

MARCH

AWAY FOR THE DAY

Annual Sophomore Retreat to DD Ranch offers a day for reflection and fun.

Everybody's face went blank. It was a time for thinking and reflecting, and the question at hand made the group stumble.

Where do you see yourself in three years? Sophomores arrived at DD Ranch only 30 minutes outside of Dallas and participated in group discussions led by a Junior Class member leaders.

The sophomores were divided into seven groups with about 13 students per group, and three juniors accompanied every group. The groups spent the first-half of the day discussing the past and what the individual or the class had already accomplished.

"The morning was a good introduction, and it set the tone for the day," sophomore Edward Ro said.

After the morning discussion, brisket, chicken and turkey barbeque was served.

I learned a lot about myself, but I mostly learned more about my classmates.

— SOPHOMORE EDWARD RO

and the students had 90 minutes of free time. The ranch offered different pastimes like mini-golf, basketball and volleyball.

"I really enjoyed mini-golf, and the break

was a nice compliment to the deep discussions in the morning," Ro said.

The students enjoyed the time off, but after the lunch break, the groups began to discuss the future.

Questions like: *What do you want the class of 2018 to be remembered for?* or *What have you accomplished that will help you in the past?* were raised and discussed.

"I learned a lot about myself, but I mostly learned more about my classmates," Ro said. "A lot of their goals are similar to mine, and we have accomplished a bunch together, and hopefully we will accomplish more in the future."

The experience truly improved my speaking skills and my confidence in giving speeches.

— JUNIOR BRYCE BLINN on the overall process of this essay.



RHETORIC Speaking with confidence, junior Aiden Blinn delivered his speech in front of his English class on the meaning and significance of his name.

18 STUDENTS READ THEIR SPEECHES PER DAY
5 MINUTES LONG FOR EACH PRESENTATION



BURNING THE MIDNIGHT OIL. LIFE, ACADEMICS

2016

SOPHOMORE RETREAT. PUBLIC SPEAKING. PLAYING ON THE QUAD

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early birds

BLOWING OFF STEAM Early in the morning before classes, Middle School students Arjun Khatti and Patrick Flanagan (both fifth graders) enjoy games of football (right), along with many others such as modified versions of 4-square (far right).



My favorite game in the morning is football because it is not only really fun, but also everyone plays together.

— STICE NEUHOFF



LIP OUT Barely missing a tap in putt, sophomore Clay Cassidy (left) crouches and grasps his hair, as sophomores Zach Landry (middle) and Blake Desantis (right) compete in putt putt golf.



HOOPS During their break, sophomores play knockout on the ranch's basketball court. The annual retreat takes place yearly in the spring and is organized by Associate Head of Upper School Dr. John Perryman.



FEAST Getting barbeque during lunch break, faculty and sophomores eat chicken, turkey and brisket. Six faculty members attended the retreat and supervised the discussions throughout the rainy day.

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