I've ever seen," Richards said.

The Braves finished the tournament in fourth place after dropping the next two games.

In regional play, the Braves won their first game against Baldwin after putting up a four-run lead early. But a 2-12 loss later that evening against St. James ended the season.

The Braves posted a final record of 9-13, a three-win improvement from last year, and also advanced further in postseason play than the previous year.

"We made good progress this year," Richards said, "I'm really proud of these guys."

Stretching out, Junior Gonzalo Pichardo comes down with the throw to tag out a Bishop Ward runner in a home doubleheader. Gonzalo finished the season with four hits, including a double and a home run.

Releasing from the wind-up, senior A.J. Gidden throws his knuckleball against Bishop Ward. In his first season competing for the Braves, Gidden was 4-5 and racked up 41 strikeouts in just over 42 innings.
Swinging away, senior Luke Porrás turns on a pitch at a home game. A third baseman and a pitcher, Porrás had 12 hits along with a 1.75 ERA. "The highlight of my season was having no regrets. I had four great seasons," Porrás said.

Taking a lead, senior Brian Callahan looks on the pitcher to avoid being picked off. Callahan led the team with a .327 batting average and was named to the all-KVL second team as a designated hitter.

How long have you played baseball?:
I started when I was four, so about 14 years.

Positions: Pitcher, shortstop, third base
Season stats: 10 games pitched, five strikeouts
Pre-game ritual: I'll do a little stretching and throwing. If I'm pitching, I'll think about what pitches I'm going to throw and what I have to do to win the game.

One important memory: Coming in from the bullpen at the Butch Foster Memorial Baseball Classic. I felt like a major league pitcher.

Non-game memory: Having a campout with all the teammates.
Season outcome: I think we could have won a few more games. There were a couple games that we barely lost.

What will you miss? Playing with all my teammates and just playing baseball in general.

Firing to first, senior Dalton Witt fields a grounder at Community America Ballpark during the Butch Foster Memorial Baseball Classic. A second-team all-KVL infielder, Witt also pitched for the Braves where he posted three wins with as many losses and was perfect in save opportunities.

"Going yard back-to-back-to-back with Austin and A.J. against DeSoto was the most exhilarating part of the season for me."
—Shawn Jones, 11

"I love the major-league atmosphere that you get while playing at Community American Ballpark. It just feels different."
—Sergio Valenzuela, 11
Trying to turn a double play, junior Kylee Timberslake gunned down a runner in a home game against Tonganoxie. Playing first and third, Timberslake posted a .911 fielding percentage. "Kylee gives it her all and plays with a lot of heart and determination," assistant varsity coach Crystal Richardson said.

Catching the third strike, freshman Kennedy Bizell prepares to return the ball to the pitcher in a game at Piper. "It was hard at first taking over for Shelby because I felt like I would be compared to her, but when I got more comfortable I played my best," Bizell said.

In an unfamiliar position, sophomore Bryanna Hamner pitches in a home game against Tonganoxie.

After fielding the ball, junior outfielder Meagan Stice aims for the third baseman in an game against Piper. "I enjoyed being welcomed into a new team with open arms and great soul," said Stice, who transferred in from Bishop Ward in the fall.

Taking a throw-down, junior shortstop Bre Tendick makes the play while senior Emily Pyles looks on. Tendick started the season with her arm in a cast, but returned by the third game of the year. "I played cautiously at first because I was afraid I was going to re-injure myself, but after I dove for a grounder for the first time and didn't get hurt, I was over it."
A season filled with Transitions

Lady Braves show their dedication by stepping up to play new positions

It was an up-and-down year for the Lady Braves' softball team. With just one returning senior and plenty of injuries to overcome, the group experienced its fair share of growing pains.

“We battled injuries all season long, but our players stepped up to fill the voids as needed,” assistant varsity coach Crystal Richardson said. “We managed to stay together through the hardships, and those efforts showed our determination and hard work.”

For example, when starting pitcher Geena Harris sustained a season-ending injury, sophomores Bryanna Hammer and Cassady Holloway stepped up to fill that role.

“Their willingness to put themselves on the line for the team says a lot about their character,” Richardson said. “It’s not an easy thing to step on that mound.”

When junior catcher Shelbie Thornton transitioned to centerfield because she was unable to catch after offseason surgery, freshman Kennedy Bizzell took over those important duties. Sophomore Sammy Ricci-Weller, last year’s rightfielder, shifted to second base to fill a need there.

Offensively, the Lady Braves were led by junior shortstop Bre Tendick, who batted .525 with 21 hits, including three doubles and one triple.

“Bre works extremely hard, dives after everything and is a great team leader,” Richardson said.

Junior Kylee Timberlake hit .420 and led the team with 18 RBIs and two home runs, including a grand slam. Thornton hit .400 and added seven stolen bases while Holloway had 20 hits in 56 at bats for a .357 average. Ricci-Weller provided speed on the base paths with 9 stolen bases and 16 runs scored.

All-KVL squad honorees included: Tendick, second team infield; Timberlake, second team infield; Thornton, second team outfield; and Holloway, honorable mention infield. Bizzell was named the team’s Most Improved Player while Timberlake and Holloway won the top offensive and top defensive awards, respectively. Tendick was honored as the team’s Most Valuable Player.

"In the last game of the Turner Tournament as I got to second base only half of my left foot landed on the base and I rolled my ankle. I’ve never felt anything that painful in my life and I was scared because I’ve never been seriously injured before. The doctor put me on crutches, and it was a struggle to get around. But I made a fast recovery and finished out the season.”

—Sammy Ricci-Weller, 10

"I would pitch in practice just for fun, but I never really thought I would have to pitch in a game. When Coach Kara told me I was going in, I thought my world was ending. It wasn’t as bad I thought and even though I wasn’t very good, I still had fun.”

—Cassady Holloway, 10
Lengthening her stride, freshman Cheyenne Hale runs her leg of the 3200 relay at the Bonner Invitational. The team placed fifth with a time of 11:29.

Determined to do better, junior Scintilla Capalla steadily paces herself in the 3200-meter race at the Bonner Invitational.

Sprinting to the end, junior Monte Cox runs the 100-meter dash at the Bonner Invitational April 21.
Boosted by bigger Numbers

Track team members work hard for state success

With one of the bigger squads in recent years, a resurgent girls’ track team was on the rise.

“Our best achievement was not one single event, it was a change in attitude. We became competitive in 2011,” girls coach Rob Marriott said.

Proof of the new competitive spirit came at the team’s home invitational when the girls placed first overall. Other achievements included a third-place finish by the 4x800 relay team at the KVL meet and a 16th-place finish at the state meet by the 4x400 relay team of Cheyenne Hale, Emily and Lindsay Hunt and Emily Wilson with a time of 4:19.56.

Highlights for the boys’ team included a fifth-place state finish by the 4x400 relay team of Camron Callahan, Nick Carver, Austin Schulz, and Tre Scott with a time of 3:29.83. The 4x100 relay team of Nate Mitchell, Callahan, Carver, and Schulzer finished 16th with a 45.05.

“Our returning state participants were injured throughout the year, so the underclassmen stepped up. They have a lot of potential and some of them now have state experience,” Callahan said.

Boys’ coach Jim Mitchell is equally optimistic: “Our younger athletes learned that they can compete with the upperclassmen. I’m looking forward to what they can do in the next three years.”

Although she didn’t have the best day at state, senior Bridgett Bradley pushed her way into the finals to place seventh in the discus with a throw of 118 feet, 4 inches. In doing so she became a two-time medalist and a four-time state qualifier.

“Even though I made it all four years, my feelings were to never be cocky and to do your best so that when you leave, you leave with no regrets,” said Bradley, who earned more than 30 medals during her four-year run as one of the state’s best throwers.

Although she did not achieve her personal record of 142 feet at state, Bradley has fond memories.

“I loved being a part of the track team,” Bradley said. “I will definitely remember all the fun we had on the bus over the years. Track has taught me that if you want it, go get it. The choice is yours.”

Bradley plans to continue throwing the discus at Baker University.

Bethany Bailey soars to fifth-place state medal

With a personal best of 10 feet, 6 inches sophomore Bethany Bailey overcame a shoulder injury to medal and set a school record in the pole vault at the state track meet in Wichita.

“I love being part of the track team,” said Bailey, who transferred from Maranatha Academy. “It’s amazing the friendships and experiences you have with people you normally would never talk to. You are practicing with a whole bunch of hilarious kids and that’s actually the main reason I can think of for going out for track,” Bailey said.
When any time is

**Tee time**

Senior leadership and new talent pave the way for success

With two returning seniors and a mix of new players, the golf team exceeded the expectations of their critics, ending their season by shooting a 368 to finish third at the league meet.

"That was huge," head coach Ryan Hull said. "We were really geared to do well that day and we did so under difficult conditions."

Another strong outing for the team came at the Wyandotte County Invitational where they captured the team title and freshman Marc McClain earned his first tournament title with a 41.

"It was really fun to watch Marc compete," Hull said. "For a young kid to step into the No. 1 spot like he did was absolutely amazing. He wanted to compete against the best and that competitive fire fueled everyone on our team."

Hull also praised the play of seniors Logan Opat and Jonathan Price.

"Both of these players showed dramatic improvement from their freshman year to their final senior seasons," Hull said.

The team's best overall outing came near the season when they placed fourth in a field of 14 at the Atchison Invitational.

"The teams that finished at the top of that tournament were top-qualifying teams at their respective state tournaments. We had four strong scores and that made the difference," Hull said.

McClain led the way with a 77 to place third while Price and Opat strengthened the Braves' attack with scores of 82 and 83, respectively. Sophomore Jason VanMaren rounded out the scoring with a 91.

---

**Listening for instructions**, freshman Jacob Laing prepares for his next shot while competing at the Bonner Springs Invitational where he fired a 50 to help the team to a second-place finish. "Jake was recovering from an injury at the start of the season, so he didn't get to play as much as he would have liked. But he wanted to improve and really dedicated himself to that effort," head coach Ryan Hull said.

**Getting mentally prepared**, senior Jonathan Price contemplates his next move at the Bonner Springs Invitational where he placed fifth with a 43. Price and fellow senior Logan Opat recorded their best scores of the season in a very competitive tournament at Mill Valley where they shot a 79 and a 77, respectively.

**Toughing out the snow**, senior Logan Opat marks his spot at the Sunflower Classic on March 31. Opat shot a 47 and narrowly missed medaling. The Braves placed fifth as a team with a 191.
Giving his famous advice, coach Todd Hull helps junior Logan McClain get a feel for the greens. Hull is thought of highly among all our players, and you will often hear him help someone. Logan says he got a feel for the greens and that Hull is thought of highly among all our players, and you will often hear him help someone. Logan says he got a feel for the greens.

The season was one of the most enjoyable times I've ever had, doing everything I enjoy and people I love every day. Being a senior really gave me a chance to step up and play at the highest level I've ever played.

As a senior golfer, it was very disappointing not making it to state, but the year was still very memorable. I still think about some of the tournaments we won, like against Bonner. Good luck to our team this year.

As a senior golfer, it was very disappointing not making it to state, but the year was still very memorable. I still think about some of the tournaments we won, like against Bonner. Good luck to our team this year.

I will never forget this season. Being a freshman on any team was great. It was a fun year, and we had a lot of fun playing with the seniors and Coach Hull, who has been one of the best coaches I have ever had. I would never have been able to do the things that I did this year.

Seniors

My first golf season was great, and I loved being the most fun coach and teammates. At the end of the season, I got to play with my teammates. I'm excited for the opportunity to play for the next three years and to meet more people.

Jonathan Price, 11

Jacob Lampe

Mark McClain
Varsity Football

Topeka Seaman 7 42
Mill Valley 25 42
Turner 7 14
Basehor-Linwood 19 44
Tonganoxie 41 28
Bishop Ward 28 14
Schlagle 43 14
Washington 54 6
Lansing 20 56
Gardner 0 70

Record: 6-4

Junior Varsity Volleyball


Varsity Volleyball


Varsity Volleyball

Eudora L 0-2
Basehor-Linwood L 1-2
Baldwin W 2-0
Immaculata L 1-2
Washington W 2-0
Osawatomie L 0-2
BV Southwest L 1-2
Perry-Lecompton L 1-2
Mill Valley L 0-2
Spring Hill L 1-2
Gardner-Edgerton L 0-2
BV Southwest L 0-2
Bishop Ward L 0-2
Piper W 2-0
Louisburg L 0-2
Louisburg L 0-2
Santa Fe Trail W 2-0
Fort Scott L 0-2

Record: 17-19

Freshman Volleyball


Cross Country Girls Boys
Basehor Invitational 5th 3rd
Miege Invitational NP 6th
Bonner Springs Invitational 13th 9th
Ottawa Invitational 4th 4th
WyCo Invitational 2nd 1st
Kaw Valley League Meet 4th 6th
Regionals 8th 5th

Varsity Boys Soccer
Tonganoxie 4-0 Mill Valley 2-2
Lawrence Free State 3-1 Piper 1-0
Shawnee Mission N. 4-1 BV Southwest 1-0
Mill Valley 3-2 Turner 2-4
Bishop Ward 2-1 Basehor-Linwood 8-0
Lansing 2-2 Bishop Ward 3-0
Perry-Lecompton 3-0 KC Christian 3-1
Gardner Edgerton 4-1 Maumee Prep 6-2
Topeka Seaman 1-0 Rose Hill 0-1
Ottawa 4-0 St. James 2-3
Basehor-Linwood 3-3

Final Record: 15-3-3

"Playing goalie in a varsity game was a big highlight of my season. It was a good season with lots of memories," Zach Lahey, 12.

"Making a run at state is something I'll remember forever. It was a big highlight for me and the team. I'll remember the whole season very fondly," Domonic Salerno, 9.
Wrestling


Girls Varsity Basketball

Piper 56 26
BV Southwest 49 40
Mill Valley 43 45
Lansing 31 57
Tonganoxie 59 45
Turner 75 20
KC Christian 45 28
Baldwin 45 58
St. Marys 56 55
Bishop Ward 58 44
Lansing 55 47
Sumner Academy 54 51
Mill Valley 21 34
Atchison 47 30
Bishop-Linwood 36 45
Turner 70 25
Tonganoxie 38 36
Bishop Ward 48 34
Piper 48 24
Piper 38 22
Sumner Academy 29 43

Record: 15-6

Boys Varsity Basketball

Piper 63 58
BV Southwest 62 51
Mill Valley 39 51
Lansing 49 56
Tonganoxie 75 56
Turner 59 44
Augusta 56 37
Anderson County 56 40
Baldwin 60 41
William Chrisman 78 49
Bishop Ward 65 44
Lansing 36 50
Mill Valley 51 54
Atchison 64 33
Basehor-Linwood 64 65
Turner 66 53
Tonganoxie 52 41
Bishop Ward 65 39
Piper 64 33
Bishop Ward 50 44
Basehor-Linwood 39 57

Record: 15-6


Varsity Girls Soccer

Tonganoxie 3 0
Ottawa 4 0
Gardner Edgerton 1 0
Shawnee Heights 0 4
Topeka Seaman 1 3
KC Christian 0 3
Lansing 0 7
Basehor-Linwood 2 0
Bishop Miege 0 6
Piper 1 3
Bishop Ward 10 0
Christ Prep 4 2
Spring Hill 0 5
DeSoto 0 0
Mill Valley 0 8
Bishop Seabury 4 2
St. James Academy 0 5

Record: 7-10-1

Golf

Sunflower Invitational 5th
Bonner Springs Invitational 2nd
Jaguar Invitational 7th
Gardner Invitational 4th
Lansing Invitational 5th
WYCO Invitational 1st
Atchison Invitational 4th
KVL Championships 3rd
Regionals 8th

Track

Boys Girls
Baldwin Invitational 9th 7th
Basehor-Linwood Invitational 3rd 5th
SM West Invitational 6th 6th
Bonner Springs Invitational 5th 1st
Blazer Invitational 7th 8th
KVL Championships 6th 6th
Regionals 9th 8th
State 36th 36th


Varsity Baseball

Piper  2-12  7-0
Lansing  2-9  1-4
Turner  4-2  7-3
Bishop Ward  0-10  1-11
Eudora  6-0  9-5
Mill Valley  0-9  3-2
Paola*  1-0  8-12
Basehor*  8-12
Spring Hill*  0-15
Basehor  3-2  3-4
Tonganoxie  3-2  8-5
DeSoto  5-15
Baldwin  7-3
Saint James  2-12

Record: 9-13

*Battle Foster Memorial Classic at Community America Ball Park

Varsity Softball

Piper  8-9  1-6
Turner  4-5  25-12
Bishop Ward  10-6  13-3
DeSoto  3-12
Lansing  9-6  2-10
Basehor  5-10  2-5
Washington  15-0
Mill Valley  0-13  5-7
Louisburg*  5-2
Ottawa*  0-12
Blue Valley North*  0-15
Tonganoxie  2-6
Piper  2-8

Record: 6-13

*Turner Invitational Tournament


Our Story

By the Yearbook Staff

As the yearbook editor, I would like to take up a small space to say thank you to this wonderful staff.

Andrea, thank you so much for all your hard work, creativity, and great ideas. You’re a wonderful designer, and I hope you will be able to design whatever you want by the time you’re a senior.

Tessa, you were amazing to work with because you always followed directions, you always asked for help when you needed it, and you always got things done on time. You’ve already grown so much with design, and I know you will continue to do so. Thank you, darling. Great job!

Chad, I loved working with you because you work so hard and you’re so creative. You took on a big load this year as a newcomer, and I can’t tell you how much I appreciated your cooperation. You did a wonderful job, and I trust that you will just keep growing. Thank you.

Emily, thank you for all the work you put in this year. You had some rough layouts to take care of, but in the end it all came together wonderfully.

Tom, you had so many great ideas! You were very good at looking at other books and finding things that related to our theme. Thank you for always working hard and helping out with all the little jobs that we had to do. You were great to work with.

Bre, I’m so proud of you for taking on the design so quickly. Being in the sports section as a newcomer is very overwhelming. You handled yourself so well, you always got things done on time, and your pages look awesome. Thank you so much, you’ll do great next year.

Kylee, thank you so much for always getting your stuff done on time and making things beautiful. Your spreads always turned out so great, and I am so proud of the work you have done. Because you got the football spread done so early, you gave all of us something to follow while building the rest of this book. You need to know that you were the backbone of our baby for a while.

Ashton, the collage seriously looks so gorgeous. That was the most hectic page anyone could have ever tried to make, but you did it. Be proud of yourself for that. Also, thank you so much for all of the quality control you’ve done with the younger grads. You are someone to learn from when it comes to design.

Cynthia, you were only here for one semester, but I am so glad you were. We could not have made it without you. You get things done so quickly that it still amazes me. You have a designer’s eye, and you are so talented. I appreciate all the hard work you’ve put in. You’ve definitely earned your co-editor position for next year. I can’t thank you enough. Good luck!

Jake, the only way I can describe you is by saying you’re a life-saver. You had to do all the tedious jobs that nobody else wanted to do. The panels look amazing; they’re by far the best panels I have ever seen. The index is such a huge deal, and I can’t tell you how thankful I am for you doing that. I really appreciate you so much. You have also totally earned your co-editor position for next year. Congratulations!

The Quote Boat

"I want you to get on your belly and roam around," Mama Holder.

"Who knew you needed your fingers so much?" Erica.

"It's just some food in the back of the van, Officer," Mama Holder.

"Can I have an extra for the baby? It's labor time," Ashton.

"I'm just not ready for that, Erica," Zach.

"Victoria, the cheese!!" Zach. "Did it just explode?" Erica.
We've got a book to birth," Mama Holder.

"Where's the blinkin' Black-Eyed Peas CD?" Jake.

"Emily, it's the computers that suck, not us." Cirithia.

"I said YERD. It's really a word, I promise!" Mama Holder.

"Hillshire Farms," Erica.

"GO YERDS!" everyone else.

"I'm telling you, these contractions are real, and the water is about to break!" Zach.

"Can we really get a whip?" Victoria.

"Well, a yerd must have thick skin." Mama Holder.
Kelsey Leatherbury

Kelsey,
You have grown into a strong and beautiful young woman. As you move into the next chapter of your life, always believe in yourself. With drive and determination, you can accomplish anything.
We love you. We believe in you. And we are so proud of you.
Mom and Dad

Aly Espy

Alyson Sue Ann,
We're very proud of you and the choices you've made. You've proven that you can accomplish anything you set your mind to.
Love,
Mom, Ghee, and Aunt Holly

Jordan Merino

Jordan,
We are so very proud of your achievements. You certainly are a good example of someone that can accomplish anything once you put your mind to it.
You are not only a very beautiful young lady on the outside but also on the inside.
We love you and wish you the very best,
Mom, Dad, Grandma, Grandpa, Uncle Brett, Auntie Joe, Jacob, Jared, and Madison

Dalton Vitt

Dalton,
You have brought so much joy to our lives. We are so proud of your accomplishments and cherish the many memories we have made as a family. We are so proud of the young man you've become, and we know your future is bright. God bless and be safe.
Love always,
Mom, Dad, and Weston

Zachary Povlitzki

Congratulations Zach, we are all so proud of you. Dream big! With your determination and fun loving nature you can accomplish anything.
Love,
Mom, Dad, Katie, and Alex
Zachary Reed

Zachary,

We are so very proud of you and what you have been able to accomplish in your life, we love you very much. Your faith in God and service to him has taken you to foreign lands; remember in whatever you do keep God close.

Love,

Mom and Dad

Lesly Sullivan

Sweet Pea,

You have always been a rock for me, you have made us so proud. You are an individual and you won't let anyone take that away from you. We love the person you are, and look forward to the person you will become over the years.

We love you!

Kaylie Holloway

In the blink of an eye you have grown from our beautiful baby girl into a magnificent young lady. Our journey together has been incredible so far! We are anxious to watch you apply your determination and zest for life in facing the remainder of your journey.

"Have courage to follow your heart and intuition. They somehow already know what you truly want to become."

Always and forever,

Mom and Dad

Makayla Mefferd

Way to go big girl! Graduation marks one of many milestones in your life. We are proud of you. We believe you will succeed at everything you set out to achieve—have faith and believe.

Mommy, Dad, Madelynn, and Steffan
Jessie Kelly

Jessie,

We are so proud of you, keep striving and do your best, and great things will follow you throughout life. We have enjoyed so much your high school years.

Love,
Mom and Dad

Brenna Hoch

Our beautiful over-achiever, you never gave up no matter who or what knocked you down. We are proud of who you are and the choices you have made. You always stood up for your beliefs. The future is yours.

We love you,
Dad, Mom, Brandon, and Ian

Taylor Hunt

Taylor,

You truly are an amazing person, you will change the world. I hope you have a beautiful future, full of joy and wonderment. You have the power to make all your dreams come true.

I love you so much!
Mom

Erica Smith

There are no words for how proud we are of you. Always follow your dreams and you will succeed. We love you baby girl!

Love,
Mom and Dad
Lauren Groves

From a beautiful baby to an amazing young woman! We are so proud of you and so happy that God gave you to us. We know you will accomplish great things!

We love you!

Dad, Mom, Jerry, and Selena

Chelsea Crawford

Chelsea,

You have grown from an adorable little girl into a remarkable and beautiful young woman. We are so very proud of not only all of your wonderful accomplishments but also the special person you are with a great heart. We can’t wait to see what your future holds.

We love you,

Mom and Dad

Lindsey Baska

Lindsey,

Congratulations! You are a beautiful young lady inside and out with an amazing personality. Never stop smiling!!! Stay true to only you and achieve your dreams! Our wish is you get all you want out of life. We are VERY PROUD of you!

Our love always,

Mom, Dad, Sean, Megan, Granny, Poppy, and Grandma Rose

Christa Ward

“Dancing faces you toward Heaven, whichever direction you turn.”

—Constanze

Trust in God to help you achieve your dreams in life, in dance and in your heart. We are so proud of the extraordinary young woman you have become.

Love you always,

Mom, Dad, Cassi & Abigail

Zach Laver

Zach,

Congratulations! Can’t believe my baby is all grown up. We are so proud and know that you will go far in whatever you choose. Remember we’re always there for you and believe in you.

Love,

Mom, Dad, and Megan
You have a “love of the game.” We are so proud of you. Pick your game and live life the same.

Love you,
Mom, Dad, and Maddie

Angelina, you have grown from a sweet little girl to a beautiful young lady. We have so many wonderful memories of you as “our little angel” that we will cherish forever. We are so proud of you and hope that all your dreams come true.

We love you always,
Mom and Dad

Katie,
Congratulations.
I could not be more proud of you. Believe in your dreams today and always and I will always believe in you.

Love,
Dad

We are all so proud of you Emily. You have really worked hard and have done very well. It has been a joy to watch you grow. You are going to do great things!

Love,
Mom, Blake, Chandler, Preston

Angelina, you have grown from a sweet little girl to a beautiful young lady. We have so many wonderful memories of you as “our little angel” that we will cherish forever. We are so proud of you and hope that all your dreams come true.

We love you always,
Mom and Dad

Dear Kathryn,
We are so proud of you! We know you will do great things and will be a success in all you do! You bring us so much joy! Congratulations!

We love you!
Dad, Mom, and Caroline
Connor Harrington

Connor,

We are so proud of you and what you have accomplished the last 18 years. There is nothing you can't do reach for the stars you deserve the very best. 

Love, Mom, Dad, and Jarred

---

Tyler Johnson

Congratulations, Tyler!
The years have flown by and you are now ready to follow your dreams. Work hard and focus on your talents and you will achieve your goals. Thank you for making us proud!

Love, 
Mom, Dad, and Brett

---

Erin Mills

Erin, 

Where the dreams decide take you, where your heart longs to be, when you finally found that place, you'll find all you need.

Love, 
Mom, Dad, Isaac

---

Cody Duncan

Our little Cody, your senior year has quickly approached us. We are proud of the strong and courageous young man you have turned out to be. Now go out and tackle your challenges and make a difference in this world. 

Love, 
Mom and Dad

---

Chandler Clark

Chandler, 

Oh my, how time flies. We are so proud of you. Now you begin a new chapter of your life, may you always enjoy the dance. God bless you on your journey!

Love, 
Mom, Dad, and Tanner
Congratulations Brandon!
We are so proud of all you have accomplished and as you move into the future there's nothing you can't achieve. The world is your stage, make it a good show.

Love,
Mom, Dad, Brittney, Grandma, and Grandpa

One thing I tried to teach you
To last your whole life through,
Is to know that you are special
Just because, you are you!
Look out world here she comes!
Love, Mom, Dad, & Mikayla

Victoria, your life has had both triumph and tragedy. You have handled all of it with grace and poise. Never let the world determine your success—you have the talent and passion to achieve your dreams. Our hearts overflow with pride as we watch all you have accomplished and see the beautiful young woman you have become.

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." —Eleanor Roosevelt

Love,
Mom and Dad

I will talk to you, lecture you, drive you crazy, hunt you down, embarrass you, and can be your worst nightmare all because I LOVE YOU! You will never find anyone who loves, cares or worries about you more than I do! I am so proud to call you my son! ILYTTMAB!

Mom

"The difference between the impossible and possible lies in a person's determination." —Tommy Lasorda

There are not enough words in the world to express how PROUD I am of you!

Love,
Dad
Sean you are an amazing young man!

You make every word count, every smile is from your heart, and every laugh is genuine.
You teach everyone to celebrate the small victories in life.
When you sing Happy Birthday, you light up the room.
You make every day the Best Birthday EVER.
Thank You for being you!

Tyler Dunbin

Tyler,

We are very proud of you! You are an amazing young man. Wherever you go, go with heart.
Fulfill your dreams and always stay true to yourself and become something that makes you HAPPY! Never give up on your dreams.

We love you always,
Mom and Paige

JANE H. CASEY
Accounting

127 Cedar
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Email- jane@jhaccounting.com

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Craig T. Nelsen
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In awe, Kelsey Bennett and Lindsay Basko shed a few tears as Principal Joe Hornback speaks about the importance of becoming a lifelong learner while recalling the life of school board member Lewis Wood.

Feeling accomplished, Lucas Isaac shakes Principal Joe Hornback’s hand after receiving his diploma while math teacher Donna Sharpnack looks on. Given the chance to have two faculty members on stage with them as they received their diplomas, the Class of 2011 chose Sharpnack and English teacher Chris Wood.

Awaiting her moment, Alexandria Vanderpool looks on as her classmates proceed into the gym. Bringing down the house, sophomore Deidra Elijah leads the A Cappella choir in singing “We Are The World” for the 127 graduating seniors.

The Final Chapter... 

By Chad Uhl
While battling leukemia, Tanner Cushman received the opportunity to become the first official graduate of the Class of 2011. Cushman could not graduate with his peers because he was scheduled to receive a bone marrow transplant from the Mayo Clinic in April. Since he had met all of the graduation requirements, staff members Linda Orangkhadivi and Lisa Terrell decided to put together a private graduation for Cushman’s friends and family on March 31. With many hugs and tears, the Cushman family enjoyed a night of celebration.

In retrospect, Dustin Catron and Nick Carver reminisce during one of the valedictorian speeches.
So what was the best chapter of your story? The day you finally aced your math test? The day you got your first car or your first job? Or maybe the day you headed out the door with your cap and gown ready to take on the world?

All experiences, of course, are opportunities for you to learn and grow. For the underclassman, we hope your experiences helped you to discover the person you want to become. For the seniors, we hope your experiences have helped you to find the person you are and prepared you for the rest of your lives.

Your unique angle shaped our year and created one amazing story.
Every story must come to a close. In this instance, one chapter of your life’s story has finished, but there are many more chapters waiting to be written. So dream big, be bold, and don’t be afraid to change.