



# LEANDER HIGH SCHOOL

## THE LAIR

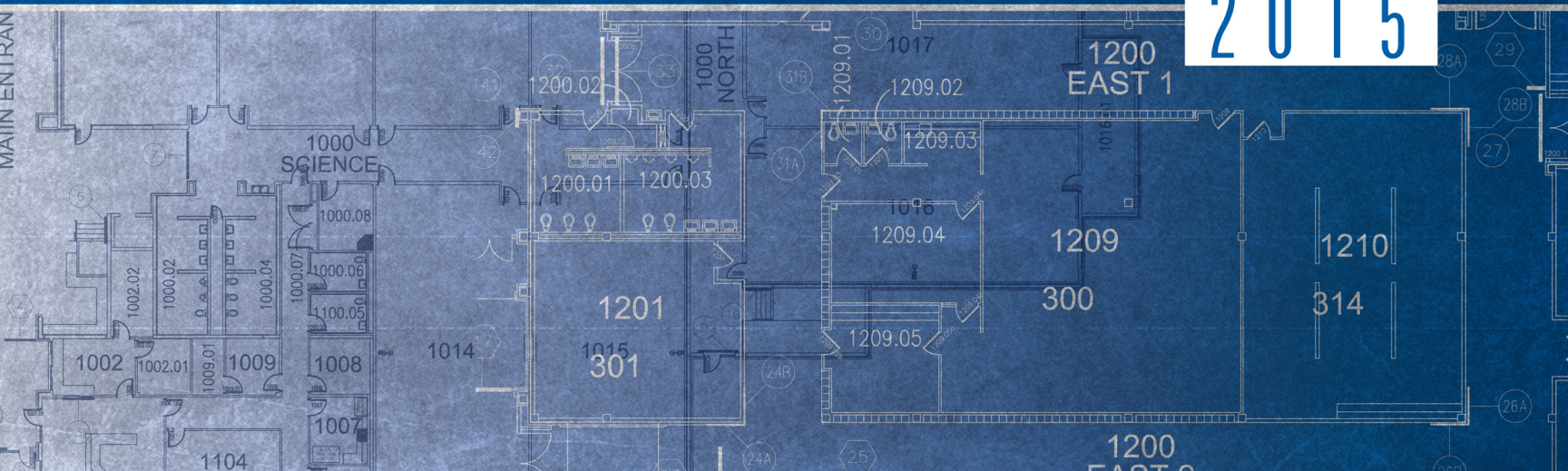
2015

# BLUEPRINTS



# LEANDER, TEXAS

VOLUME 69



2015



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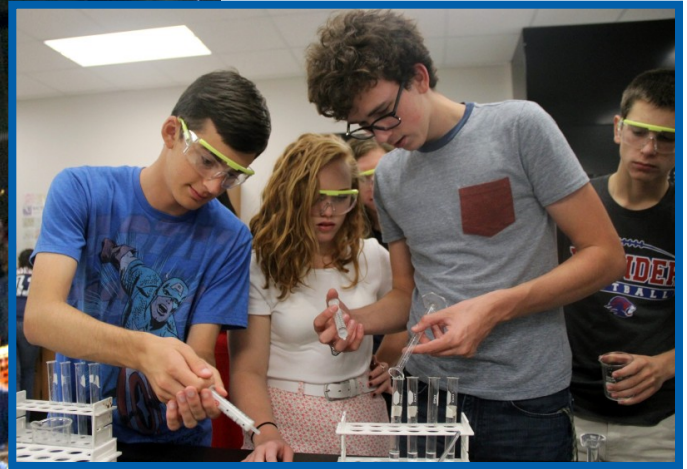
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# BLUEPRINTS



## Turn Down for What

During 3rd quarter at the Vandy game, the student section goes wild when the band plays "Tear It Up." "Honestly being in the student section is one of my favorite things about high school," senior Alisa Græne said. "Everyone in the school gets to set aside their differences and just have a good time."



Anna Alva

## Rate of Reaction

Conducting an enzyme lab, junior Anthony Leeber works with classmates to measure the rate at which an enzyme breaks down a substrate. "[It's] very hands on and you could really see how the enzyme affected the rate of reaction," Leeber said.

## L's High

Before the team runs through the helmet at the start of the game, everyone holds their L's high for the alma mater. "In Blue Belles, we focus on raising everyone else's school spirit but in doing so, we also raise our own," junior Kelli Dyer said.

# Leander High School

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### Spirit, Spicer & Soccer

**1.** Senior Miracle Allison cheers on the student section during a pep rally. "I don't even want the last pep rally to come," Allison said. "I'm going to be so emotional." **2.** The trend started on Day 1 for #SelfieswithSpicer. "The second time I went to Leander I got a tour of the building from Mr. Mansfield and at the end of the tour he said let's take a picture," Ms. Spicer said. **3.** "I like the courtyard because it gives us the freedom to play without getting in trouble," senior Emily Luker said.

Anna Alva



Tiffany Spicer



Tyler Jones



# Open all the doors and let us out into the world

After almost an entire year, the wait was over and we were finally allowed to walk the halls of our new school. We could hear the distant sound of hammering something that wasn't yet finished. Dust clung to our clothes and the smell of fresh paint filled the air.

We explored the new grounds and searched the halls for changed classroom numbers. Freshmen didn't know where their first period class was and neither did the seniors. We didn't get our schedules in the summer so everyone was clueless about whose room they would be in and who would be seated with them among the rows of larger, gum-free desks.

Adjusting to a different bell schedule, we experienced the new advisory, known as Pride Time. This addition proved to be a time to quickly do next period's homework or was a well-needed nap time for others.

The cafeteria was expanded and students

rushed to the new café setting to claim their tables, while others sought out the more relaxed scene of the courtyard's fresh air to enjoy their food.

#SelfieswithSpicer was trending within the first few days on our campus, and the new principal quickly became an amazing rep for school spirit. Seniors shared the "Last, Firsts" they would experience in high school, and we never knew if the fire alarms were "real or not," and they proved to be more annoying than our alarms that woke us up in the morning.

The framework of how we ran our lives at school changed drastically, but the roots of who we are and where we are from stayed the same. We still brought at least one bag of Super Donuts donut holes to first period and enjoyed experimenting the many Sonic Slushies after school. At every game and spirit event, we held our "L's" proud.

by Shilo Criswell



**Up On the Roof Roof:** Where the front parking lot circle used to be is now the beautiful courtyard and science building complete with front offices and 16 labs. "I like the fact that it's new and updated, feels cleaner and more modern," senior Katie Lofton said. "The Science wing and the courtyard add a fun, new feeling to the school."







Alejandro Norato

Anna Alva

Tyler Jones



1



2



3

### Lion Pride

**1.** Nathan Powers, Griffin Mavis, Callie Prather, Amanda Dunmire, and Aubree Vasquez, claim the first row of the student section for "seniors only" to start the first football game with school spirit. **2.** Junior Christopher Buyson enjoys a cup of Kona ice at lunch on a Friday. **3.** During a PALS activity, senior Claire Kyllonen is blindfolded for the game See, Do, Run.



### Behind the Mask

Before a game, senior mascot Savannah Cargill stays hydrated, eats a big meal and works out with Branched Chained Amino Acid drink to keep her energy going for the whole game. "My instructor once told me that 10% of the crowd is always looking at me so I focus on moving around but stay in one general area," Cargill said.

# We've found ourselves in a whole new **World**

Thirteen years.

We waited thirteen years of school to win the long awaited title as "seniors." The majority of us had barely prepared summer assignments before we had to say goodbye to sunscreen skin and sleeping in.

We anticipated seeing our fellow classmates become varsity starters, club presidents, dance team officers, and Prom King & Queen. We cheered as loud as ever and turned our backs to the underclassmen during pep rallies, knowing we'd walked out with the Spirit Stick every time. And as we linked our "L's" together we hummed along with the lyrics of our school song because no one other than choir seemed to know the words by heart.

On Friday nights we arrived hours early just to claim a spot in the front row, ready with the American flag from someone's front yard and mangled spray-painted trash cans, full of hope that we would leave the field claiming Bible Stadium as OUR house. We constructed ponchos out of trash bags at the Rouse game but the rain didn't ruin our pride.

After the first month, everyone knew the "Shake it Off" song by Taylor Swift because they played it over and over during passing periods, but we were all too afraid to admit we love it. No one told us we'd lose sleep to perfect our college essays and keep each other awake during the fourth consecutive dress code presentation.

We loved getting college credit for ACC classes but found it impossible to make it through a ¾ day. On Taco Tuesday everyone dug through their car for two dollars just to get a decent breakfast. On Friday's, Kona Ice made up for the absence of the Project Grad Candy Lady.

When we look back on how far we've come in the past four years, we went through two principals, construction and remodeling the building, renumbering the entire school, hundreds of homework assignments, finalizing essays, friends we lost, new ones we gained, experiences we cherished and lessons that built the foundations for our future.

by Anna Alva





### Wear Sunglasses

Sweating and burning in the summer heat, the band rehearses their show during the long weeks before the start of school. Because of the numerous hours spent baking in the sun, many Band Tans come to show. "It looks like we're wearing socks when we don't have shoes on," senior Taylor Schaffner said.

Photo by Shilo Criswell



# Summer Unscripted

**1.** It takes freshman [Sarah Aguilar](#) much practice to learn to march with perfect posture, stance and energy to look fierce and aggressive on the field. "I started out as an alternate and the hardest part was proving that I was good enough to take a permanent spot," Aguilar said. **2.** Members of Student Council, including senior [Cherilyn Song](#), leave short messages for the teachers before they move into their new classrooms. **3.** To relax, senior [Nicole Barnes](#) catches fish at a nearby pond. "I love being in nature and trying out new techniques to catch fish," Barnes said. **4.** With the sun rising beside the stadium, junior [Gabriel Sanchez](#) practices with the varsity team to prepare himself for the season.



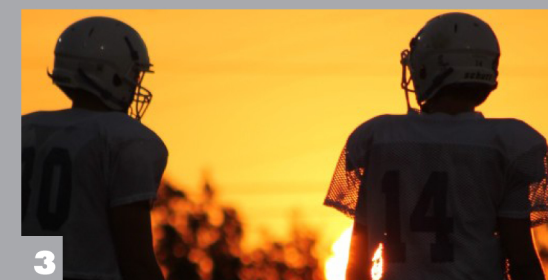
1

Shilo Criswell



2

Siandhara Bonnet



3

Siandhara Bonnet



4

Autumn Corbin







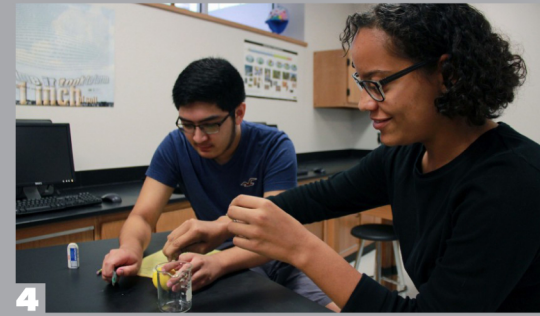
Alejandro Norato



Christian Mouton



Kayla Weir



Alejandro Norato

1. While walking the field with a group of girls, Mrs. Lisa Garcia shares some of the pictures with senior Jordan Tschoepe. "I love taking pictures," Garcia said. "It makes the memories last forever." 2. Students make full use of the new addition to their lunch life and help each other finish assignments while enjoying the breeze. "I like how there is grass and it's open," freshman Bryce Trinkle said. "Kids can go outside and eat and all that." 3. Freshmen members create their path for the year by participating in ROTC activities. "We got to know the other members through taking place in the team building games," freshman William Gonzalez said. "I'm looking forward to next year to get to know the new freshmen." 4. Seniors Anthony Bernard and Noah Heerdink apply their knowledge of the latest lesson on standard deviation and find interesting results. "It was pretty surprising that the lemons had almost the exact number of predicted seeds and juice in them," Bernard said.

# Fall Breaking Ground

## Charging to Victory

Tightening his grip on the American flag, senior Caleb Gonzaba, along with the defensive starters, charge onto the field before the Crosstown Showdown against Cedar Park. "Running through the banner with my teammates is such an amazing feeling, a feeling of knowing that every single one of us is there for one another, like a brotherhood," Gonzaba said. "The only thing I can think about is just getting on that field against the opponent and whooping their butts."

Photo by Janelle Heller





### King for a Day

Crowned Mane Man, senior Alejandro Norato smiles from ear to ear. "I came in here expecting the worst," Norato said. During the auction portion of the annual event, Norato won the "Daddy Warbucks" title because he had the highest bid of the night at \$800. "I didn't even think I was going to place at all, but I won. I've never done anything like this before."

Photo by Kayla Weir

# Winter Framework

**1.** During Choir, sophomore [Evan Hayes](#) and and freshman [Jake VanDerGinst](#) play the guitar and sing Foo Fighters songs. Their heroes are Eddie Van Halen and Dave Grohl. "I started to learn how to play the guitar when I was seven and I wanted to learn how to play because Eddie Van Halen did it," VanDerGinst said. **2.** Freshman [Kaela Daniel](#) receives her school laptop from Mrs. Harris, the campus tech support specialist. **3.** In theater class, freshmen [Alex Santisteven](#) gets his fellow performers ready for their play. "I enjoy doing makeup on myself, but also other people," Santisteven said. "It is very detailed work." **4.** Under the bright lights at the Winter Show, freshman [Christa Walter](#) performs a pom routine choreographed by Muv.



Shilo Criswell



Siandhara Bonnet



Dominique Lopez



Autumn Corbin





## Spring Into Action

Seasons collide when the stadium is filled with track and soccer players at after school practice. Because of the changing seasons, winter sports like soccer come to an end and spring sports such as track take off into a new athletic direction. "In track, when we stretch and get ready for a race, it's more solo," junior David Dorsey said. "You try to find yourself before the race."

Photo by Alejandra Norato

# Spring Finished Product

**1.** For an FFA fundraiser, junior [Gabrielle Walton](#) tapes Mr. Graham to a wall. "Since I'm the student aide for the APs it was fun trying to get him to stick up there." **2.** Practicing as a center midfielder, senior [Angel Garza](#) perfects his game. "I always want to make good decisions during practice so I can play better during games." **3.** At Skills USA District Competition, senior [David Hebert](#) helps another student with his electrical project. "Nothing was working right. All the electricity in the building was turning off every time someone tried to plug in their project." **4.** Playing Amoeba Tag, senior [Rebecca Spry](#) and sophomore [Guy Lavin](#) get tripped up. "The game helps us work together and connect more and it lets us see how people are like," Lavin said.



Janelle Heller



Ella Laurins



Melissa Wood



Alejandra Norato





**Tiptoe**

On a spring day, the AVID classes get together outside and play a game of kickball. Many students took AVID to prepare for college, but every now and then, they have some fun. “I learned how to make conical notes, and what colleges look for in students,” sophomore Ruben Gonzalez said.



1

Ella Tourins



2

Dominique Lopez



3

Alejandro Norato

**In My Happy Place**

**1.** Track prepares for a meet by running in groups during practice. **2.** Senior Deirdre Alvarez uses her student aide time wisely by completing homework in the counselors’ office. **3.** While driving the sports medicine four wheeler, sophomore Faith Ortiz and Melissa Kelly share a quick laugh before the game starts.

The chapter is over,  
but the story  
has just **Begun**

When it’s all over, when school is over and final exams are over, and STAAR tests are finished, we will remember. We may not remember everything we learned, but we remember all that we’ve gone through together.

Not only did the freshman come into a new school, but they also had the opportunity to get new laptops to use for school, even though they usually use them to play games. Everyone learned how to manage the Pride Time schedule and navigate the new hallways.

We will remember a random flash of yellow as a banana raced across the football field and the countless times we cheered with the Blue Belles, cheerleaders and band after halftime.

We remember the constant fire drills, never knowing if it’s real or not. And we’ll never forget holding hands with classmates we never talked to before that day and finding new places to go to the bathroom during the three-hour

lockdown during finals week.

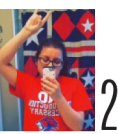
Cold weather treated us with days off even if there wasn’t a drop of rain or bit of ice in sight. We begged for cancels and delays on Twitter so we could go to breakfast or sleep in. We shamelessly collected hole punches for a free drink from Bahama Bucks even though it was freezing outside.

From behind the yellow caution tape, we cried as we watched our classmates taken away during Shattered Dreams. We’ve laughed hysterically as our senior guys goofed off on stage during Mane Man and danced the night away at the last Spring Show.

As a student body, we’ve gone through so many things that we will remember for the rest of our lives. The good and crazy things that happened, the fun times and the times we thought we’d never make it, will forever be engraved in our minds and our hearts.

We will forever be Leander Lions.

by Janelle Heller and Shilo Criswell

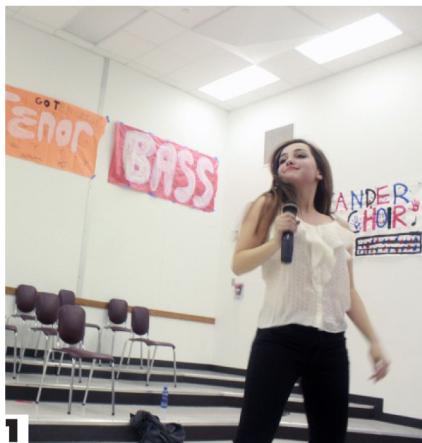




### Feel that Groove

1. Junior Mathilde Le Tacon practices during show choir. "It's taught me a lot about pulling your own weight in a team--if even one person isn't giving their best, it shows during the dance and affects the ensemble," she said.
2. "From the Blue Belles, I've learned incredible time management and how to deal with differing opinions responsibly," senior Kiley Smith said.
3. Seniors Manuel Rangel and Holly Ekas dance along the band. "I'm going to miss the all the people and the family atmosphere," Ekas said.

Shekhynah Larks



Alejandro Norato



Alejandro Norato



# Close

this chapter,  
and leave these  
moments in the past

187 days.

187 days of being a senior, setting up the rest of our lives. These last days mark our inescapable, irreplaceable "lasts."

We started the year trying to raise our second ACT/SAT test scores and applying to colleges, all while participating in senior meetings that popped up over the year. And we calculated how many days we could miss so we could exempt tests and to also not owe hours.

We will remember the ways we used our Pride Time to catch up with friends, sleep, or get a head start on lunch (which didn't always consist of school food).

We continued the year with talk of caps and gowns and how we pulled all-nighters studying for our AP and IB exams, only surviving off energy drinks and Starbucks. And we all waited to hear our names on the announcements to tell everyone which colleges we would attend.

We performed our last shows, played our last games and cheered on our friends while painting ourselves red, white and blue, to show our love for them.

We witnessed countless Promposals, and then shopped for hours to be the "eye-catcher" at our last formal dance.

We rushed to find missing textbooks and we finished up our ACC classes for college credit.

We saw girls in their Kendra Scott and the guys in their Spenrys, not only for senior portraits but looking on point for the regular school day too.

We loved how we weren't burdened with the task of taking STAAR tests, but we hated that we had less time with the teachers we grew so close to.

And we mark senior year with our final farewells, leaving notes of nostalgia in our yearbooks and spend a last few times together before we all go our separate ways.

by Shilo Criswell



**It's a Tradition:** As a starter on the home team, players run out to stand after their names are announced for the national anthem. "As a Leander tradition, we put our hats on the ground facing the American flag," junior Trey Roberts said. "And we put our left hand behind our back with an "L" while our right hand is on our heart."

Shilo Criswell

