

not gonna lie...

The weather started to cool, grey slushy snow **coated** the parking lots, and 5 pm sunsets were underway. All signs pointed to the end of Q1, the beginning of the **long stretch** as we started to get excited for winter vacation and the holidays.

School was back in session after fall break, and the end of football season was in sight. After the Stangs' **rigorous** months of practice, notable mid-season **comeback**, and tear-wicking wrapping of the season, the primary mindset of these athletes shifted from Friday Night Lights to Geometry class and APUSH lectures.

Football season was really great this year, we turned it around and the program is so much better than my old school **to be honest**. The coaches are better here, my **relationship** with teachers and staff here are a lot better, and it's been so cool to make new friends since the people here are a lot nicer. Now that season's over, the days go by a lot slower, and I have a lot more homework, which sometimes **catches** up to me, junior Matthew Erickson said.

As we eagerly **shuffled** out of the school building after long days of Google Classroom notifications and worksheets, **MNDT** made their way to the gym to rehearse for the showcase, an annual community spectacle full of performances from morning to night.

Going into it we were super, super nervous and we trained super hard, but in my **opinion**, showcase went really well. We still have a lot of little **quirks** to work on and improve in like stamina and turns. We're at a really good point right now in the year, and the energy of the **crowd** really helped us push through, sophomore Madelene Simon said.

With the first snowfall, the squeaking of basketball shoes sounded against polished floors, and the sporting of North Face puffer coats appeared as temps began to **plummet**, the realities of winter were back. The **frigid** temps were no match for some Stangs as they stood out in the hallways sporting summer staples.

I hate the winter and the **cold**; it's always so sad outside when I cross the **skywalk** or go outside. I still wear shorts because I'm just trying to hold on to the nice weather, even though its 40 degrees and **November**, sophomore Brooke Janssen said.

Although bitter-cold mornings, complimented by academic **burnout** and Snapchat memories from days in the hot sun, leave us reminiscing on better days, we look back and reflect on the past couple of months. With Halloween get-togethers, Black Friday hauls, and up and coming winter sports, we realize that **Q2** wasn't so bad,

TBH

second quarter