

English students win honor to have work published

These essays were chosen to be published from the Creative Communication. They may choose any topic to write on with no longer than 250 words. Their work will be published in a hard back book called "Celebrating What is Important to Me." Their essay division was grades 7-9.

Last year's seventh, and eighth grade students of Lisa Gibson entered their essays in the Creative Communication contest. They chose their own topics which were to be no longer than 250 words.

Mrs. Gibson said over half the students in the classes were selected to have their essays published in a hard-back book called "Celebrating What is Important to Me."

Woof

By Sydney Sundstrom
Seventh Grade

Do you enjoy playing with fun, furry balls of joy and hard to handle animals? Then, puppies are perfect for you.

I have a dog named Libby and she is the best dog in the world. She is a Pembroke Welsh Corgi Tri and she loves to play with people. My dog is very smart and loves to trick and treat. She does any trick you want her to do for a treat.

Libby is a loving dog who is always by my side. She is a black, brown, and a white dog which makes her a tri. Libby is very competitive. This awesome dog is three years and five months old. She has won seven dog shows out of seven in a row. Libby is a Grand Champion. This dog is very special to me because she could be man's best friend, but she is my best friend.

I have another dog that is a Pembroke Welsh Corgi Sable. Her name is Annabelle and she loves new people. She is red and white so that makes her a sable. Annabelle loves to be around new people.

She probably could be man's best friend if she tried really hard. Otherwise, she is just a fun, household puppy to be around. Annabelle is a puppy that hates to be left behind. She loves to go on road trips. I also like to watch her play with other animals because she just has lots of fun.

Do you have an animal friend that is always by your side?



Sundstrom

Beep beep beep...

By Tristan Archer
Eighth grade

A video game is a form of entertainment. People all around the world play video games everyday.

There are a numerous amount of systems and games. Some of the most popular listed systems are Xbox 360, PS3, and Wii. Each gaming console has a special disc you put into it to play a game.



Archer

Portable gaming devices are very popular, too. Instead of just playing inside at home, you can now take them on the go. Some of the most popular portable gaming devices are PSP, DS Lite, DSi, DS3D, and Game Boy SP. Portable games are different from systems because cartridges are used instead of discs.

Everyone needs to know what a game is rated and to know if it is appropriate to play. The ratings are Everyone, Teen, and Mature. Anyone can play Everyone. To play Teen, you need to be 13 years or older. To play Mature, you need to be 18 years or older.

Now some people like to cheat in video games. To cheat in a game, you need a code to enter, press specific buttons in the right order, or use an action replay device. Cheating can get you special things in games you can't get in normal game play.

Video games can have bugs in them called glitches. They're little bugs in a game which can change the color, sound, and multiple other things.

All video games are different and challenging. That is what makes video games fun and exciting. You never know what you will encounter in video games.

Are you ready to go buy your own system?

The Best Days of My Life!

By Mariah Beikman
Eighth grade

"Each time we face our fears, we gain strength, courage, and confidence in the doing." Anonymous. I feel this quote applies to me when I face the fears of life. They sometimes turn out to be some of my most treasured times. Life is not always easy, but once I've accomplished what I've set out to do, life is so very exciting!

You can't define your life by one day, but when I'm showing cattle it truly is one of the best days of my life. Blue, black, red, and white, what are these you might ask? They are the colors of the cattle I like to show. Personally, I prefer a colored or marked calf, but the black cattle are great cattle, too.

The breed I like to show are Shorthorn, Angus, Crossbred, and Red Angus. My favorite shorthorn calf I had was Rusty. It was my second year in 4-H. He was the only steer that ever stepped on me. Jennavive was my very first heifer. She was a black crossbred and she was beautiful. I got Reserve Champion Crossbred that year and I was so excited.

Four-H has taught me to be more confident in myself. I feel if I had not been in 4-H, I would have missed some of the best times of my life. The best days of my life have come and gone, but they will never end as long as I enjoy myself. Wouldn't you agree?

What about a Goat?

By Shakotah Blanka
Eighth Grade

Have you ever wondered what it is like to own or even show a goat? If you have, I will tell you what it is like.

Owning goats is fun because they have their own personality. I have obstacles in the pen for them to jump on. They are so much fun to watch.

The thing with owning goats is they are just like humans. They need fed, cared for, and need fresh water everyday. It is sometimes a pain to have to go outside; especially, when it is below zero degrees.

How about showing a goat?



Blanka

First, before showing a goat I need to walk and train them. This will enable them to walk for me in the ring. The walking also helps build their muscles. When I walk them, I also have to stop and set them up so they can practice being shown.

Before the show, I need to have the goat clipped. In this phase, I have to wash, dry, and clip them a special way. If it is cool out, I put a specially made goat tube over them to keep them warm. When showing a goat, I walk into the ring and the judge's helper will tell me where to go. I have to keep my eye on the judge. After I stop, I will set my goat's feet up square. A judge will come around and feel each goat's rack, loin, and see how long they are. The judge will also ask me questions about my goat and my goat's body structure. Does it sound fun for you to own and show a goat?

Braaapt!

By Cade Bracelin
Eighth Grade

"Go fast or be last" often goes through the minds of motocross racers. These words used to pass across my mind until five years ago when I broke my arm. I had been racing for only two years and I loved it. When I found out I had broken my arm, I was devastated. I knew I wouldn't be racing again.

When my dad and I got mom talked into letting me ride again, I had grown enough to get a new motorcycle. Those next few riding times I thought I would take it easy. Once I got on again and took off, I could feel the adrenaline start to pump and I couldn't hold back. I started shifting through the gears then the feeling of riding slow was over. I knew that had been just a little bump in the road of my motorcycle career.

The next time I went riding I decided I wanted a bigger motorcycle. So I asked my dad to start looking for a 125 two stroke. When I came home one day, he said he had found a new one for 4,200 dollars. I decided I would buy it and start mowing lawns to pay for it. When I finally got it paid for, I wanted to get a 250. Although, dad told me I was going to ride this one a little longer before I could buy a new one.

Now one year later, I have a 250. I plan to have this one a little longer and I hope to get back into the racing world again. Would you like to join me for a ride?

Six Minutes

By Garrett Brunk
Seventh grade

How long is six minutes? For me, it is six minutes of pain, sweat, and heart. Wrestling is one of my favorite sports. It is also the most challenging sport for me.

Lane Hobbrock and I battle each other everyday in practice to stay alive at the Sub-District Tournament in Phillipsburg. Every day at practice we have to run for ten minutes around the school. I hated that. Although the practicing and conditioning did make us better, and every time I thought of that, it encouraged me to continue on.

Wrestling in Phillipsburg was awesome. I won all my matches that day and also wrestled one of my best matches. I think we started with thirteen wrestlers and only two didn't qualify for Districts in Pratt.

The next weekend was Districts in Pratt. I also won first place there, too. Unfortunately, not so many people got to go on to state. There were only six of us left to wrestle at state.

At state in Topeka, it is a whole another level of competition. I won my first two matches which was great because now I placed no matter what. Unfortunately, I lost my third match which would have put me in the finals.

The next day I won my match to get into the third and fourth place match. I just now had to wait all day for the Parade of Champions. I lost my finals match which resulted in fourth place. It was a great experience and I hope to go back and place even higher. If six minutes got me this far this year, how far will it get me next year?



Brunk

My Hero

By Emily Elfers
Seventh Grade

What would you do if your hero died tomorrow? That's impossible, right?

Sometimes things happen when you least expect it. I remember very vividly the day when my mother got a phone call saying my grandpa had fallen. I wasn't sure what to think. Since the day I was born, I was attached to my grandpa. After the accident, there were days I was scared to death and others I was hopeful.

There was always something about him that made people think, "What is he fixing now?" He always told my grandma he knew what he was doing even if he didn't. Stubbornness runs in our family. My grandpa was very stubborn. I think this is why we got along so well.

Many days passed and the doctors decided to put him in a nursing home. They let us take him outside. You could tell he enjoyed it by the smile on his face which I will never forget. Things started to look up for him. After being in the nursing home for a while, his hip started to bother him again.

I wasn't sure what was going to happen next. Transferring him to the hospital and back to the nursing home was horrible. Although we would do anything to get him back on his feet. Weeks had passed and he wasn't getting better. I knew what was going to happen next. I just didn't want to face it.

I remember my dad answering the phone and he was speechless. My grandpa had passed away. What do you do when you are eight years old, hearing that your hero is dead? There is something we can't do, which is forget memories. I knew I would have an angel watching over me. Do you have a guardian angel?



Elfers

Champions

By Carl Fabre
Seventh grade

Champions! The Los Angeles Lakers has won the 2010 NBA championship! I was so excited that I was jumping up and down. I couldn't stop jumping and screaming that day.

My mom told me to settle down. She said that our neighbor Sylvia is probably wondering what's going on in our house.

My parents are not Laker fans. Every time we watch a Laker game they always go for the other team.

The Los Angeles Lakers are a two time defending champions. They have won the 2009 and 2010 NBA championship. The Lakers have gone to the finals three times in a row from 2008 to 2010. The Lakers have sixteen championships which is second most in the NBA. In 2008, they were defeated by the Boston Celtics.

The Coach of the Lakers is Phil Jackson. Phil Jackson had eleven championship rings, six with the Chicago Bulls and five with the LA Lakers. He has also coached two of the greatest players ever played in the NBA, Michael Jordan and Kobe Bryant.

In 2010 when the LA Lakers won the championship, it was the most epic NBA finals games I have ever seen. In that game, Kobe Bryant was struggling from the field only shooting about 6-24. Without Kobe Bryant, the LA Lakers could barely win. Then Derick Fisher and Ron Artest got into the game and started to make some shots. They made some three pointers and finally tie the game after being down by fourteen points in the fourth quarter. As a result, the LA Lakers won the finals. Win or lose the Lakers will always be my favorite team in the NBA. What is your favorite team?

The Beast from Boston College
By Jude Faulkender
Seventh grade

After years of attacking running backs and quarterbacks, line-backer of Boston College, Mark Herzlich, was attacked by cancer. Mark was predicted to be a top fifteen draft pick in the 2010 NFL Draft. One day his leg started hurting. Mark didn't think much of it, but he went to the doctor anyway.

That was when he was diagnosed with Ewing's sarcoma.

Mark could either have surgery and never play football again or could have radiation treatments. Obviously he wanted to continue

his football career so he opted for radiation treatments. For one whole summer Mark came to the hospital at 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. for radiation treatments. After one summer of painstaking procedures, Mark was cancer free.

With the 51st pick in the 2011 UFL Draft, the Omaha Nighthawks select Mark Herlich of Boston College. The words might represent one of the greatest triumphs in human history. Mark didn't make the NFL but might sign a free agency contract (a contract for undrafted players).

Mark was on NFL Network's new tv show "Game Changers". This is how I heard Mark's inspirational story. Mark is just as quick and bright as before. I would definitely draft him. The show is like a miniature combine for the nation's top prospects. Mark was kind and polite to everyone on the show and I liked him because he wasn't cocky.

He beat cancer in under three months. How would you react if you had all you had worked for all of your life taken away?

Only a Year to Live

By Carol Eve Harris
Seventh Grade

Have you ever known anyone with cancer for half of their life? There is a boy named Jonathon Harrison who is almost twelve years old. When he was six years old, he got diagnosed with cancer. He was in the hospital and had leukemia for three years.

When Jonathon was nine years old, he was diagnosed with leukemia a second time. He was back in the hospital and medicine 24/7. Jonathon was in the hospital until he was eleven years old. Then, he finally got released from the hospital after being there for five years. He was in remission from cancer, and he was home with his family.

In 2010, Jonathon was diagnosed with cancer for the third time, but this time it's in his spinal fluid. The only thing the doctors can do is get a matching bone marrow. When he took the entire test, it was almost New Year's and everything after that went downhill. The family was not a match for bone marrow. So the doctors wanted to try to see if Jonathon's newborn sibling would be a match for the bone marrow. After the doctors took all the tests, the results came back after a week. They were negative. The sibling's bone marrow didn't match. Doctors are giving him six months to a year to live.

Jonathon has a dream to be a normal boy, to go to public school, and to not wear the mask. He wanted this dream to last, and not to die on him with cancer. The question is will Jonathon live to have his dream and not have cancer again, or will he die and be with Jesus Christ?

Opening Season of Junior High Football

By Chris Hoard
Seventh grade

It was my first football game of my junior high career. I got so nervous. I almost forgot the plays. When the game started, we kicked off. The other team got the ball. They made a touchdown when we kicked off.

The coaches were really angry at us for letting that happen. It was a tough game. The score was 22-0. We lost our first football game. The coaches were furious at us for losing that game.

The whole season was tough. I was getting better at tackle and on the kick off. Our record was 2-4. On the second to last game was the most fun because it was a close game. The coaches were happy with us even though we lost. The coaches both said we played like a high school team that game.

Our last game was too easy, but it was fun because I got to be in



Faulkender

every play except for a couple. We won that game 32-12. After each game on Friday, we played a game at practice which was fun and challenging. Coach Morrow was our quarter-back most of the time. He could throw pretty far. Coach Beims was the one to call if it was a touchdown or if it was out of bounds. The game was split into three teams. So we got a three minute break most of the time.

Everyone should do junior high football when they get the chance. It's an awesome experience! Would you like to join me?

Bang... and They're Off!

By Matthew Howell
Eighth grade

The track was burning as my feet touched it. My heart was racing to try and keep up with my legs. The wind was rushing past me. The only thing I needed to worry about is just to run fast and get over the hurdles as fast as possible. I quickly pass each hurdle and then I am off to the next. It seemed a lot easier this time because I barely had to jump to get past them. I was a lot faster then I was at the beginning of the season.

The spot I'm trying to highlight is track and field which is a very fun and an interesting sport to be a participant in. There are many events which people can have different chances to excel at their event. This is why track is my favorite sport out of the sports that our school offers.

In each event, tracksters have to do something different and will always try their hardest. My favorite events are the 100 and 200 meter hurdles and the 4x4 relay. I have tried other events like the two mile and pole vaulting. These events are for people who can't run and can jump at different rates which are why they are my favorite events. People should try any event they would like or to be able to achieve well. I hope many more people go out for junior high track in the near future; it is a really fun sport. Would you like to be a participant in this sport?

What to Do

By Kattie Jenik
Seventh Grade

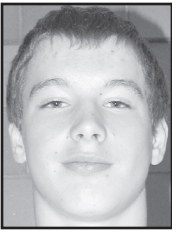
Have you thought about what you're going to do with your life? If you have, that's fantastic. Now I know if you're still young, you probably won't even dwell on the idea for too terribly long. On the other hand, it might put some of us into a sweat.

You have to accept the future is coming. Be ready for it! Start planning as soon as you can. Begin thinking about what you're going to do, so that you have time to get there. If you wait, your chance might just slip through your fingers.

I've thought about what I plan to do as far as an occupation, but not so much as in where I'll live or where I'll be attending college. Hoping I can make it into a great school, I try to keep my grades up as much as I can. I'm crossing my fingers that eventually my hard work will pay off in the long run.

"Artist, lawyer, or both?" is the question I ask myself, when I think about the occupation I will choose. Though I won't decide which college I'll go to until I get older. Who knows? I may end up finding something completely different that I love more. Don't ask why, but I have no plan to go to any particular college. I guess none of the colleges I've heard about seem to fit my fancy.

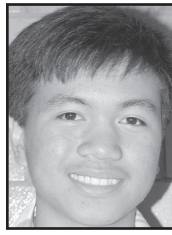
Even though I don't know what college I plan on going to, doesn't mean I don't know what kind of college I want. I'm looking for a university with a tremendous art program. Then maybe once I'm done with my education, I'll finally get a steady job, settle down, and start a family. What about you? Have you got a plan?



Howell



Harris



Fabre



Jenik



Hoard

