

# THE CHARGER

EDITORIAL

## Prom is great, but could be improved

We're not sure if prom really is the "most magical" night of a high schoolers life, but everyone on the Charger staff had a great time this weekend.

We love seeing everyone dressed up in dresses and tuxedos for promenade and seeing everyone pull up in the nice vehicles, or in some cases, farm equipment. The traditional dodgeball tournament, tricycle races and inflatables at after prom make everyone tired but the memories are the best.

Still, we think there are some ways prom can be improved.

The junior class tries their best to make prom amazing, but is missing multiple days of school to decorate really necessary? The idea behind having three days of set up is that every junior has a chance to go to the hall and decorate for prom. In

The editorial is the opinion of the Charger staff. Send letters to the editor to [whscharger@gmail.com](mailto:whscharger@gmail.com).



WHS students dance during the 2019 Prom in Newbury.

reality, only a few juniors are allowed to leave school, while the rest stay behind in half-empty classes. We think that spending more time outside of school decorating would be less disruptive.

Sunday after prom, all juniors are expected to clean up the hall, but only a few show up every year.

A great solution to this would be paying the sophomore class to clean and letting them pick and choose what they want for prom the next year. Since there are fewer sophomores at prom it would be a great way for them to fundraise.

As we sit in class three days after prom, all the attendees are still tired

from ruining their sleep schedule and staying up until 3 a.m. The dance was scheduled to go until 11 p.m., but most people were out the door before 10. Starting After Prom earlier would get students home and in bed by 1 a.m. instead of 3 or 4. We know that After Prom is supposed to keep kids from partying, but after eight or nine hours of prom activities, and several more hours of prep for some people, most students will be ready for bed at 1 a.m.

There's also a potential solution already built into district schedule. Every April features a professional development day for teachers (although this year was disrupted because of snow days). Putting that day on the Monday after prom would solve the problem of prom zombies showing up unprepared to learn.

All in all, we love prom, but we don't think it should disrupt school for more than a week.

## Elementary computer science club grows

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The Alma Elementary Computer Science Club qualified a team to compete in the Wonder Workshop Invitational rounds.

Fourth grade students Leityn Bolinder, Conrad Cassell, Adalyn Miller and Leah Straiter worked together with a robot to accomplish missions for the Wonder League Robotic Competition. This competition was created by Wonder Workshop, an organization with the goal of preparing young children for new methods of the future.

"The skills the kids are doing are helping as technology will continue to grow and change, but the thinking and collaboration will stay," computer science teacher Susan Gronquist said.

Work towards qualifying began in October when the team completed this year's challenges that included many ocean themed quests.

This was the first year that the computer science club participated in the event. Despite the inexperience with the competition, and that the club is only in its second year, the group still worked hard and made it to the next round.

The club plans to continue expanding on what they have depending on student choice. "I hope to continue to grow it with other robots and what else the students want to do as it is a student driven club," Gronquist said.

"The kids really wanted to continue this. They are the ones who do the work and have many choices," Gronquist said.

## Opinion | KSHSAA should change postseason process

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As each team begins its season, players and coaches anxiously await to find out regional or sub-state assignments. It seems every year the reactions to assignments are either very excited or very disappointed.

As of now, high schools smaller than class 4A are split up into regionals and sub-state by the location of the school. Their records and level of competition are not taken into consideration.

Every regional seems to vary in the level competition. For an example, this year's WHS softball regional assignment has a 2-1A state champion, 3A runner-up, and a couple recent state placers in the same tournament. Meanwhile, there are several regionals with teams we have run-ruled in the regular season as the top seed in the tournament. This has happened in all sports, but this year creates a particularly tough road for softball.

Although there are more schools in the 4A, 5A, and 6A classes, how the assignments are set up in the lower classes can be a modified version of the upper classes. By taking the upper half of team records in each class and dividing them up into different regionals, it allows regionals and sub-states to be evenly separated like the upper classes.

This will also make the state tournaments have a balanced level of competition and allow teams that have had great regular seasons to have a fair shot at state.

From personal experience of playing high school sports, my teams have competed in some of the most difficult games of our season in the regional or sub-state tournaments. Although the desire of making it to state may have contributed to these games, more often than not the teams played at a higher level of competition than the ones at state. The road to the state competition shouldn't be more difficult than state itself.

### SPRING SPORTS POSTSEASON ASSIGNMENTS

Baseball will host regionals this year, which will take place May 13 and 15. Also participating in the tournament are Burlingame, Mission Valley, Lebo/Waverly, Lyndon, Northern Heights, Olpe/Hartford, and Rossville.

The softball team will compete in regionals at McLouth High School on May 13 and 14. McLouth will also host Atchison County, Mission Valley, Oskaloosa, Rossville, Troy, and Valley Falls.

The track team is to compete at Jefferson County North High School on May 17 against Valley Heights, Atchison County, Mission Valley, Horton, Jackson Heights, Bishop Seabury Academy, Lyndon, McLouth, Heritage Christian Academy, Oskaloosa, Kansas City Christian, Central Heights, Rossville, Maranatha Christian Academy and Jefferson County North.

Check [whscharger.com](http://whscharger.com) for coach reactions to the assignments.

## Drama class prepares for spring performance

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As the drama class enters final preparations for its spring performance, it doesn't just have one play to prepare. It has two.

Instead of one full-length play, the class chose two one-act plays to perform. The plays, "It's Not You, It's Me," and "Breaking Badly," both feature a series of painful breakups.

Director Brendan Praeger said the plays were chosen because of the difficulties of rehearsing during the spring. "Between sports and other activities, we only have a few classes where everyone is present to rehearse. We chose these plays because most of the scenes feature two or three actors, so we can rehearse more independently," Praeger said.

Praeger said the class didn't find a full length play that met its needs, so two shorter plays with similar themes was the next choice. "It's like a double feature," Praeger said. "Both plays have similar themes and energy, so they fit well together."

In "Breaking Badly," written by

Jonathan Rand, ending a relationship is never easy. Desperate for a way out, Lily turns to The Breakup Center, where she can pick the perfect method from a selection of real breakups.

For the second act, "It's Not You, It's Me" by Don Zolidis follows several couples through their hectic breakups. From a secret agent boyfriend to a girlfriend who is a pathological liar, one thing is for sure — everyone is about to get dumped.

Maddie Alderman plays the female lead in "It's not You, It's Me." "I'm running my scenes with the other members of the cast and we're especially trying to get down the comedic timing to make the scenes as funny as possible," Alderman said.

Adding to the challenge of performing a play in the spring, the May 4 performance might be the only time the class gets to perform the entire production at once. "A couple of cast members are at a technology fair for the dress rehearsal, so even that will leave out several scenes," Praeger said. "They just have to prepare well indepen-



Junior Brendan Dugger and senior Maddie Alderman rehearse at city park for the spring drama performance. The play is at 7 p.m. May 4 in the WHS auditorium. Photo by Karlee Swenson.

dently so we can put on an entertaining show."

The play opens at 7 p.m. May

4 in the high school auditorium. Tickets for the performance are \$5 for adults and \$3 for students.

## BRIEFS

### BAND AND CHOIR EXCEL AT STATE COMPETITION

April 10, the WHS band and choir travelled to Louisburg, Kansas to compete in the State Band and Choir competition.

The band received a superior I rating for its performance of Brighton Beach and Call of the Wild.

The choir, just 2 points short of a I rating, received a II with its performance of Caledonia and Diraiton.

"I thought the band and choir performed extremely well," band and choir director Richard Philbrook said.

"The band is definitely on a path to making a tradition of getting a I at state."

Philbrook spoke with Louisburg's band and choir director and was told that "The Wabaunsee High School choir was one of the best choirs he had heard all day." "I am proud of both groups," Philbrook said. "Not only did they travel well, but they also performed well."