

THE GUARDIAN 2026

from our
POV



GREYNA EAST HIGH SCHOOL
greynae, nebraskae



from our

POV

THE GUARDIAN 2025



GRETNA EAST HIGH SCHOOL

• 18102 Lincoln Rd.
• Omaha, Neb. 68136
• 402-332-4868
• www.gehs.gpsne.org
• Students: 1,079 Staff: 107

freshmen: 284
sophomores: 269
juniors: 262
seniors: 264

MARCHING INTO VIEW Doing a flourish with her swing flag during movement three of the routine, **Vivian Williams (10)** performs to the song "What was I Made For" with the rest of the Griffin Pride Band during the Sept. 18 halftime show. The band's field show was entitled "Big Buzziness," and told the story of life and purpose from a bee's **point of view**. "The theme was about bees getting their freedom and in high school you get more freedom," Williams said. (Photo by Addilyn Nikodym)

"The activities and sports that I am involved in have benefited me so much mentally and physically."

- emma havranek (9)
STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBER

"I have met such amazing people here that I will always remember, and they have all left such an impact on me. "

- ayden cruz (11)
FOOTBALL PLAYER

"Drama Club is like home to me; I've been a part of it since freshman year. I remember looking up to our president and now the freshmen are looking up to me. "

- olivia weatherford (12)
DRAMA CLUB PRESIDENT

"What makes Gretna East so special to me is how much effort Wallace and Leavell put into the music programs here. They both go above and beyond."

- andi holt (10)
SHOW CHOIR MEMBER

"I got to experience the growth of the school alongside it. Being there for its first year and seeing the school culture develop was great. "

- evan zhang (12)
SPEECH TEAM MEMBER

From the Drama Club President organizing a Halloween-themed Thespian Troupe induction to the football player who hyped up his teammates while being carted off to an ambulance during the season's first Battle of 370, being a Griffin meant something different to everyone. While we all walked through the same doors and down the same long, gray hallways, no two of us saw this year the same way. We joined different clubs and sports. We took different classes, and had different beliefs. But that's what made our year what it was. Our unique experiences combined to create the story of our year, which is best told...

from our
POV.



PERFECT PAIR After being crowned Homecoming Princess, **Ashlyn Dart (12)** meets Homecoming Prince, **Carson Herrmann (12)**, on the sidelines in the pouring rain after the football game on Oct. 18. "It was a really exciting and special moment," Dart said. "I felt so grateful and overwhelmed in the best way." (Photo by Madeline Petrick)

a summer

MADE OURS

"What made this summer special to me is that I got to spend it with the people I loved and winning 'the banana' with my cheer team."

- riyō spearman (11)
CHEERLEADER

"This summer was truly one to remember. I participated in the UNL National Show Choir Camp. Although it was challenging, it was definitely worth it in the end."

- ava windeknecht (10)
CHOIR MEMBER

"I tried a sport that I knew very little about, and I loved it. After only a few clinics, I knew that tennis was the sport for me."

-beckett pinder (9)
TENNIS PLAYER

Summer wasn't just a break from school, it was a chance to grow in our own ways. From spending the summer working at Hy-Vee, taking an eight hour flight to explore Germany or attending football camp in South Dakota, we made the summer ours. Each of these experiences taught us something, shaped how we saw ourselves and prepared us for what was to come. By the time the school year rolled around, we were more cultured, better trained and refreshed, and that was....

the point of
IT ALL....

SOAKED IN SPIRIT Water guns in hand, **Morgan Zabloudil (12)** and **Mya Keleher (10)** smile for a photo while walking with the volleyball team in the Gretna Days Parade on July 26. The past three years, the team's float included water guns to interact with the crowd. "Community events like this are important because they allow everyone to get to know each other and support the different clubs, activities and businesses that make Gretna special," Keleher said. (Photo by Macy Plummer)





SCENES OF GERMANY Celebrating their last night in Germany, **Corey Hansen (12)**, **Nicholas Mitchell (11)**, **Hannah Zimmerman (11)**, **Nathan Millemon (12)** and **Gwen Miner (11)** take a picture while at dinner in Berlin. It was a week-long school-sponsored trip for German students. "It was my first time leaving the country, and their culture felt oddly familiar, although it was quite different from ours," Mitchell said. (Photo courtesy of Gwen Miner)

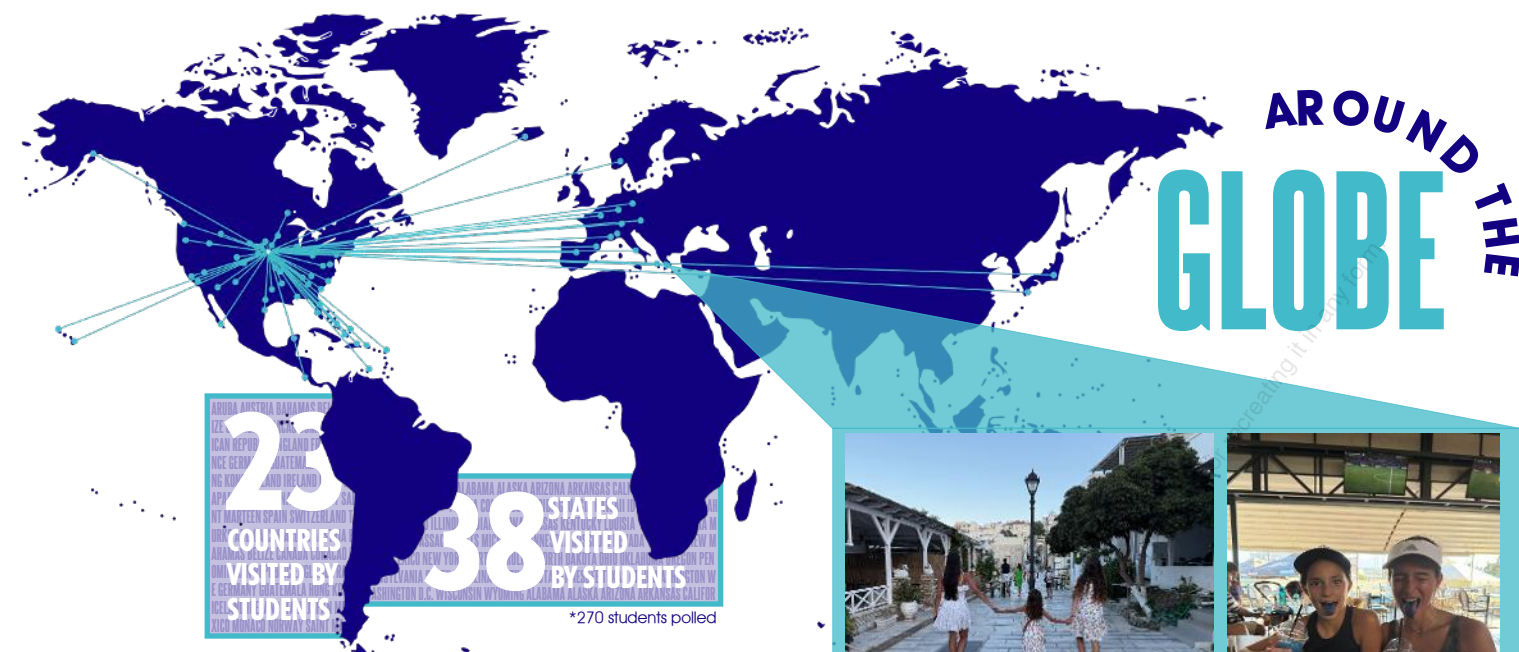
Discovering Germany for the first time

"A moment that sticks out to me was probably when we were at a tourist area and a person, a scam artist actually, tried to scam me and I basically told her 'no thank you' and she hit me with her clipboard. She just bonked me on the arm."

I wasn't expecting a lot of people there to speak English but so many did and it made things a lot easier. I've never left the country so that was my first experience like that. And to be able to go to a place like Germany was really interesting and fun."

- senior corey hansen

WORLDWIDE
point of view



IN EUROPE

Spanish, French students take European trip



"I thought it was special because even though we go [to Greece] every summer to see family, it still feels like I have been transported to the most relaxing place to go to the beach and eat food. The food is to die for. There is no other place on earth that has such great food. One specific memory that stands out is when our friends from Austria surprised us when they came to Edessa, and they met our whole family."

- zoe katsavelis (10)

(Photos courtesy of Zoe Katsavelis)



A TASTE OF MADRID Taking a cooking class in Madrid, Spain, **Kenna Zelasney (12)** and **Emma Montagne (12)** mix batter for a cake on June 15. They made Tarta de Santiago, also known as Cake of Saint James, a Spanish staple. "My favorite part was making the paella because everybody had a part in it," Montagne said. "It was really cool seeing it cooking in the big pan." (Photo courtesy of Kenna Zelasney)



SIPPING IN PARIS Drinking hot chocolate, **Claire Hayworth (12)** sits in a café in Paris, France, on June 7. It was the first stop on her trip across France, Spain and Monaco. "Paris was such a cool cultural experience and seeing the other norms of people was so different," Hayworth said. "It was also just such a beautiful city with different architecture and a rich history." (Photo courtesy of Claire Hayworth)



SEINE SIDE VIEWS On a dinner cruise boat, **Elliot Reece (12)** and **Stuart Yuan (12)** look out at the Seine in Paris, France, on June 7. The group ate dinner on the boat and went to see the Eiffel Tower before leaving the city the next morning. "The dinner was interesting and very cool because we got to watch the city while eating," Reece said. (Photo courtesy of Stuart Yuan)



AT THE PALACE Posing for a picture, **Madisyn Clarke Wisniewski (12)** looks at the French Riviera on June 10 in Monaco City. After watching The Changing of the Guard at the Prince's Palace, the group drove back to Provence for the night. "The atmosphere was really cool because as soon as the bell rang, everyone got quiet and it was a really cool experience," Clarke Wisniewski said. (Photo courtesy of Madisyn Clarke Wisniewski)



A NIGHT IN NICE Standing by the beach, **Brooklyn Vaida (11)** and **Maren Shirk (12)** take a picture on their first night in Nice, France on June 12. They stopped to look at the Mediterranean Sea before going to dinner. "Seeing the ocean in Europe for the first time honestly felt so special," Shirk said. "I'm super grateful that I got to go on this trip and see all that I saw." (Photo courtesy of Maren Shirk)



CITY SIDE SERENITY Sitting on a bench in Barcelona, Spain, **Lilianna Sherfield (12)** looks out at the city on June 13. After seeing the city, the group went to Basilica de la Sagrada Família. "I liked the way that it told a story through all of the faces on the building," Sherfield said. "The warm colors in the front represented family and hardship." (Photo courtesy of Lilianna Sherfield)



CAPTURED IN VERSAILLES Taking a mirror selfie, **Jada Randecker (12)**, poses with **Emily Albarran (12)**, **Kristen Tuff (12)**, **Alexa Pine (12)**, **Natalie Kraatz (12)** and **Jackson Plummer (12)** in the Palace of Versailles on June 8. After seeing the palace, the group split up to explore Versailles and eat lunch. "It was so beautiful and such a cool experience to get to see so much art and history," Randecker said. (Photo courtesy of Jada Randecker)



EUROPEAN GARDEN STROLL In a garden, **Amy Clarke (12)** looks at the greenery in Madrid, Spain on June 15. On the way to a cooking class, the group walked through Parque de El Buen Retiro. "The park was really green and beautiful," Clarke said. "There were these pretty statues in the garden and a cool fountain that felt special because it was our last day in Europe." (Photo courtesy of Amy Clarke)



IN OUR carry-ons

What's one thing you have to have in your carry-on?



"I always bring a blanket onto plane because planes get very cold."

- aidan mcclaren (11)



"I need my phone because it helps me not be bored, and I can talk to people."

- evan smith (9)



"I'd say a book is the most important thing I like to have with me because airplane mode makes things not work. I know I'll always have something to do if I have a book."

- addalynn hagen torczon (10)



"I always need perfume because I'm not about to smell on an airplane, or anywhere, for that matter. Last time, I accidentally brought too big of a perfume bottle and they confiscated it."

- reese kuiken (12)



fall ushers in new

BEGINNINGS

"I love getting back to my community and family that I have found on and off the court. I can rely on them for anything and everything."

- *ryan mastronardi (9)*
VOLLEYBALL PLAYER

"Being able to perform under stadium lights, whether at the home football games or at competitions, it's all very exciting."

- *joscelyn giron (11)*
GRIFFIN PRIDE MARCHING BAND MEMBER

"The beginning of the year is exciting to me because it's the start of new seasons for all my activities. A different group of people gives a fresh start on different goals, which makes the fall so special."

- *easton roarty (12)*
THESPIAN

From the excitement and anxiousness the One Act cast and crew felt for the debut of "You Can't Take It With You" and the marching band when they presented "Big Buzziness," to the determination and creativity ACC students felt when they hosted a haunted classroom, we felt all kinds of emotions as we stepped into the school year together. With new classes, new faces and new opportunities, fall reminded us that every beginning holds possibility and that this was just the....

starting POINT.....

LOUD AND PROUD In the front-row of the student section, **Luke Brandon (12)** and **Ryan Wilwerding (12)** yell and cheer while **Jensen Albers (12)** keeps his eyes on the Sept. 12, home football game against Elkhorn. Regardless of the theme of the game, the three could be seen dressed up, ready to cheer on the team. "I go to every football game to show school spirit and support the boys and staff on the football team," Albers said. (Photo by Ranae Duncan)

from behind the lens, WE CALL THE SHOTS

From short films to live sports, junior brings his creativity to broadcasting

"I love films and stuff. I thought it [broadcasting] would be fun. And, you know, from just making movies, it sort of branched off into live video productions and broadcasting.

We have to at least help the broadcasting team for four events for the semester, and I remember getting my first one. It was the Pius versus Gretna East girls' basketball game, and just operating the camera itself was just really fun.

We're not just at football games, just filming stuff, but you also get to learn how to edit and learn how to craft stories and sort of implement it in film. I've made more short films than movies, but I've made about four. I know my first year we made one about a time traveling elevator. It wasn't the best, but it was really fun. I made one, it was an at home project we made, like a 'Scream' fan film. That one was really fun to do."

- junior mason hayes



ACTION Lining up his shot, **Mason Hayes (11)** gets ready to film another take of a segment for an AEP video about student section expectations. The video, a project for his broadcasting class, was played in AEP the day before the 'Battle of 370' football game. (Photo by Macy Plummer)

A POPPIN' CLASS Testing her knowledge of the camera using manual settings, **Ryan Mastronardi (9)** takes a stopped action photo of **Emma Havranek (9)** while she blows a bubble during their Journalism Foundations class on Oct. 8. The day's focus was learning how to control shutter speed. (Photo by Ranae Duncan)

THROUGH THE LENS Taking photos for yearbook, **Delaney McCormick (10)** lines up her shot to get a photo of students in **Kelly McVey's (social studies teacher)** government class on Sept. 23. Yearbook students were tasked with getting at least one or two photo shoots a week from classes and clubs to sporting events. "I enjoy signing up for photo shoots because they let me take a break from class or being at home and do something I really like to spend my time on" McCormick said. (Photo by Briley Romero)

RAMP IT UP In their physics class on Oct. 22, **Ashley Dyer (11)** rolls the marble down the ramp while **Hailey Havranek (11)** times it. They tried different angles to learn how gravity was the same regardless of the size or weight of an object. (Photo by Leah Logan)

SPLATTER SCIENCE Measuring out how much blood they need for their experiment, **Rowan Diaz (12)** looks at a sample of pig blood on Sept. 23 in Forensics. "It's fascinating to learn about the little details of individuals or evidence that can be left at a scene," Diaz said. (Photo by Leah Logan)

BEATING CURIOSITY Dissecting a sheep heart, **Grace Ortiz (12)**, **Avery Highly (12)**, **Maren Shirk (12)** and **Heather Wadsworth (12)** start by cutting it in half in their DC College Biology class. They previously dissected eyeballs and brains from sheep. "I enjoyed seeing the different parts of the heart in person, but seeing a real sheep's heart really grossed me out at first," Shirk said. (Photo by Addilyn Nikodym)

an inside look according to the book

INNER WORKINGS Drawing a diagram of the human body, **Layton McLaughlin (11)**, **Amelia Fliege (11)** and **Rylan Anderson (12)** draw, label and define different organisms in the digestive system during Medical Terminology Oct. 2. Their group focused on the intestines. "I thought it was very enjoyable because it was a different way of learning, rather than sitting in a classroom," Fliege said. (Photo by Ranae Duncan)



SHARP FOCUS Concentrating on dicing an onion, **Derrick Cruz Ecute (12)** practices his cutting skills in his Pro Start 1 class. The class was doing a lab to teach them about knife skills, using different foods to practice proper use of the knives. "It was very fun learning and actually doing different cuts throughout," Cruz Ecute said. (Photo by Briley Romero)



COLLEGE READY COOKING Putting butter in the mixer, **Haidyn Cleveland (12)** begins to make cookie dough dip in her Pro Start 1 on Sept. 6. The class was given the option to make a savory dip or a cookie dough dip. "I enjoy how you can use these recipes later in life and it's convenient in college," Cleveland said. (Photo by Briley Romero)



SEASONED SKILLS Sautéing different ingredients, **Clara Williams (12)** makes chicken fried rice on Sept. 25. The lesson was extra practice for Williams. "We already make something similar at home, so I'm already used to it and it's just fun to cook," Williams said. (Photo by Briley Romero)

I.Y.K.Y.K.

What is something only members of your team would get?



"Before we go on the field to dance, something we say is 'buckle up'."

- **Avara Sumners (10)**
Dance Team



"The song 'Let it Grow' from 'The Lorax'."

- **Reagan Siegman (11)**
Cheer Team



"At camp, there's a chant that all of the teams say, and we added 'Griffs on top' with three claps at the end."

- **Leighton Shuff (10)**
Cheer Team



"During practices, we say 'one more time' even though it really isn't the last time we would try that trick."

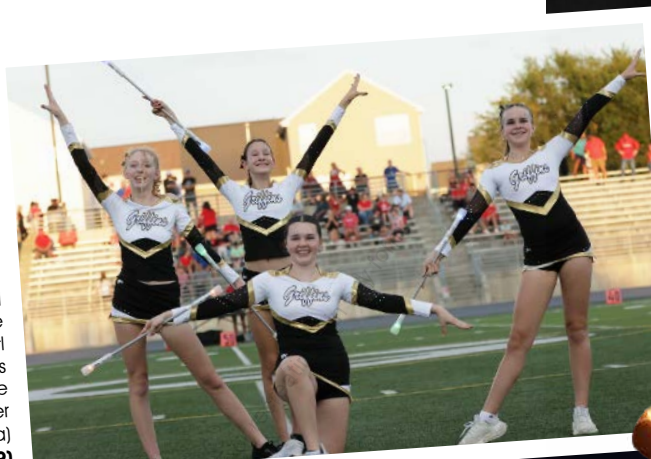
- **Melanie Benak (11)**
Baton Team

BATON-TASTIC FOUR Closing their performance, **Ellisyn Barker (11)**, **Melanie Benak (9)**, **Maya Wilmeth (9)** and **Carson Burton (9)** smile at the crowd during halftime of the Sept. 12 home game. They performed their 'Espresso' routine. "Once you get out there and everyone is cheering for you, you feel a lot better knowing everyone is excited to watch you and they want to see your team," Wilmeth said. (Photo by Ranae Duncan)

PLAYING WITH FIRE Holding hands, **Afton Eggers (Gretna High, 10)** and **Ellisyn Barker (11)** bend backwards during their fire performance Oct. 25. The game was against Gretna, so Barker was able to twirl with Eggers, who she performed with in previous years. "Twirling fire is always really amazing, because you don't expect it, people don't expect it," Barker said. (Photo by Paige Segobid)

CHAMPION'S LEAP Baton in hand, **Maya Wilmeth (9)** leaps through the air towards the 50-yard line to get in position for the ending of the baton team's performance during the halftime Oct. 2. (Photo by Addilyn Nikodym)

BURNING BRIGHT In a combined-team fire performance with the Ralston baton twirlers, **Carson Burton (9)** catches her baton at the Ralston football game on Oct. 10. Because the two teams practiced and competed with each other at the same studio, they decided to do a joint high school performance for the Rams sideline and then the Griffin's sideline. (Photo by Ranae Duncan)



from the sidelines TO CENTER STAGE

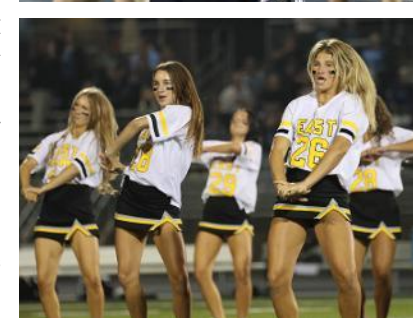
RYTHM & RIBBONS Holding pink ribbons, the dance team smiles as they strike a move during their halftime performance on Oct. 2. The team incorporated pink ribbons into their performance as it was the pink-out game. "We wanted to keep the dance fun and upbeat while adding in some breast cancer awareness pieces,"

Marin Reiser (12) said. "We just hoped people could feel our support and know we were dancing for something bigger." (Photo by Addilyn Nikodym)

HIGH SPIRITS Sitting on the shoulders of **Riyo Spearman (12)**, **Elana Wolf (9)** waves and smiles on Oct. 10 during the football team's game against Ralston. Wolf is both Spearman's shoulder-sit flyer and her regular stunt-group flyer. "I love Elana," Spearman said. "She always pushes our stunt group to be better." (Photo by Addilyn Nikodym)

SISTERS IN SYNC Performing during halftime on Sept. 18, sisters **Marlow Mixan (10)** and **Melrose Mixan (12)** dance together with the rest of the team. The sisters started dancing together in pre-school. "It's special to dance with Marlow because it has made us so much closer," Melrose Mixan said. "I'm really just grateful that we get to do it together." (Photo by Addilyn Nikodym)

SHOUT IT OUT Guiding "Junior Griffin" cheerleaders through a cheer, **Reagan Siegman (11)** makes a V with her fists in the air as the students copy her. The cheer team raised money for nationals by hosting a day long cheer camp for elementary aged students who then got to come to the Sept. 12 football game to perform during halftime. (Photo by Ranae Duncan)



a burning SUCCESS

Twirling team expansion ignites new creative possibilities

"I've been twirling since I was two years old for the same studio. My mom signed me up because her mom used to do it, and my other grandma used to do it. My earliest memories of twirling are our recitals at our studio [Stepper-ettes Baton & Dance]. We do one at the end of the year, and I always thought those were super fun. I got to watch the older girls do their routines, and I always thought that was super cool."

I learned I'd be with four people [on the school team] at the start of the year. I was excited to have more people on the team this year because I've only done it by myself or with the Gretna twirler, since she also is the only one who does it at Gretna.

It was really fun to have more people [this season]. I like being able to do more stuff than I could by myself. We can do more tricks or perform more often when there's more people. Also, if one of them has an idea for a song or anything else, we can kinda figure it out together and be more creative as a team.

I actually got to reunite with the Gretna High twirler at the football game against them and we got to twirl with fire. There's some sort of special baton we need. It has something on it that we put gasoline on. You have to shake it out first so that gasoline doesn't fly off of it, and then we light it. Twirling fire is always really amazing because people don't expect it.

Every time I feel like 'I shouldn't be holding this flaming thing. This is not right,' but then after I do it once or twice, I feel okay. So that [twirling fire], on top of being with a fun group, was great. We just made a lot of fun memories."

- junior ellisyn barker

surviving the WINTER

"The hardest part of the winter season for me personally is the lack of daylight. I feel like it makes the evenings more dreary, dark and long."

- *mary janssen*
BUSINESS TEACHER

"Since I'm in multiple activities, I'd say the hardest part is the long hours. It's really taxing mentally to leave the house when it's dark and get home when it's dark."

- *jackson omel (12)*
E-SPORTS MEMBER

"To me the hardest part is when the amount of practices increase in the week and get more intense for Gretna East dance team and then still having to balance school."

- *abigail whitt (11)*
DANCE TEAM MEMBER

As winter settled in, challenges seemed heavier. Days grew shorter, motivation wore thin and the weight of expectations pressed harder than before, especially with the lack of snow days. It tested our resilience, but the hardships aren't what defined the season, it's what we did to overcome it. From **Hope Squad** distributing candy canes in the lunchroom to brighten people's day before finals, to science teacher **Jacob Klein** making and displaying his own personalized "memes" to make students laugh, one only had to look around to see that even in the coldest months,

there was
WARMTH....

FULL CIRCLE During the climax of the show, **Riley Critser (11)** sings the ballad "One More Step" at the show choir premiere night on Jan. 6. During this portion of the show, **Eli Reinartz (12)** had reunited with his lost friends and the ensemble was singing along to the moment. "The ballad is the emotional pinnacle of our show, taking us on a journey from sadness to hope to joy," Critser said. "I'm genuinely feeling all of those emotions simultaneously when performing that section of the story." Photo by Aidan McClaren)



STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART
Shocking **Bella Nielsen (12)**, **Sean Cunningham (science teacher)** shows where the aorta is located to her, **Morgan Tenbensen (12)**, **Kennedy Walker (12)** by sticking his finger in it during their DC Anatomy and Physiology class on Oct. 31. The class dissected a sheep heart for their unit on the circulatory system. "Hands on is the best way to learn," Cunningham said. "It is so realistic." (Photo by Addilyn Nikodym)

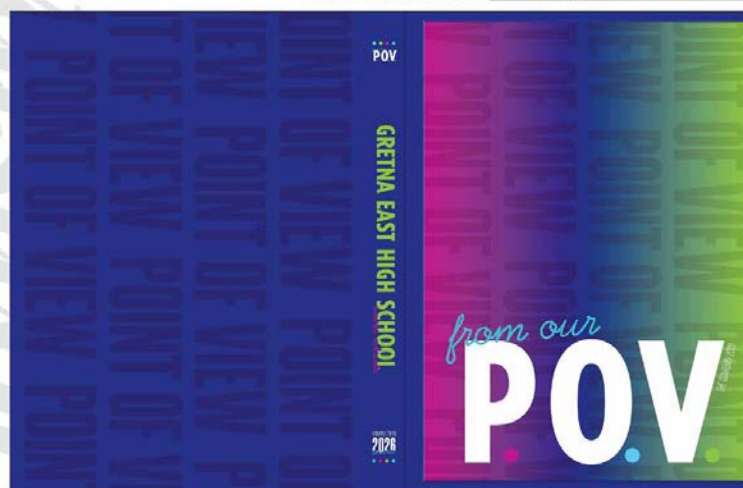
From the first bell in August to finals week, our staff were there for it all. Whether it was social studies teacher **Nathan Geiken's** pep talks before World Civilizations exams or Assistant Principal **Michael Tomjack** leading "Go Griffins!" chants during lunch, these staff members made our year unforgettable. From classroom lessons to hallway chats, they brought energy and care to every moment. Whether celebrating big wins or helping us on stressful days, their support never wavered. However, the truth is that's only what we students saw. **There was so much more to each staff member's school year, but those stories are best told from a ...**

staff member's
POV.

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT OUR COVER:

A printed or flat image of our yearbook cover does not accurately portray what the cover will look like when it is created. The cover will be done as a lenticular print, so when looking at it straight on, the whole cover will look bright blue with the background (vertical) POINT OF VIEWS in a darker blue. When looking at the cover from the left, the whole cover will look magenta with dark magenta background words, and when looking at it from the right, it will look green. The idea here is that from different points of view, the cover will look different colors.

CREATIVE SERVICES



SCHOOL: Gretna East HS
JOB NUMBER: 615631
DATE: 9-29/30-25
REP/WORKSHOP: Kris Hemry WS

DECORATED ☐ 4-COLOR ☒
YB3D ☐ 1/4 BOUND ☐
GLOSS LAMINATION ☒ MATTE LAMINATION ☐

BASE MATERIAL:
3 face Lenticular shifting colors as big as possible

SPOT COLOR: (none)

SILKSCREEN: (none)

HOT FOIL: (none)

EMBOSSING/DEBOSSING:
Deboss area for Lenticular

LASER CUT: (none)

GRAIN: (none)

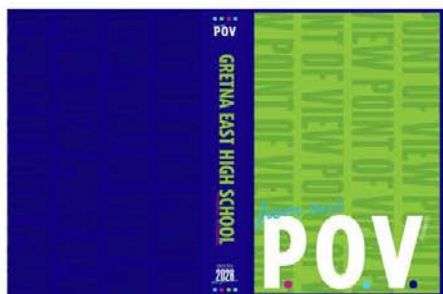
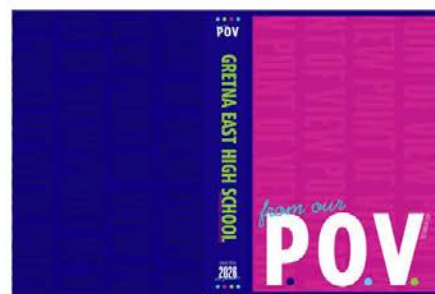
FONTS: Arizona, Tremolo, & Steelfish

SCHOOL TO SUBMIT: (none)

ART PACKAGE: (none)

Due At: ☐ Sketch ☒ Proof

NAMESTAMPING: ☐ Yes ☒ No
KEEP ALL APPLICATIONS OUT OF NAMESTAMPING AREA



THEME EXPLANATION

"From Our P.O.V." was created to reflect the idea that no single moment defined this year: the people did. This book was created to represent the student body as a whole, yet also celebrate the differences that make us unique individuals. By recognizing that every experience, background and voice contributed to what this year truly was, and knowing that those same things contributed to different perspectives of the same events, building, teachers, etc., we feel we have created an authentic representation of our school and student body.

With our theme being "From Our P.O.V.," and having a goal to tell this year's stories from the literal point of view of students/staff, we decided to write our stories in the same style as Humans of New York. Even though we knew we were taking a journalistic risk when it came to competitions, the staff decided it was more important and more true to our theme to have students be able to speak for themselves and share their experiences in their own words.

To do this, our reporters conducted the interviews and then use them to write the story by using only direct quotes, so there are not many leads or transitions in our stories. They did however have to conduct very strong interviews, and then had to put the different segments from the interview(s) in a logical order to tell the story in a way that made sense and still followed journalistic style as best as they could while only working with direct quotes.

At the end of the day, we believe that this choice made our book a more genuine and authentic record of our school and the year.

VISUAL ELEMENTS:

ACRONYMS
P.O.V.
O.M.W.
L.O.L.

TRANSPARENCY
SCREENS

TILTED ELEMENTS



TRANSPARENT BACKGROUND WORDS
**"I AM INCREDIBLY PROUD OF
THIS YEARBOOK. IT IS MY
FAVORITE ONE WE'VE DONE."**

- brayden hansen (12)

OVERLAPPING ELEMENTS

P.O.V.

DOTS/CIRCLES (we also used 4 periods as ellipses on purpose to tie to the cover's spine design)



B&W PHOTOS WITH CUTOUTS

