

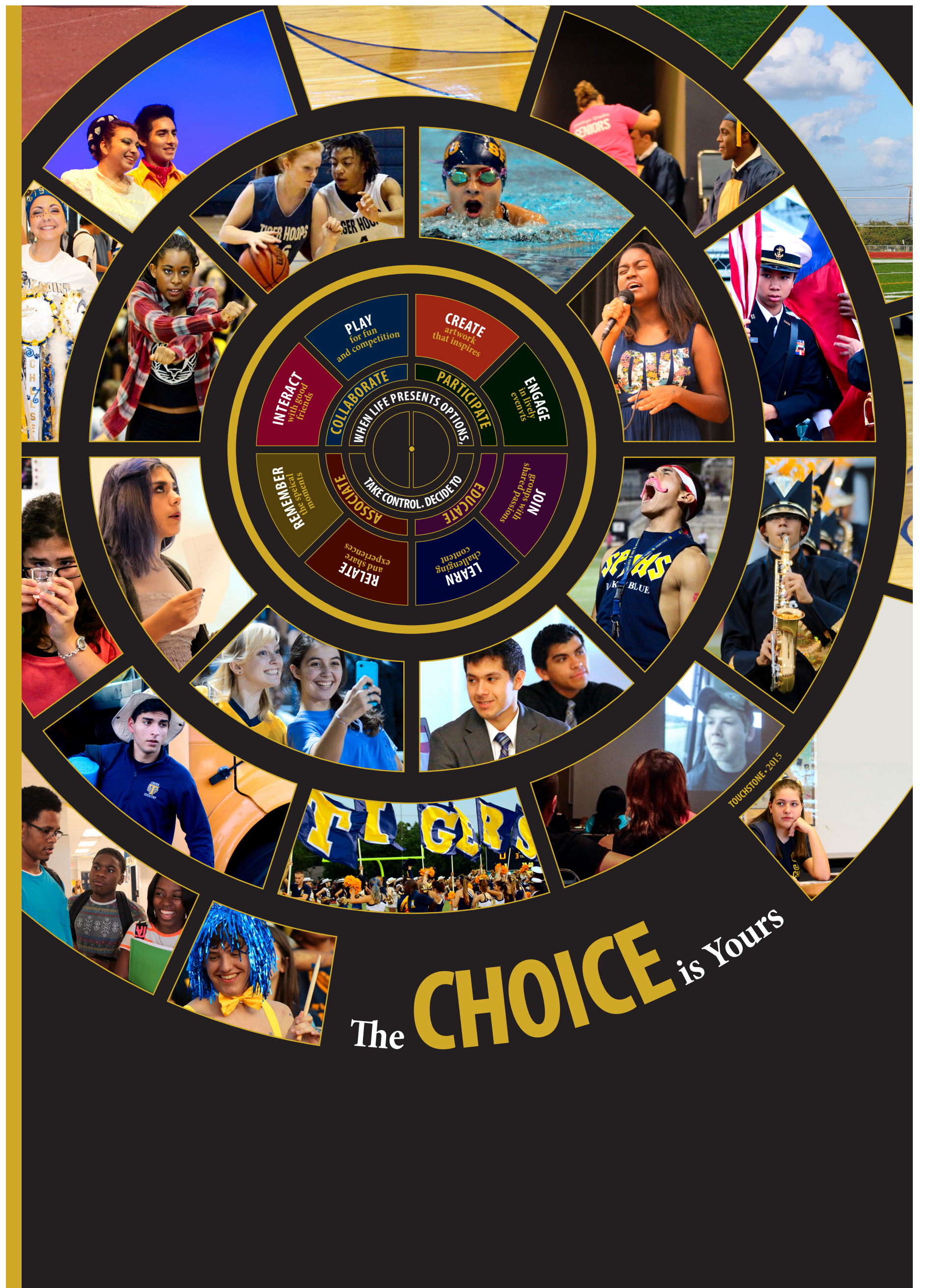
Interact
Play
Create
Engage
Join
Learn
Relate
Remember

The
CHOICE
is Yours

The
CHOICE
is Yours

Stony Point High School • TOUCHSTONE
ROUND ROCK, TEXAS

VOL 16
2015





TOUCHSTONE 2015

Volume 16

STONY POINT HIGH SCHOOL

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ACADEMIC SELECTIONS

include technology certification programs, AP classes, an IB track and five academies

ATHLETIC OPPORTUNITIES

UIL conference 6A district 13, region 2. 18 varsity UIL teams and 6 intramural teams

PEOPLE PREFERENCES

731 freshmen, 663 sophomores, 573 juniors, 498 seniors, 267 faculty & staff



photos by Roman Soriano, Aaron Meyers, Touchstone staff
After the second senior direct play was performed, senior Riley McMahon's group stays a little late to discuss their acting and reenact their performance. The play was both written and directed by McMahon, and it explored the life of a teenage high school shooter. captions for other photos on page 254

PERFECTLY TIMED CHANGES Senior Riley McMahon

FOR SENIOR RILEY MCMAHON, perfect timing is essential. As a performer, when another actor's lines drop off, McMahon comes in and captivates the audience. As a musician, when the beat changes, McMahon opens up and lets the world hear her voice blend with other singers in the choir.

For Riley McMahon, life is suppose to be in sync. It's only natural. So, when she could no longer continue taking both choir and theater at the start of her senior year, her timing felt off.

"I did not have a lot of space in my schedule, so I had to choose between theater and choir," McMahon said. "It was one of my hardest decisions to make in high school."

Coming from a musically involved family, where her mom and sister were both in choir, made the choice harder for McMahon.

"After making my decision, my mom was upset, but as always she supported me," McMahon said.

A lot of McMahon's friends are in theater. Wanting to spend more time with them, she chose a schedule without choir.

The schedule wasn't quite right, but it would allow McMahon to perform and enjoy the experience. However, just weeks into school, McMahon found her perfect rhythm again.

Although the school only has a musical every two years, 2014 was a musical year, and McMahon earned her spot in the group as Mother of the Earth.

"It was the best of both worlds.

We got so many different people that are creative and talented with theater and choir, and we could still be ourselves.

It's was such a loving environment. It's just the best," McMahon said.

story by Axel Corral

The CHOICE is Yours





photos by Aaron Meyers, Kassidy Springer, Axel Corral
 Taking a break at practice, junior Nicole Peacock and sophomores Reyna Balthazar and Cooper Everett enjoy time spent as teammates. "My team is like my family," sophomore Linda Tran, a second year tennis team member, said. "When I was in soccer, my soccer team was my family." captions for other photos on page 254

DECIDEDLY DIFFERENT THAN EXPECTED Sophomore Linda Tran

THERE WASN'T A WRITTEN demand or a sit down chat that set the tone for sophomore Linda Tran's athletic choices, but that didn't really matter. It was expected. Her sister played high school soccer and so would she. Right?

"While I started playing tennis my freshmen year, I was still debating whether or not to play soccer," Train said. "I love both sports."

When it came time to make a final choice, Tran spent a week contemplating. She listed pros and cons for each.

"I thought about my future,"

Tran said. "I realized, since soccer is double blocked, I may find it difficult to manage both soccer and school."

After choosing, Tran competed in mixed-doubles matches at tournaments first semester.

"I haven't made a perfect ace," Tran said, "but I like to say that I have done good serves at games."

Doing increasingly better at tournaments has had its rewards, but Tran was at practice when she discovered the real reason her decision to drop soccer and play tennis was perfect.

"While I was standing in the court during practice, I looked at my racket," Tran said. "I saw all of my teammates and thought, 'I made the right choice.'" story by Soleil Guadalupe

The **CHOICE** is Yours





LIFE IS COMPLICATED, and it comes with a lot of decisions to be made and paths to follow. However, these choices become a lot clearer if you think about what your passions are. Forgetting about what others have to say or what others are doing is the key. You need to focus on yourself and what is best for you, no matter what the risks are. Things are always uncertain since life is complicated, but I have found that as long as I work as hard as I can and do the best I can to reach my dreams, life is a lot less complicated.”

Senior
Zoya Zia

HOICES

are everywhere

AND THEY ARE YOURS FOR THE MAKING.

During the school year, you've picked your preferences, appraised your opportunities and narrowed down your selections. You've made decisions that best fit your needs.

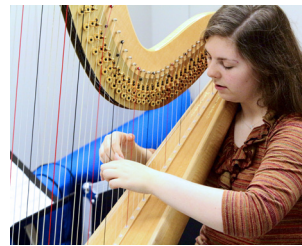
Now, we invite you to scan the pages of this book. As you read along, make a decision and follow new directions to see what happens next.

THE CHOICE IS YOURS

captions
page 254

You see, CHOICES start something like this

When faced with more than one option, think about the things that help you grow new skills, the things that make you happy or the things that open opportunities for the future.



YOU CAN CHOOSE TO

Find a nice, quiet place in the building to privately practice. p 92

Spend time with friends at a home game at the Palace. p 34

Make your way to your classrooms through the crowded hallways. p 108

Hang out with those around you while updating others about your adventures. p 168

Coffee shops restaurants and malls can provide a lively location. p 22



Study sessions are always fun when music and food are involved. p 14



Focus on passion. Enjoy practicing for yourself, as much as you enjoy performing for an audience. p 86

After weeks of practice, enjoy being in the spotlight with your group. With all eyes focused on your performance, it feels just right. p 36

Sit next to friends and focus on social skills, as they too are necessary in life. p 152



Sign in with your phone and use all the additional features, like to do more than talk or text. p 20

When you've fixed your own errors use your knowledge to tutor others. p 138

Work hard to improve on imperfections. Facing your mistakes is a great way to improve. p 38



Bring your individual talents together and join in with others for a greater experience. p 106



Friends make the best of any situation. p 8

Feel confident about your skills and put them to test by playing Kahoot! in class. p 140



Enjoy your group's natural talent. It makes extra-curricular activities even more fun. p 32

With friends it's easier to put yourself out there and ignore the criticism. p 120

Look around you and see what others are doing, they always make you laugh. p 44



Use technology to record the moment, but then put away the phone. Remember that smiles are better in person than from an emoji. p 16



Need another opportunity to play? Take up a sport. Go to the court or field and compete with a team at district games. p 28



Not all games are for the phone. Play hands on games at Safe Trick or Treat. p 132

Staying after school isn't punishment it's something you choose to do. p 124

But studying what you love also has its rewards. The new knowledge will change your world. p 130



Forget the duck lips, fierce is in. Manage to pose with your friends without laughing. p 110

Know when it is time to stop talking and pick up your books to start learning. p 134



If UIL doesn't offer a sport you like, take on a club sport like lacrosse to fill your need. p 70

The joy of working with others helps you find success. p 54

You find personal rewards in sharing your talents with others. p 86

Seeing others do well is what really makes you happy. p 98

Because of your extraordinary skills, put all your attention on the adventure of your activity rather than the hard work. p 122

Scared to mess up? Friends are there to help you. p 110

Mom has DSLR, but you have a phone with a front facing camera. Take pictures with those around you to remember the good times. book cover

As you scan the area, your eyes make a connection with another people-watcher. p 112



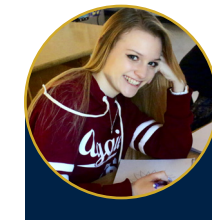
Choose to laugh and make memories with those who have taken time to be with you. Share hobbies and knowledge and make the journey together. p 82

With the extra hours put in after school, together you can get near perfect. p 80

Don't get caught up in being perfect, go with it and have some fun. p 84

Catch someone laughing at your silly selfie setup. Just know they posed the same way with their friends just moments before you. p 88

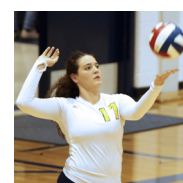
Post the photos for the world to see. All of your friends will love them. p 16



Greet them with a nod. You're proud to choose Stony Point as your high school. p 262



CHOOSE TO Interact
p 8



CHOOSE TO Play
p 28



CHOOSE TO Create
p 76



CHOOSE TO Engage
p 106



CHOOSE TO Join
p 118



CHOOSE TO Learn
p 134



CHOOSE TO Relate
p 152



CHOOSE TO Remember
p 218

photo by Touchstone staff. Public Domain
Images: coffee by Julius Schorramann, markers and eraser by Evan-Amos, pen by Trounce, shoes by Designer, bowling ball by Ommonnongulp, football by Torsten Bolten, phone by Justin14

TO DANCE WITH PURPOSE

WITH NO PURPOSE? For the entirety of her high school career, senior Carolina Naranjo has chosen to do things with purpose. Auditioning for plays, hoping to be cast as specific characters. Singing in musicals, bringing tears to the audience members' eyes. Getting in costume to perform a dance that evokes emotion. All those things, all these years. Naranjo's been driven by purpose.

But at her last Intersections performance, Naranjo found herself straightening her legs and starting a very different dance.

"It definitely went against performing arts because, as a performer, we are supposed to make the audience feel a certain way for a purpose."

Usually songs have themes that dancers are suppose to portray for the audience, but this dance wasn't like the others.

"We were suppose to make the audience feel something and provoke different emotions for no real purpose," Naranjo said.

Starting hidden by a screen and looking up at nothing, the chosen choreography had Naranjo waiting in

position in hopes that the audience would follow. The crowd shifted position, and eyes darted around to see where Naranjo's attention was focused.

To evoke emotion without a theme required Naranjo and the other dancers to embrace a different mind-set and to commit themselves to a new way of performing.

"There were a lot of difficult parts that took a lot of practice to get it right," Naranjo said. "It was definitely an experience since it was my last intersections performance." *story by Ashley Selby*

The CHOICE is Yours

- 008 **CHOOSE TO INTERACT**
- 010 Plot lines
- 012 Sticky situation
- 014 Select sounds
- 016 Snapshots
- 16b Time to spare
- 018 Good for the soul
- 020 What's in a name
- 022 Steaming cup of Joe
- 024 Console connection
- 026 Getting sleepy

- 028 **CHOOSE TO PLAY**
- 030 Football
- 034 Blue Crew
- 036 Cheer
- 038 Tiger Dancers
- 040 Volleyball
- 044 Cross Country
- 046 Golf
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- 050 Swim
- 052 Basketball
- 060 Soccer
- 068 Track
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- 074 Baseball

- 076 **CHOOSE TO CREATE**
- 078 Art classes
- 080 Intersections
- 082 Ballet Folklorico
- 084 Marching band
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- 094 Choir

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see captions on page 254



SHARE OR DON'T SHARE HEADPHONES

"I choose to listen to music go running," sophomore Yvette Gonzalez. **FRIENDS AT SCHOOL OR FRIENDS FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD** "I do chores at home and baby sit," sophomore Emma Aviles. **MOVIES OR TV - PEOPLE PERSON OR ANTISOCIAL** "I prefer practicing the flute to doing homework," sophomore Angelic Trevino. **EXTRAVERT OR INTROVERT - TALK TO FRIENDS OR READ A BOOK** "I decided to cut my hair and donate it to Locks of Love," junior Danielle Oskam. **DRESS OR SKIRT-SELFIE OR GROUP SHOT** "If I hadn't stayed in Spanish I wouldn't have met freshman Selene," sophomore Isaiah Gasparro. **SONIC OR MCDONALDS - TALKER OR LISTENER** "I got a job at the outlet mall. It made my life more stressful o find time for extracurricular activities," sophomore Zachary Guzman.

The **CHOICE** is Yours

"WHEN I FIRST got my pig, Paisley, from the breeder and brought her to the Ag facility, she was very skittish. I spent a lot of time sitting in her pen, waiting patiently for her to approach me. Over time, she began to trust and interact with me. She started nibbling on my boots, and eventually worked her way up to sitting in my lap. Once she was extremely calm in the pen, I was able to take care of business quickly and easily. We both developed a routine during my twice daily visits to the Ag facility. Eventually, I was able to train her to walk outside her pen in the practice show ring. Training her was easy once she trusted me. I believe

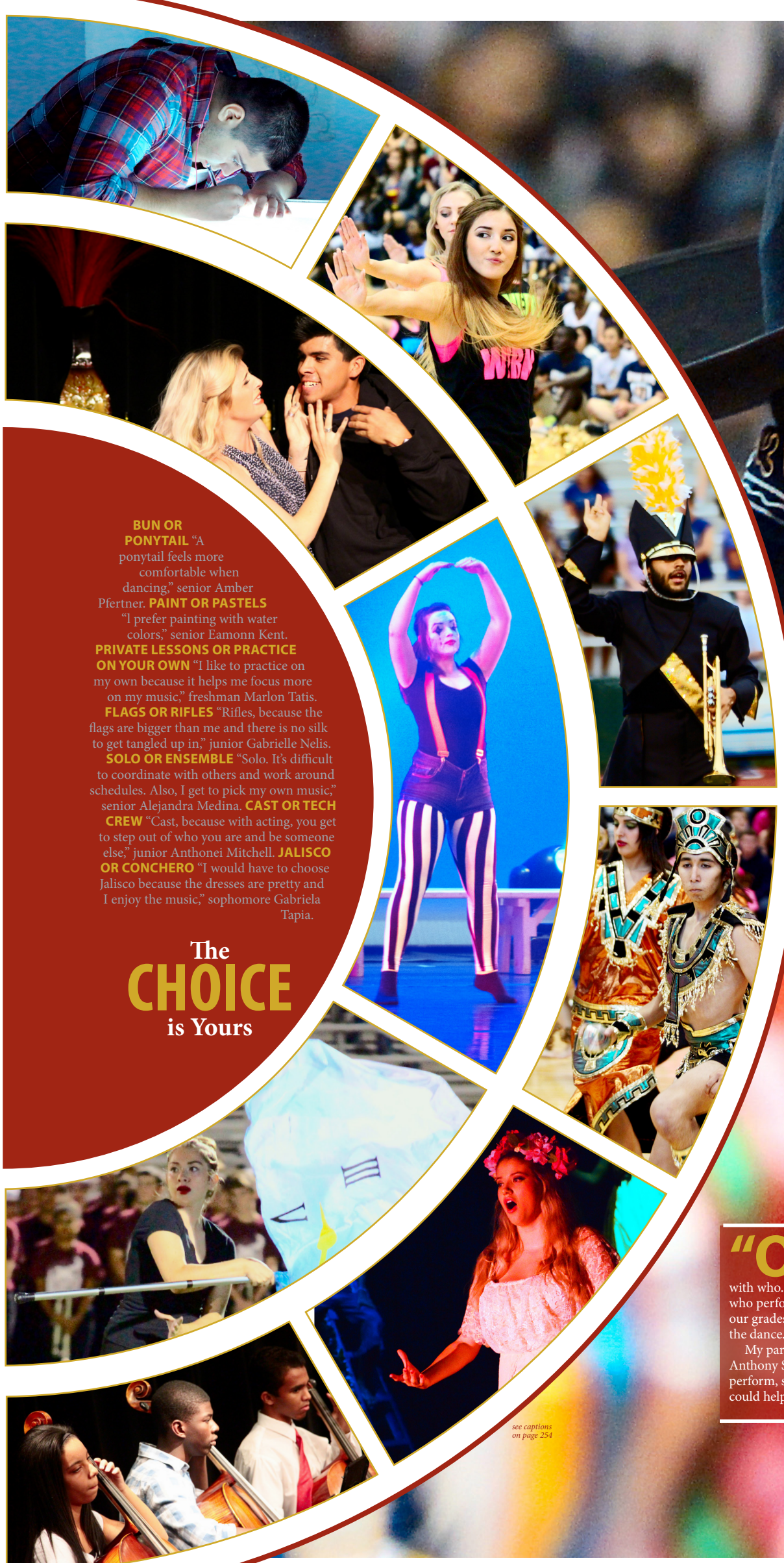
the environment, including the amount of attention you give your animal, plays a huge role in the animal reaching its full potential. If you take proper care of your animal - the right feed recipe, plenty of water, a clean pen, exercise - they will take care of you in the show ring. Paisley placed first in her class at the Williamson County Livestock Show and is now back with the breeder, who was extremely impressed with her growth and development. I worked hard to make sure my animals were comfortable and happy in the few short months they were in my care."

Senior **Michaela McKee**



CHOOSE TO
Interact

The CHOICE is Yours. Choose to INTERACT
designed by Touchstone staff
dominant photo, photo illustration by Stephanie McKee



BUN OR PONYTAIL "A ponytail feels more comfortable when dancing," senior Amber Pfertner. **PAINT OR PASTELS** "I prefer painting with water colors," senior Eamonn Kent. **PRIVATE LESSONS OR PRACTICE ON YOUR OWN** "I like to practice on my own because it helps me focus more on my music," freshman Marlon Tatis. **FLAGS OR RIFLES** "Rifles, because the flags are bigger than me and there is no silk to get tangled up in," junior Gabrielle Nelis. **SOLO OR ENSEMBLE** "Solo. It's difficult to coordinate with others and work around schedules. Also, I get to pick my own music," senior Alejandra Medina. **CAST OR TECH CREW** "Cast, because with acting, you get to step out of who you are and be someone else," junior Anthoni Mitchell. **JALISCO OR CONCHERO** "I would have to choose Jalisco because the dresses are pretty and I enjoy the music," sophomore Gabriela Tapia.

The **CHOICE** is Yours

"OUR TEACHER, Mr. Limon, decides who gets partnered with who. He determines who performs what based on our grades and knowledge of the dance. My partner, sophomore Anthony Sanchez, doesn't always perform, so he asked me if I could help him. I decided to step up and help. We worked hard to perfect the dance for the pep rally, and I was excited to finally perform it. While dancing, I was focused on my performance and not messing up. After the performance, I was glad because I thought we performed well."

JUNIOR PATRICIA SOLIS

CHOOSE TO Create

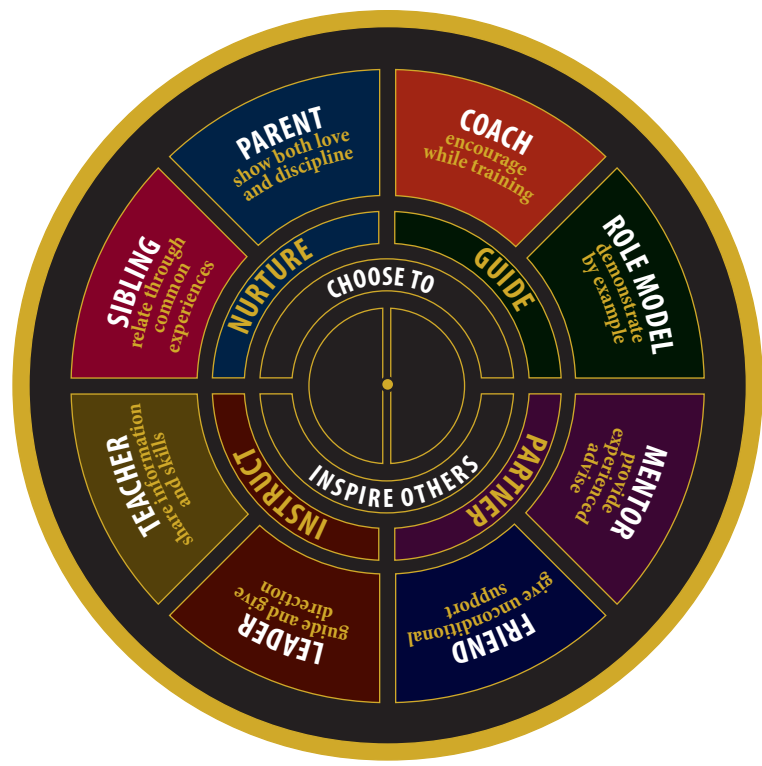


NJROTC MEMBERS participate in training exercises and competitions while in Sequin and La Porte.



The **CHOICE** is Yours

The **CHOICE** is Yours. Choose: Special Section
 designed by Soleil Guadalupe, Touchstone staff



CHOOSE TO Inspire



"MRS. VON has inspired me because she goes out of her way to help her students. She takes time and money out of her own pocket to make sure everyone has the best learning environment. She has inspired me to go into the medical field as a nurse."

Junior
Emily Chapin

"MY PARENTS started with nothing and worked really hard to get to where they are. My step dad went back to high school and both went to college. They have inspired me to work hard because it does pay off. It's stressful at the time but it worth it. I'm inspired to stay in school and to go to college. I'm excited because if they can do it, so can I."

Senior
Angelica Tyner

"COACH ROCK inspires me to never give up and never give in. I'm a better player overall, through encouragement and reinsurance. If I mess up, he encourages me by lifting my spirits and promising, through hard work, I can excel. He helped me become a better kicker and tackler, by repetition and basically putting in extra work."

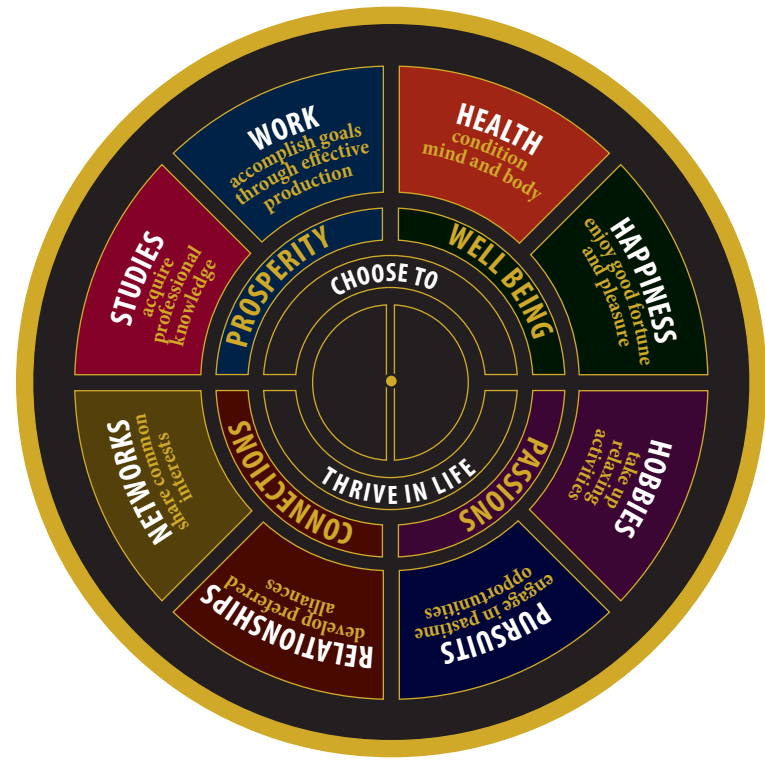
Junior
Sean Garlipp

"I CAN'T DESCRIBE THE FEELING

when I think about how much of an impact Maddie has made in my life. It's an overwhelming happiness. I don't know exactly how I've inspired her, but I would hope that she sees me as a friend and someone who loves her outside of her family, I would hope that because of me she is able to be less shy and more welcoming to strangers in the future. She's inspired me to be a better person and not to judge people by how they look or act."

Freshman
Caroline Lanz





CHOOSE TO Thrive



"BEING THE VP of the French Club has really helped me thrive in college applications. I actually received scholarships because of it. We focus on cultural stuff and how to communicate with others more effectively. I like seeing the members' strengths and how they can improve their French. Overall, it has given me a lot of responsibilities but also a lot of opportunities."

Junior
Courtney Parker

"A P CALCULUS has been a challenge, but I've been able to thrive and make the best out of it. I don't skip the notes or the homework, to make sure I am fully aware of the material and know how to solve the problems. I have stayed dedicated in that class. I enjoy the challenge. I usually like to take on new struggles, and in the end, I know that the struggle is all worth it."

Senior
Alicia Martinez

"I'M A SANDWICH ARTIST at Subway and I give them nothing but perfect service. I make sure that when customers leave, they leave happy and satisfied with the way they were served. There is a regular customer, that we call "subway's favorite customer." He said ever since I started working there he would pay me more because I work hard."

Junior
Zachary Martinez

"I REALLY WANT to see if what I enjoy doing [costume designing] is on a high enough skill level that I could actually make some form of progress out of it. I'm enjoying it, and I am putting my 100 percent of my work into it. As long as I try my hardest and I make the largest commitment that I can, that's all that really matters."

Sophomore
Megan Ruston

"I HAVE BEEN ABLE to thrive in IB in many ways. It has helped me expand my knowledge. I've been able to not only learn facts but analyze them and go in depth in the topic that we have learned. It's helped me thrive in leadership positions, as a student and in the college application process. I definitely think that my prior knowledge from high school and IB will help me in college."

Senior
Bella Andrino



"THE CNA PROGRAM has helped me in so many ways. I've always known I wanted to do something in the health science career, but by being in CNA I have gained more knowledge about the medical field. It has helped me narrow down my choices and

what I really want to major in when I attend college next year. CNA has offered me many opportunities, and I'm glad that I joined the program. I'm excited for the future and what is yet to come."

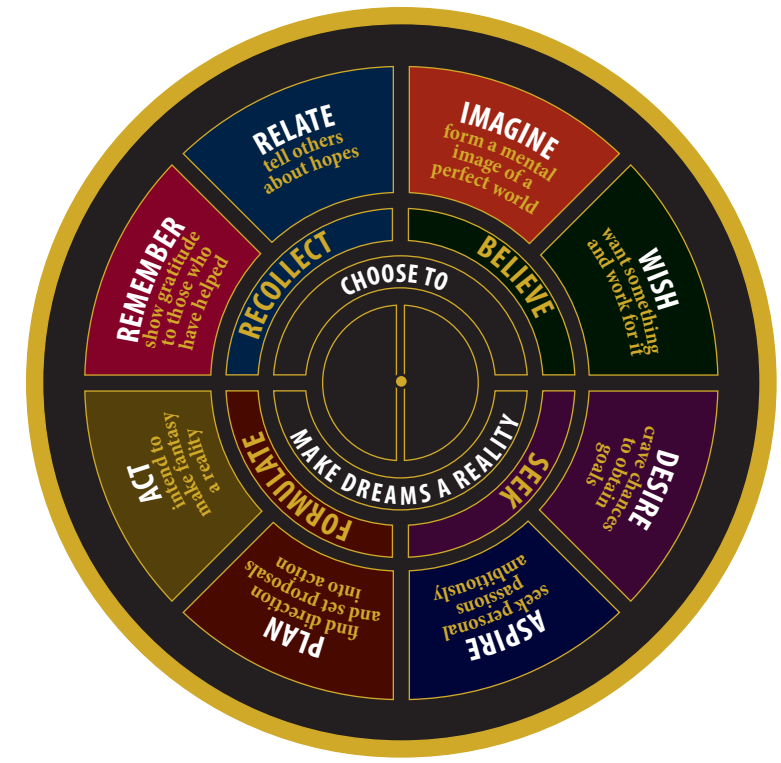
Senior
Janitza Hernandez



TEXAS LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY was definitely in my list of dream schools. I defined my dream school as a university that has great academic standards and wished for me to attend their school to be a part of their football and track team. TLU offered all of these qualities, which is why TLU was the university of my choice. During signing day, I was so grateful that most of my family was there to support me on this new, great accomplishment. I was glad that all of my hard

work that I have done these past four years had paid off and that I was given the opportunity to use my athleticism to pay for my education. I was really proud to be able to share my success with the rest of my fellow teammates who have also been with me since the beginning of my high school career and were also signing to the universities of their choice. I'm very proud of them as well as myself."

Senior
Garrett Garza



CHOOSE TO Dream



“I PUT ALL MY EFFORTS towards my audition for the One Act Play this year. It's awesome because now I get to be in front of the curtain instead of behind it with the technical crew. Leading to the audition, I memorized my monologue and probably practiced it 10 times a day. I videotaped myself, watched myself in the mirror and recorded my voice to see what I could improve on. I ended up doing well regardless.”

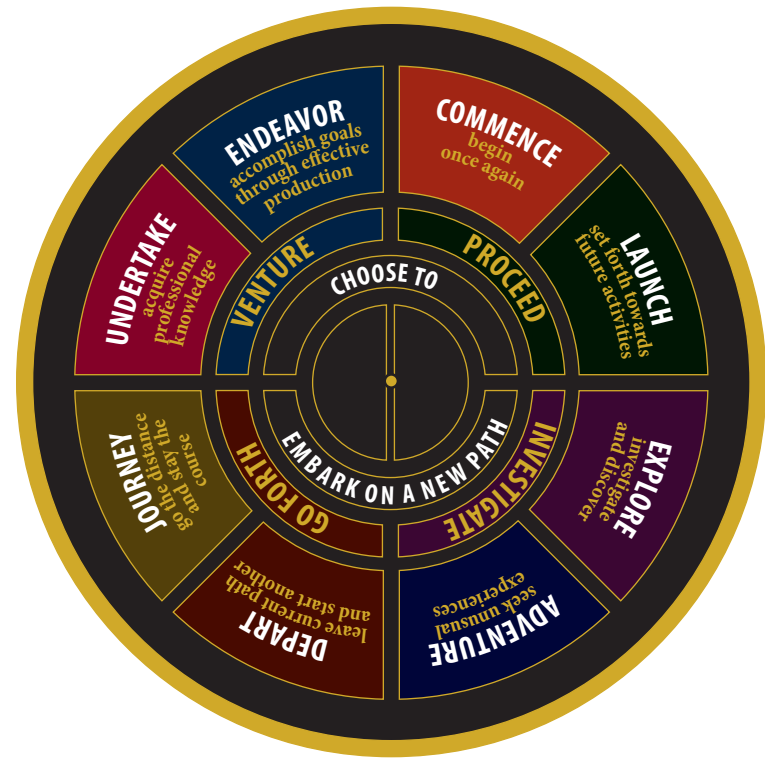
Sophomore
Destinee Silva

“I REALIZED I wanted to sing when I sang the national anthem at a basketball game. It was a significant moment in my life because I sang in front of a big crowd without messing up for the first time. It really boosted my confidence because I got many compliments on my voice that night. It's what makes me happy.”

Sophomore
Teirstyn Carroll-Alford

“I PLAN TO ATTEND a university in Texas and major in nursing. I want to stay in Texas and give back to the community that has brought me up to the person I am today. I'm excited, but then I'm also wary because you never know what may come. People go through ups and downs, and you're just hoping you come out on top.”

Senior
Shanille Gould



CHOOSE TO Embark



“I TOOK A ROAD TRIP over the summer with my family. We traveled through Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, and California. The chance to visit and see these places was amazing. The scenery was way different from here. Each place was unique. We ended our adventure in California, we spent the whole day in Disneyland.”

Senior
Abigail Cuellar

“I LEFT MY MOM about four years ago to live with my dad because she didn't do much for me. Now I currently live with my Dad. When I left my Mom's, I felt relieved and kind of happy. Living with my dad is better, he cares about me and we do everything together. I have fun with him.”

Sophomore
Chase Graham

“I'M ON THE DEBATE team and we got the opportunity to go to Boston, to compete at Harvard University. This is my second year as a member of the Stony Point debate team, and I focus on Public Forum. We talk a lot about globalization and world poverty. I've learned a lot being in the debate team, and I have a much stronger stance on politics.”

Senior
Marisa Tagalog

“THERE WAS A VOLLEYBALL tournament and I was trying my hardest and my teammates gave it all they had. At first it wasn't going very well and we were losing. In the second half, we ended up winning and beating the other team. It was a pretty big win for us, and we were all really happy that we were able to undertake the challenge.”

Freshman
Fabiola Amaral

“AS A CHILD in New Jersey we were constantly surrounded by woods and forests, large towering trees with beautiful rivers. I spent most of my waking moments there. To this day I am still reminded to explore the woods because you never know the beauty that you might find.”

Senior
Brenna Evans

“WHEN I CHOSE to go to college at the University of Texas A&M at Kingsville, I was proud at the simple fact that I got accepted to the university of my choice. I want to study mechanical engineering because I love working with my hands. I have loved math and engineering since I've watched 'Fast and Furious.' I want to use my hands and knowledge to work on cars and moving parts. I also want to study business because I want to be able to own my own shop one day. Business courses will give me pointers and keeping me on the right track of keeping it going.”

Senior
Jacob Rodriguez





SUPPORT A CLUB OR A SPORT • BUY THE T-SHIRT AT THE TIGER MARKETPLACE OR THROUGH THE TIGER STORE "I chose to walk with my soccer girls at Meet the Tigers," junior Zhane Sylvain. **SUPERHERO OR SCARY MONSTER • PAINT YOUR FACE OR DRESS UP FOR SAFE TRICK OR TREAT** "I chose to be a scary monster," freshman Manuel Bacolor. **PINK OUT THE PALACE OR DRESS UP FOR RED RIBBON WEEK • SUPPORT A HEALTH CAUSE OR GIVE KIDS CANDY AT SAFE TRICK OR TREAT** "I chose to buy a sweatshirt for Pink Out the Palace," freshman Johnny Nguyen said. **DECORATE THE HALLS OR PERFORM IN THE TALENT SHOW** "I sang with an instrumental at the Talent Show," junior Abbygail Chang. • "I hung sparkly gold streamers for homecoming," sophomore Kandice Springer. **ATTEND FRESHMAN ORIENTATION OR STAY HOME** "I chose to ditch my friend's birthday party for orientation," freshman Caroline Vaupel.

THE CHOICE IS YOURS

see captions on page 254

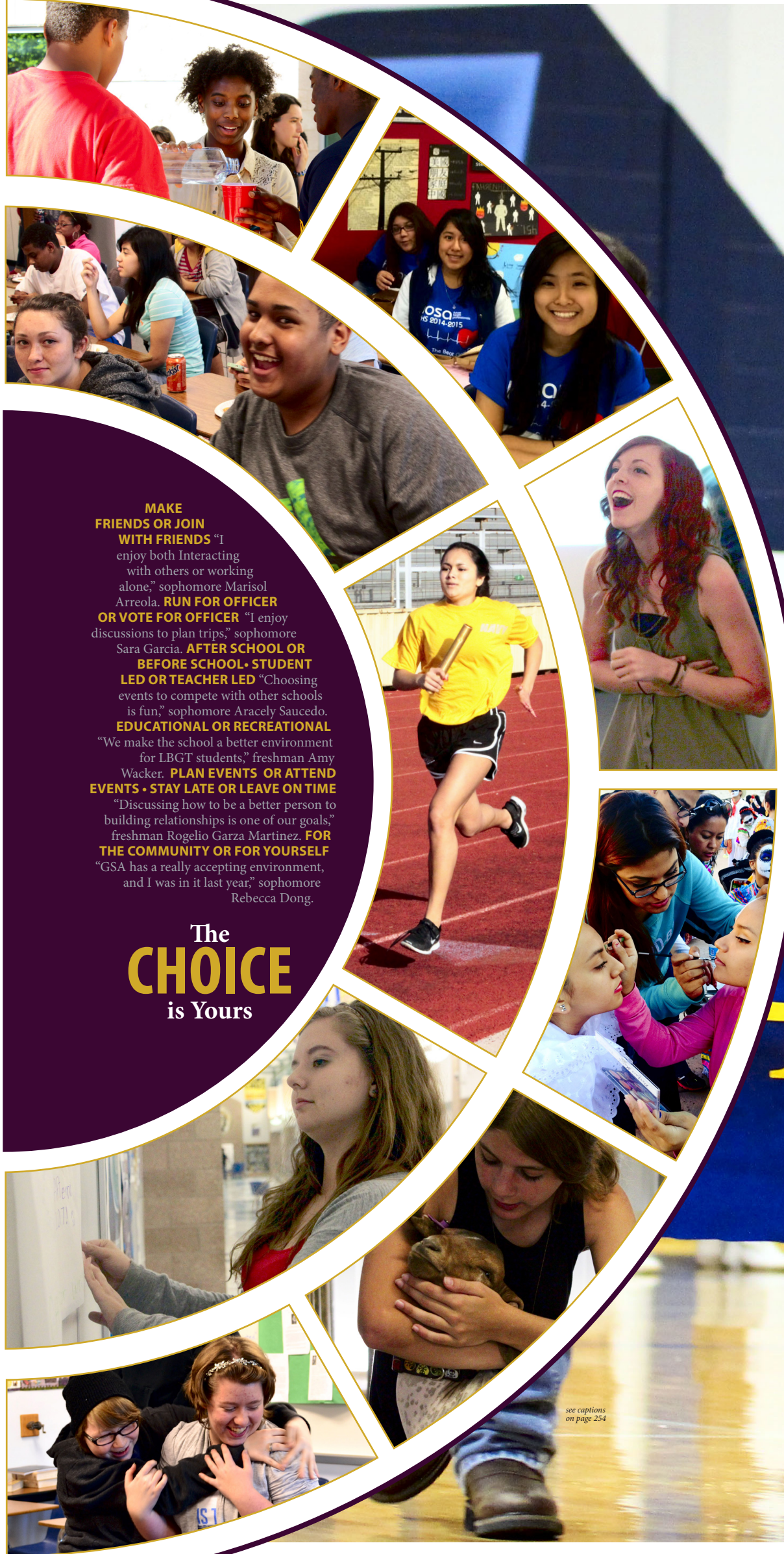
"IT WAS ONE of the best nights of my life. It was a really good game, so I figured even if I didn't get homecoming queen, it would be okay. It wouldn't really matter to me, because it was just an honor to be nominated. When my name got called, I was honestly really surprised. I guess just having a lot of friends

in different organizations, not just in cheer or in football, really got me chosen. Ultimately, I don't think that it was a popularity vote. I'm just nice to everyone. I have lots of different social groups. I guess that they told their friends to vote for me."

SENIOR VANESSA DEGOLLADO

CHOOSE TO Engage

The **CHOICE** is Yours. Choose to **ENGAGE**.
designed by Touchstone staff
 dominant photo by Jordan Baack



MAKE FRIENDS OR JOIN WITH FRIENDS "I enjoy both interacting with others or working alone," sophomore Marisol Arreola. **RUN FOR OFFICER OR VOTE FOR OFFICER** "I enjoy discussions to plan trips," sophomore Sara Garcia. **AFTER SCHOOL OR BEFORE SCHOOL • STUDENT LED OR TEACHER LED** "Choosing events to compete with other schools is fun," sophomore Aracely Saucedo. **EDUCATIONAL OR RECREATIONAL** "We make the school a better environment for LGBT students," freshman Amy Wacker. **PLAN EVENTS OR ATTEND EVENTS • STAY LATE OR LEAVE ON TIME** "Discussing how to be a better person to building relationships is one of our goals," freshman Rogelio Garza Martinez. **FOR THE COMMUNITY OR FOR YOURSELF** "GSA has a really accepting environment, and I was in it last year," sophomore Rebecca Dong.

The **CHOICE** is Yours

see captions on page 254



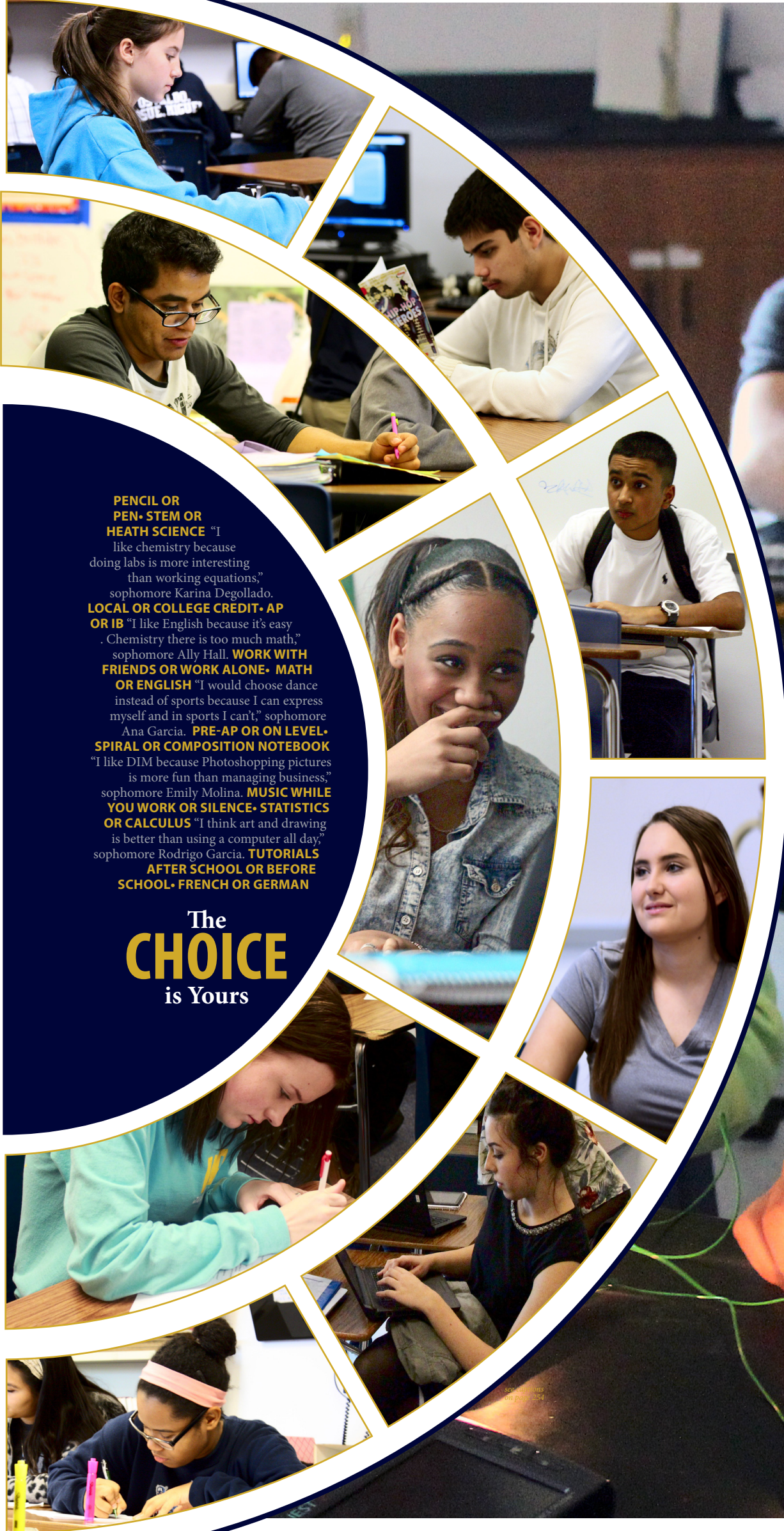
SPHS Historians

"WHEN I CHOSE to join Junior Historians I didn't know what to think it would be like. Although I had high hopes for it, this club exceeded all expectations. Not only is it rewarding on a personal level, but it helps out the community through our volunteer work as well. The ability to go to events like Meet the Tiger and such only add to the fun this club brings. I enjoy working with everyone involved with Junior Historians because they are just a great group of people. I definitely would recommend anyone interested about history or just helping the community, as a whole, to join Junior Historians."

Sophomore
Nathan Sippel

I CHOOSE TO
Join

The **CHOICE** is Yours. **Choose to JOIN**
Designed by Daniella Garcia, Celeste Barasch, Jordan Baack
dominant photo by Axel Corral Hernandez



PENCIL OR PEN- STEM OR HEALTH SCIENCE "I like chemistry because doing labs is more interesting than working equations," sophomore Karina Degollado. **LOCAL OR COLLEGE CREDIT- AP OR IB** "I like English because it's easy. Chemistry there is too much math," sophomore Ally Hall. **WORK WITH FRIENDS OR WORK ALONE- MATH OR ENGLISH** "I would choose dance instead of sports because I can express myself and in sports I can't," sophomore Ana Garcia. **PRE-AP OR ON LEVEL- SPIRAL OR COMPOSITION NOTEBOOK** "I like DIM because Photoshopping pictures is more fun than managing business," sophomore Emily Molina. **MUSIC WHILE YOU WORK OR SILENCE- STATISTICS OR CALCULUS** "I think art and drawing is better than using a computer all day," sophomore Rodrigo Garcia. **TUTORIALS AFTER SCHOOL OR BEFORE SCHOOL- FRENCH OR GERMAN**


The
CHOICE
is Yours



CHOOSE TO
Learn

"IN THIS PHYSICS CLASS, Cydnie Perry, Nick Hight and Jaime Abdunes were working on their projects. The students in this class were learning about circuit design by building working circuit boards out of components such as wires and light bulbs. They all seem to like this lab because it is really hands on. Also, they can see the results right away; it's not just a number on a computer screen."

Teacher
James Calvin

The **CHOICE** is Yours. Choose to **LEARN** 
designed by Daniella Garcia, Celeste Barasch, Jordan Banch
dominant photo by Courtney Blanton



MALL OR OUTLETS • TARGET OR WALMART "I went to homecoming over seeing my favorite band in concert," freshman Sophia Rubio. **PLAY STATION OR XBOX • FACEBOOK OR INSTAGRAM • DRESS UP OR COMFY** "When it comes between studying or watching a movie, I had to choose to study," sophomore Quin Deshay. **BEACH OR CAMPING • SLEEP IN OR UP EARLY** "I could have went to Cedar Ridge. I'm glad I came here," sophomore Joe Najera. **BOOK OR INTERNET • HEALTHY OR JUNK FOOD • SCARY OR COMEDY** "I chose to do ROTC over AP Spanish," junior Emely Alvarado. **OFF CAMPUS OR CAFETERIA • HOMEWORK OR CELLPHONE • BE ON TIME OR BE LATE BUT LOOK GOOD** "I've made healthy choices like to eat a salad not pizza," sophomore Elysia Cantu. **ADIDAS OR NIKE • FRUIT OR CANDY**

The
CHOICE
is Yours

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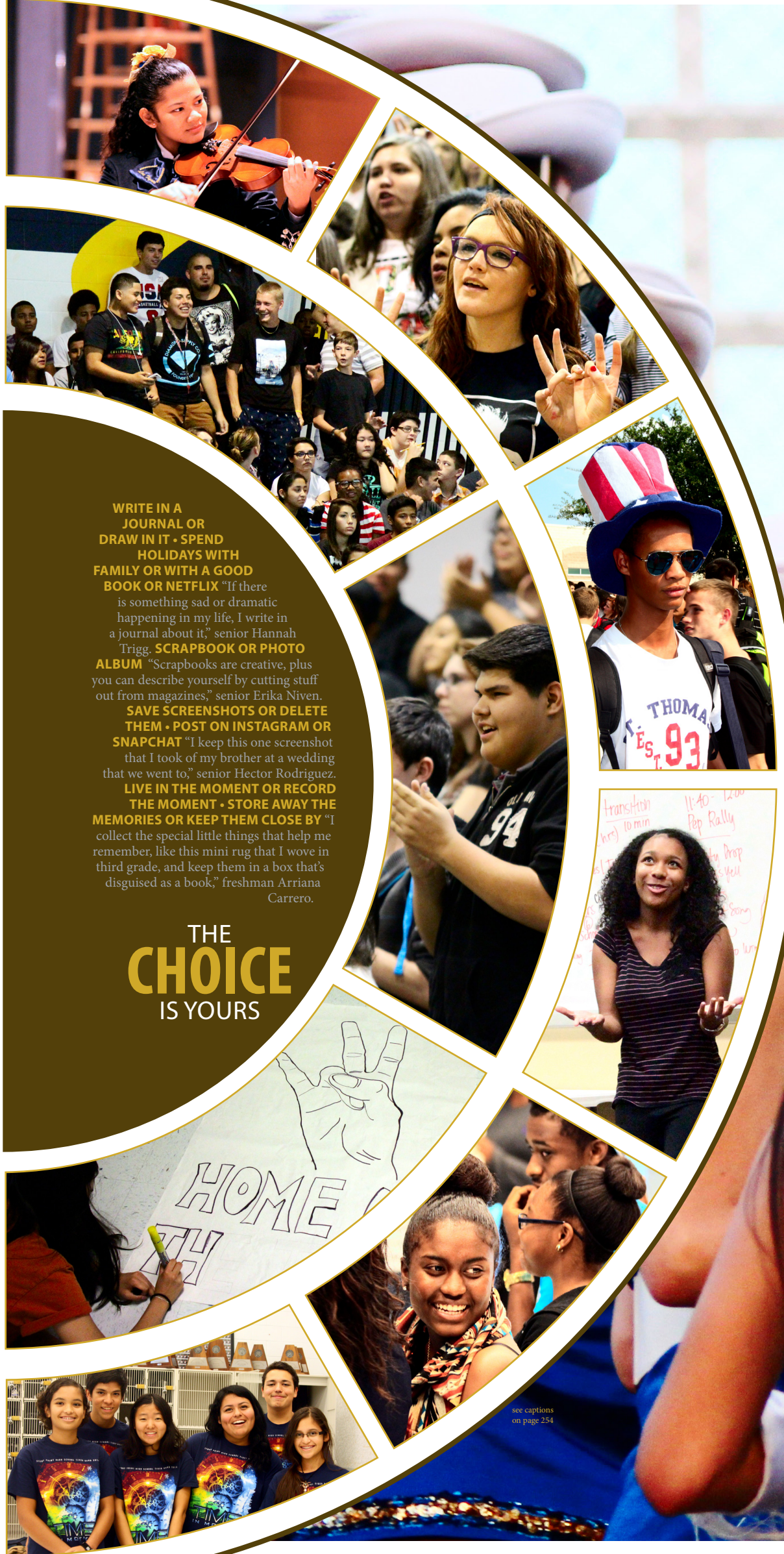
"Throwing the powder up in the air is a Blue Crew pre-game ritual. We do it because it gets the crowd pumped up, but we only did it once this year because we got in trouble afterwards."
Junior
Scott Fickey

Relate

CHOOSE TO



The CHOICE is Yours. Choose to RELATE.
designed by Touchstone staff
dominant photo by Axel Corral Hernandez



WRITE IN A JOURNAL OR DRAW IN IT • SPEND HOLIDAYS WITH FAMILY OR WITH A GOOD BOOK OR NETFLIX "If there is something sad or dramatic happening in my life, I write in a journal about it," senior Hannah Trigg. **SCRAPBOOK OR PHOTO ALBUM** "Scrapbooks are creative, plus you can describe yourself by cutting stuff out from magazines," senior Erika Niven. **SAVE SCREENSHOTS OR DELETE THEM • POST ON INSTAGRAM OR SNAPCHAT** "I keep this one screenshot that I took of my brother at a wedding that we went to," senior Hector Rodriguez. **LIVE IN THE MOMENT OR RECORD THE MOMENT • STORE AWAY THE MEMORIES OR KEEP THEM CLOSE BY** "I collect the special little things that help me remember, like this mini rug that I wove in third grade, and keep them in a box that's disguised as a book," freshman Arriana Carrero.

THE CHOICE IS YOURS



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"I FEEL LIKE my last year of high school should really be lived to the fullest in all aspects. Because the Tiger Dancers organization is basically my second family, I know I will want to especially remember all the things that I do with them." **SENIOR JADE RODRIGUEZ**

Remember

CHOOSE TO

The CHOICE is Yours. Choose to REMEMBER. 2019
 designed by Touchstone staff
 dominant photo by Soleil Guadalupe





"I'VE FOUND THAT staying true to myself is the most important thing I can do. At the end of the day, it comes down to the choices I've made for myself. I encourage others to do the same.
 Ensure that you make the choices that are best for you. Find your passions within your own self and be confident in the person that you are."

Senior
Yutika Diwadkar

HOICES

don't stop here

AND THEY ARE ALL UP TO YOU.

Dare to imagine, a life full of options shaped by your personal ambitions.
 Follow your passions and stay true to yourself. Be the help you've been needing, the friend you've been wanting, the person you've been admiring.

The decisions you make say a lot about you.
THE CHOICE IS YOURS

captions
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Students choose friendly greetings as they pass in the halls before first period. As everyone on campus worked on campus to learn how to operate under new and newly enforced policies, the members of the school community also worked to change any negative stereotypes existing on campus. The principal, Anthony Watson, led discussions where he let others know that he believes the best the brightest are walking the halls of the school and that success can be found in classrooms on the campus on a daily basis.

photos by Christian Delgado, Gerardo Quevedo, story by Zoey Zia
"I became principal because I want to make a change in students' lives," Watson said. "Being a principal isn't about just what the handbook tells me I'm suppose to do. I want to make sure that I'm doing everything that I can on my own to ensure a safe environment for students where I'm helping to maximize their opportunities and good decision making skills."

CHOOSING A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

CHOOSING TO EMBRACE THE STEREOTYPE, a white student exclaims to her friends. "Stony Point is so freaking ghetto," she says, shaking her head with profound disappointment as she struts down the B-wing. Binders are cradled in her arms while she moves through seas of people and untold stories, faces that she may never see again. "It's embarrassing being the ghetto school," she continues as her friends fervently nod their heads.

Rows of lockers and classrooms away, an African-American student walks with his basketball crew. "There are so many ratchets up in here," he says, a tone of complete disgust enveloping every word he says. His friends laugh before agreeing with him. "Who are these people?" a boy wearing a letter jacket questions. "What is this school, and why is it so ghetto?"

Ghetto. Stony Point High School has gained an overwhelmingly negative reputation as the "ghetto school."

Nobody chooses to question this stereotype of Stony Point. Not even Stony Point students themselves. Choosing to continue with this disreputable connotation of ghetto has made all the difference. While ghetto is

commonly defined as a slum area occupied by minority groups, students should not choose to reduce the diversity on campus to that single, inaccurate word. The mindless usage of the word ghetto disregards that Round Rock is not ghetto. There are no slums. The word also discredits the hard-working students across all races on campus.

"You're lucky to go to Stony Point," a family friend tells a Hispanic student as they sit in the crowded Chipotle. The student smiles as he remembers choosing to be in the IB program and a member of the band. He feels lucky to have the opportunity to take part in academic opportunities and clubs that he enjoys. "Yeah, I guess I am," he says, still beaming as noisy conversations surround him. The conversation then takes a turn. "It's easy to be ranked high at Stony Point, it's not even competitive," the family friend continues. The student's heart sinks. He knew it was too good to be true. "Nobody ever chooses to say anything good about Stony Point," he says.

With Advanced Placement classes and as one of two high schools in the district with the IB Diploma Program, Stony Point is not given enough credit for its academic rigor. Thirty four and a half percent of students choose to enroll in advanced course or dual enrollment classes, which is higher than the state average of 31.4%. The atmosphere is competitive as students of all races work towards the top. Graduates have gone on to attend respectable colleges including UT Austin and Stanford. They have left Stony Point better prepared for college through their decision to challenge themselves academically. To choose to assume that it is easy to be ranked highly at Stony Point perpetuates the negative perception of Stony Point.

Campus comes together to embrace positive mindset about variety of opportunities presented on campus

An Asian student sits in her math class. A classmate who she has never talked to before walks up to her. "Do you have the answers to the homework, I totally need to copy it?" he says. The Asian student rolls her eyes. "Why did you come to me?" she questions. "You have other friends in this class," she continues. "Yeah, but...you're Asian." The Asian student sinks deep into her chair. Her racial stereotype is one that makes those around her expect her to be academically superior. She works her best and chooses to participate in several clubs across school, making her one of many students who represent Stony Point's extracurricular excellence.

With over 60 clubs and organizations on campus, students of all races choose to compete and take part in a variety of extra-curricular activities. Students from Stony Point have won a national championship in HOSA, been ranked nationally in basketball, been pursued by the top recruiters and have put on successful musical and theatrical productions. Whether it is on the football field or in a classroom after school, students choose to commit to organizations and represent the school in a positive manner. The prominence of organizations and clubs on campus is recognized by the effort of students of all ethnicities to do their best.

An African-American student arrives at her AP Physics class, mind recalling the offensive conversation she just overheard in the hallway. As one of the 18% of African-Americans on campus, she is used to all the smack talk about the school. "We're just ghetto," she says to herself while getting out her large, red physics binder. "I am just ghetto." In her mind, her collective and personal success is belittled when people choose to stereotype Stony Point.

With the exception of Asians and whites, Stony Point

has a higher rate of enrollment through races and ethnicities than the district averages. Rather than processing this demographic information positively, students across the district use it to sculpt a derogatory perception of Stony Point. Rather than calling the difference in racial enrollment diverse, students choose to call it ghetto.

Stony Point is not the ghetto school. Stony Point is not the easy school. Stony Point is diverse. Students of all races are choosing to put in the work to stay at school and be successful. It is clear that a diversity in race does not result in a lack of talent or an "academic slum." The fact that there are a higher proportion of African-Americans and Hispanics does not mean the school is an academic ghetto.

A Hispanic, an Asian and an African-American wearing identical navy blue gowns head to the front of the school. After years of choosing to challenge themselves, they are all prepared to board the bright yellow buses. "Wow, there are so many people here," a student says. "I never realized there were so many people in my class that I didn't know." The students board the buses, departing for their graduation ceremony. "I'm so glad I chose to get involved at Stony Point."

The **CHOICE** is Yours



photos by Aaron Meyers, Kassidy Springer, Axel Corral
DELIVERING BOXES OF CEREAL to the Round Rock serving center, Round Rock High School principal Natalie Nichols wears a Stony Point T-shirt provided by principal Anthony Watson. "I was not excited to wear my Stony Point T-shirt because I am a Dragon through-and-through, but a promise was a promise," Nichols was quoted in a district press release. captions for other photos on page 254

CHOOSING COMMUNITY Donation drive brings schools together

WHILE ROUND ROCK HIGH school's principal, Natalie Nichols, had enough bedazzled jewels on her T-shirt to shine like a prize at the bottom of a box of cereal, principal Anthony Watson's rewards were much greater at the end of the RRHS and SPHS Cereal Bowl Challenge. Donations to the Round Rock Serving Center nearly tripled from the previous year, and the campus won its first challenge in the history of the competition.

A total of 848 cereal boxes were donated. Stony Point donated 611 boxes while Round Rock donated 237 boxes.

"Our serving center food pantry serves 1,100 families every month so the Cereal Bowl Challenge is truly impactful," Lori Scott, Round Rock Area Serving Center executive director said in a district press release.

Along with making sure that the local food pantry received enough donations to impact families in the community, Watson also took care of his school family through the challenge.

Choosing to invite elementary schools within Stony Point's feeder pattern to participate, he opened up early interaction with future Tigers.

"The elementary schools in our chain helped give a victory for the entire chain and not just Stony Point," Watson said. "Thus the term Stony Nation was born."

The **CHOICE** is Yours

