

SPARE 15 minutes SAVE three lives

Students and science club talk about what exactly goes into the September blood drive



Alex Solbrig

Donating blood can be extremely nerve wracking. The fear of someone sticking a needle into his or her arm and then drawing blood out, freaks a lot of people out.

There are countless excuses given to not donate, and people in science club and on the blood drive committee have heard them all. "There is a lot of planning that goes into the blood drive. We have a whole week dedicated to recruiting people to donate," said junior **Alex Solbrig**. The blood drive committee went from class to class and asked if anyone wanted to donate, so there was no inconvenience. "A lot of people come to get the free food and to get out of class," said Solbrig. The food and being able to get out of class was an incentive for the people who donate but being able to donate and save lives was the reward.

Donating gives you a feeling that is incomparable. "This blood drive was the first time I've donated because it was the first time I've been old enough. I was really nervous. It kind of hurt but not that bad," said junior **Zul Torres**. Even though it hurt it was well worth it. "I felt really good after I was done donating," said Torres.



Zul Torres



Joe Heirigs



Will Heirigs

To be able to donate you need to be 16. Which almost rules out the entire sophomore and freshmen class from donating. But not the Heirigs twins. "Since I'm only a sophomore I felt like I was setting the bar for the upperclassmen," said **Joe Heirigs**.

Only being a sophomore doesn't stop him from donating. "I wasn't nervous. Will was there so I kind of wanted to flex on him," said J. Heirigs.

His brother, sophomore **Will Heirigs**, had something a little different to say than his brother. "My favorite part was seeing my brother's face; it was really funny. He looked scared and pale," said W. Heirigs. These brothers prove there are always two sides to a story.

People who donate know the difference they are making while they are doing it. Whether it be doing it to give back to the community or competing against a sibling, giving blood is always worth it. "We tell people that they are really making a difference and saving lives," said Solbrig.

Story by Hannah Nicely

people of the blood drive

"I had the needle in my arm and for some reason Gunner [Avis] was just watching it. He was staring at me and holding my hand and then he let go.

Then I looked at him and he looked like he was dead. He said he blacked out for a second. I was scared getting my blood drawn, and Gunner wasn't even helping me. I think he was more scared than I was."

- **Ivori Bly '20**



Support



Never Again

"I had what they said was a severe reaction. It came on very suddenly. I felt fine then I didn't feel really well so they laid me down. Next thing I knew I woke up, turned to the side and started throwing up. I wasn't really scared when I woke up, I was just really confused. Nothing like this had ever happened before. I wanted to donate because I have received a blood transfusion before. This happens to like less than one percent of the population."

- **Mrs. Maggie Rietz**

"I was so excited when I finally got to my gallon. I donated eight times. I never double donated because I was too scared. The first time I donated it was on my left arm. My left arm went completely white and my right arm became red. It scared me but not enough to stop donating."

- **Andrew Lord '19**



Grad



First Timer

"It feels pretty cool knowing we saved a lot of people. Especially since this was the first year I was a part of it so I didn't really know what it was about. I didn't really know we had that much of an impact."

- **Hailey Stewart '20**



BLOOD SISTERS

Last year during the September blood drive, Mrs. Renee Lietz was undergoing a knee replacement. On that Friday, she was receiving a blood transfusion. The Thursday prior to her blood transfusion was West's blood drive. Lietz asked her nurse how likely it would be that her blood came from West and her nurse told her it was more than 100 percent likely. Only three people who donated had the same blood type as Lietz, one was senior Alexa Glandon.



"I felt very honored that I helped save Mrs. Lietz's life. Without the blood transfusion she probably wouldn't be as healthy as she is now. It helped show me what I'm doing actually matters. I got to see how direct it is when I donate blood. This showed me that I actually am saving lives. Having it be someone I know made me feel even better about giving blood."

- Alexa Glandon '19

"It's really cool and creepy at the same time. It was like 'wow'. It was mind boggling. Normally you never know where the blood is coming from. There are always thousands of donors and then when someone tells you it's probably Alexa Glandon '19, Andrew Lord '19, or Rebecca Casad (graduate), it's hard to even understand. I work with them all on blood drive or I had them in class. All I could think is just 'Wow are you kidding me?'. My students have done the right thing giving back to the community and then when they know it went directly to me, I think it makes them feel really good."

- Mrs. Renee Lietz



Good Feeling. Gillian Collins '20 is being supported by Cassidy Eastin '19, Mrs. Lietz, Izzy Sheumaker '19, and Emma Bernick '19. This was Collins' first time donating. "I feel really good when I'm donating because I'm doing a good thing. But also at the same time I feel really sick, but it's really worth it because someone is getting saved. I was really scared because I'm prone to passing out," said Collins.

Photo by Keegan Kennedy



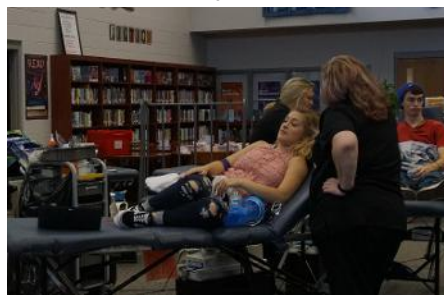
A Big Help. Chloe Mohr '20 is donating blood for her first time ever. She was nervous but got the job done. "I feel like I'm making a difference in the community. I've only donated once but everyone made sure that I knew I was a helping a lot," said Mohr.

Photo by Keegan Kennedy



Double Donater. Ethan Gabriel '19 is nearing his gallon, and he is very eager to get there. Gabriel donated two pints at the last blood drive. "I donate two pints when I donate most of the time. It feels really nice donating, especially when I do double. My favorite part of donating is the snacks afterwards like the cookies and juice," said Gabriel.

Photo by Keegan Kennedy



Queezy and Wheezy. Lexi Boyer '20 donates even though she doesn't feel the best while doing it. Although it is normal, she was very dizzy. "I feel really woozy. I give blood because I'm just helping out, and I feel like I'm giving back to the community. I know that I'm doing something good. I'm not getting anything back in return," said Boyer.

Photo by Keegan Kennedy



No Needles Please. Gunner Avis '19 is no help to his friend Ivori Bly '20 when she is donating. Avis fainted at the sight of the needle. "I passed out, and I didn't even donate. I was there supporting Ivori Bly. I was watching her get blood drawn and I told Tina [Hildebrant] I needed a water and then I just fainted," said Avis.

Photo by Tina Hildebrant

