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BELLEVUE EAST HIGH SCHOOL    BELLEVUE, NE    (402)-293-4150    MAY 2018    ISSUE 6    VOLUME 67    1401 HIGH SCHOOL DRIVE

# East student involvement in Advanced Placement, dual enrollment increases

McKayla Vermeer  
Co-Editor in Chief

East staff and administration will push to increase student involvement in AP classes and dual enrollment in coming years.

“I think we have a big pocket of students that look for the easiest route or the easiest route through high school, and we have to shift our mindset... that high school is really not the endpoint. Whether or not you’re taking AP [Advanced Placement] or taking the classes that are making you career ready, it has to be that ‘how am I preparing myself for my next stage’ and so whatever that next stage is after 12th grade year, are we doing a good job of preparing students to be prepared for that next stage,” Principal Jeffrey Wagner said.

Next year the amount of students taking advanced or AP classes at East has increased by 26 percent from this school year, which is approximately a total of 550 students.

With the growing involvement, Wagner seeks to encourage other students to take more advanced and AP classes because of the benefits.

“It not only gives students a foundation, but it also gives them an opportunity to earn college credits. If you really accelerate and get a lot of dual-enrollment here then you could actually go into a college almost being a sophomore,” Wagner said.

Students who take more challenging classes in high school have

an easier time when it comes to moving into college life and adapting to college classes.

According to the National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI), even if students do not get scores on their AP tests that get them college credit they still have a higher chance of success in a 4-year college than those that do not.

“Students who score a 2 or lower still are more likely to graduate college in four years than their peers who don’t take AP and their peers who take dual enrollment courses through a two-year college,” NMSI said.

While East is making an effort to increase AP involvement, they are not the only school to do so. Administrators across the country also have been trying to increase AP enrollments for their schools, including Whiteland High School principal John Schilawski.

“What we’re trying to do is get a steady pipeline of students coming into AP,” Schilawski said in an interview with USA Today. “This isn’t about incentives and stipends. It’s about helping students prepare for the rigors of college.”

One way some schools have encouraged involvement is by receiving grants that would help pay for AP tests, and provide monetary incentives to AP students and teachers, such as ones from the National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI).

“You can offer a lot of courses, but if the rigor isn’t high enough,



Courtesy of: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Advanced\\_Placement\\_logo\\_-\\_College\\_Board.svg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Advanced_Placement_logo_-_College_Board.svg)

then kids aren’t learning what they need to learn,” Clark-Pleasant Schools Superintendent Rebecca Courtney-Knight said in an interview with USA Today. “[This grant] helps the whole culture in terms of setting high standards.”

There are already many students at East currently taking advanced or AP classes, and many of them are taking more than one.

There are a number of reasons that students decide to take these

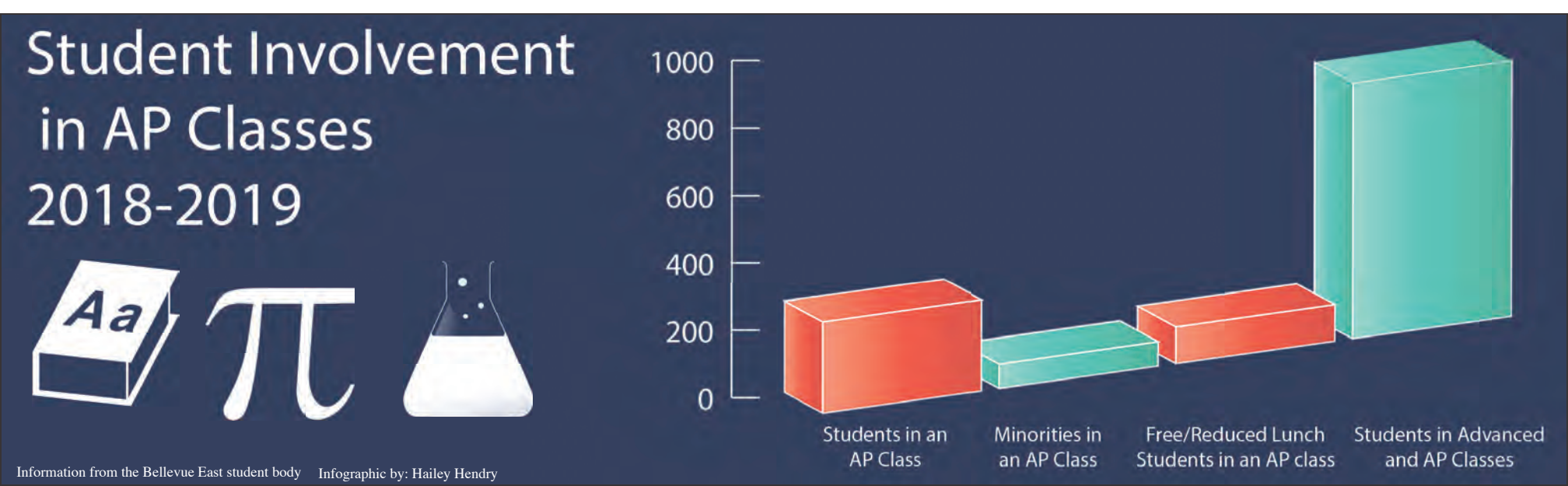
classes, but junior Marcos Labrado said that he takes the classes for the challenge and the college credit.

“I think AP classes often teach more interesting curriculum than regular classes do, which really makes me enjoy taking them. I take AP classes mainly for the challenge, but also so I can get college credit if I pass the exam,” Labrado said.

Trying to convince other students to take AP classes could be

difficult if they are already set on taking the easier classes. However, AP classes can teach students more skills than just the material they are taught.

“Time management is especially one of these skills that AP classes help you learn. I would also recommend taking AP classes solely for the interesting material you learn that you wouldn’t have been exposed to in a regular class,” Labrado said.





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# Jack Link's makes a double donation

**Madie Ybay**  
Features Editor

American snack company Jack Link's has donated twice to the Bellevue Public Schools district this year and last year, giving the district \$30,000.

"The district has received two donations from Jack Link's. Jack Link's reached out to us and wanted to show support for the school district," superintendent Jeff Rippe said.

Wanting to give back to their community, Jack Link's started a giving back through donations in Minong, Wisconsin in 2012 and have been giving back ever since then. The organization has been holding a golfing tournament to raise money to support education. Vendors, customers, patrons, employees, and supporters come out and raise money for six different school districts for different communities.

"As part of our Corporate Responsibility, Jack Link's is committed to helping communities. We have a donation that has been waiting to be presented to the Bellevue School. It is for \$30,000," former Jack Link's representative Katie Slindee said.

There were two donations given to the district. First, money went into increasing and upgrading the technology all throughout the school system. The first check was presented at the 2017 East vs. West football game, however BPS was given the donation last school year. The second donation was given to BPS this year. It will be used to help the student and staff recognition program and will be presented next year again at the East vs. West football game, which will be the last round of donations. It is going to events like senior picnics, staff celebrations, etc., that could help recognize students and staff.

"My favorite part of the senior

picnic was having an opportunity to breathe after the crazy last week of classes. We were all so stressed trying to get projects done and tests taken that once our checkout forms were signed, it was a huge relief to hang out, sign yearbooks and talk about the future. And it was all thanks to the donation," 2017 graduate Samantha Collison said.

One of the more specific things the donations have been used for is honoring the students that go to state or nationals for clubs and sports. If a student places at state, the district will usually honor the top two students, and if they placed at nationals they will usually honor the top three students. Students will be invited to a meeting where they will receive a certificate.

"Overall I am grateful for the donation from Jack Links and appreciate all that they gave. I think that our district is extremely lucky for what we have recieved," sophomore Michael Ermitano said.



**Giving to communities** American snack company Jack Link's donated to \$30,000 to BPS in two donations. "The first donation was used for technology throughout the school district. The second donation is being used to support staff and student recognition," Superintendent Jeff Rippe said. *Photo by McKenzie Gandy*

## Organizations awarded for hard work

**McKaya Vermeer**  
Co-Editor in chief

Many clubs and organizations this year at East succeeded in winning numerous awards at the state level, and some are even continuing to the nationals level.

"[This was the] best year ever. We sent 15 last year and I have had national qualifiers each year (10 years) since I became the FBLA adviser," Andrew Werner said.

FBLA had 16 students qualify for the national competition this year, five of them being state champions. To qualify, students had to place third or better at the state competition in early April. Nationals for FBLA is in Baltimore, Maryland from June 27 to July 2 and students will be traveling there this summer. When there, they will be spending their time competing with students from across the nation and exploring the area.

"Nationals is different compared to state mainly because it takes competition to a whole new level. State is a great learning experience and at nationals we'll be able to put our skills and what we've learned from previous competitions to the test," sophomore and second time national qualifier Kendra Dragon said.

Earlier this year at UNMC, HOSA had 25 students compete in the state competition

and over 20 of the students were medalists. Eighteen qualified for nationals which is in Dallas, Texas this year. Last year, ten students in HOSA from East qualified for nationals. The year before that, three students qualified, so this is the largest group of qualifiers East has had for at least three years.

"[The] best part of nationals is opening ceremony, to see all the states march in together. It's also fun to go to a new place," HOSA adviser Jennifer Carda said.

DECA had 17 students qualify for the International Career Development Conference (ICDC) which was in Atlanta, Georgia this year. The conference is considered international because students from Canada, Mexico, Spain, Germany, Portugal, China, and Guam also attend.

"My favorite part of ICDC is seeing and meeting students from all over the United States and the world. I also really like that the students can compete and learn from being in an International Competition while also being rewarded for their hard work by attending social events," DECA adviser Dawn Danauskas said.

At Econ Challenge in March, students at East in two different divisions placed at high levels. In the David Ricardo Division (the division for students in their first semester of economics) the East team consisting of Chloe

Brockhaus, Sara Vance, Jonathan Hutchinson, and Elias Ervin placed second, while the team of Annabelle Carozza, Christine Vance, Quianna Logans, and Nathan Sittel placed first. In the Advanced Adam Smith division, East placed second with a team of Ryan McCully, Breck O'Grady, Elizabeth Foral, and Jacob Coan and then seventh with a team of Michael Ermitano, Kaelie Looney, Zoe Buffinton, and Morgan Sealy.

"It was really exciting to do so well after spending a lot of time preparing. I wish we could've done better, but I'm okay with how we did," McCully said.

Of the Latin students that participated in the National Latin Exam this year, two were awarded Magna Cum Laude (meaning they scored more than two questions higher than the national average), seven received Cum Laude (one to two points higher than the national average, and five received Honorable Mention (one to two points below the national average). East hosted the Latin Convention this year also, and students in all levels of Latin participated and placed in various events like Reading Comprehension, Mythology, and 3D Art. Overall as a school, East won first and fan favorite in the t-shirt competition, first in overall art, and first in Olympika.

"I got third place in the grammar competi-

tion and I love that convention is really the only time of year that I get to meet all of the Latin students in the area and just hang out," senior Latin IV student Gale Callaghan said.

The East Science Olympiad team had their state competition on April 21 on the UNL campus. At this competition the East took home third place overall, behind Lincoln Southwest and Lincoln East.

"I am proud of how we did. It took a lot of work and a lot of time throughout the season and I've learned a lot from this whole experience. It was stressful, but I'm excited for next year," sophomore Courtney Auclair said.

New this year at East was an indoor marching group called Winter Winds that combined students from both East and West. After placing first at multiple regional competitions, the group traveled to Dayton for the Winter Guard International World Winds Competition where they placed fourth, only missing third place by less than one point.

"Winter Winds was truly the most amazing experience I have ever had. I have made many friends and developed character. When the trip to Dayton happened, the bonds I made became stronger. Getting fourth in the world was surreal, and I can't wait to do it again," freshman Lucas Hebert said.



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# Seniors plan for their futures



*Seniors were surveyed by the counseling office regarding their post-secondary plans. Only those who gave a response have been published.*

Abolafia, Celia	ISU
Alderette, Bryce	Work Full-Time
Alexander, Cheyanne	BMC
Anderson, Shelby	MCC/Clarkson/Methodist/UNMC
Anthony, Robert	IWCC
Arellano, Maryam	UNO/MCC
Arvesen, Marissa	UNL
Auclair, Bethanie	Work Full-Time
Bacon, Duane	Work Full-Time
Becerrra, Armando	Work Full-Time
Bekish, Sage	UNO
Beltran, Bella	Work Full-Time
Benak, Briana	MCC
Benne, Madison	Peru State
Bianchi, Noah	Join the Military
Black, Alyssa	UT
Blaich, Robert	MCC
Blankenship, Tori	UNO/UNMC
Bloom, Ashley	Capitol School of Hair Design
Boerner, Ethan	UNL
Bollow, Noah	MWSU
Bond, Jenna	Continue my Education
Boyd, Jeanie	UMW
Bradley, Corey	IWCC
Brenden, Matt	UNO
Brockhaus, Connor	Work Full-Time
Brom, Dylan	Work Full-Time
Brown, Aleeyah	IWCC
Brown, Cloey	MCC
Buffinton, Zoe	UNL
Buglewicz, Jack	UNL
Bynum, Marterrio	IWCC
Callaghan, Gale	MCC
Carver, Bryan	UNO
Chaki, Nicolas	MCC/UNO
Chambers, Jackson	Work Full-Time
Chastain, Mackenzie	Work Full-Time
Chavez, Heaven	MCC/UNO
Chippis, Cori	Work Full-Time
Cloyd, Molly	MCC/Bryan Health College
Cochran, Kelsey	UNO
Connolley, Briana	Work Full-Time
Courvelle , Emma	MCC
Crawford, Laryn	Work Full-Time
Crawford, Philip	UNL
Cunningham, Hannah	MMC
Curtis, Emily	WSC
Dalton, Benjamin	UNO
Davis, Aaron	UNO
Davis, Jauvon	UNL/UNO
Davis, Jessica	Work Full-Time
Diaz Gama, Alexander	UNO
Dolezal, John	Join the Military
Dowson, Raegan	MCC
Drake, Evan	MCC
Drezelo, Jackson	Join the Military
Drummond, Kaylamarie	Kirksville
Duke, Razha	UNO
Ealy, Isaiah	Work Full-Time
Ebey, Jessica	UNO
Ernst, Destiny	Work Full-Time
Felix, Elena	UNL/ISU
Fenner, Anthony	Work Full-Time
Fettig, Claire	UNO

Fettinger, Rachel	College
Fiala, Naomi	UNL
Fischer, Dalton	UNL
Fischer, Ryne	Bellevue University
Floyd, Amber	SBCC/MCC
Floyd, Jasmine	CVCC
Fosmire, Cody	RTC/LCU/Bay College
Francois, Josh	Union
Frangoulis, David	Work Full-Time
Franzen, Kayla	UNO
Free-Wakefield, Kira	UNL
Garcia, Elizabeth	UNO
Garcia, Karla	MCC
Garcia, Mauricio	UNO
Garrett, Jon	MCC
Giesick, Garrett	Dordt College
Gilbert, Jackson	Peru State
Gillispie, Lily	LCU
Glenn, Colleen	MCC
Gomez, Ana	Work Full-Time
Goss, Olivia	UNO
Gottfried, Robert	UNL
Griffin, Tyler	Work Full-Time
Guevara, Cindy	Work Full-Time
Gutierrez, Betsaida	Work Full-Time
Guyton, Derek	UNL
Hamerla, Amya	Work Full-Time
Hammond, Cameron	Bellevue University/UNO
Hansen-Reed, Jack	Creighton/Georgetown/WUSTL
Harper, Leigha	ISU
Harris, Chris	CTC
Harton, Lydell	IWCC
Hatcher, Ryan	Bellevue University
Hawkins, Samantha	Hastings College
Heller, Daniel	IWCC
Hendrix, Breauna	UNL
Hernandez, Alan	UNO
Heronimus, Eric	IWCC
Herrington, Christopher	Join the Military
Heuler, Meghan	WWU
Higgs, Abby	BSSM
Hineman, Jacqueline	UNO
Hinman, Jillian	Creighton University
Holland, Jesse	Work Full-Time
Horner, Logan	MCC
Hudson, Xavier	IWCC
Hutchinson, Olivia	UNO
Hyre, Margia	CSM
Intlekofer , Joseph	Work Full-Time
Jackson, Kylie	CSM
Jacox, Victoria	MCC
Johnson, Alexis	UNO
Johnson, Jonas	UNC
Johnson, Madison	KCAI
Johnson, Mary	KCAI
Jones, Vashan	IWCC
Jones, Zach	Work Full-Time
Kaiser, Caleb	Work Full-Time
Keck, Moses	MCC
Kellerman, Christian	Work Full-Time
Kelley, Jocelyn	WSC/UNO
Kelly, Alaya	Join the Military
Kelly     Anthony	MCC/UNO
Kennedy     Kelani	UNO
Kiaaina     Natalia	MCC
Kirby     Cora	UNO
Klumper     Sheldon	Join the Military
Knaub     Jaxen	BMC
Kump-Schleig	Gabe     Work Full-Time
Kurtz     Brandon	UNO
Larimore	Brooklyn
Larson     Adrianna	Work Full-Time
Le     Terry	UNO

Le Francois, Ashlynnne	UNO
Liebenthal Eden	USD
Linder Gabrielle	CSM
Lindstrom Lauren	MCC/UNO/UNK
Livergood Matthew	Bellevue University
Loetz     Jermi	UNO
Loetz     Kiaya	WSC/Bellevue University
Loftus Jr     David	UNL
Logan     Sean	Morningside
Lohrman     Daniel	Work Full-Time
Lopez     Alexander	FSU/ASU/UNO
Lukowski     Austin	Work Full-Time
Luna     Sierra	UNO
Matt     Tanner	Concordia University
Mayor     Elise	KCAI
Mcarthur     Morgan	UNL
Mccomb     Kanin	Bellevue University
McCormick III	Henry     MCC
Mccowan     Ishmael	CSM
Mccully     Merry	MCC
Mcdaniel     Jessi	Work Full-Time
Mcgoogan Kaylee	Work Full-Time
Mcking     Adrianna	UNL
Mcmillan     Danielle	University of Wyoming
Mengel     Hunter	Peru State
Meurrens     Bishop	UNL
Meyer     Athen	MCC
Meza     Esmeralda	Work Full-Time
Miller     Megan	UK
Miller     Reuben	Work Full-Time
Mitchell     Charles	UNL
Molnar     Chloe	UNL
Moore     Samantha	cristian
Mullen     Tina	MWSU
Murray     Matthew	MCC
Nawrocki     Tyler	MCC
Neher     Josiah	MCC/UNO
Nording     Victoria	Work Full-Time
Norton     Krystal	UNK
Norwood     Sydnei	Mizzou
Olsen     Dylan	Work Full-Time
Olson     Taryn	Not Sure
Orfe     Vaeda	Work Full-Time
Ostergaard	Cameron     Work Full-Time
Oxner     Charlie	Work Full-Time
Parette     Adam	UNO
Patrick     Colton	UNO/Drake/Creighton/UNL
Paul     Dylan	UNO
Pavon     Alex	ILCC
Pederson     Hannah	Bellevue University
Pennell     Pierce	NWU
Peter     Skyla	IWCC
Piper     Trinity	UNL
Pitcher     Brandon	NMU/UNO
Pivonka     Taylor	UNL
Plowman     Alex	Work Full-Time
Plummer     Hayleigh	University of Montana
Policky     Montana	UNL
Porter     Nahkiem	University Of Sioux Falls
Portillo     Laisha	MCC
Price     Kourtney	Concordia University/UNMC
Quinn     Tyler	MCC
Ramirez     Lorena	UNO
Ramos     Loraine	Work Full-Time
Ratzburg     Richelle	UNL
Rauwald     Kylie	MCC
Recio     Kaila	Work Full-Time
Regnas     Carolyn	Personal training/Xenon
Rikli     David	UNL
Robards     Asia	CS
Rodriguez-Paar	Justina     UNM
Ross     William	UNO
Rowley     Conner	Work Full-Time

Rush	Margaret	Nursing
Saltzman	Maranda	Bellevue University
Scamfer	Nick	Work Full-Time
Schaffer	Makayla	WSC
Schreck	Anna	UNL
Schroeder	Kayla	UNL
Schuster	Scott	Work Full-Time
Schwarting		Holly     UNO
Schwope	Matthew	Join the Military
Seaman	Deanna	UNO
Semanko	Cj	Benedictine College
Shewfelt	Gabriel	Creighton/Auburn
Skoff	Ben	UNL
Slie	Austin	Midland University/UNO/UNK
Smith	Haleigh	MCC
Smith	Liam	UI/UNO
Smith	Shannon	MCC
Spring	Dusty	UNL
Stednitz	Tyler	Work Full-Time
Stidham	Kyla	MCC/Bellevue Univ./UNO/BVU
Stogdill	Marvin	Work Full-Time
Stoltenberg		Sarah     UNO
Tackett	Connor	UNO
Talamantes		Elizabeth     UNK/UNO/UNL
Taylor	Alexsis	Work Full-Time
Taylor	Jayde	Join the Military
Thomas	Max	MCC/UNMC
Thompson	Taylor	BYU
Thomson	Shawn	MCC
Tomsu	Cailin	MSU
Torres	Cristian	Continue my Education
Torres	Katlyne	Work Full-Time
Traster	Hannah	DWU
Traylor	Jacob	Work Full-Time
Turner	Elizabeth	BYUI
Tyner	Michael	MCC
Valdez	Michelle	UNO
Van	Bailey	Xenon/MCC
Van	Jasmine	MCC
Van Holland		Jackson     Doane University
Van Ryckeghem		Lindsay     UNL
Velehradsky		Joshua     IWCC
Wagstaff	Derek	MCC/IWCC
Walker	Angel	MWSU
Walker	Nicholas	UNO
Walker	Rohn	MCC
Walter	Ryan	Work Full-Time
Walter	Seth	UNO
Walther	Anna	CSM
Walther	Haley	CSM
Walther	Joseph	Creighton University
Waring	Kyle	Work Full-Time
Waschkowski		Arianna     Peru State
Wasinger	Kaylee	Work Full-Time
Wasinger	Kaylee	Work Full-Time
Webster	Alexandra	Join the Military
Wegner	Kylie	Concordia University
Welch	Alexandrea	UNO
West	Lillian	MCC
White	Jordan	Join the Military
White	Megan	MCC
White	Robert	SECC/Milford
Wilkins	Tristan	UNO
Williams	Kaitlyn	CSM
Williams	Paul	Work Full-Time
Wilson	Grace	UNL/Baylor
Winters	Connor	Work Full-Time
Wood	Morgan	MCC
Young	Adrian	Work Full-Time
Zermeno	Joeth	UNO
Zuniga	Brayan	Work Full-Time



**Kapow!** Senior Tristan Wilkins competed as “Vogue-One” with superpowers such as magic and fashion advice. “I did Mr. Bellevue East because I thought it would be fun and would be raising money for good causes. My favorite part was probably the swimsuit section as a lot of people don’t know I have 2 very large tattoos on my back and was finally able to show them off,” Wilkins said. *Photo by McKenzie Gandy.*



# Soto wins national Horatio Alger scholarship

Cailin Tomsu  
Reporter

Typing away, a hopeful senior applied to colleges and for scholarships. She is from a low income family and hoped to receive financial aid or scholarships to cover the costs of college. The senior is Destiny Soto, and her hopes came true when she was awarded the Horatio Alger Scholarship for \$25,000 in January of 2018.

“It has already been a huge blessing and I’m so thankful to be a recipient. This scholarship will help me get through college to my degree and allow me to pursue the future I want for myself,” Soto said.

The Horatio Alger scholarship is one of the largest need-based scholarships in the nation. The Horatio Alger organization aims to help students who have faced obstacles in their young lives. Soto has been in foster care on and off since she was 6 years old has moved over 11 times in the last 12 years, and she has never had a permanent home for longer than a year.

“I had to do a pretty lengthy application where I talked a lot about my past and childhood. Since the scholarship is awarded to those who have overcome adversity, I had to write about the adversity I’ve experienced. I also had to write a personal statement essay and read the biography of a previous winner of the award, and then compare their life to mine and make connections about what I can learn from their story,” Soto said.

The scholarship is based on Horatio Alger Jr. an author in the 19th century, who wrote over 128 books. All of his books provided

a can-do spirit, and were based around characters that could follow their dreams, regardless of circumstances. Soto has never had any funding for college, and thought her education would consist of loans. She has never had a savings account, or someone to help her financially, until recently.

“My current foster family has helped me a lot in the last year and a half. They have really encouraged me through my junior and senior years of high school and have helped me to not give up. I’ve also had a lot of help and encouragement from my birth family and my case worker. The thing that has impacted me the most is my relationship with God. I’ve really grown in my faith and it has helped me make a lot of positive personal change and I definitely think that has helped me achieve many of my goals,” Soto said.

The Horatio Alger National Scholarship is given to 106 students in the nation at \$25,000 each. The funds come from the Horatio Alger Association. The scholarship provides \$5,000 every year for five years. Even though Soto has had to overcome obstacles, she has had support.

“I know that I have overcome a lot in my life and I have already beat the odds of a foster kid, but I still have a hard time believing that I deserve this award. I know I have a lot to be proud of, but to say that I’m deserving of this award wouldn’t feel right because I know that there are so many other kids who are just as deserving as me, if not more,” Soto said.

After receiving the award, Soto was flown to D.C. to officially ac-

cept the scholarship. The trip to D.C. was a 5-day trip, April 4-8.

“The trip to D.C. was like nothing I could’ve ever imagined. It showed me that what I was receiving wasn’t just a scholarship, it was also a family and life long connections that would help me on my journey. I was able to meet some incredible people who care so much about kids like me. I met the Honorable Justice Clarence Thomas, who is truly inspiring and caring. I was able to meet Rob Lowe, Reba McEntire, Jimmy John, Buzz Aldrin, and many other really kind people. I also met Walter Scott, Michael Yanney, and Cindy Smith. I really connected with those three in particular and enjoyed the time I was able to spend with them,” Soto said.

Soto spent time sight seeing in D.C. and visited the Supreme Court and the State Department, both once in a lifetime opportunities. Soto said she is blessed to have received the scholarships and hopes others can seek out similar opportunities. She has committed to Peru State University.

“It’s really important to apply for scholarships and take your future seriously, even if you think you’re not deserving or if the chances of you receiving a certain scholarship may seem slim. It’s a chance everyone should take because you never know what may happen. I never thought I’d receive a national scholarship, especially not one of this caliber, but I applied anyway and things turned out in my favor. I definitely think that applying for scholarships is worth the time and energy it takes and that kids should take it more seriously,” Soto said.



**Success!** Taking a moment to meet famous people like Rob Lowe (top) and Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas (below), senior Detinty Soto spent five days in Washington D.C. to accept a \$25,00 national scholarship. “I was awarded the Horatio Alger National Scholarship. It has already been a huge blessing and I’m so thankful to be a recipient. This scholarship will help me get through college to my degree and allow me to pursue the future I want for myself,” Soto said. *Photo courtesy of Destiny Soto*

# Donner earns 2018 Rotary teacher of the year

Hailey Hendry  
Co-Editor in Chief

Throughout the year, teachers are nominated by the FEA for “The Teacher of the Month” award. Students vote from those teachers for the teacher of the month.

At the end of the year, the staff nominates teachers for the Rotary Teacher of the Year award, from those nominations, students vote for their choice. This year, the winnter was science instructor Karin Donner.

“After knowing Mrs. Donner for four years now, I knew that she deserved to be recognized for this amazing honor,” senior Hannah Cunningham said. “Her hard work and dedication shows through not only as a teacher, but also through being a volleyball coach.”

Along with Donner, AP American Government teacher Lance Raabe and librarian Shannon Dunkel were nominated to compete for the award.

“It was amazing,” Raabe said. “The staff gets a notification to pick members and then I guess the top three voters get it. I felt really great; it was an honor.”

Raabe has won Rotary teacher of the year back in 2003, and a few teacher of the month awards.

“When I saw who the candidates were, I knew that this vote wasn’t going to be easy. You have Mr. Raabe and Mrs. Dunkel having many years of experience at Bellevue East than Mrs. Donner,” Cunningham said. “Many students are familiar with Mr. Raabe and Mrs. Dunkel as well. I was crossing my fingers on this vote because it was going to be close.”

The huge award, according to Raabe and Donner, is getting nominated by the teachers because it shows that the other staffers recognize the hard work that is put into teaching.

“What I remember is talking to Dunkel and talking to Donner and and just like being really excited for them, especially since Donner was one of my students,” Raabe said.

Out of 780 student responses, Raabe had 35.5 percent of the votes, Dunkel had 28.3 percent of the votes (220.74 votes), and Donner had 36.2 percent of the votes to pull ahead and win her award.

“I got very emotional. It is a very humbling moment to be nominated by staff members,” Donner said. “Then, to win the Rotary nomination from the students is something I will always cherish.”

It was a close call with Donner receiving only 0.7 (5.46) more

votes than Raabe, and 8.3 (61.62) more votes than Dunkel.

“I was extremely surprised. I did not go into teaching for awards or to receive recognition,” Donner said. “I was a student myself a Bellevue East years ago and realized how much of an impact my teachers had on me.”

While there was no actual feeling of competition between the three teachers, each teacher selected was hoping the best for the other teacher.

“She was my student,” Raabe said. “I just want greatness for my students, and to have her here and be recognized for that, that’s pretty special. Yeah, I was really excited for her.”

According to Donner, the real award from the students, however, is how she teaches and the relationships that she builds with her students, but getting an award is not all she focuses on.

“In college I decided to share my passion for science with students,” Donner said. “Knowing that the staff at Bellevue East and students see something great occurring in my classroom, will always be something I can hold on to.”

This is the first award that Donner has received since she’s been a teacher at East, and she, as well



**Teaching strong!** Karin Donner Rotary Teacher of the year, her students prepared for a test, “How I teach and build relationships with my students, is a reflection of my teaching, more so than an award. However, if I do or do not win another award again I will always cherish the staff and students selecting me, to win the Rotary Teacher of the year.” Donner said. *Photo by Makayla Schaffer*

as other teachers and students, are hoping it’s the first of many.

“As far as do I hope to receive teacher of the month or rotary teacher again, that would be splendid,” Donner said. “However, if I do or do not win another award again I will always cherish the staff and students selecting me, to win the Rotary Teacher of the year.”

Although Donner sees that she’s had a positive influence by winning this award, she does not know how

deep that relationship she’s built with her students and athletes has run.

“I hope that Mrs. Donner receives even more awards in the future. Her knowledge and pride for Bellevue East and all its students grows larger each year. Mrs. Donner will forever be my favorite Biology teacher. I learned more about myself as a player and a student because of her,” Cunningham said.



# Dancing the day away under the sea

Abbie Deng  
Opinion Editor

Dancing under the sea, students at Bellevue East participated in the “Under the Sea” ISEC dance that took place on April 27 from 6th period to 3 p.m. and was hosted by Leadership Academy.

“Leadership Academy helped with the spring dance this year because of the fear that special prom would go away. We had some kids that worked as mentors to some of our ISEC students for the last three or four years and they really felt like it could be a fun project that they could help out with within Leadership Academy,” Fjell said.

Sophomore Madison Pelzer and senior CJ Semenko students in the Leadership Academy were part of the planning committee and formed a bond with the ISEC students. Since the beginning of the year Pelzer and Semanko have been working with these students and helped with the dance last year.

“I learned alot about understanding others, I learned about you know, being patient. It really teaches you to walk in someone else’s shoes because you never really know what’s going on in someone’s life,” Semanko said.

The dance was a creative way to allow ISEC students a fun time before leaving for summer break and bond with their friends outside of the ISEC classrooms

“Special Prom, as it’s originally known is really important to me just because the ISEC section in our school has been important to me for four years and it’s really been part of my high school career so to be able to give back to these kids who give me so much joy is just really awesome,” Semanko said.

Leadership Academy students sophomore Libby Walls, juniors Lerin Loreto, Abbie Deng, sophomore Meagan Mendick and junior Kaylee Matteo also took hand in the event helping ISEC instructor Sarah Pithan plan and decorate with the event.

“This year we did it a little bit differently, in the past we’ve always held our dance at night and we called it the special prom, and this year was out first year doing just the dance during the day allowing more students to get involved,” Pithan said.

The change in the form of the event from a prom to a dance was more effective according to Pithan and allowed students and teachers alike to get the most out of the event. Help from clubs around the building was also beneficial.

“Seeing everyone’s reaction this year, it was less stressful putting on this event, having it during the day, and Leadership Academy did a whole bunch; they decorated and helped get things ready for the dance and that really helped us teachers so we could focus on



**Let’s Dance!** During The Spring Dance Junior Jason Wendt joins others on the dance floor. The Spring dance is held once a year in the main gym for ISEC students and their families. “I think that everyone deserves to have fun, and everyone deserves to have fun without people teasing them. The Spring Dance is a place where people can dance all crazy and nobody will make fun of them,” Mendick said. *Photo by Cora Bennett*

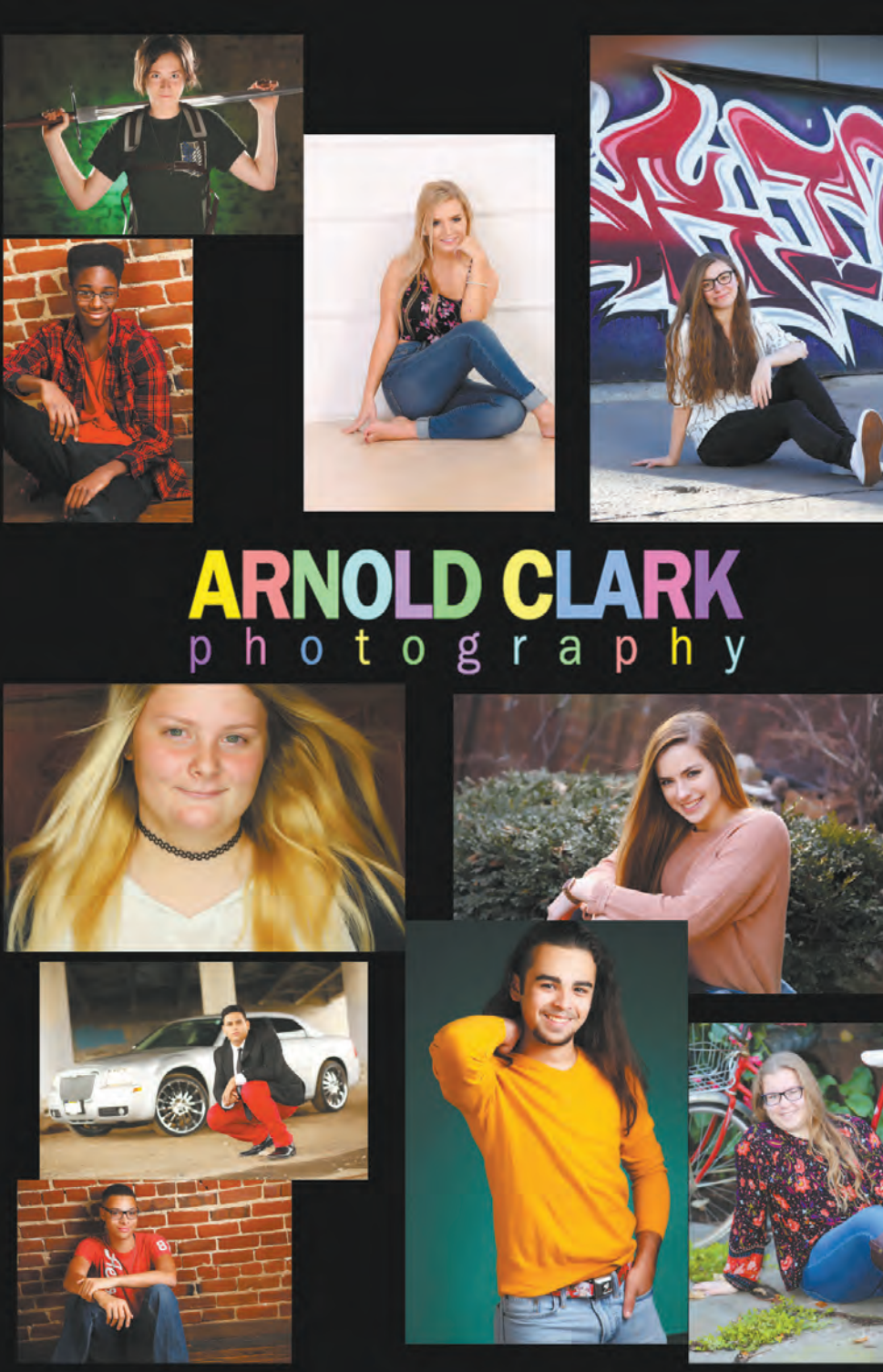
teaching during the day and not so much on getting ready for the dance” Pithan said.

The dance had a DJ that played music during the event, along with snacks, a cotton candy maker, as well as games such as fishing for candy, ring toss and picking up a

shell with a number to pick a prize from a basket with the coordinating number, and last but not least, prizes and candy to go with the games. A professional photographer also was there capture the moment in a mini photo booth.

“Having a dance allows the kids

to do the things that the high school students do. They love it and they talked about it probably all night long, I know I was thinking about it all night long. Just by telling in their faces and how they reacted they really enjoyed the dance” Pithan said.




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# Students transition into adults, gain new responsibilities



Edward Jones is a company that provides financial advice from qualified financial advisers. There are many locations throughout the Omaha Metro. Photo by Cailin Tomsu

## Understanding credit, finances, investments key to adulthood

CailinTomsu  
Reporter

After high school, students have more control over their lives, and choose the path they wish to follow. Regardless of whether or not a person chooses college, technical training, or work, there is a common skill students will need and that is dealing with finances. There are a few courses at East to better prepare students for the financial responsibilities they will face in adulthood. These classes include personal finance, accounting and economics.

“Preparing for one’s financial future is not just about a class, and not just about learning personal budgeting. To be truly prepared one must learn skills, have skills, have a talent, hold a position. What do you have that is marketable, hireable, and allows you to gain employment or set you apart from someone else? Can you earn a living with the skills that you have learned and acquired? Many people don’t necessarily believe that education has a value, and that education doesn’t translate to an income. The problem with this thinking is that employers see the value of an education, skill, trade, or experience. To really help your financial future, you need to acquire those skills that employers want to hire,” counselor Michael Chudomelka said.

Not everything can be taught to students during their time in high school, and many skills needed to succeed will have to be gathered by the students themselves. For instance, WALB News reports the main skills students need are time management and if looking to appeal to employers, experience. Georgia college professor Brenda Blackshear urges students to work, even if it is just a small amount of hours during the week, to appeal to future employers. The other financial aspect a student should look

into is understanding the importance of credit and credit ratings.

“In order to build up credit one has to have some means of credit. One shouldn’t be concern with credit until after college. It is to easy to get bad credit by not handling it properly. When the time comes to build credit one would start with a card for things they would buy and have the cash on hand to pay it off when the bill comes due. It isn’t wise to buy unnecessary items by credit card. Best practice is to pay for it by credit card and pay it off immediately,” Edward Jones financial adviser Mark Moore said.

Credit is used by lenders like banks, and if a person plans to buy a car or home they will need some type of credit. According to the Nest, potential landlords, employers, cell phone and utility companies will look at a person’s credit score to decide whether or not they want to do business with a person. Credit scores can range from 300 to 850, and the higher the score the lower interest rates a person may have along with a larger amount of money a lender will loan to an individual.

“A loan is a means of leveraging your cash flow for needs that come along in life. Homes, cars and those that people often use loans. Stay within a budget and stay within your means,” Moore said.

Moore said the main problems with credit cards is that they are easy to use, and many people forget to pay off the amount they owe on time, which drags down their score. According to the Nest, lenders can charge up to 25 percent higher interest rates for people with lower credit scores. Most companies do not want to do business with someone who does not have a good financial history or standing. Besides building a good credit history, students entering into the adult world need to know how to prepare for their future

retirements, etc. by understanding investing.

“You should start investing as soon as you have earned income or money that you have set aside for down the road. What one should invest in is high quality investments that have a proven track record. You can use individual stocks or mutual funds,” Moore said.

Investing in stocks is when a person puts money into some company or idea and over time as the company grows the person makes a profit. According to the Motley Fool, if a person invests \$2,000 and the money grows at 10 percent a year, which is the average for the stock market, then after 30 years the money will now be worth around \$35 thousand. However, before investing a person has to learn how to budget and plan for the costs of living.

“I don’t know if anyone can fully prepare themselves for the costs of living. There are some general guidelines out there, such as not paying more than 1/4 or 1/3 of your monthly income on rent, etc. I believe you have to determine all of the bills (the total amount) for the month because most bills are paid monthly, rent, car payments, phone bills, etc. Pay all of those bills for the month before you do anything else with your monthly income. If you mail a check to pay the bill, write that check out and account for it in your budget. Have all of your bills paid and taken care of for the month. Set a date that you will pay your bills each month,” Chudomelka said.

As students graduate school and move on to their adult lives and begin to live by themselves, they will have to learn how to stay on task without having someone there to remind them about what needs to be done. According to LifeHack, young adults need to learn how to avoid procrastination, whether that be with school work, laundry or

bills even. Young adults should also create a schedule and keep to it. Scheduling helps with organization involving work and personal tasks. Sticking to those schedules will help a person not fall behind.

“There are resources available for people that cannot pay their bills, for example: rental assistance, heating bills, etc. There are financial planners and credit advisers out there to assist you. However, in the end, you can’t expect anyone to take care of what you need to do. If you have a bill, you need to expect to repay what you owe. If you have dirty clothes, you should expect to get the laundry done. You will have to learn how to do things for yourself,” Chudomelka said.

Many transitions occur after high school graduation and there are responsibilities that a person has to take on that they did not have before. The more a person organizes and plans out what needs to be done, and has time management skills, the easier it will be according to LifeHack. If a person needs help, there will be people that can assist them.

“There are times that the children will need their parents, even after moving out of the house. Children may want to introduce their significant other to their parents; children may need advice on buying their first car or home; children may want to have their parents involved with their marriage; children may want their own kids to meet the kids’ grandparents. These examples, and more, are reasons for parents and children to have relationships with one another that can stand the test of time. Learning the skills of developing relationships can extend to other situations and apply to other environments. If children ‘burn their bridges’ and do not have a good relationship with their parents after moving out of the house, there will be too much that is missed for the everyone,” Chudomelka said.

## Graduates adjust to adult life, more obligations

CailinTomsu  
Reporter

Packing up boxes, saying goodbye to family, looking forward to new opportunities are hundreds of seniors preparing for their college life. Some seniors that are continuing their education at a 4- year university will have to live in dorms and adapt to adult life being on their own, which is the first chance to live without parents for some.

“Dorm life is much more different than living at home. For the first few months it honestly felt like a summer camp because you were always surrounded by peers your age not only in class and some other school activities, but during the night as well. For the dorm it was pretty standard for everyone to have a TV, microwave and couch/futon with them. I had none of these when I moved in so through the whole school year I acquired these items,” 2017 East graduate Miguel Angel said.

Often times when graduation arises, seniors and their families shop for their dorm room decorations. Depending on the college, the dorm sizes and requirements for a roommate vary. Angel has a room to himself, but others do not.

“The biggest difference between the dorms and home is having a roommate. At home I have a room all to myself, but at college I’m in a traditional dorm with a friend of mine. Most of the time it doesn’t create an issue, but it can get a tad frustrating at times. I didn’t really prepare myself for such a move. I just fought my way through the first couple of weeks until it became routine. Once I fell into a routine, any being away from home problems or sleeping in a different bed problems all went away,” 2017 East graduate

Robert Storck said.

Moving into a dorm creates many transitions that students have to tackle. Living adjustments are part of the transition, but there are also financial responsibilities that the students may not have had before.

“I have a great number of financial responsibilities now. There’s tuition and room and board to pay for now, but most of that is taken care of with my scholarships. I also have to pay for my car insurance, phone bill and the school that my scholarships don’t cover. It’s a lot of money for a full-time student, but I also have a part time job right now so that helps with some cost but keeps me busy most of the week, unlike high school where I was freer,” Angel said.

According to the HuffPost, 4 out of every 5 college students have a part time job while being a fulltime college student, and an additional 30 percent of students cover their housing responsibilities.

“The main financial responsibility of mine is my credit card. It is both a blessing and a curse to have. I don’t have to worry about having enough cash to buy something, and it is a lot more simple to swipe my card rather than wait to get change. With that said bills add up, fast. When you get your bill at the end of each month, only then do you realize just how much you’ve spent. As a result, it is a huge responsibility of mine to keep track of my spending, otherwise it will come back to bite me,” Storck said.

Citi conducted a survey and found that only 1 in 5 students will have a credit card when they start college. Sixty-two percent of students have a budget that they plan to maintain.

“I manage bills by paying them off as soon as I can. I am given a

choice of paying \$400 up front or \$200 now and \$200 later as a down payment for room and board. I always choose the \$400 option, just so I don’t forget and have to pay more for being overdue. If I can pay it off right away, I do,” Storck said.

Students also have to make transitions in the classroom, along with those financially. High school teachers may try to prepare students for the lax rules that college teachers enforce, but many students have to learn how to self regulate.

“The biggest preparation I had was being pressured to get to class on time. In college, no one is doing hall sweeps to get you to class. The professor won’t call your parents if you are late to their class a certain amount of time. It is too easy to just say ‘I don’t feel like going to class today,’ Skipping class is an addiction. At first you think skipping one time won’t hurt, then you skip again, and again, and again, until you are so far behind you have no idea what is going on when you do attend class. I have seen multiple people go from good students to having to drop the class because they couldn’t pass, not because the class was too difficult, but because they were not hard enough on themselves to get to class. Certain classes in high school also really helped me prepare for college because of their teaching styles. Taking Mr. Mason’s physics and Mrs. Sailor’s calculus really helped me for physics and calculus courses in college so far, since I was already used to being taught that material in a college oriented manner. They may be tough and frustrating while you are taking them, but taking these kind of classes in high school definitely helped me prepare for college courses,” Storck said.

Even if college is not the option a person chooses, the financial re-

(Below) East Graduate Miguel Angel attends UNL and has a double room to himself. He is able to bring in his own furniture and decorate as desired. Photo courtesy of Miguel Angel.



sponsibilities remain the same for the most part. Living in an apartment is similar to a dorm room, but there are more bills attached such as rent and utilities, that one must keep track of and pay.

“When I was with my parents I could blow my check on whatever I wanted, but now I’m living check to check and I have about \$3 to my name every two weeks,” 2017 East graduate Ricky Lugo said.

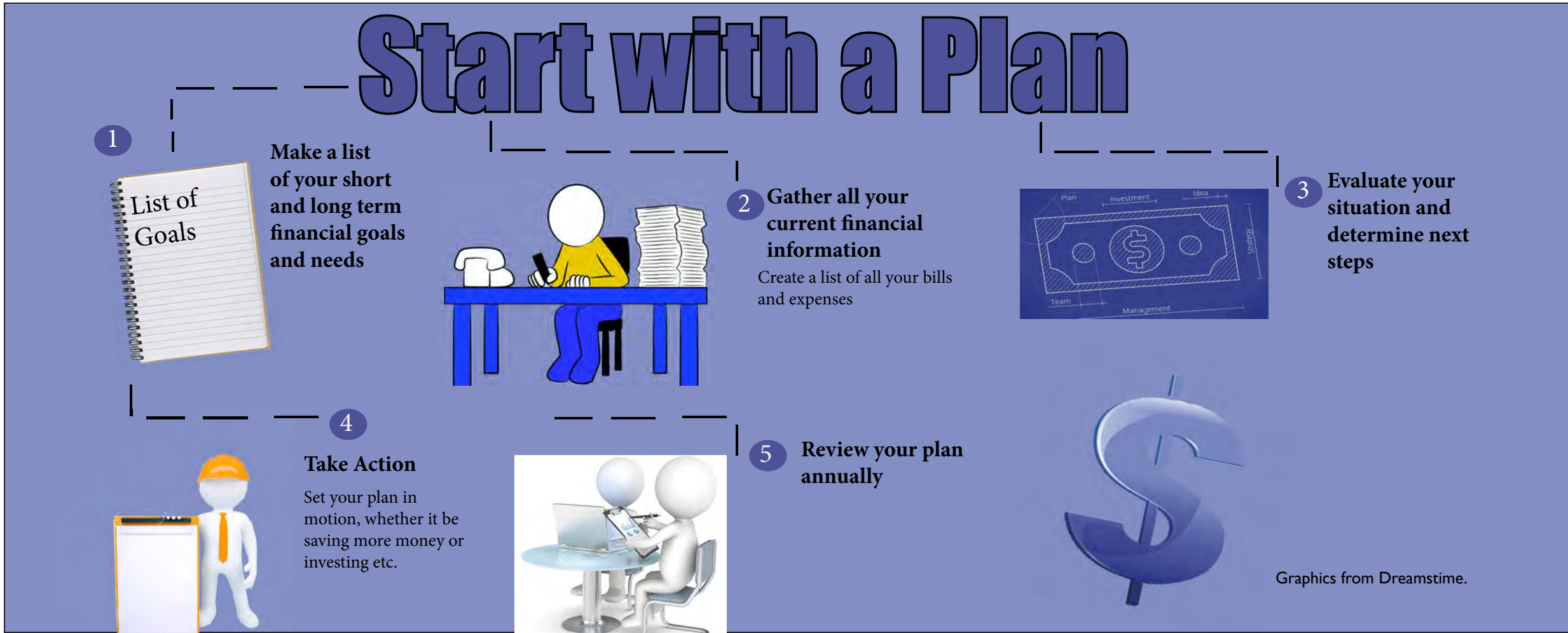
Lugo chose to work full time in-

stead of attending college, and has moved out, so he is responsible for all of his apartment bills, furniture, and food. These obligations used to be provided for him when he lived at his parents, but now he is learning the responsibilities he must take on. Lugo struggles with budgeting and sometimes falls short on bills.

“You just move in and then have all these financial responsibilities and I was not prepared for them,” Lugo said.

Lugo did not know how to budget or plan out bills before he lived on his own. He said he struggles at times, but manages to stay on track.

“You lose appreciation for things when you pay for things by yourself, like the yodelling kid. How is it fair I work hard every day and barely get by, but he yodels and now he’s rich. It makes you appreciate those who work hard jobs everyday,” Lugo said.





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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**READ  
THINK  
SPEAK OUT  
BE HEARD**

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# Strong voice against technology



Brooklyn Anderson  
News Editor

Technology has become a huge part of our lives over the past few years and is now being used in unnecessary places. For example, some restaurants now have little devices with games people can pay to play when waiting for food, or house appliances that have a screen built in and connect to other technology around the house.

Technology is in most schools around the country. Whether it's for each student or for each classroom, there is some form of technology in classrooms. For example, some classrooms now carry iPads that are used to administer simple things such as tests or even in-class reviews on Kahoot. Although, these are generally seen as positive additions to a classroom, this use of technology can become excessive. In my opinion technology should be limited in classrooms. Students are being deprived of social inter-

action with each other, and a strain is being put on their mental health.

Of course, technology can help with major assignments and projects, but when completing homework and tiny assignments like a few math problems or needing to read a few chapters in a book, technology is not needed. It becomes excessive, especially when there's not much use being put into it. Technology shouldn't be needed for every class, every day and shouldn't be used in surplus amounts.

I have been in classrooms that have iPads or Macbooks reserved for the day; they would get used for about ten minutes depending on the assignment for that class and never again for the rest of the period. My old school was adamant on each student having a personal iPad. It was nice to experience technology being used in a way that it was bought for, but when I transferred to a new school, I had to go back to paper and pencil.

Having the experience of using my own school iPad made me realize that I prefer being in a tech free learning environment. With an iPad, I got distracted from every game I was able to download and secretly play in class. Now, in a school that uses technology moderately, I'm not as distracted and I have the privilege of social interaction with other students without the distraction of a technology engrossed environment.

In a survey by Justin Parmenter in the Charlotte Observer, students

had switched from the original paper and pencil test form to taking their tests on computers. After asking a few of the students on their opinion, a lot of them seemed to not have liked the switch. "Students I surveyed recently complained that the useful annotation strategies they've learned in class do not transfer well to a computer, and that transitioning ideas from screen to scratch paper and back again increases likelihood of careless errors," Parmenter said. The move from paper to technology proven here, is not only something that could cause stress to a student, but it can also affect their test efficiency.

In order for technology to be in schools, teachers need to learn how to implement these devices as well as educate the students who don't have much experience with technology. Students that have too much time with devices during the day can strain eyes and give headaches and cause students to lose focus a lot easier later in the day. Parmenter went on to discuss the effects the students had presented to him. "Others said that too much computer time makes them sleepy, gives them a migraine or hurts their eyes. Finally, students told me that some of their computers don't work well after being used all year and that glitches or defects can impede their progress and distract them. All of these drawbacks can negatively impact results on crucial tests that are supposed to yield accurate

measures of student learning and teacher and school effectiveness," he said. When placing technology with students who aren't ready to respond to the impacts, there are detrimental effects to their learning and health, creating a gap between those students who can adapt and flourish and those who can't.

When the technology gets put into classrooms with young students, they get the risk of not being able to live without the technology. Young students need the social interaction to build social skills for basic interactions. Technology gets put in front of their face and they become glued to it. When I meet little kids, they are always wanting to see my phone to play games and this was a few years ago. Nowadays, I see little kids with their own phones and my jaw drops to the floor from shock.

There are a few solutions to this problem that keeps growing, students should get less screen time at school and more social interaction. Another solution can be teaching the use of technology in a appropriate way for school purposes. The internet is giant place with a lot of risks to terrible things. One day, this world will lose the social interaction and children won't know how to have a simple conversation. We as a society need to take a break from technology and really look what's in front of our faces, then learn to depend on the physical things that will always be around when technology isn't.

# Teachers standing ground for pay increase

## Staff Editorial

Every student is required to attend school up until they reach grade 12. After graduation they have the choice of whether or not they will further their education. They are taught by teachers who can leave impacts on these young people's lives very easily. Teachers are arguably some of the most important people in education.

We need to have teachers in order for the young generations to learn and grow, and for those who continue their education past high school. You cannot wake up one day and know how to do the most advanced calculus, you must be taught. However, teachers in many states are severely underpaid, and lack resources they need to properly educate their students and this has led to strikes by the teachers. We, as the Tom Tom staff, support the teachers who are striking in those states.

Even though society needs teachers in order to continue having systems of education, the teaching profession does not usually allow for a comfortable wage. According to NPR, 9 out of 10 teachers said they joined the profession for symbolic reasons such as wanting to do good.

Fifty-six percent of teachers had to find a second job in order to make ends meet and 46 percent of teachers have accumulated some

form of debt because their wages are very little, according to NPR. Eight out of 10 teachers had bought school supplies for their students from their own pockets.

According to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average salary of a teacher is \$55,000 a year. However, this is an average, meaning in some states teachers will make even less than that. According to the Glass Door, teachers in Arizona, where a strike is happening, make only 40,000 dollars a year. That is a very low salary for the people who are teaching and preparing the next generation.

Across the nation teachers are striking and heading to the streets to protest. This was done in Kentucky, where teachers wanted provisions to their pension plans.

In Oklahoma teachers went on strike for higher pay, and they did receive a 16 percent raise which was the highest raise in the history of the state, according to Time magazine. West Virginia had a 9-day strike, which resulted in a 5 percent pay raise for the teachers. Arizona also went on strike to receive a pay raise.

The strikes had schools shut down for many days and as a result showed the government in the states and administration of the schools, that teachers are valuable assets and need to be recognized as such.

According to the U.S. Gen-

eral Accounting Office almost 3/4 of U.S schools were built in the 1970s. Of those schools, 1/3 needed extensive repair, such as plumbing or roofing.

Fifty-eight percent of these schools had at least one major facility problem, such as no air conditioning or bad ventilation. More than half of these schools do not have flexible learning spaces for different types or styles of teaching to take place. Having a worn down facility can greatly affect teaching and learning.

Older buildings either do not block out sound as well, or have some type of noise coming from inside them, and this causes a distraction for both the teachers and the students. Temperature is also an issue for students; it can't be too hot; but not too cold either.

In Nebraska, teacher strikes are prohibited, according to Excellence Media. This means that if the teachers here were to go on strike they risk losing their job completely because it is against the law. However, when comparing the working and classroom conditions that the students and teachers have to endure in the states that went on strike like Arizona, to our own school and conditions, and the staff does not believe it would be reasonable for teachers to strike against our district. The facility problems come from the old age of the building, and the lack of fund-

ing our government has, because of the reliance our district had on military impact aid. The district recently passed a bond and that will allow for renovations for all of the schools in the Bellevue district, not just the high school. East specifically will have money to fix the HVAC system, which is arguably, the largest facility problem there. Once that is finished the building temperature will be much easier to manage, and allow students and teachers alike to focus.

Regardless, teachers play a vital part in educating the future generations of students, who will become the leaders of America. But, the teachers cannot do their job adequately if they do not have the resources they need. In the states that went on strike, most were using books that were very outdated, and did not contain relevant information. The books were falling apart and then it became a distraction for the students.

Teachers have to have the proper resources, and equipment to keep their students engaged and learning in order to prepare them for their future endeavors whether it be continuing education or joining the workforce.

Many are calling for pay increases and lack of resources or facility problems, and because of those reasons, we as the Tom Tom staff support the teacher strikes in other states.



# East athletes recognized for twelve sports

Cailin Tomsu  
Reporter

Alex Welch:

- Q: What sports were you involved in during the course of high school, how long have you been playing those sports?
- A: I was an athletic trainer for the football team all four years. I was on the swim team every year and I was captain. I played tennis for three years and I did track for one year.
- Q: What was your motivation to continue playing these sports?
- A: The reason I continued to play these sports was to just stay involved and meet new people.
- Q: Who influenced you the most and how?
- A: My two cousins who both went to east and got a twelve sport award.
- Q: What does being a 12 sport athlete mean to you?
- A: It shows I was dedicated and it is how I met some of my best friends
- Q: What sports were you involved in during the course of high school, how long have you been playing those sports?
- A: Baseball I've been playing since I was nine, football I started in seventh grade, and I've wrestled since I was six.
- Q: Who influenced you the most and how?
- A: My brothers because they were successful in the sports they did and I just wanted to follow them and be as successful or even more than them.
- Q: What sports were you involved in during the course of high school, how long have you been playing those sports?
- A: Tennis [freshman year], Basketball [age 10], Baseball [age 8]

Tyler Nawrocki:



Alex Welch's first love is swimming, "My favorite sport to participate in was swimming because I loved the atmosphere and had a lot of friends on the team." Welch said *Photo courtesy of Alex Welch*



Wrestling, senior Tyler Nawrocki takes his last time on the mat. "Wrestling has made me realize a lot in life and moving into the future," Nawrocki said *Photo courtesy of Chieftain Yearbook*



Hyping up the crowd, senior Colton Patrick with the flag, "Football is my favorite sport. The atmosphere and the rush that came with it all exhilarated me," Patrick said. *Photo courtesy of Chieftain Yearbook*



While playing in his final year Austin Slie says goodbye to high school career "Basketball was my favorite to play. I made connections with a lot of amazing people through basketball and had many great influences through the basketball program," Slie said *Photo courtesy of Chieftain Yearbook*

## Local sport clubs played

Hailey Hendry  
Co-Editor in Chief

Clubs are offered to athletes who want to better their skills year round. There are students and coaches who in addition to East athletics, play or coach for these clubs.

While there are students who play for East during the summer leagues, there are many single and multi-sport athletes who play for Omaha Sports Academy (OSA), Legacy, Nebraska Elite, Nebraska One, Lady Cougars Softball, Performance, Top Flight, etc. during the off-season or while the students are currently in other sports for the school.

"I play for Legacy because my friend from school went there and persuaded me to go there with her," freshman Katie Mendick said.

According to Mendick, when playing for club teams, many good friends are made throughout the time there and even after club season is over. Her time and the friendships she makes there is definitely worth the money.

"It is different playing for Legacy than school because before every practice at Legacy, we have conditioning for thirty minutes and then go to practice," Mendick said. "And practice is only two days a week rather than every week day."

Mendick is not the only one who has strayed from the school. Girls basketball coach Blake Anderson has also gotten a job recently to coach girls basketball at OSA.

"These kids' goals is to play at the next level and OSA gives them this opportunity," Anderson said.

According to Anderson, it gives them more of an opportunity to get recruited by college coaches and better their skills. They get more out of their money. It is also very different to coach the girls at OSA than it is to coach East's girls basketball team.

"I used to coach AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) years back and missed it," Anderson said. "opportunity came along and it works to do both OSA and fulfill my commitment to Bellevue East."

Along with OSA and AAU, Anderson has also coached for NEN Xtreme in the past. According to Anderson, the reason he stopped coaching for those teams is because he moved to Omaha so the commute to Norfolk would've been a hassle, whereas Mendick has only ever played for club Legacy and that's where she plans to stay.

"I have been playing there since sixth grade and I have many good friendships with people there," Mendick said. "I probably won't play for Top Flight because I have been playing with all of the people at Legacy for more than four years."

However, those who stay connected with the school by playing for Top Flight. It's a cheaper way to get the same club experience.

"I've know the club directors for a long time and like them and their coaching styles a lot," junior Ellie Foral said. "It's one of the cheaper clubs in Nebraska and our practices were always in Bellevue."

This is the first year Top Flight was made a club, so the player's were contacted multiple times by head volleyball coach Courtney Smeby before the season ended to give the club a try. Smeby convinced several girls to join the club.

"I played for Bellevue Volleyball Club since I was 11," Foral said, "but this year they decided to re-brand as Top Flight. So in a way, I've played for the same club my whole life."

However, according to Foral, this is her last year playing club volleyball. She doesn't plan on going to college for volleyball.

"They're really building something cool over there," Foral said. "I've learned a lot about myself as a teammate."

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# Looking back at all the spring sports

Abby Deng  
Reporter

With the flowers blooming and sun lighting up the sky opening new opportunities, Bellevue East spring sports teams have sprung into new advancements, with each athletic team making their own progress and experiencing major growth.

“Spring sports I think are especially important just because it’s the end of the school year, there’s a lot of stress and lot of pressure on students at the end of the school year, with grades if they’re going to graduate, so it’s kind of an outlet for them something that they enjoy and gets their mind off that stress,” Assistant Principal Nathaniel Bacon said.

The girls soccer team headed by varsity coach Sara Fjell have come across many successes this year, including new additions that have opened doors for the team.

“We are currently 5-7, we already have 3 more wins than we did last year and we are a young team. Sami Reading as a freshman has led the team in scoring with 12 goals so far this season. She has had two hat tricks and 3 games with two goals a piece,” Fjell said.

Redding accomplished the varsity team as a freshman this year, and has made a big impact on the team. As a freshman, this new position of leadership was a step up from the norm.

“Practice harder, do things at home, and go to practice everyday. It’s kind of hard being a freshman going against seniors, but connecting with my teammates is good too” Redding said.

The boys soccer team has been successful in their season as well. Head coach Jeremy Lenz reflects on the season so far and analyzes performances that stood out to him.

“Our most successful game has been our second game against Omaha Bryan. We lost 4 -0 to them the first game of the season, but a week later we won the rematch. We came from behind to tied 3-3 in regulation and then won in a shootout,” Lenz said.

The success of the season has been accredited to some of the many hard workers on the team. Coach Lenz recognized some of the players that seemed to make an



**Hey batter batter!** Waiting patiently on the pitchers mound, senior Alex Pavon gets ready to fly the ball across the field. The 2018 baseball season proved they had what it took to come together as a team and play together. “My favorite highlight is when we went to districts and we won our first game, and then we ended up playing Millard West in the second game. We ended up losing but it was just a good game, we all came together and played real well as a team,” Pavon said. *Photo courtesy of Chieftain Yearbook*

impact on the field.

Senior Bryan Zuniga has played for the Bellevue East boys soccer team for four years. Zuniga identified as a leader by coach Jeremy Lenz, hopes for a good season for next year’s team.

“So far the season is going good even though we’ve lost many games. I hope they’re [boys soccer team] good next year. They have some good athletes on the team, some good soccer players and I hope they do good next year,” Zuniga said.

The girls tennis season has been highlighted with wins, leaving them leading with a 4-3 in their duals, a team with members of different levels of experience.

“Every match has its moments; something new that we’re doing this year is giving out a game ball at the end of each match to a player that has gone above and beyond. On any given day a certain player will step up and earn that game ball,” Werner said.

Players on the tennis team have already earned game balls this season including sophomore Angela Palmquist who plays for the girls varsity tennis team and is ranked 6th.

“This season I think is going so well, I’m improving a lot and I feel like next year I can do way better than I did this year. I just want to get better and be a leader on this team. Hopefully we’re going to be state champs,” Palmquist said.

Putting their way through, the golf team coached by Lance Raabe has been on a roll. The team has taken their annual golf trip to Gothenburg to play and wildhouse, and continue to improve their skills

“Teamwork is important in supporting each other after a tough round or high score. Golf is a difficult sport and can be very humbling at times so it’s important to know that teammates are supporting you and hoping that you shoot low scores (which benefits the overall team score),” Raabe said.

Beast Baseball has had a successful run, headed by coach Don Kiviniemi the season has reached its peak. Kiviniemi reflects on the seasons progress.

“Highlights of the season are that we have a winning record right now at 12-8. We have an ultimate goal of making the state tourney and are working hard towards that goal. We have made a name for ourselves in the Metro and no one takes us lightly, and that is shown with being ranked in the top ten multiple times this year,” Kiviniemi said.

Senior Joey Walther was identified by Kiviniemi as a student who has showed leadership on the baseball field. Walther believes the season is going well and has high hopes for the remainder of the season.

“Hopefully we make it to state, we haven’t done that for a long long time and even make a run at state. Our team is playing more tem baseball and we really match

together well,” Walther said.

Coach Kendra Holmes has taken on the track season with plenty of success. Track is a sport categorized by many different event, each event honing success in their own ways.

There’s so many different events, there’s been highlights in different ones. Our senior class, several of them, have stepped up it doesn’t matter which event they’re doing but it seems like each one of those seniors,” Holmes said.

Brooklyn Larimore, a senior, has broken school record herself in the 800 run. Larimore is just one of the many students who have placed.

“I think the track season has been going pretty well; my goal from the start was to get the school record, and so I got that mid season and I’m really excited to see how fast I can go now. By the end of the season I hope everyone PR’s,” Larimore said.



**Goal!** Junior Lauren Roberts rockets the soccer ball down the field. “My favorite highlight from this season is having my team also be my family,” Robert said. *Photo courtesy of Chieftain Yearbook*



**Hole in one!** Setting up his ball for the shot, junior Conner Kuehn prepares to putt his ball into the hole. The 2018 season or boys golf, traveled out 3 hours to play an one of the best courses in the country. “My favorite highlight from the season is Gothenburg. It’s in the top 50 in the country, it’s a beautiful course and getting to play is amazing,” Kuehn said. *Photo courtesy of Chieftain Yearbook*



# Soccer team bonding with gift an exchange

McKayla Vermeer  
 Co-Editor in Chief

The girls soccer team bonded during the season with something they call Secret Soccer Sisters.

“My favorite part about having a secret sister is getting to buy stuff for your teammate. It’s fun to write little notes like saying ‘good luck today’ [or] ‘I feel you’ll do good today.’ Stuff like that makes it fun to participate in,” senior Hannah Madison said.

During the season, the students involved with girls’ soccer get a Secret Soccer Sister. Throughout the season their “sister” then brings the girl assigned little gifts or notes to boost morale.

“Secret sisters is all about morale. Each athlete is assigned a different teammate to get little gifts for every once and awhile,” senior Eden Liebenthal said.

Girls’ Soccer coach Sara Fjell started this about five years ago to help the students get positivity during the season. It also helped the students get encouragement from their teammates, who they work with every day.

“We wanted a fun way to help the girls support each other during the season,” Fjell

said.

Secret Soccer Sisters has benefits for both the athlete receiving the gift and the one giving. Liebenthal said that her favorite part is how her teammate reacts.

“I love getting my teammates gifts that they really want and seeing their reaction,” Liebenthal said.

Being a part of Secret Soccer Sisters is optional, but Madison said it is fun to see their reaction when they receive their gift. Overall, the benefits far outweigh any negatives.

“It helps the team by people communicating to find out what there secret sister likes or what she would like to get. No one has to participate, but it is fun to participate because the person you get, no one knows it’s you, and to see thier face/reactions are fun to watch when they get their gift,” Madison said.

At East, Secret Soccer Sisters is planning to be continued for the foreseeable future. Fjell says that it is something the girls get excited about every season.

“I think the girls look forward to it and enjoy the gifts and notes they receive from their secret sisters,” Fjell said.



**Surprise** Thankful to be part of such a loving team, junior Serena Logan shares how her gifts from her secret sister help her. “My favorite part about Secret Sisters is that it’s a great pick-me-up. Your teammates can see if you’re having a bad day and your secret sister can help brighten your day by giving you a gift,” Logan said. *Photo By Briana Benak*



**Shhh** Anxious to open her Secret Sister gift, senior Elena Felix tears open the bag to check out what’s inside. “I love having something to look forward too before games, I never know what I’ll get,” Felix said. *Photo by Briana Benak*

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# Battle between mobile games

Jacob Mallow  
Reporter

Video games have always been popular amongst young kids and teenagers, and even adults alike. Recently, two games called Fortnite and PUBG (Playerunknown's Battlegrounds) were released in late 2017. These pastimes have taken over the video game scene, with 45 million users across all platforms, according to Forbes.

**Winner Winner Chicken Dinner** Playing PUBG on mobile, sophomore Nathan Burns runs through the map to survive and get first place. On March 19, 2018 Player Unknown's Battlegrounds hit app stores for mobile devices. "I play PUBG whenever I get a chance or when I'm bored, and I like how PUBG functions versus Fortnite," Burns said. *Photo by Jacob Mallow*

"I play PUBG on Android, and Fortnite on my computer," senior Nathan Colletta said.

Playerunknown's Battlegrounds full version of the game originally released on PC December 20, 2017, and the mobile version of the game was recently released March 19, 2018. On the other hand, Fortnite was released July 25, 2017. Both of these can be played across several platforms.

"I play Fortnite everyday. I play

Fortnite on Xbox One and prefer to play Fortnite over PUBG," sophomore Logan Nielsen said.

Fortnite and PUBG both have a number of players in the millions, but due to the higher number of Fortnite players, it was decided the most popular of the two battle royale games, and is played more. Popular musical artist, Drake, recently played Fortnite with Twitch streamer, 'Ninja' (Twitch is a Live streaming video platform used by

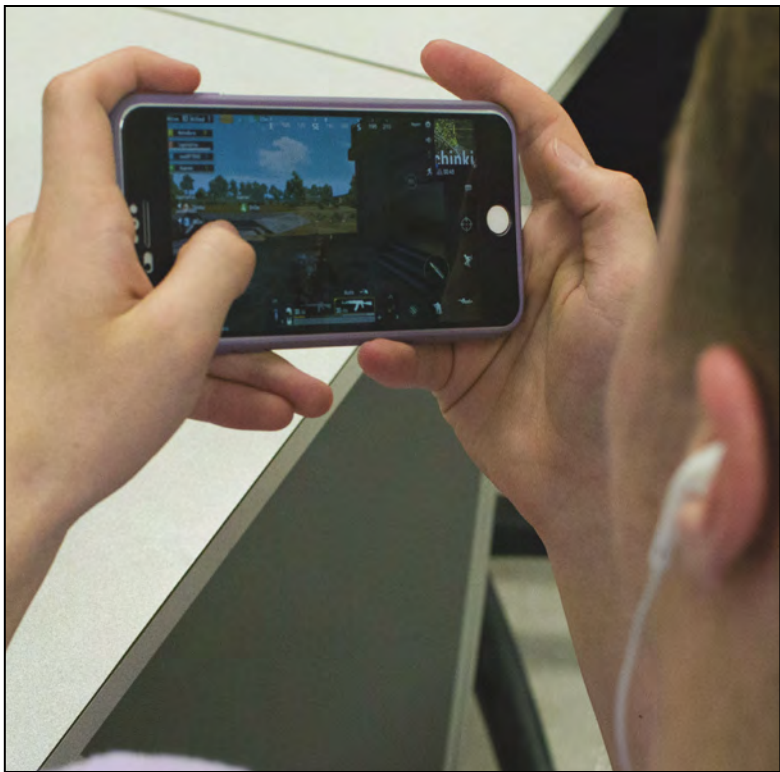
lots of people to watch gamers play their favorite games). The stream had caught the attention of 635,000 viewers, producing a record high of views on a single twitch stream, according to Forbes.

"Drake is playing it so that's a big thing," Colletta said.

Fortnite is a free where PUBG costs \$30 to play. Therefore Fortnite is more open to gamers and is on one more platform than PUBG, Playstation 4. Although Fortnite is

a free game, it has an online currency called V-Bucks that is used to purchase interesting skins allowing player customization. Fortnite and PUBG can be played on Mobile, PC, and console Overall, the games are very similar and have gained the attention of millions, on console, PC, and Mobile.

"It's a free game and it's open to more people, because it's free," Nielsen said.



**Getting Dubs!** In his free time Sophomore Joshua Hewitt plays PUBG on mobile. PUBG was an original Battle Royale game that caught the attention of many. "It's a game that is fun and addicting," Hewitt said. *Photo by Jacob Mallow*

# Extending range with new Vans design

Caillin Tomsu  
Reporter

Vans, a shoe company created by two brothers, has brought to life incredible shoes, no one had created before. Vans set the stage with flexible canvas shoes, that had comfort and an almost unlimited amount of choices of style and colors. The brand took over the skating scene in California and only grew to reach audiences around the nation. The shoe brand has taken over the scene again with an unforeseen style and colorway of shoe. Make way for: UltraRange Vans.

Vans are commonly known for canvas shoes, and the brand took advantage of this, introducing different styles and colorways and even allowing customization of the shoes. The brand had sales worth \$2.3 billion in 2015, and surpassed the brand giant, The North Face, according to Fortune. However, the brand recently released a completely new never before seen style of shoe done by Vans.

The brand transitioned away from the typical canvas shoe and created UltraRange Vans. These new shoes have a more sport appearance to them, mirroring a workout shoe. The style has more

comfort than the other shoes by the brand. There is intense cushions in the shoes to provide a perfect fit to anyones foot, and prevent aches in the feet while doing activities. The shoes also have a stronger grip on the bottom, a more responsive fit from the entire shoe. UltraRange Vans are completely versatile, and of course there are already multiple colorways to choose from, so everyone should be able to find a color suitable to them.

I fell in love with the UltraRange right as they were released, but did not get around to buying myself a pair, however my friend bought me a pair for my birthday.

I love the shoes even more, which I did not know was possible. For me, especially, any extra support in shoes is ideal because I have flat feet. When I stepped in the UltraRange I felt my feet floating on a cloud. The shoes also have great air circulation so I don't have to worry about nasty foot sweat or a horrendous smell if I wear the shoes all day, and of course the shoes are absolutely beautiful.

I currently have the mesh version of the shoe, making the side of the shoe slightly see through, through the vans logo, which is a rainbow. I found that rad because my shoes are super lightweight,

and you can actually see through them so I know that my feet are getting proper air circulation. I try to wear these shoes as much as possible, along with my other lengthy collection of vans. I plan on buying more variations of this style, because they look dope, air out my feet, and provide support for my flat arches.

The brand really outdid itself with this new creation. I give the shoes a 5/5 and would recommend them to anyone. There are so many options available, there should be no problem finding a pair that looks good on anyone while still maintaining that comfortable fit.



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# Making the most out of your summer

Brooklyn Anderson  
News Editor

On a hot summer day, students enjoy the nice weather by spending time to participate in their favorite summer activity. A few of these activities could be traveling, hanging out with friends, going out to eat, or other activities students will enjoy for this summer.

“My favorite summer activity is going swimming because I get to hangout with friends and not be in the house,” freshman Samantha Noland said.

A survey was sent out to students to see what kind of activities people enjoy for when school gets out. The survey gave five choices and there was an other choice where students put down what they did besides the five choices given. Two hundred and sixty-five people answered the survey and here are

some of their answers.

“I do a lot of marching band over the summer and I really enjoy being a part of it,” junior Matthew Davis said.

Traveling was the most chosen in the survey with a 35.5 percent. Out of 265, 94 chose traveling. Traveling is a good way to relax even if it’s a few minutes away from Nebraska or across the country. According to Green Heart Travel, there are benefits from traveling at a young age such as getting out of a comfort zone and having infinite amounts of opportunities for friendships, and getting to learn other cultures.

“My favorite summer activity is traveling,” freshman Joseph Seaman said.

Swimming was the second most chosen with a 20.4 percent which is 44 students out of 265. Swimming is a big summer activity that Bellevue has to offer in different parts

of the neighborhoods. Some students enjoy swimming at the lake as well as a pool. Swimming is a popular activity over the summer and students are able to swim as a sport or just for fun with friends and family. It is a great way to stay active over the summer.

“I like to swim because I feel like I can move easier in the water than I can on land,” freshman Jackson Carver said.

The last three choices are very similar when it comes to activities. There is a 20.3 percent which is also around 44 students who chose these activities. They included going to the zoo, going out to eat, and going to the movies. These activities are also popular in the Bellevue and Omaha area because there is a lot of good restaurants and the Henry Doorly Zoo is widely known for being a very entertaining zoo around the U.S. Twin Creek

Cinema is also another good choice for summer activities, especially with good movies coming out over the summer.

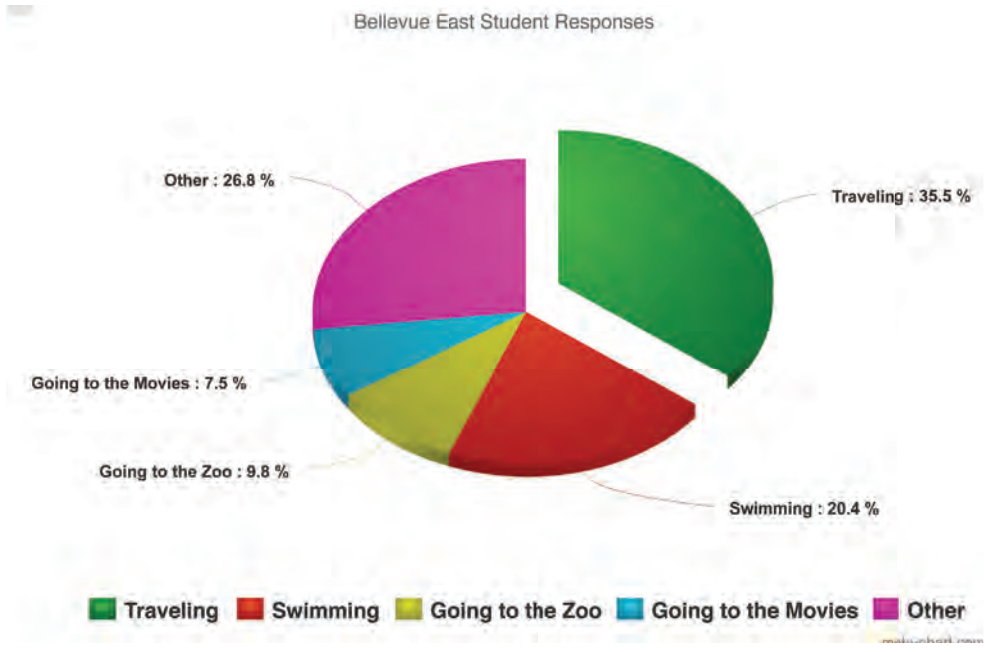
“My favorite part of the zoo is being able to be employed there as a train conductor and being able to meet people from all over the U.S, while riding the train all day,” junior Tyler Haney said.

Sixty-three students out of 265 chose other and gave what their favorite summer activity is. Some of them have marching band, playing a favorite sport, playing video games, and going outside. Summer time is a good vacation for everyone that is looking for a break to relax or enjoy their favorite summer activities.

“I like to read outside with some delicious ice cream,” senior Sarah Stoltenberg said.

## East students voice their favorite activities for summer fun

### Students claim their favorite activity to do is traveling; 265 student responses



## Positive body transformation through fitness

Carly Regnas  
Reporter

Healthy lifestyles are becoming more prevalent in society today, and it’s creating more jobs in the fitness industry and also pushing younger adults to be healthy like Jackson Drezelo.

For senior Jackson Drezelo, he’s made a significant change in his mental and physical state throughout is high school career. Once he started playing football freshman year, he started to gain more muscle and confidence throughout the process. Drezelo is going into the army this summer after graduation which gave him the motivation to start losing weight at a faster pace.

“I was 14 when I started lifting, and then fifteen, sixteen was when I started to get more serious in the gym,” Drezelo said.

When Drezelo started in his freshman year for weightlifting, he had an unhealthy lifestyle throughout his middle school and freshman year and he was eating fast food and drinking soda everyday. Now, he’s transitioned over to eating more at home. He cut out soda a few months ago and now has a regular workout schedule along with a strict diet to get the body he has been striving for.

“I’m joining the army so I obviously have to be in really good shape for that and I’ve lost a lot of weight since football because of the army cause I had to and I feel a lot better at this weight so I feel like my lifestyle is going to stay at this point cause I’m pretty addicted to staying in this shape and looking this good,” Drezelo said.

Through Drezelo’s whole journey his motivation has changed and he really has become a more driven person. With the years that have passed with football, shot put, and

now joining the army, he said he had a lot on his plate and this just gave him the fuel and drive to meet his goals. In his life also he has been surrounding himself with motivating people who keep him on the right track.

“At East, a lot of people, all my friends seeing them lift is motivating just to be in that atmosphere when everyone else going just as hard as you are, and if I’m going to a different gym like Bob’s or Offutt, usually

there’s guys there that are way bigger than me and it helps me set goals to be just as big as that guy,” Drezelo said.

With more confidence and motivating people in his life and a great diet and workout regimen, he’s made several of the changes that most of us strive for. He hasn’t just changed his body physically, he has also changed mentally. He finds that he is now more social and outgoing then he was before

he got into fitness.

“Go easy into it you don’t need to go all out go to the gym everyday and eat completely healthy,” Drezelo said. “If you eat fast food three times a day, just cut it down once or twice, then cut it down to zero, then slowly gradually get into it don’t just go all out ‘cause you’re gonna run out of steam and your gonna quit so you need to keep your drive up,” Drezelo said.



**Working it out** Senior Jackson Drezelo used to have trouble even running before he got more interested in fitness. He struggled in playing sports like football. “I used to always cry when they made us run in football. I was always the last one around whenever we ran. I was just a really out of shape kid,” Drezelo said. *Photo courtesy of Jackson Drezelo*



**Paying tribute** Standing in front of a wall celebrating the military service members, senior Jackson Drezelo shows off the muscles he gained through fitness. “I’m in a lot better shape now than I was before,” Drezelo said. *Photo courtesy of Jackson Drezelo*



# Carly's Corner last review: Pizza places

Carly Regnas  
Reporter

Carly's corner has done a lot of different stories in this past school year and this time I'm doing something a little different. Since I'm graduating in less than a month I wanted to end this year with a bang. What better way to end the year than having a big pizza party! It's not going really be a party though just me comparing 3 different types of pizza's and telling you which one I think is really worth it. I will be choosing one delivery, one carry out, and then be creating my very own homemade pizza and leaving you the recipe below so you can try it for yourself.

The two other pizzas I have chosen is Papa John's carry out and

Casey's pizza delivery. I really enjoy both of these pizza places. I just want to compare them in price, service, and flavor, also I want to see if I can make a better pizza homemade thats cheaper or if it's easier to just order it from a restaurant. For all three pizza's I'm going to do three different styles of crust, but the same toppings on each one cheese and pepperoni. So I ordered both of the pizzas then while they were waiting to be picked up and delivered I made my homemade pizza in the oven and I'll have the recipe down below.

So finally I had all of my pizza's the first pizza I tried was the Pizza Hut delivery pizza which was a large, stuffed crust pepperoni pizza. Honestly, I've always liked this pizza so I'm not gonna give it a bad

review and it also came quick for delivery. The second pizza I tried was my homemade pizza with just a classic crust covered with a delicious garlic basil butter, normal tomato sauce, and mozzarella and italian cheeses to top it off. I really like my pizza and it was something fun that I got to create myself and I love cooking so I enjoyed it a lot and also I enjoy my flavored crust over any other restaurant flavored crust. Then last, I tried Papa John's for my carry out pizza and It was super tasty and I haven't had Papa John's in a long time, but I definitely have missed it. Papa John's pizza sauce is more spicy and they have a garlic butter and banana pepper in the box that are both an amazing flavor combo for this pizza.

Although I do enjoy Papa John's and Pizza Hut, my homemade pizza is definitely delicious. I've taken crust flavors like Pizza hut and made them my own which really made me enjoy my pizza. But I do have to pick my favorite out of the three which is definitely a difficult choice but obviously I liked one of them better than the other. Now let me go over each of the pizza's and compare for you. First we have Papa John's, I really do enjoy this pizza but the pizza I got actually felt a bit undercooked it didn't that that nice crisp crust that I enjoy so much, but the crust was not well flavored at all and I did like how it had a little bit of the fire baked taste. Now we have Pizza Hut, this pizza was actually really good the pizza was thin all the way

up to the crust which I really loved then it was crisp and tasty, and then the crust, this was actually really good but it was a little sweet which weirded me out but all in all it was a good slice of pie. Lastly I tried my own homemade pizza, the crust I chose was an original crust then I used a pizza sauce, mozzarella/italian cheese, and pepperoni. I actually made my own flavoring for the crust was really good I would even cover just the crust in that garlic and basil butter with cheese and make a cheesy bread. My favorite pizza is actually the homemade one price wise it's cheaper than delivery and it's family fun that everyone should try it's fun and children would love it I give it a 5 out of 5 Ollie Heads and hope sometime maybe you try this, too.



**Pizza Showdown!** Senior Carly Regnas celebrates the last Carly's Corner by doing a pizza showdown comparing different pizza places and even one being homemade. "I really enjoyed doing Carly's Corner this past year and it's something I actually enjoyed doing since I'm a foodie. But since this is the last one before I graduate I wanted to try something different so I decided to compare three different pizza places," Regnas said. *Photo provided by Carly Regnas*



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2413 Wayne St. Bellevue, NE 68005

**Car Repair & Refurnishing**  
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John Westcott  
(402)-292-5585  
johnsbodyco@gmail.com

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