

LEX BE HONEST



COLLAPSE After achieving victory in Clash of Classes, the juniors celebrate in their minion themed outfits. **Dayana Guzman, 11**, was in the center of this celebration. "Dressing up as a minion was really fun, especially when we would celebrate. Everyone was keeping the vibe up and I was scared of being in the middle because I didn't want anyone to fall on me," Guzman said.

Is our high school perfect? No, but that's exactly what makes it special to us. Some students are bold and outspoken, while others are quiet and shy, and some just happen to fall in between. We are a mix of personalities, all being unique. It's that contrast that makes our school feel somewhat like a home to us.

What truly defines our school isn't just who we are, but how we come together, it's the way we flood the stands for football games, cheering as loud as we can no matter the score. It's dressing up for volleyball games and showing up with school spirit and always somehow on theme. It's celebrating the talent of our boys soccer team, and supporting every athlete who puts in the extra work. Beyond sports, we represent our speech team and performance arts programs with pride, where students share their voices and talents on stage.

We're also guided by a staff that supports, challenges, and encourages us to grow. Their patience and dedication to teaching us is what helps shape not only our success as students but who we will become in the future.

Most importantly of all, our school thrives because of its diversity. Students from many different backgrounds and cultures bring their traditions to share. That diversity strengthens our community and broadens our understanding of one another.

Friendships may change, people may grow, and each year brings us new challenges. But, through it all our school remains a place where everyone is welcome, everyone supports one another, traditions thrive and no matter what, we will always make sure to...



HELPING HAND During the gold penny lab students were assigned to make a copper penny become a gold-like color. **Ximena Zamora-Rincon, 11**, assists her group in their experiment. "Being able to help my group was really fun, I preferred assisting them then doing the actual lab, but it was still really fun," said Zamora-Rincon.

KEEP IT 100...

NOT HER FIRST RODEO

FRESHMAN KEEPS FAMILY TRADITIONS ALIVE BY PARTICIPATING IN 4H.

Showing off animals, making arts and crafts, and competing in competitions is a normal day for a 4H participant. While balancing school, extracurriculars, and other clubs may be difficult, **Parker Tufford, 9** finds a way to balance it all. She has done 4H for eight years and does eight events throughout the year.

"Through the months when 4H overlaps with school like March, April, and May, it is very tough. I tend to go after school or practice to work with my horses and after that I finish all my school work," Tufford said.

4H has been around for years and has even become a staple in families. In more recent years, new and more "modern" courses have been added. 4H makes sure to still keep its rural feeling by keeping its main message, empower the youth. These skills are used for years to come and are an amazing foundation for the youth to use as they grow into a young adult.

"My mom's side of the family has done it since she was little so it's become a tradition for all of us to enjoy," Tufford said.

This organization also opens the door for socializing to be able to meet new people and make new friends. For Tufford, she enjoys the bonding between her family and animal companions.

"Getting ready with my sister and being able to have the luxury to ride and show these animals is great," Tufford said.

This organization was founded over a century ago but it still has a major impact on many people today. A newer part of 4H includes other categories such as modeling. Although 4H isn't offered through school, it still helps kids build courage, create new relationships, and strive for the opportunity to go to state.



AMERICAS FINEST CITY For some people, summer is a time for new memories and places. **David Diaz-Arriaga, 11** got to experience both. "We went to San Diego to go play soccer there," Diaz said. He also went sight-seeing. "We went to the beach and went into the ocean." Photo by David Diaz



HAKUNA MATATA On July 24, **Adan Colon, 11** spent his summer in California at Disneyland. "My favorite part was being able to ride the rides and spend time with my cousins," Colon said. He ended his trip Aug. 3. Photo by Adan Colon



LEaving LOW Staying in Hawaii for your summer before your senior year feels like a dream come true. Well for **Gabrielle Diaz, 12** that dream came true. "We went all around the island of Oahu and we got to see all the different beaches and try new foods," Diaz said. Her highlights of the trip included being with family and swimming on the beach. Photos by Gabrielle Diaz

60 ELEMENTS IN ONE BRAIN

CHEMISTRY STUDENTS PREPARE FOR THE ELEMENT TEST ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.



"I would time and compare my answers on a notebook to study. I felt nervous when I was taking the test because it was timed but it wasn't that hard." **Jesse Ibarra, 11**



"I have studied over July and August over the things she sent out during last year. I studied and looked more into it. The hardest elements to remember was probably from 50-60 because they are bigger." **Xeny Lucas, 11**



"Chemistry is okay. It gets easier as you start to understand things. I didn't study over the summer because I was a new student, so I didn't get the email about it. I told myself not to give up and that I could do it during the quiz." **Melissa Grandon, 11**



"I spent the whole weekend before the first day of school and the morning of to study for it. I did alright on the quiz. Chemistry is a pretty difficult class and you have to put a lot of time and work into it if you want a good grade." **Cesar Munoz, 11**



"I studied the week before for a little each day and I studied a lot the morning of to really prepare myself. I did better on the second quiz because I already had the first ones memorized from the last time I studied." **Sagda Abdelbagi, 11**



SHE DID THAT

4-H 1995 Sophomore **Beth Wellmann 95** listens to her mother, Marie as she explains a 4-H project.

SONG OF THE SUMMER

STUDENTS SHARE THEIR FAVORITE SONG OVER THE SUMMER.



"'Suiza' by Calle 24 was my song of the summer. I feel like it was the most popular but I enjoyed the tune and I like his voice. I would say listening to Calle 24 is a once in a while thing." **Natalie Ramirez, 11**



"My song of the summer was 'Love Me Not' by Ravyn Lenae. It got really popular on Tik Tok and people would dance to it. The song gives me energy but it also has a calming and chill vibe." **Maylin Novoa, 12**



"My favorite song was 'BAILE INOLVIDABLE' by Bad Bunny because it reminded me of when I was young. I listen to him often." **Briseida Cos-Hernandez, 9**



The highlight of this golf season was one every golfer dreams of. **Maddy Miller, 12** steps up to the tee box in anticipation not knowing she would achieve the most exciting and rare outcomes in golf. A hole in one means she shot the ball straight into the hole in one shot. As Miller stepped up to the tee box and took a deep breath she hit the shot. "There was a big hill, so I just brought one club to the tee box and kind of thought that I would hit it past the hole but when I hit it and it went in, I just went crazy," Miller said. "As it went in the hole, I was honestly in shock and I started jumping up and running around." Miller recalls telling her best friend Cicely after her shot, "It was surreal and I wanted her to be the first to know." Six days later, the Lexington Varsity Girls Golf team traveled to York, Nebraska and Maddy had another close call. "On the first tee, when I went to swing, I had the same feeling like how I did when I got my hole in one and this ball landed only four inches away from the hole," Miller said. Miller's season was super successful as she ended up being able to compete at the state tournament. She had great accomplishments and the hole in one was one of the most incredible things that happened to her this season.

MINDSET Practicing her swings, **Gabriella Carlson, 11** sets all her focus on her form. "My first swing thoughts are usually about something relaxing and about where I want the ball to go. I also really try to look at my target and set my feet up. My pre-meet generally looks like a lot of deep breathing and listening to music on the bus," Carlson said.
Photo by Felician De-Leon Bernal



LINE IT UP Squatting low, **Amelia Peplitsch, 9** studies the green. "After a bad shot, I really try to focus on the next shot and not get in my head. When I step up to the next hole I look forward and try to do better than my first hole by not hitting two bad shots in a row. What really helps me is the pep talks given by my teammates, especially Penny Goodwin," Peplitsch said.
Photo by Felician De-Leon Bernal

PUTT PERFECT Positioning herself, **Penny Goodwin, 11** prepares to putt the ball. "My pre-shot routine is really simple. I just line up all my shots with the flag. Apart from that, I try to keep up the positive pep talk and get myself hype after a bad shot. I think I'm the most positive on the team so it's really easy for me to be peppy and keep the spirits up," Goodwin said.
Photo by Felician De-Leon Bernal



FULL SWING Using all her force, **Jovie Worthing, 11** puts all her power into her first swing. "When swinging I try to focus more on accuracy so I can get good placement on where I want the ball to go. One word that describes my swing would be smooth and it has gotten way smoother with more coaching," Worthing said.
Photo by Felician De-Leon Bernal

TOP TIER PLAYERS EXPRESS HOW THEY FEEL ABOUT BEING RANKED FIRST.



"I think Jaydon takes being ranked first the most seriously even apart from the rankings, he's a great leader and spent all summer putting in work and honestly gave 100% at all times. I think these expectations set us up for success which we need in order to represent Lex in the best way possible."
Jaxon Neff, 11



"When we found out we were ranked first in the state, it was exciting and we first thought of how we were going to sustain that position and overcome the obstacles like our opponents and our mentality."
Eduardo Jimenez-Avalos, 11



"I think our team will handle the pressure of being ranked first exceptionally. The rankings really surprised me but it feels good to represent Lex as the top team in the state especially because we have not had much success in the past years."
Jaydon Hernandez-Sandoval, 11

ROAD TO SUCCESS

PLAYERS ABOUT THE JOURNEY TO STATE AND HOW THEY COMPETED.



SERVES UP Setting up his serve, **Liam Sonksen, 11**, prepares to go through the motion of his shot. "A good serve for me looks like a nice flow of my wing pattern. I just try to stay focused on the serve and not mess up. I also stay ready mentally and try to move on from little mistakes. A good doubles partner also helps me serve better," Sonksen said.
Photo by Asmaa Ahmed



WILDCARD WINNER On the last point of the Lexington state alternate bracket, **Henry Ahilon-Calmo, 12** puts his all into the final serve. Every year the Lexington Tennis Team chooses their alternates through a winner takes all bracket. Previously, Ahilon was a runner up in the tournament and lost out on the state position his junior year. "Last year, I fought my hardest and made it to the final but I fumbled it in the end so it meant a lot to me this year. I was super proud of my hard work and all the effort I put into tennis these past three years," Ahilon-Calmo said.

ACE BLOCKER Prepared to return his opponents ball, **Avery Lul, 12** swings through the point. Prior to the match, Lul ran through important quotes that helped him lock in before his matches. "When it comes down to it, I think it's important to be consistent with all my shots. One quote that helps me return better is, 'Down the line, all the time,'" Lul said.
Photo by Aydin McDougall



At this point, the road to state is a yearly tradition, marked by the players' contrasting tan lines, their frayed strings, the post-match celebratory Dairy Queen that tastes like success and finally ends up with the steaming cups of hot cocoa at state. However, this year the boys brought something extra onto the state courts, a chip on their shoulder. Lexington's number one doubles team felt overlooked right when they walked into Woods Tennis Center.

"I mean, I was just in shock," **Jaxon Neff, 12** said. "Seeing teams with way more losses over us really surprised me." The duo went into the first round with their nerves tingling and came out with a crushing win over Cornerstone Christian. **Mathias Peplitsch** and **Cristian Franco-Chicas** went into their matches determined to crush all of their opponents and they did by winning their first round 8-0. Although they breezed by the first round, they had to defeat their own mindset and that creeping uncertainty that was crawling up their spine. "Yeah, we were really down and we weren't playing at the level we could've been. It just felt like we were starting to give up and it was obvious until that flip switched and we got our confidence back," Peplitsch said. Soon enough, it was obvious their rhythm had returned. The team overall had a bunch of upsets but they believed they did pretty well through it all. The fact that they're representing Lexington at the NSAA state level affects their energy and playing because they're playing for more than just a win but rather to show what they're capable of and to make their town proud.



DEJA VU
During his senior year, **Mike Ambriz, Alumni '03**, was the first ever Lexington boy to win a state championship. he was recorded saying "I was exhausted after my finals, but inside I was happy to be the first Lex boy tennis player to win state."



THEY DID THAT

Hall of Famer **Mick Tinglehoff, '57**, was a 17 year starter for the Minnesota Vikings, never missing a game. **Monete Kiffin, '57**, had an extensive career a collegiate and professional defensive coordinator. He coached the University of Nebraska in back to back national championships and went on to coach the Tampa Bay Buccaneers to a super bowl victory in 2002.

QUICK SNAPP rounding his hands on the ball snapper, **Eduardo Lazo-Canales, 11**, lines up a deep spiral. Lazo managed to get 35 solo tackles throughout his season. "The technique I used was getting my dominant hand under the ball and the other on top to get a perfect long snap" Lazo said. Photo by Sukaina Ahmed



PLAN IN THE MAKING Thinking about how to make the play, receiver, **Liam Denker, 9**, begins to strategize. Denker had a total 7 tackles against Gering. "I focus on either who I need to block or the yardage, while also visualizing my plays before I follow through with them," Denker said. Photo by Sabir Abdullahi

RUSHING YARDS Running fast, receiver, **Tyler Thorell, 10**, sprints down the field. Thorell covered a total of 518 yards this season. "When I'm running a route, in my mind, I think about just getting the ball. I also read the defensive backs to tell what coverage they're playing," Thorell said. Photo by Sabir Abdullahi



HAILMARY Winding up quarterback, **Bryant Truax, 11**, sees an opportunity to score. Truax achieved 9 completed passes during the game against Northwest. "I was looking to make a touchdown this play but had to throw a blur ball to Ty in hopes he would come down with it," Truax said. Photo by Sukaina Ahmed



EVERY PIECE
ATHLETES SHARE
THE IMPORTANCE OF
EACH PIECE OF
EQUIPMENT USED



"The helmet is a piece of equipment that is very important and helps keep your face and head safe. It molds into your head and feels very comfortable, the design of a crown makes them look amazing." **Terrance Bliven, 9**



"The shoulder pads help me stay safe while blocking. It protects us from getting hurt during the game because they absorb most of the impact that is being given." **Owen Bauer, 11**



"My gloves are what help me during the game. They have padding for my hands and prevent my fingers from jamming." **Drew Reynolds, 11**

BUILT DIFFERENT

STEPPING UP THE SENIOR CAPTAINS REFLECT IN THEIR UNIQUE LEADERSHIP ROLES THEY INFLUENCED.

Q: WHAT DO YOU THINK LEADERSHIP TAKES?

A: "Leadership takes a team to run and function together, this year I feel like we all have functioned at a high level." **Treyvan Berry, 12**

"Leadership this year takes accepting everyone and unifying the team, specifically the freshmen." **Ever Ayala, 12**

"This years leadership was handled spot on with many people stepping into big opportunities and positions." **Greyson McFarland, 12**

Q: HOW DOES YOUR RELATIONSHIP AS SENIOR LEADERS IMPACT THE TEAM?

A: "I think our relationship is really strong so it has brought out many connections not only to returners but the freshmen include by setting high standards." **Treyvan Berry, 12**

"Respect was a big thing. We had a lot of respect for each other by helping others first and considering different viewpoints." **Ever Ayala, 12**

"I think being an upperclassmen and setting examples really impacts the team. In decision making we understood when one made one." **Greyson McFarland, 12**

BUILT FOR BATTLE

PLAYERS DISCUSS WHO ON THE TEAM THEY THINK WOULD SURVIVE A ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE.



"I would say Tyler Thorell would survive a zombie apocalypse, he's very quick, shifty, and would evade all the zombies and get supplies." **Ricardo Vilches, 12**



"During a zombie apocalypse I would say that Owen Bauer would survive, he's a reasonable thinker and would adapt to the zombies." **Edy Castellanos, 11**



"Greyson McFarland would survive a zombie apocalypse on the football team. He has a pretty nice house and it's stacked with all the stuff he would need to survive." **Manuel Garcia, 10**