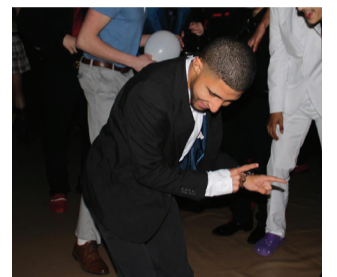


## Having a ball at Snow Ball



Top left: Junior Aaden Hope, left, and junior Kenidi Lowmaster raise their hands while dancing in the middle of a crowd. Photo by Sophia Edmonson. Top right: Sophomores Madison Johnson, Addison Struble, Audriana Chandler and junior Emerson Godwin stop mid-dance and pose. Photo by William Henderson. Bottom: Flashlights and hands are up as students scream and shout the lyrics to a song. Photo by Ayanna Wright

Seniors Thu Le, left, and Cooper Chadwick win Snow Ball queen and king. Photo by Sophia Edmonson

Top: Senior Calvin Russell takes the floor in a dance circle. Photo by Ayanna Wright, Bottom: Sophomore Boston Dunn does the griddy. Photo by Anita Phandara

# Gaps in education

Story by Maggie Elliott

In February 1970 Kent State became the first school in America to teach Black history. Six years later, Black History month was recognized in schools across the country.

However, in 2023, instead of more progress, states like Florida are going in reverse. In January the Florida Department of Education blocked AP African American Studies from being taught in high schools and colleges.

The College Board was informed by the Florida Department of Education that it would not be approved unless certain changes are made.

Florida isn't the only one. At DHS no classes exist that involve learning about cultures other than the Europeans.

"Two years ago as department chair, I made a request for an African American U.S. history class," social studies teacher Kendal Warkentine said. "It had been hinted at various times, but as far as we know, nothing was done with it with the college board."

There has been a rise of interest to have the class.

"There is a desire to teach the class. We have two teachers who said they were willing to teach the class," Warkentine said. "We can't get an answer, and if the board tells us no, that would be one thing. But we hear silence."

According to AP Students, African American studies teaches the history, culture, economics and politics of North American people of African descent.

There are many holes in history lessons re-

garding Black history and Native American history, whether it's been watered down or "erased" completely.

Such as the Tulsa massacre when a prospering black neighborhood was burned down. The Trail of Tears when 6,000 Native Americans died due to being forced off their land and marched 1,200 miles.

Or Juneteenth a holiday celebrated to show respect to the freeing of enslaved people in 1862, and Indigenous Day, a celebration honoring Indigenous culture and history.

"There have been some other classes we've requested that we also haven't heard from. There are some classes that the board has acted on right away," Warkentine said. "We requested two AP courses. AP Seminar and research and within two months those went to the board



Illustration by Maggie Elliott

History classes haven't always told the full story of America's past and have focused primarily on European culture.

and were approved."

According to Drexel University, students who learn about other cultures will become more comfortable and confident when interacting with other social groups.



Photo by Brielle Gilliland  
Custodian Joey Jennings, left, reaches students often left out.

## Jennings builds connections

Story by Brielle Gilliland

If holding positive relationships with students were a super power, it would be custodian Joey Jennings's.

"It is nice to have an adult who is actually nice," sophomore Churro King said.

Jennings has a knack for connecting with students who often feel left out.

"I trust him a lot, and I always feel seen and heard when I talk to him," sophomore Grace Summers said.

Jennings was a drama/Dungeons and Dragons kid.

"I love when kids I have never met say 'hello' to me in the hallways. I don't know them but I can't wait to see them the next day," Jennings said.

## Best of the best

Story by Nik Shay

A flood of emotions engulfed senior Jayden Island when they heard they won the Harry Gore Memorial Scholarship from Wichita State.

Island was one of three people — out of 500 competitors — who received a \$64,000 scholarship. There were 14 finalists.

"I'm extremely grateful for the selection committee choosing me to be a representative at WSU," Island said. "And to the Gore family for donating to our academic success."

Freshman year WSU has been planned out by Island.

"I plan on joining the first-year research experience program and furthering my research studies at the biological sciences department," they said. "I am also getting my minor in philosophy."

As far as high school, though, Island has achieved so much.

"I think my academic success over my years at DHS are a contributing factor (to winning the scholarship)," they said. "I've also been involved in a lot of extracurricular activities and had a lot of successes in international competitions, like (Health Occupations Students of America) and the National Speech and Debate Association."

On top of that, Island temporarily led the National Honor Society during a sponsor change and sees their selfless actions on top of their academic success as a chance to further themselves as a person.



## Subs stick around

Story by Nik Shay and Luis Lozano

Because of a shortage of teachers, substitutes have been placed in classes long term.

College Psychology students do online work through WSU Tech since no teacher in DHS is certified to teach it at the college level.

"A lot of teachers got out of the teaching profession," principal Tim Hamblin said. "Far less young people are choosing to go into it. So there is a teacher shortage."

Why are there fewer teachers?

"I believe that the ridicule, the scrutiny, the harassment in some situations, from parents, and administrators, or school boards, all of those things, I think contribute to people reassessing what it is

they're going to do," Hamblin said.

Tanai Brumbelow subbed in different classes last year before becoming a long-term sub this year.

"Basically, we have a guideline to follow, the curriculum to follow and then I'll look at that and then kind of put something together that my students can do," she said.

Hamblin works with every possible outlet to find subs.

Things seem to be running smoothly with the long-term subs.

"I knew their abilities were there to manage the classroom and student behaviors," Hamblin said.

"... I think we're in better shape with these four people than we could have been."

## Kids in the hall: Do you feel safe at school?



"I'm surrounded by friends constantly. I feel pretty safe," sophomore Carson McQuaig said.



"I feel as if something were to happen, the adults in the school would protect me," freshman Jordan Hostettler said.



"The older grades are a little better at being more mature and stuff like that, but the younger grades are a little more immature about things," sophomore Corbin Tauer said.



"Honestly, I'm kind of glad that the teachers kept it lowkey that there was actually a grenade in the school. I guess just a 50/50 to be honest," senior Teresa Henken said.



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