

## Advice for incoming freshmen

Entering high school can be intimidating. While some are concerned with changing social aspects, others are looking towards college and academics. Luckily for you, we've been there and done that, hopefully we can help make this transition easier with a few pieces of advice.

**Sports:** For most, the attitude surrounding sports changes in high school. Many begin to take it more seriously and become more competitive. Some even look forward to college scholarships for sports. "Don't take the practices and games for granted. Push yourself every day, and always remember to have fun while you're doing it. It's the last chapter of time you get to compete in most of those sports," senior Abby Oliver said.

**Clubs:** Clubs are a crucial part of high school. Not only do they look good on college applications, they're also a great chance to make a difference in your community. "You get out what you put into each club, so don't put in minimum effort and expect to make an impact," junior Laurel Barber said. While it's a great idea to stay involved, you don't need to join every single club. The best thing to do is try things your freshman year. Once you find what you enjoy, you can spend the remainder of high school doing what you love.

**Social:** Along with relationships, friendships also change drastically in high school. Everyone is vying to fit in and this leads to a changing environment in almost every social circle. Rarely will you stay friends with the same group in high school, and that is 100 percent OK. People change, sometimes for better and sometimes for worse. While a breakup or even a friendship breakup can be painful, it gives you a chance to find new people.

High school is a good time to figure out the kind of people you want in your life and what kind of person you are yourself. Don't rely solely on others for happiness, just stay true to yourself. "Don't worry if you're not in a relationship in high school, you don't need to be to fit in," sophomore Jayna Keller said.

**Academic:** The pressure of having and maintaining good grades is likely the most difficult part of high school. "Ask questions when you don't understand stuff instead of just complaining that you don't understand it," senior Maddie Alderman said. The best thing to do is ask questions. Many teachers will do their best to help you understand everything you don't understand and keep you caught up.

In conclusion, "get involved, have fun, pay attention and work hard in your classes because it matters," counselor Marilyn Workman said. Never be afraid to ask for help in high school. We've all been there and are more than willing to help with anything we can.

## Students love root beer float day

LOCAL BANKS CELEBRATE COMMUNITY BANKING WEEK WITH TREATS AND FREE ITEMS

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For WHS students, Root Beer Float Day is one of the best days of the year.

For community bank week, the local banks ended last week by giving out free treats and items. Stockgrowers State Bank makes root beer floats and Bank of the Flint Hills gives out donuts and branded items, including hats, piggy banks and sunglasses.

According to Stockgrowers State Bank customer service representative Angie Boeckman, 2019 marks the twentieth year that the banks have participated in Root Beer Float Day. It began when Stockgrowers, then called First National Bank, gave out floats in branded mugs. It has since grown in popularity.

"It was so popular every year. Every year it's just grown and grown," Boeckman said. Last year Stockgrowers served 485 root



April Murphy and Crystal Maikie serve root beer floats Friday at Stockgrowers State Bank. The bank serves hundreds of floats each year in celebration of Community Banking Week. Photo by Laurel Barber.

beer floats last year, with the all-time record being 520.

Throughout the day, WHS students beg teachers to take the class on a short walk downtown.

"It's so nice outside and it's great to get out of school for ice cream," freshman Lauren Schutter said.

## Is the old Taylor still dead?

TO CELEBRATE THE IMPENDING RELEASE OF A NEW SWIFT ALBUM, TWO CHARGER WRITERS DISCUSS HER IMPORTANCE IN THEIR LIVES

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Who's your favorite artist that writes songs about her exes? That's right it's T. Swift.

Taylor Swift has recently released a new single, so it has made us look back at our childhood and how much she impacted it.

Swift started her music career in 2006 when she released her first album, "Taylor Swift." Once Swift became bigger and bigger we became big fans of her and created childhood memories.

**Kaytlyn Meseke:** "My earliest memory of being a Swiftie is always looking out my bedroom window expecting my neighbor to be a cute boy my age just like 'You Belong with Me.' Another memory I have is jumping on my bed to 'Jump Then Fall' and leaning over the railing of my footboard with Laurel, so we would literally jump then fall."

**Laurel Barber:** "My earliest memory of T. Swift was when her 'Fearless' album dropped and Kaytlyn and I sang every song at the top of our lungs," Barber said. We personally find Swift important to us because it's a huge part of our childhood.

**LB:** "T. Swift is important because Taylor Swift was the first artist I was allowed to listen to that Alissa could also listen to."

**KM:** "She's important to me because most of my childhood memories come from jumping on my bed jamming out to her songs."

Along with jamming out, we would recreate her music videos when we would get together during our play dates.

Then after 2 other country albums, Swift created an album in 2012 called "Red." This album is what many people call her transition stage from country to pop. We feel that this album wasn't awful, but we could feel the change and became disappointed.

After her transition album, her "1989" album came out in 2014 where she was no longer a country artist but a pop artist. And more recently has come out with her 'reputation' album that has a few bangers.

**LB:** "New Taylor is good you can't argue with that but old Taylor speaks to the heart of good ol' music from when you were a little kid."

**KM:** "New Taylor Swift will probably never be as good as Old Taylor Swift. Yes her songs are catchy and she probably reaches more fans just because more people like pop than country, but it's just not my thing. I feel like with her new songs I wouldn't do all the things I did when I was younger because it wouldn't have related to me at that age. And yes I know... most of that stuff I wasn't going through as a 6 year old."

With a wide range of songs to choose from we have our personal favorite that we find relatable.

**KM:** "The song I personally relate to the most is probably 'The Best Day' because it just explains growing up in a smaller town and looking back on those days."

**LB:** "The most relatable song I relate to is 'Mean' because Kaytlyn and I were made fun of because we were chubby and not funny."

**KM:** "Nobody made fun of us during this time. We were living our best lives and never upset with how we looked or how we acted."

And now the question is why is Taylor Swift such a big deal? Why should people listen to her?

## OPINION

### Use honesty to avoid a bad breakup

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Initiating a breakup might be one of the most awkward and difficult things you'll ever have to do, especially in high school. No matter how you go about it, it probably won't go down as smoothly as you hope, but knowing some proper breakup etiquette could help prevent the situation from becoming your worst nightmare.

Whether you are not seeing eye-to-eye, growing apart, or just not feeling a connection anymore, there are a lot of adequate reasons to end a relationship.

First, for the obvious reasons. If you feel that there is any form of abuse in your relationship, you should end it immediately. You should feel secure in a relationship, and if you are insecure about your significant other's faithfulness to you, it might be best if you don't continue to be with them.

Sometimes, two people are looking to get different things out of a relationship. If you and your partner have different goals regarding the terms of your relationship, it might be time to end things. If, for any reason, a relationship feels wrong, or is no longer working for you, even if it's due to a simple loss of interest, that's how you know it's time to break up.

Breakups are typically pretty painful for both parties, but there are some things to keep in mind that could help a breakup go as smoothly as possible. When breaking up with someone, you should always be honest and direct. Tell the truth as to why the relationship is not working for you, or things could become messy. Most likely, the person you're breaking up with is not going to be calm and collected, so it is best to prepare yourself for any reaction they may have, and know how to respond.

Conversely, there are some things to avoid when breaking up that could potentially spark an argument and make things even worse than they already are. Under no circumstances should you be rude to the person you are breaking up with; the idea is not to intentionally hurt them. Don't be a coward. You should never lie about why you decided to initiate a breakup, even if you think it might be hurtful. Don't use an inappropriate method of communication. Never let your partner find out from someone else that you are planning to end things. They should hear it from you first. In certain situations, breaking up with someone via text or call makes sense, but it is likely that you owe it to your partner to sit down with them and end things face-to-face.

On the other hand, if you are being broken up with, you should handle yourself respectfully and responsibly. Don't try to make your partner feel bad over their decision. Never threaten to harm yourself as a method of guilt tripping them. Try to be empathetic and understanding of their feelings.

After a breakup, try to find someone you can vent to. Talk to someone who you feel comfortable sharing your feelings with, and who might be able to offer some advice.

Whether you are the person being broken up with, or the one doing the breaking, it is always okay to be upset.