



In most stories about a person of the LGBT community, their “coming out story” is usually a vague gap of time; but for sophomore Natalie Huber it was one exact moment.

In-between third and fourth grade, they started watching their first anime. Little did they know it would lead to their discovering something about them self. “I’d definitely say it was pretty weird because the other girl I was watching it with had a crush on one of the boys while I started to have a crush on one of the girls,” Huber said. Since then they have come out as bisexual and non-binary,

meaning they are attracted to both genders and prefers they/them/their pronouns.

During fourth grade, Huber went to a Catholic school where being a part of the LGBT community was frowned

upon. Even though they were only about nine at the time, they knew something was different.

“I was confused, of course. I was in fourth grade, I was like, ‘why does who you love matter?’” Huber said.

As they grew up and the world changed around them, people were growing more accustomed to the LGBT community. But, it is far from perfect when it comes to stereotypes and assumptions about

bisexual individuals. There is an assumption that people who identify as bisexual are doing it just for attention or it’s just a way to feel special. Huber disagrees. “I don’t personally feel being non-binary makes me any different than anyone else, it’s just a thing.”

They say “sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me,” but sometimes words can hurt quite a bit. For someone who may be reading this and afraid of coming out in fear of what people will say, Huber

“Why does who you love matter?”  
- Huber

has a message for you. “Don’t listen to family and friends who are saying you’re wrong for what you are because honestly, there’s nothing you can do about it; just

as long as you’re happy and no one’s getting hurt, have fun... just do what makes you happy.”

les-bi-an

A lesbian is a homosexual woman: a woman who experiences romantic love or sexual attraction to other women. The term lesbian is also used to express sexual identity or sexual behavior regardless of sexual orientation, or as an adjective to characterize or associate nouns with female homosexuality or same-sex attraction

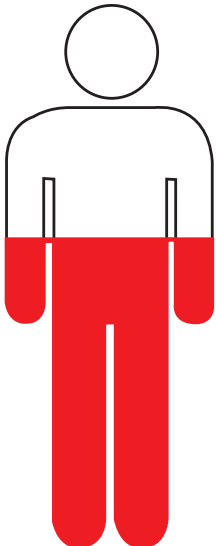
Gay is a term that primarily refers to a homosexual person or the trait of being homosexual. The term was originally used to mean “carefree”, “happy”, or “bright and showy”.

Bisexuality is romantic attraction, sexual attraction, or sexual behavior toward both males and females, or romantic or sexual attraction to people of any sex or gender identity.

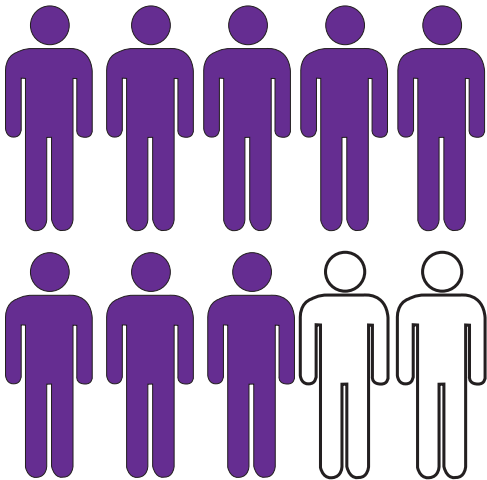
Transgender people have a gender identity or gender expression that differs from their assigned sex. Being transgender is independent of sexual orientation

YOUTH

64% of youth are out to their classmates



4 in 10 youth say the community in which they live in is not accepting of LGBT people



Over 3 quarters of youth (75%) say they know things will get better

Statistic information courtesy hrc.org

# “Honestly, we are just like you”

LGBTQ+

## 3 profiles on members of the LGBT community and stereotypes they face.

Mya Alexander, Editor

The definition of transgender is “denoting or relating to a person whose sense of personal identity does not correspond with the gender assigned to them at birth,” and that is how freshman Sam Meade identifies. He knew this around seventh grade. “I just felt more comfortable as a male because when I was little I would always be girly and like dresses... Once I realized what society does against girls I just realized I’m more comfortable as a male,” Meade said.

Coming out for some people is harder than others, but for Meade, it meant dealing with his church too. When he came out to his friends and family, they all accepted him with open arms, then his grandmother gave him a piece of advice. “My grandma told me not to tell my church so I wouldn’t get crap for it,” Meade said.

At church it was to be a secret that he was transgender. Along

with keeping the secret from his church, it’s almost like a secret has to be kept from members of the LGBT community about going to church too. “A lot of people think

you’re a part of LGBT community so you don’t believe in God or you’re an atheist. I believe in God, but I’m also part of the LGBT community, therefore it’s hard because I get crap from both sides,” Meade said.

Being atheist isn’t the only thing assumed about transgender people. There is also the assumption that they don’t like the sex they are changing from, like a male changing to a female is assumed to dislike males. “Yes, I like females, but



I’m not comfortable being one,” Meade said.

There is also the idea that once someone transitions, they are going to start dressing differently or have a sudden makeover, Meade wants to assure that that is not true for all people, he explains how people may like whatever clothes they choose. “Most people like guy stuff or like girl stuff and that’s okay because that’s their opinion and if you act on it that’s on you,” Meade said.



Les Kile is a sophomore at North High School and is just like you and me, but with only one difference, he, along with other individuals identify as gay. Some people may think this means so much more than it does. “The only difference is us boys like boys and that’s it,” Kile said.

Being gay comes with many

stereotypes, one of the main ones being “all boys think we’re after them and, honestly, we’re not,” he said. Kile experienced this from both his peers and strangers around him.

He explained how there was the assumption that once males found out he was gay, they automatically went to “oh, so you have a crush on me”.

But Kile wants to make it clear that that is absolutely not what he wants. “Stay chill with me. Don’t take me the wrong way. Honestly, we are just like you,” Kile said,

speaking to anyone who believed in that stereotype.

If you aren’t a student at North, then it may seem like a very accepting school; while it is, there are still underlying issues like the stereotypes mentioned above. However, over the last year things have been getting better for Kile. “My first year here everybody was a little weird about me... now that I got on the dance team and all this stuff I feel like they’re growing to it,” Kile said.

At North, the students and faculty are all growing more diverse and culturally aware. He hopes his story will help North get a little closer to becoming fully accepting.