

# THE VOX

Kali Gamerdinger,  
senior.



Forster fights to finish his track season strong with his team. **5**

How to deal with those annoying Facebook notifications for parties. **2**

Find out the story behind freshman Solomon Groothuis' persona, one that includes love, loss, and adoption. **14**

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Brittany Miller, junior, attempts to steal the ball from another player before passing to a teammate down the field in the JV girls' soccer game. The girls won the game against their opponents, the Jefferson JHawks, on the evening of Monday April 27th.

## 1D helping fix all the 'Little Things'

Brett Wheeler tells how One Direction has changed his life forever.

By: Alex Coleman @Its\_GalPalAI

Imagine never being able to see anything but pitch black. No more looking at the green buds on the tips of the freshly reviving trees for them. No faces of a best friend. Imagine relying on another's eyesight to deal with any day to day tasks. This is the life of Brett Wheeler, a sophomore at Marion High School. According to his mother, Jennifer Wheeler, the most comforting thing about Brett's condition is he was born with it. "He's never seen, so he doesn't know what he's missing. The whole world is beautiful to Brett," explained Mrs. Wheeler.

Born at 23 weeks, the doctors did not expect Wheeler to live past five minutes. Once he did, there were some obvious health problems to go along with the miracle. "Brett was on a feeding tube for eleven and a half years," said Mrs. Wheeler. For the entirety of those years, young Wheeler spent two days a week at eating therapy, trying to figure out a solution to the problem: his lack of ability to eat with his mouth. They'd tried everything they could possibly think of, but nothing seemed to work. Finally, his therapist had an idea, remembering in 2012, Brett started developing an obsession with something that was taking the world by storm-One Direction. He listened to their music relentlessly, finding a comfort in throwing



Brett Wheeler, sophomore, holds his 1D guitar pillow in his room surrounded by all of his 1D posters.

himself into the catchy melodies. "My favorite song is Little Things," Wheeler stated, "it's just so beautiful. I love the sound of the guitar; sometimes I don't understand how people can play and make it sound so pretty."

One day, Wheeler's therapist went to find her laptop, and on nothing but a whim began to type in something that would change his life forever. "She just google searched One Direction's favorite foods. She went down the list of all of them, but all I can remember is her first saying that Harry's favorite was sweet corn. I don't even know if that's true or not, all that mattered is that Brett wanted to try it. His therapist was kind of like 'oh, well we've got some corn here if you want some', and right then that day, Brett ate for the first time," Mrs. Wheeler commented. After an understandable amount of tears, and an overwhelming sense of joy, they began to undergo the task of continuing down this new and exciting path. Within a few months, Wheeler had tried every food on the list, and then some. He even developed favorite foods of his own and a hatred towards chocolate. Before they knew it, they were able to take the device out. "He requested that Little Things be playing in the background as they were removing the tube, and after a whole lot of us both crying and praying, the tube was out. After that, I guess the best way to explain it is that he prayed to One Direction, and out loud he said 'Thank you for inspiring me in everything and changing my life,'" Mrs. Wheeler went on to say.

The phenomenon did not stop there. After the therapeutic treatment worked in one area of Wheeler's life, other people began to have a few ideas of their own. "Brett struggled with learning braille for a really long time. One of his Special Ed teachers at the school heard about how One Direction had worked for the feeding tube, and decided if it could work there, why couldn't it work for learning braille? She told him that for every sentence he could decode in braille, he would get one random fact about One Direction. I think you can guess who's a whiz at braille now," Mrs. Wheeler joked.

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## Sending Sahn to Springs

By: Chloe Mallon @Chhhloe17

Summertime: that wonderful time of year where students everywhere get to relax for three months and not worry about having to do their math homework, study for spanish tests, or cram for an AP final.

As Summer approaches faster and faster, seniors are making all of their final plans as to where they're attending school next year and how they're going to pay for it. The majority of students in high school attend college in state, mostly because of price.

A handful of students get amazing scholarship opportunities, in which if they go to college out of state they don't have to pay very much.

Amanda Sahn, senior, was offered a once in a lifetime chance to go halfway across the country and do what she loves.

Sahn has played volleyball for Marion since she was in sixth grade. When first joining the sport, she didn't realize how much it would mean to her. "It looked like a really fun sport," Sahn commented. "I wanted to join, and loved it when I started."

Ever since she was 12 years old, her love for the sport of volleyball has only grown.

Incorporating Sahn's love for volleyball, and her desire to attend a great college, Gardner-Webb University in Boiling Springs, North Carolina, offered her a full ride scholarship to play volleyball for them. "Great school and some great volleyball," Sahn said with a grin.

She will be playing as a defensive specialist at her new college. "I'm so excited for where this new adventure will take me, and how different it will be," Sahn said. "I'm not that nervous right now about moving away from everything, but I'm sure it will hit me soon."

Moving away from everything you've ever known is obviously going to be a hard transition, but Sahn is taking it like a champ. "Of course, I'll miss my family and friends. I'll really miss my mom, and just always having her there. I'm excited and nervous for the new independence I'm going to have." Sahn said.

Whether seniors are going to a small college nearby or opening up to bigger opportunities in a different state, college is a life changing experience that one will never forget.



Amanda Sahn, senior, jump sets to Olivia Frazier, junior, during a varsity volleyball tournament at Mt. Vernon.

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