



BREAK IT DOWN Kiana Phipps '21 dances with the cheer team as they perform their new hip hop routine during the football game against City High Sept. 4. "Cheer has always been fun, but adding something new to it makes it much more enjoyable," Phipps said.

All photos by Alyssa Skala



CELEBRATING EACH OTHER Fabian Brown '21 and Trey King '21 celebrate after a great play for the Trojans against Kennedy High for senior night Oct. 9. "Nothing feels better than celebrating with your team after an amazing play," King said.



MASKED UP AND READY Junior Leigha Pacha looks up towards the student section during the Fight Song pregame on senior night against Kennedy Oct. 9. "Being on the track so close to the game is an amazing feeling. Even with this year being like no other year, we still are making it the best as possible," Pacha said.

TOGETHER BUT SEPARATE Due to state regulations and CDC guidelines, the student section was required to maintain social distancing at the football game Oct. 9. The students still kept spirits high for their first home game by giving two thumbs up.

WE ARE LIKE NO OTHER.

Students of West High join together to have as much normalcy as possible in a year unlike any other. After West reopened and limited the number of fans permitted to the Trojan student section, the student body bounced back with high spirits, ready to cheer on the sports teams and embrace the community of students and staff

"[Being back] is honestly kind of crazy. We never thought we would be able to get the chance to be back in the student section, so we are just so grateful that we can be back in those bleachers cheering on the athletes [at] West," said Schuyler Houston '21, one of the student section leaders.

When the school board universally decided that, due to the high positivity rate in Johnson County, they would hold classes fully online for the start of the school year, many students were worried they wouldn't have a normal school and extracurricular experience. After three weeks of fully online learning, the positivity rates declined, and the district allowed students who chose the hybrid

model to start in-person classes. Many students were excited to return to the West High building. Eager to be back in school, hybrid students were split into two groups to help with social distancing. Students with last names A-K were in the A group, meeting Mondays, Tuesdays and alternating Wednesdays. Students with last names L-Z were in the B group, meeting Thursdays, Fridays and alternating Wednesdays.

"Having students back in school is wonderful because every adult in this building loves their job because of the students," said Interim Principal Mitch Gross. "Having the students back also adds a level of responsibility as we will do whatever it takes to keep our students safe."

With the school uniting either virtually or masked up in person, the year like no other has found some normalcy. The students, staff and faculty are connected through thick and thin, while reinforcing community values like no other.



TROJAN PRIDE Senior Claire Gienapp holds the last motion of the Trojan fight song during halftime Sept. 4 at a football game against City High.



HUG IT OUT West High feature twirler Lizzy Slade '21 poses with City High baton twirler Josie Gillette '21 during their halftime show performance Oct. 23.



LET'S GET LOUD The West High volleyball team cheers loudly from the benches after a kill by Melae Lacy '24 Oct. 1 against City High. Lacy is a rising star for the Trojans volleyball team, playing at the varsity level as a freshman. "I'm excited to see how much I can improve and challenge myself playing at a higher level," Lacy said.



DRUM IT UP Sebastian Cochran '21 performs at halftime Oct. 30 with the drumline. "This year was sadly not like other years. Drumline was the only part of marching band that could be played with a mask on. My favorite part of drumline is how it's carefree and how we always put each other and fun first," Cochran said.