

Panther's Tale

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A look inside...



Page 3: Check out junior Xavier Zamora's action figure photography and art

Newspaper Index

Cover	01
Designed by Reese Cowden	
Student Life	02
Designed by Nik Shay	
Entertainment	03
Designed by Larry Marczynski	
Sports	04
Designed by William Henderson	



Photo by Sophia Edmonson
Principal Tim Hamblin has resigned after nearly 30 years in the Derby school district.

Hamblin resigns for job in Wichita schools

Story by Nik Shay

Tim Hamblin announced on April 18 that he had resigned after 13 years as DHS principal to be the Executive Director of College and Career, Readiness for Wichita Public Schools.

"Originally my plan was to do so at the conclusion of the 2025 school year, but recently I made the decision to adjust that time feeling it is more responsible for my family that I am proactive now rather than reactive in 2025," Hamblin wrote in an email to staff and students.

Hamblin, who also taught at Derby for 15 years and is a 1984 grad, made an impact.

"He's the most inclusive and understanding authoritative figure at our school," junior Mattie Rhea said. "When he leaves, things are going to get worse for outcasts at our school."

Even for a senior, there was sadness at the announcement.

"I'm pretty surprised," senior Vryah Morgan said. "I expected him to be the DHS principal for at least another 10-ish years. It's sad he's

leaving. Hamblin is a great principal, but I'm glad he's taking advantage of this new opportunity."

Senior Lexi Mullen agreed.

"I was definitely a little shocked and we'll all be sad to see him go," she said. "But he's been a wonderful principal and I wish him the best in his future endeavors. It's hard to imagine Derby without him."

Hamblin focused on traditions, including the bell — freshmen touch it on their first day, seniors ring it on their last.

He's grateful for his nearly 30 years at DHS — and everything Derby Public Schools offered him.

"The memories and relationships I formed and the influences on my life from this experience are too numerous to express," he wrote in an email. "All of my youth and most of my adult life have been associated with Derby Public Schools and Derby High School. I am forever grateful to those that have presented opportunities for me and supported me during my life here."

WHERE'D ALL THE TIME GO



Illustration by Larry Marczynski

GO Class of 2023 is on the brink of graduation. Here's some of their missing experiences, advice to underclassmen and whether high school lived up to the movies.

Story by Larry Marczynski

Have you seen our experiences? The Class of 2023 just didn't get much of what we expected because, honestly, Covid messed up our four years.

A senior prank is a tradition most schools do, something where the seniors can make their mark.

"I think it's a really fun tradition for the seniors and is always a fun way to end the year," senior Chloe Enslinger said. "I think that something like that could have been really fun."

The school year's not over yet, and there's still stuff to do.

"I am trying to plan a senior sunset. I'm hoping we can go through with it because I think it would be good for our class," Enslinger said.

A senior prank isn't the only thing missed. Prom was in the gym. Again.

"I wish we did an after-prom (party)," senior Blayne Albright said.

As a senior many try to do as much as possible, experience everything they can, but they still wish they did more.

"I wish I went to more sports, like tennis and swim and other sports," senior Kela Schnelle said.

getting



Photo by Zara Thomas

Cheering in the student section at football games is a rite of passage.



Photo by Alexa Bohrer

Get involved. Sophomore Brayden Oetting, left, and junior Carson Muller, right, are in chess club.

involved

Involvement improves high school experience

Story by William Henderson

Join a club, a group.

Take a class you normally wouldn't. Simply put: get involved.

Over four years of high school, many people don't take part in various groups or activities — maybe because they can't find a club they're interested in, or they don't think they have time for a group.

"I think you should do as many activities as you can because you'll just meet a lot of people and have a lot of fun," senior Kael Ramsey

said. Particularly after Covid-19 changed up everything, it became too easy to coast through high school and not get involved.

But clubs and groups are a great way to make connections and meet people.

"It helped me make instant friends when I moved here. I had to move around because I was military, so I've moved around to three different high schools. So making friends was easy when I swam,"

senior Aiden Thornburg said.

Not being a part of a specific group can feel isolating.

Finding friends then becomes more difficult.

"I do think it's important because ... it's the only way if you're not going to do sports, to make friends and have a social life outside of high school, and to have a good high school experience," senior Elizabeth Miller said.

Night among the STARS

Did prom live up to your senior year expectations?

"I mean, it was a lot better than last year, but it kind of sucked because it was at school. And I wanted it to be cooler, I guess. But it was still my high school gym. But they did a lot more this year to make it cooler."

— senior Bella Moises

"Not really because I knew it was going to be (in the gym) and be like every other dance, but I was hoping it would be kind of better because it is senior year and we're the upperclassmen."

— senior Lani Schenelle

Senior Kylar Minton, left, after being announced 2023 prom queen. Photo by Jake Tracy

Senior Joseph Elliott, right, has fun at prom. Photo by Ava Mbowiuke



NOTHING LIKE THE MOVIES

Movies provide unrealistic expectations for what high school is actually like

Story by Sara Collins

As a freshman, you have a lot of expectations for high school. Whether it's Friday nights in the stadium cheering on the Panthers or Homecoming or maybe dating and everything that comes with that.

These expectations were likely created from watching movies about high school, whether it's Patrick Verona dancing and running from the cops just to ask Kat Stratford to prom in "10 things I hate about you," Troy and Gabriella's relationship in the "High School

Musical" movies or the plastics in "Mean Girls."

Everybody has some sort of perfect fantasy world expectation for high school at some point.

Yet 99% of the time, nothing of that sort ends up happening.

"Movies and TV shows often neglect the actual learning and homework and make high school appear to be centered around the more fun parts like games and dances," senior Emma Blaufuss said.

MORE THAN LIFE CHANGED WITH COVID-19

During freshman and sophomore year, personalities and lives changed

Story by Nik Shay

Covid-19 upended the last part of our freshman year and our whole sophomore year. Still many saw changes within themselves, leaving behind who they were.

"I wasn't taking care of myself freshman year," senior Lynn Tran said. "I would always be late to class, wake up late to the point where I would literally skip wash-

ing my face."

But she eventually changed.

"I discovered skincare," Tran said. "I've learned to put myself first... I improved myself a lot during that time and continue to do so even after."

Senior Talia Ransom has seen major changes.

"I have matured a lot since

freshman year, going through a lot of different friendships and situations really helped me grow as a person and my perspectives of others," she said.

And now, as the 2022-2023 school year is about to wrap up, many seniors are reflecting.

"I would tell my freshman self to not seek validation from others

and to not let others disrespect and belittle you," Ransom said.

Tran added: "If there was something I could tell my freshman self it would be stop being musty and take care of yourself."

"You need to wash your face, brush your teeth and stop eating Hot Pockets in English."

