

Feelin' a bit meloncholy

WATERMELON SUPPER KICKS OFF YEAR

"This year kind of sneaked up on me. Summer flew by pretty fast, but once school finally got here, it hit me in the face," junior Dalton Dickson said. "Coming into junior year, I knew that it was going to be a lot harder than last year and that I would have to step up my studying skills to survive most of the classes. I also knew I would have to improve my grades a lot. This was my third Watermelon Supper, so it was nothing new to me. I still think it's a pretty great tradition, plus I like watermelon."



k. moreland

k. moreland



STAYING FOCUSED

"Since it's my junior year, it is an important year for me. I really have to start preparing for college and work harder in my classes. Although I am going to be focused, I want to have fun while still maintaining good grades and keeping a positive attitude."

-TA'SHUN RICHARDSON, 11

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MOVING UP

"I am ready for my sophomore year because I won't be in the youngest grade anymore, but I am not ready for the school work that comes with being in a higher grade level. Although I am not an upperclassman yet, I am glad that I can say freshman year is over with."

-RYANN WILLIAMS, 10

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SUMMER BUM

"I was a little bummed out because summer ended, but overall I'm excited to finally be a leader in the school. I always looked up to the seniors and saw how much fun they had. Now it's our turn to be the motivators. Plus, it makes it better that junior year is behind me."

-TYLER SNELL, 12

summertime SADNESS

Days of laziness and leisure end for nights of work and worry

Waving goodbye to sunkissed skin, abnormal sleep schedules and the sweet taste of freedom, we waved hello to a new school year.

"For my first year of high school I was excited, but nervous," freshman Erica Stanley said. "I really enjoy my classes that I am taking and my teachers are all nice."

While most of us did not want summer to come to an end, seniors were ready to start their last year of high school.

"I was actually on my way to a golf tournament the first day of school," senior Grayson Jones said. "When I came back on Friday it was awkward because everyone had already been there, and it was only my first day."

one HILL of a sport

Runners learn about new rule for upcoming season

The gun sounds off. A rush of adrenaline shoots through our bodies. Aching muscles challenge our endurance as we fight to push past our opponents. As the new season began, we soon discovered another obstacle to watch out for while running.

"You can do anything to your competition except striking," junior Jonathan Rowland said. "Now tripping and shoving is legal in cross country and you cannot be disqualified for doing it. It's a new sport basically."

Taking advantage of this new rule will be a choice in which the runners will decide their course of action when it comes to aiming for a higher ranking. Although contact among opposing runners can now be made, it is still illegal to have any hand contact aside from any imposing accidents that may happen.

"At Lindale, I accidentally elbowed a kid in the face," junior Wesley Smith said. "Being 6'1", some of the runners are really short, and [my elbow] tends to make contact with their face."

In tight, narrow places the ability to shove or push comes in handy and enables many to use this new-found rule to their advantage. However, in the hustle of running close to one another, it's not uncommon to feel an elbow or two graze by.

"At the start of district, we all went into this little area because they put ropes up," sophomore Ryann Williams said. "Some of the girls were kinda elbowing people trying to get through just to get inside the ropes." *spread by b. sellers, o. johnson, a. tandazo*

m. brandon



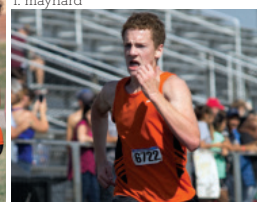
CUT SHORT Junior Lauren Maynard struggles to keep up with the pace of her feet as she fights to pass other runners at the Trinity cross country meet. Lauren wasn't able to complete the season because of an injury to the muscle around her lungs.



l. maynard

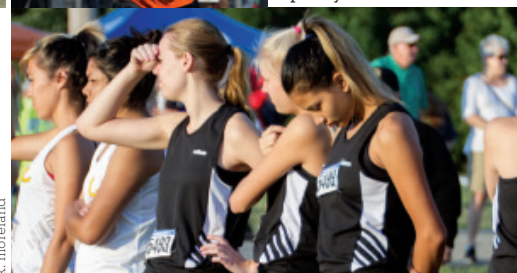
MUSCLES AND MIND AT EASE Relaxing before the long run, junior Chantiuna Meadows, freshmen Jenna Mitchell and Nia Wilson crack some jokes with one another. This laid back attitude allowed their minds to be at ease before running the race. "Before the race, I just try not to think about the running and try not to get nervous," Jenna said.

l. maynard



LIMITLESS Sophomore Landon Bartholomew pushes to prove the final stretch posed no match for him. "When you're finishing a race all you're thinking is you need to push yourself past your limit."

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PRE-RACE JITTERS Seniors Carley Wallace and Clarissa Blalock line up for the start of the race. "The coach will talk to us and make sure we're prepared and well-stretched each time before we run," Clarissa said.



LAUREN POTTER, 11/l. maynard

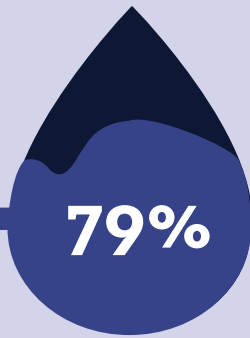
MORE THAN JUST GETTING SNACKS AND SKIPPING CLASS

Months of organizing, contacting the LifeShare Blood Drive Organization, advocating the importance of donating blood and advertising the drive all lead up to two busy days.

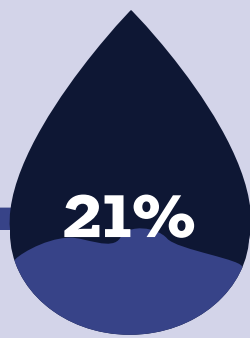
"It was difficult getting people to sign up for the blood drive this year because there was no lunch period leadership class, so no one was there to encourage people to sign up, but in the end we got it together," junior Hannah Hayes said. "It's important for kids to give blood because it can save lives with just a simple action."

Some of the students choose to participate in the blood drive to get out of calculus or to rack up the snacks given out, but for junior Lauren Potter, it meant something more.

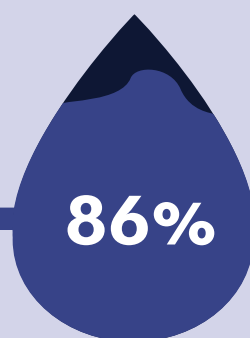
"Enduring the pain of a needle is a small task when it comes to saving lives," Lauren said. "So many people are in need of blood. I just want to do my part in helping them."



of those questioned had not given blood



of those questioned had given blood



said their main reason for donating was a desire to help others

"It's a nice way to give something that's different than time or money. It's a part of you that you're giving for a good cause."
- TUCKER DOUGLASS, 11

what gives?

STUDENTS EXPLAIN REASONING FOR NOT GIVING BLOOD

11% think they will faint

21% say they are too lazy

31% say they are scared of needles

37% say they do not fit the criteria to give

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"I do not give blood even though I have to for leadership because I don't weigh enough for my height. Also, I faint very easily and pass out at the doctor's office when I have to get a vaccine."

-SAVANNA SHIVELY, 12

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"I do not give blood because I have very low iron levels in my blood, which means I am anemic. My blood is not suitable to give to other people who need it. I wish that I was able to donate though"

-RICKY COOKS, 11

don't be VEIN

Q: WHY DO YOU GIVE BLOOD? HOW DO YOU FEEL WHEN GIVING BLOOD?



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A: "I feel like it is important to our community to give blood. They are asking for people to donate in order to help the patients in hospitals."

- **MADELINE SARTIN, 12**



a. sozen

A: "When I first gave, I was a little iffy about it, and I got a little dizzy, but it ended up being all right in the end because I got to help people."

- **JONAH SILAS, 11**



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A: "Although I was really scared of needles, I gave because Student Council encouraged giving, and I knew it was going to a really good cause."

- **LEIGHTON WEBER, 11**



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A: "I gave blood because my mom gives blood, so she encouraged me to try it and help people who need blood sometimes."

- **XAVIER DAVIS, 12**



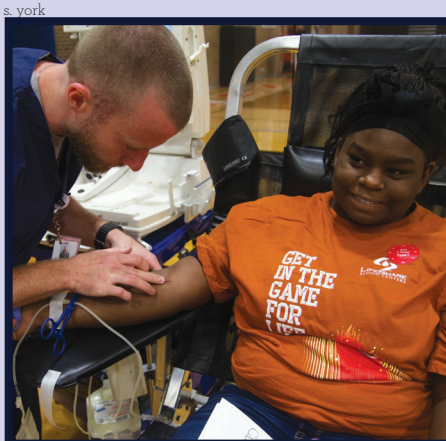
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A: "I gave to help people like a girl I know that has bone marrow problems. When she gets transfusions, she loses a lot of blood."

- **DAYLA SMITH, 12**



Fresh needles and nurses fill the gym to set up for the blood drive festivities that occur for the next two days. During these days, students make their way to donate not just their time, but their blood. spread by: m. crawford



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BRACE yourself

As the needle punctures senior Deambra Cridell's skin, she braces herself for the pinch. "Giving blood was painful," Deambra said. "I almost fainted because I didn't like seeing all of the blood."

FEELING faint

To some, needles are the source of all evil, but to others like junior Grace Hickey, blood is the cause of her fear. "At first I was fine, but then I saw the blood in the tube and things went downhill," Grace said. "I didn't faint though, so that's good."



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