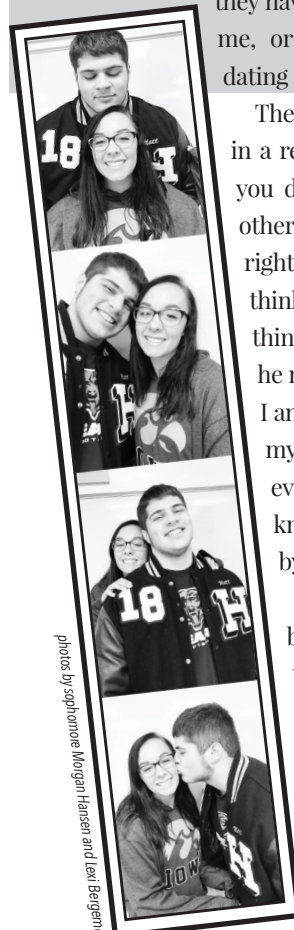


Let's talk relationships

with kinda The Newlyweds

by senior Hailey Elder

I've had the same boyfriend since I was 12. Some think that this a mistake. It's not that they have a problem I'm dating "him". It's that they have a problem with me, or really any teen, dating at all.



They think that being in a relationship makes you dependent on another person. They're right- it does. And I think that is a good thing. I need him, and he needs me. Though I am capable of living my life without him, every day is better knowing I have him by my side.

Some might say being in a relationship is distracting. In a way, it is. Yet again, I think that is a good thing. I have someone who distracts me from

the stress of high school by taking me out for Chinese. I have someone to distract me from my bad day by making me laugh. I have someone that distracts me from my imperfections because he tells me I am beautiful.

Many assume having a boyfriend makes me less driven to reach my goals and accomplish my aspirations. But honestly, I think it means I am more likely to achieve them. When it comes to my dreams, I have someone that believes in me and supports me. A relationship is a team. He pushes me to be my best, and I push him to be his best.

For those that think being in a relationship is too expensive, especially for high school boys, I would like to remind them that the 1950s are long gone. He's a boy, not a bank. I'm capable of paying for myself. Besides, I don't value my relationship on what he can buy for me, but rather the mutual love and support we have for each other.

So yes, I am in a high school relationship, and it has been great. I wouldn't change a thing.

the dating game



98% of the students polled said dating is okay in high school

"I think that you should date when you are younger so later in life you can have kids and a career. Plus, if you are dating the person of your dreams you should want to spend as much time with them as possible."

- freshman Jared King

"It really depends on what their parents say, how mature they are, how they are doing with other relationships, and if they are excelling before they add more stress into their lives."

- sophomore Kacie Herring

Upsides to dating

"You can find true love."
- sophomore Beau Gilson

"There is always someone there for you."
- senior Taylor Steiner

Downsides to dating

"You may never know when to leave if it gets tough."
- junior Madison Danielson

"I think it is a waste of money and time."
- senior Andrew Mohr



Let's talk the single life

with kinda The Bachelorette

by senior Abby Lashbrook

I live in a world where I am told I should be ashamed on February 14th. While others are having their romantic gifts delivered and planning dreamy dinner dates, I plan to spend the day with endless episodes of Gossip Girl and 24/7 fridge service, all in the comfort of my own home. And I sincerely love it.

I get the freedom to walk around the house in my luxury 200-thread-count robe, not caring who sees me because I have no one to impress. It's great! And these are but a few

of the many benefits that the single life entails. While others who have significant others get tokens of affection, I have something I value more than any box of chocolates- time. I have more than enough time to do whatever I want, whenever I want. It. Rocks.

What I love most about the single life is that I have the time to find myself and learn who I am. In doing so, I have found out that I can be independent. I can handle anything on my own.

We all know someone who seems to have

a constant need to fill a void in their life, so they choose to find someone (really just anyone) to "complete" them. But in my 18 years of single-dom, I have learned that I do not need to find someone to complete me. I complete myself.

I am strong, I am independent, and I am confident. And when I do find "The One", I will make us stronger because being single has made me stronger.

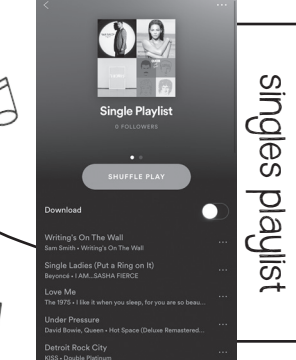
So, to all those single people out there, don't give in to societal pressures that tell you that you need to be in a relationship. Embrace being single.

Love it while it lasts because who knows, maybe tomorrow you'll meet "The One". But for now, treat yourself like the only one.



"I love 'Yours' by Russel Dickerson because it's about finding 'The One.'"
- junior Jaden Engel

"'Writing's On The Wall' by Sam Smith is on my singles playlist because it reminds me of James Bond."
- sophomore Jake Burgett



relationship advice

for high school students by high school students

"Find someone that treats you with respect and someone that you want to be around."
- freshman Jessica Regenwether

"Be honest, trusting and respectful."
- freshman Ashton Lawrence

"Find someone that makes you happy, someone you are able to talk to and easily get along with."
- junior Rachel Bauler

"Choose someone that you're comfortable with and that has similar interests and hobbies."
- freshman Sam Hansen

"Just simply be yourself."
- junior Jacob Murray

"Stay true to your morals and don't let your partner's opinions influence your own."
- senior Emma Yoder

"Date someone who has the same values as you do."
- junior Emily Boote