

# Behind the scenes



Scan the QR code to access sophomore Natalie Wilson's video of one night with the marching band. Go to [pantherstale.com/75730/news/behind-the-scenes-with-the-derby-marching-band/](http://pantherstale.com/75730/news/behind-the-scenes-with-the-derby-marching-band/)



Left: Junior Kela Schnelle helps collect front ensemble instruments for the football game. Center: Senior Samantha Lees, middle, practices before the show with the band. Right (from left): Shelby Getchell, Cassie Vargas, Alivia Turner and Emma Baldwin walk out onto field. Photos by Natalie Wilson

# Creating healthy relationships in classes

STORY BY NIK SHAY

It's normal to have a favorite teacher. A teacher who, when you walk into their classroom, brightens up your day.

But these relationships can sometimes go too far. On Oct. 18, Cody Chitwood, a former special education teacher at Derby Middle School, was sentenced to three years of probation in a child pornography case.

Chitwood faced 11 counts of sexual exploitation of a child, and pleaded guilty to two of them.

His is an extreme case, but does it serve as a warning about student-teacher relationships?

"I think that teachers should be able to recognize when a student is getting too close to them," junior Naomi Island said. "... Let them know that they're in a professional setting and not to take the

relationship so far."

There is a line that should not be crossed. Sometimes, the line is tough to find.

"If it doesn't pertain to schoolwork in that class and you are like, telling the teacher about your personal life, I think that's where you should draw the line," Island said. "I don't think that teachers and students should have relationships where they are talking about things that are happening in their own personal lives."

Kids will tell teachers about serious aspects of their life, including abuse, rape, medical problems and home issues.

Teachers are mandatory

reporters because their job is to protect students.

Teachers are still wary of these types of relationships, however.

"I think just knowing your boundaries, and just being aware of that, so like, there's definitely a professional point that you need to make sure that you're maintaining," teacher Dianna Beck said. "But you also need to remember that you are an adult in a situation at all times, and that you're in a leadership position and that you're also in a position of power."

Relationships with teachers are necessary in the

classroom, however.

They can provide stability in the classroom along with bolstering overall attitude.

"I think I try really hard to just show mutual respect with them. So like if you open that door of mutual respect and a lot of times, you can open up conversations then that kind of thing naturally just starts to build," Beck said.

If a student is uncomfortable, there are options at the school.

"I think in that situation, if they felt like a comment was made to them, or they heard something



ILLUSTRATION BY NIK SHAY

from a teacher, I think they would want to go to a safe person that they trust," DHS social worker Stacie Hadley said. "... Then that same person can take them to admin, and whatever principals would then be able to address the situation.

"But they definitely have to say something."

# Applications, FAFSA, scholarships, oh my

STORY BY VY NGUYEN AND HALEY WAUGHTAL

When the deadline of Nov. 1 approached for early action and early decision dates, many seniors scrambled to submit applications for certain colleges and scholarship programs.

"I'm applying to KU, OU, University of Washington, Johns Hopkins, Northeastern, Boston, and UChicago," senior Alyssa Baker said.

While some seniors are applying to a long list of colleges, others are choosing to apply to a few.

"I'm applying to KU and Penn State," senior Anna Lin said.

She added: "It is stressful thinking about college and whether or not I will get into a certain school. But the actual process is not very difficult and is easier than what I always expected."

Whether it's applying through priority applications that are directly from a college or through larger platforms like the Common App or the Coalition, the

application process is fairly predictable.

"Most of it is just putting in information," senior Eric Sprecker said. "It can get boring, but using the Common App has saved a lot of time."

While many in-state colleges have rolling admissions — where students can apply at any time — there are also other colleges that have regular decision deadlines ranging from Jan. 1 - Jan. 4.

But some of the stress that comes with these deadlines can be minimized.

"Do it (apply to college) as soon as you can," counselor Joaquin Zapata said. "Most applications take 20-30 minutes. In today's world, you don't have to write essays that much anymore for KU and K-State."

In addition to filling out the required applications for a particular school, students are recommended to apply for scholarships and federal aid — both of which can lower the cost of college.

"Many times here at Derby High School, we have

hundreds of dollars that go unclaimed," Zapata said. "We need people to apply to those scholarships

"... Along with that, you need to do your FAFSA as soon as possible because, a lot of times, you may or may not know you qualify for a lot of money that you don't have to pay back. The FAFSA is for college, so it could mean cosmetology school, barber school, technical school, community college, career college."

Whether it's a question about the Common App or FAFSA, students can turn to DHS counselors for help.

"If students stumble across any issues or have any concerns about applying to a school or scholarship, we are here to help guide you through your college apps," Zapata said. "There is a lady here (Daneen Simoneau) that will get you started (on the FAFSA) and if you really need help, she will sit down with you one-on-one and help you get it done."

# KAY builds character

STORY BY AIMEE PENKA

Character building, community service skills and leadership training is what KAY club provides students with to further better our school and community.

KAY club, also otherwise known as The Kansas Association For Youth, is directed by teachers Megan MacKay and Dianna Beck, who lead the way for students to make a world of difference for current and future generations.

"I love that we get to go out and help make our community better by doing

the smallest things and putting smiles on peoples faces," junior Alivia Turner said.

Donating to the blessing box, which is a free pantry where people of Derby donate food for those in need, collecting pop tabs

for the Ronald McDonald house, and appreciation projects for the military are just a few of the many acts of service the club participates in.

"We do little projects in the school such as student and teacher appreciation, as well as donating gifts to local children's homes and firefighters in the area," junior Naomi Island said.

Club members are currently working on their yearly community service project by collecting items and toys to help parents in third world countries give their children a Christmas.

KAY club members also attended a regional conference at Goddard High on Nov. 9 as a way to share and exchange challenges and ideas, while also recognizing clubs for previous years' accomplishments and electing new area leaders.

"What I love most about being in KAY club is the connections with people all around Kansas that I can make. With making connections, I make friends, and there might be opportunities that I have access to that I didn't before," KAY president Shallon McGowan said.

KAY club allows students to help the community and develop lifetime leadership skills.

"We always have a lot of fun with each other and are able to not only just have a great time together but also make broader changes," Island said. Not just the areas in which we work, but also across the nation in the world as a whole."



KAY attended a regional conference on Nov. 9.

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# QUIRKY QUESTIONS



**Q:** What time do you wake up?

**A:** "I wake up at 6 a.m. because it gives me time to do what I need to do in the morning," sophomore Desmond Reed said.



**Q:** What is your favorite class?

**A:** "Band, because it gets me up in the morning," sophomore Ariauna Stewart said.



**Q:** Who is your favorite teacher?

**A:** "My favorite teacher in high school would have to be Carrie Sharpe. she asks me all the time if I'm OK, she makes sure that I'm not stressing out about schoolwork, and she really pays attention," sophomore Paris Rasico said.



**Q:** What is your favorite hobby?

**A:** "Traveling and visiting new places, because I like meeting new people and doing new things," senior Natalia Kurek Luniewska said.



**Q:** What phone do you have?

**A:** "I have an iPhone XS," freshman Ayden Bohaty said.