

# Sixteen students become published authors

In October, Mrs. Gibson’s English I freshmen students entered a writing contest for Creative Communication. The students wrote on a subject of their choosing with a limit of 250 words.

Over half of the students had their essay selected for publication in an anthology book. The school will also receive a Writing Achievement Award because more than 15 students have their work published.

“This is so exciting for these students to be published authors. It gives them an opportunity to know that essay writing is an important part of their lives. My congratulations to them!” Mrs. Gibson said.

The sixteen students selected for publication were: Pablo Barron, Shelby Cassaw, Randee Grover, Erik Hart, Jacy Hilt, Lane Hoffman, Logan Lampe, Tyler Lee, Wyatt Landenberger, Bailey Merklin, Derek Queen, Hannah Rider, Mason Schiltz, Aly Schlepp, Scott Warren and Kelsey Whitney.

## A Day at the Lake

*By Mason Schiltz*

How would you choose to spend a summer Sunday afternoon? For me, the answer is fairly simple. I would go to the lake with my family. It’s a beautiful day in the middle of summer, and my family and I have just finished with church. As soon as we get back to our house, we get the boat ready, and mom packs a cooler for us. As soon as the agonizing wait is over, we finally hit the road.

When we first get to Enders, which is the lake we usually go to, we find a spot to park. Usually, we don’t bring our camper, so we just get changed and head out to the water.

I can feel a tingle go up my leg from the cool water as I help dad unload the boat. My excitement starts to bubble inside me as we start to pull away from the dock. Finally, we are ready to tube or ski. I jump off the boat into the water and make a huge splash. When my turn is over, I climb back into the boat. The wind from the boat makes me start to shiver until I finally get warmed up again.

When everybody is tired, we drive back to the dock and load the boat. Then we get in the pickup and start the drive home. As I sit there, drifting in and out of sleep, I can’t stop thinking about the huge jumps, hard wrecks, and great time I just had. That’s how I would spend a Sunday in summer, what about you?

## A “Girls Only” Life

*Hannah Rider*

Do you ever contemplate how much easier it would be if the girls lived with girls and guys lived only with guys? I have had that experience many times. I’d have to say though; this living arrangement is my all time favorite. It’s not that bad when all girls live together.

Life as all girls is rather simple. We all do our part, the adults pay the bills, and we kids do the household chores. We all have a routine, which keeps us set up and in order. That’s the most commendable thing about a “girls only” life. We all know each other so well; we can do everything to avoid altercations with each other and succeed. If you’re a guy, this might have been totally boring to you, right? Wrong. This could be perceived in a completely different way. Imagine a “guys only” life. I’m sure that sounds just as gratifying to you as an “all girls” life does to us women!

Don’t get me wrong, there are downfalls to a “girls only”/“guys only” life, like fights, drama, and tears. There are the things that tie us close together. For example, the way we all pitch in or the days where we relax to have a good time with laughter. Those are the only things that people need to have a family. No matter whom they are, what their gender is, or whether or not they’re your biological family, it’s the ones who touch your heart and never let go.

## A Great Friend

*By Scott Warren*

Who was my great friend? My great friend was my grandmother who was always there for me. She would take care of me when my parents were out of town. Sometimes I would go to my grandmother’s house and

stay for the weekend. As I got older, I only saw her during the holidays.

My grandmother was a teacher. Plus, she sold Avon products for several years before she retired from teaching. She was an art teacher at the church in Haigler where she lived for very many years. She was diagnosed with cancer when I was thirteen years old.

It was a very sad day when my grandmother died. She died in September when I was fourteen years old. It had a great impact on my family and relatives. One of the greatest impacts was on my mother who had just lost a loving mother. Another great impact my grandmother had left was on my Aunt Tom who had just lost a loving sister.

On the day of the funeral, my grandmother’s casket was white and decorated with flowers. It was very saddening to see her lying down in that casket and not moving. After the funeral, my family and I went to my grandparent’s house. While we were there, we talked about my grandmother’s life.

After my grandmother was gone it was very different. I felt like something had been taken from my heart. The holidays were a lot different because my grandmother wouldn’t be there anymore. Have you ever experienced the loss of a great friend?

## One Team, One Heart

*By Aly Schlepp*

When you hear the word basketball, what do you think of? Do you think of your favorite team or people running up and down the court? Do you think of a basketball hoop or a circular orange ball? Have you ever thought for some people that it’s a way of life and that’s how they earn their income?

Basketball is anything, but a simple sport. You have to be in shape, able to read the defense, and make quick decisions. Repetition is vital for playing basketball. You have to practice your shooting, passing, and ball handling. This can take years to master for some people.

Your team is one of the most important ingredients for playing basketball. They are almost your family; you win together and you lose together. As Kareem Abdul- Jabbar said, “One man can be a crucial ingredient on a team, but one man cannot make a team.” One person’s attitude can change the whole atmosphere when you play basketball. This is what makes or breaks a team.

I live in St. Francis, Kansas, and it is a small town where I can play basketball. I still feel fortuitous for being able to have the opportunity to play basketball. I have learned in a small town I still need to work just as hard for my playing position. Someone younger than me can even still start depending on his or her work ethic.

You have to work your hardest and put your whole heart into playing. This sport is not close to simple; it is complex and hard to master. It isn’t an easy sport to perfect. But then again, what is easy in life?

## Best Friends

*By Jacy Hilt*

Have you ever had someone you’re really close to? I have a best friend in the world and his name is Jereme.

Jereme and I have been great friends since the first day we met. I remember that day very well. It was August 5, 2010, and we were in Wal-Mart of all places. From that day, we knew we would have a wonderful friendship. We have a lot of activities in common and we understand each other. Jereme and I talk everyday which helps keep our friendship strong. Jereme is one of the few people in the world who knows everything about me. I don’t keep secrets from him. One of the best things about Jereme is that he does not judge me by the things I have done.

I have only had one other best friend during my life. I only see her once a year. But no matter what, we will still have a wonderful friendship. I think that a true best friend is a person you haven’t spoken to or haven’t seen in years, when nothing has changed between you.

I think to get through life you need to have friends and family to love you and care about you. Friendship is extremely

important to me. I know without my friends by my side, I don’t think I would have made it through parts of my life. I have a best friend in the world. Do you have a best friend?

## Between You and the Finish Line

*By Shelby Cassaw*

The wind blowing is giving me chills, as the butterflies are rolling in my stomach. All of a sudden it becomes silent. I look up and all I see is the smoke of the gun. “Run as hard as I can until the very end” is what is rolling through my mind.

Two laps down, the hardest lap is coming up. I push myself to pass the girl that’s in front of me. Every time I pass there are more and more people standing there cheering for me. For a second, I find myself smiling.

It’s toward the end of the race; someone is coming up behind me. The crowd is going crazy. I give that last little bit to pass the finish line. Everything goes blank as I see the string fly up in the air. This is the best feeling I can have; the feeling of winning. All my hard work has paid off.

I can see in the distance my friends running towards me. They are all screaming. I remember what the coach told me at practice. We have been practicing for league ever since the beginning of this season.

Everyone is getting on the bus. We have an hour ride home. I feel as if I could sleep for a year. But the on the other side of it, I feel as if I could run another race.

## Colts

*By Pablo Barron*

The Colts are a successful team that has won a few Super Bowls over the years. Their mascot is a horse, but on their helmets they have a horseshoe also. The year they started playing was in 1953. They have 19 coaches and they all have job to do on the team.

They have won a couple Super Bowls since they started. The Colts have won four Super Bowls. Their last Super Bowl won was in the year 2009. Last year they had a chance of winning the Super Bowl, but they lost the game against the Saints.

They have some of the best players in the league. There are many positions in football; there are about 15 different positions. One of the most known positions is a quarterback. Their quarterback is Payton Manning who is about 34 years old.

They first were from Baltimore and then they switched to Indianapolis. In their first years of being a team their helmets had a horse. Then they went to a horseshoe on their helmets.

They have many coaches. They have a coach for defense and offense. They also have a main coach which runs the whole team. Their main coach is Jim Caldwell who has been their coach for nine years. There are many coaches on this team that work together in different sections.

The Colts are my favorite team. I go for the Colts because they are one of the best teams. They are an outstanding team who work so well together. What’s your favorite NFL team? There are a lot of teams to choose from!

## The End Zone

*By Erik Hart*

“...He’s at the twenty...the fifteen...the ten...the five... touchdown!” If there is any redemption to the beginning of fall, it is the return of college football. Every week, I look forward to Saturday, when I can kick back and watch some football on TV. Or even at the stadium, to see the battle that takes place from the beginning of the game to the final whistle. For me, it is the only highlight of the long and monotonous fall and winter months.

I am probably one of the few individuals who prefer college football over its professional counterpart, the National Football League. The main reason is college football is not all about money and salaries. In college football, the players do not seem to care about how much they are paid; they seem to care more about getting out there and having a great time playing the game that they love. This is how the college game differs from the NFL. To me, it is one of the reasons that make

college football more enjoyable to watch than professional games.

In conclusion, the suspense of college football can be nearly overwhelming. In most games, you never know who is going to prevail until the final whistle goes off. That is why I love college football. The players are out on that field having a great time, which is great. But I think the suspense of the game is the chief reason why college football is my favorite sport. What is yours?

## Football

*By Lane Hoffman*

As I am waiting to pad up for the football game I sit and think. What is going to happen; will we win? Am I going to get hurt during the game? While I sit in the locker room, the butterflies begin to move through my body. Listening to my music, I’m getting pumped. While putting on my pads, I say to myself “I’m ready.”

The moment I set foot on the field I know that it’s going to be an outstanding game. The blood pumps from my head to my toes. As I am playing, I have sweat draining from my helmet. I sit in my safety stance; I think to myself am I going to get the play or will my teammates.

They then hike the ball; I run the alley. I am ten feet from the runner, then five feet. Contact. I run the other player into the ground.

Finally the last play of the game, we are five points behind. We are on our own three yard line. I get the ball, and then I break one tackle to get to the outside. Then here comes the safety. He is closing in, then BAM! In an instant, I spin out of the tackle. I am in the end zone Touchdown!

As I hear the crowds yelling in excitement, I knew we had won. The fans stormed the field. I got dog piled by the entire team. This is due to winning the state championship game in football for the first time in school history. I felt like a hero, but I knew it wasn’t only me; it was the whole team that won.

## Wrestling

*Logan Lampe*

Have you ever had butterflies in your stomach? Have you been so nervous that your skin goes cold? This is the feeling I get before I wrestle. I have done wrestling for almost ten years and I still get that feeling.

I am very nervous before a match. My hands are cold and I get butterflies in my stomach. Before a match, I also think about many things. I think about my opponent and what I could do against him to win. Every time I do this strategy, I always win or at least do a really great job against my opponent.

I have many different emotions running through me as I prepare and as I wrestle. While I’m on that mat, I am ready to face my opponents. When facing them, I always have to be mentally ready. If I am not ready, I, of course, will probably lose. Another strategy I need is to be strong and in shape. If I am not in shape, my chances of winning are slim.

The reason I like this sport is because it is physical and I can use all my strength on someone. The main reason I like this sport is because it is all me out there on that mat. I don’t have to rely on other people like in team sports.

In conclusion, I think wrestling is a great sport to do because I don’t have to rely on anybody else, like I do in team sports. What are your feelings and thoughts about wrestling?

## Motor Cross

*By Tyler Lee*

My essay is on motor cross. This is a sport that I have been interested in for many years and I would like to share it with you.

The first thing that you should know is that there isn’t just racing; there’s also freestyle. There are many sizes of motorcycles in the races including dirt bikes. They start with the mini and go up to a class called super cross.

The sport of motor cross started in France as a type of game that young teens would play in the country for their own entertainment, not for the entertainment of others. Now the sport has people from almost every country. They are all very

experienced riders that practice and train for their part in the race.

Some of the racers are Ryan Dungey, James Stewart, Ricky Carmichael, and Jeremy McGrath. All these racers have been champions at some point or another; some more than others. Ricky Carmichael has been a champion more than five times.

There are also lots of stadiums; some are inside and some are outside. There are also some in the same stadiums as football and hockey. Some of these stadiums are as follows: The Ridge, Sand Mountain, In Man, Racers Edge, Dragon Creek, Norton Mx, Platter Hill, Twin Peak, and Green Acres.

Motor cross is my favorite sport and I really hope that this essay has taught you a little bit about Motor cross.

## My Bed of Roses

*By Randee Grover*

I walked into the dark, cold room. It’s pitch black; I can’t see anything. However, I know my way around well. I walk over to the light switch and flip it on; a flood of light illuminates the entire room. My footsteps reverberate throughout the expanse; I’m all alone. I walk over to the stereo system and turn the music on. It’s time to dance.

Dancing is one of my favorite endeavors; I could dance for hours on end. I love to dance because when I’m going through the dance moves I lose myself in the music. I forget about the rest of the world. When I’m dancing, it’s just the music and me.

I adore dancing, because for a short while, I don’t have to worry about anything else that is going on, or what I have to do. I can completely, unanimously focus on the flow of my moments.

Synchronizing all the dance steps when you’re dancing with a group is the most magnificent feeling in the world. I feel like I’ve accomplished something that I’ve been slaving over for a long, long time. Strenuous work goes into dancing as a group; you have to start together, stop together, and make every single move crystal clear. If every dancer is doing something different, it then looks like you have no idea what’s going on.

I love dancing, and it’s something I’m passionate about. I think that it’s important for everyone to find something they really love doing. Dancing is my bed of roses in a garden filled with weeds.

## Summer Passion

*By Bailey Merklin*

My morning begins with the songs chiming in my ears, the sun kissing the horizon, and the crystal dew drops on my lawn. Having fresh, crisp, brittle air rush over my skin at six in the morning is what I look forward to. My friends call me crazy, but I just say that I am in love.

Of course, I am in love with my animals. I am a current 4-H’er of six years and I couldn’t enjoy it more. I am involved in numerous amounts of projects which I have almost three billion responsibilities... at least it seems that way to me. However my number one project is my goats. I don’t have any specifics, except that they have to be cute.

Have you ever felt butterflies in your stomach that will never go away, even with experience? I have that feeling every year in the show ring. The sensation of answering the judge’s questions, as well as being in the repulsive barn is something that I truly enjoy. Sometimes I don’t have the greatest show and I have trouble with my animals, but I just learn from my mistakes.

When the first week in August rolls around, it gets hectic and almost unbearable. However, when I know that I have accomplished something I love, that’s all that matters.

Do you ever love doing something whether it is exciting or horrible? That’s how I feel at six in the morning, as I am walking my goats, and in the show ring. I call this my summer passion.

## The All-American Way

*By Wyatt Landenberger*

What’s the All-American Way to you? For me it’s football.

Football has a lot of contact and physical ability. To play the game, you have to have mental toughness and be very physical.

It is important to have mental toughness so you are able to run an offensive play or get a read on defense quickly.

On offense your team has possession of the football. On offense there are five guys who are linemen. Linemen are players that block for the backfield. Then there are two tight ends; they can either block or run for a pass from the quarterback. The backfield has three or four guys. These guys are running backs and quarterbacks. The running backs can run the ball, hand the ball off, or throw to a receiver.

On defense there are three to five defensive linemen. The second level players are linebackers. The third level is the defensive backs; they make sure a receiver doesn’t catch a pass.

Kickoff consists of a straight line where players are ready to tackle the returnee. The kicker is the safety and the other players fly to the ball. On the Kickoff return there are five players that make a wall. The next rows behind them are ball protectors and returnees.

I like football because it is exciting to tackle people. When I score a touchdown, it is an amazing feeling. Football is a great sport to play. If you don’t play football, you are missing out!

## The Feeling I Live For

*By Kelsey Whitney*

Do you know that one thing that can make you feel like your knees are going to give out? For me, that one thing is BMX. When I race, I have so many different feelings and thoughts rushing through me. I feel like I’m going to explode! This is something that I live for each and every day.

When all those fans with chairs and coolers start setting up and start making all that noise, that’s when I have the feeling I’m going to throw up. Or I have tons of knots in my stomach. I can’t stand that part, but at the end of the day I know that when I’m racing it will be all better.

In no time my group is up and I roll my front tire down to the gate. I clip my shoes into my pedals. Be for I know it, the gate drops. Then everything goes silent up until that very last hill. All I hear is my family saying “Go all the way through. You can do it!” I push through the pain in my thighs until I feel the bump of my tire going over the finish bar. After that, I have the most wonderful, bubbly feeling in my stomach. That is the feeling I love!

These days of racing are a big part of my life. Nothing in this whole world can ever top those feelings that I have rushing through my body on a day of a race. Those are the feelings that I live for!

## The St. Louis Rams

*By Derek Queen*

The St. Louis Rams were the very first National Football League (NFL) championship team in history. They ended their season with the best record in the NFL, nine wins and one loss to the Philadelphia Eagles.

The Rams are my favorite team because at one time they had my favorite player Marshall Faulk. I really like the Rams now too and I can’t exactly explain to you why. Maybe it’s because they have had a losing record for almost the last decade. I especially like the color of their jerseys. The way the dark blue and gold go together, intrigues me.

I think that the Rams will have a successful season this year because of their new quarterback Sam Bradford. One of the Ram’s players also stated that the players are tired of being laughed at about the subject of being the worst team in the National Football League. The way the players on the team feel about losing makes me like them more. They don’t like sitting around and watching people laugh at them for being awful.

The Rams are my favorite team because of their motivation and determination. I guess that’s why I love the game of football. It requires determination and a lot of work to get good enough to play in the NFL and stay there. What makes you a fan of your favorite team the way that you do?