

Student essays published—

The essays of over one-half of the St. Francis Community High School freshman class have been chosen to be published in an anthology book, "A Celebration of Writers." Along with this honor, the students now have the opportunity to receive a \$50 savings bond, special recognition in the book and a free copy of the anthology book if their essays pace in the top 10 entries.

There were 17 St. Francis student's essays chosen. Because there are more than 15 essays selected to be published, the school will receive a Writing Achievement Award.

The essays could be on any topic the student selected and could be no longer than 250 words.

"It is awesome to see these students' essays published!" said Lisa Gibson, English instructor. "It is a feeling of accomplishment for them. Well done, students!!"

Students having their essays published are: Erik Hart, Lane Hoffman, Derek Queen, Aly Schleppe, Jacy Hilt, Gatén Cooper, Logan Lampe, Randee Grover, Kelsey Whitney, Tyler Lee, Austin White, Scott Warren, Bailey Merklin, Hannah Rider, Shelby Cassaw, Pablo Barron and Mason Schlitz.

The essays will be published as room permits.

My freshman year of wrestling

By Derek Queen
I came into the start of my freshman high school wrestling with one year of junior high wrestling experience. Most my teammates had been wrestling most of their lives.



Queen

I started off the year as a junior varsity wrestler at the weight of 152 pounds. I am currently wrestling 145 pounds at the varsity level. There was an opening in our roster at 145 pounds after one of our other wrestlers quit. So I decided to cut seven pounds down to that weight. It wasn't easy to cut those pounds in a matter of four days, but somehow I managed.

I am very glad that I did because being a varsity wrestler has taught me much about life. Wrestling has taught me that life isn't easy. My current varsity record is 5 and 13 which isn't very spectacular, but wrestling has taught me a lot of perseverance. I have learned not to give up when the going gets tough. I don't know where I would be without wrestling. I probably would have never learned not to give up if I hadn't wrestled. I am very glad I did. I'm looking forward to next season to see how much the team and I have improved. What have you done to make a dramatic change in your life?

Showing my heifer

By Gatén Cooper
Have you ever showed any type of animal? If you haven't, then you should try it some time. It is very enjoyable, at least I think so. I show many animals, but in this essay I am going to tell you about showing heifers.



Cooper

First, you have to get a heifer. After you pick one out, it is time to start training her before she gets too big to handle. The best thing to do is just stand by the pen that she is in. If you just stand there real still, she should walk up to you and sniff you. Then, slowly take your hand and see if you can't scratch her on the shoulder. When you are comfortable with each other, then quietly walk up to her and slip a halter on her. Just let her walk around with it on for a day or so.

When spring comes around, there will be spring shows you can go to. If your heifer and you are prepared, this would be a great idea to practice showing. The shows will give you an idea of how your heifer will act in the arena during the fair show. Before every show, you will need to wash, dry, and fit your heifer.

So I hope you do great with your new animal. Good luck!

You and I

By Jacy Hilt
What makes you an individual?

Is it the music you listen to or the people you hang out with? There is not a person in the world that's exactly like you or me. How would you describe yourself? How would other people describe you?

What makes me, me? There are many things that make me, me. Music, my family, and friends have a huge impact on my life. If it weren't for my family, I wouldn't be the person I am today. If I didn't have my family, I would be lost in the world. My family is my life which makes me.

Many people have asked me, "What makes me, me?" Mostly I would respond by saying my family. Although, if they want to know deep details as to who I am, I just say you have to get to know me.

Do you know how to describe yourself? If you don't, you should try and figure it out. I know exactly how to describe myself because I do it quite often. I'm fun, shy, sometimes goofy, and I can be your best friend or your worst enemy. So how would you describe yourself?

You only live once

By Aly Schleppe
Why blend in when you're born to stand out? This question helps me get through life since I don't look or act as everyone else around me. In time I have learned that standing out is a unique thing; I don't want to be like everyone else. Diversity to me is an admirable trait. Some people don't like how people aren't different, but I find it intriguing and fun.



Schleppe

If everyone was the same, there would be no excitement in life. Diversity has created the world and it shows the fun in life. Some people find imperfections in being different, but I like finding the fun in it.

"Diversity is the one true thing we all have in common. Celebrate it every day." — Author Unknown. I admire this quote because it is very true; we should celebrate diversity. I don't think some people realize being distinct is important in life.

Not being like everyone else helps people get along, but it can also cause disputes. This is where cliques can cause problems in high school and later on. Cliques can cause drama or they can't bother anyone.

In life, there will be different people around you all the time. The process of how it's handled could be a challenge. How do you plan on facing this task?

High school wrestling

By Lane Hoffman
As I entered high school, the sports were the only thing I was looking forward to, wrestling being one of them. Wrestling is something I am great at. It is a sport that shows success and defeat; wrestling is my sport.



Hoffman

As wrestling season was coming around the corner, I was looking forward to wrestling in the 103 pound weight class. The only thing that was holding me back from that was I weighed 111.8 at the very first practice. Cutting the weight was hard, but once I got down it was easy to stay down.

As a freshman, in wrestling it is hard getting use to the practices. The practices are more intense than the junior high practices. The wrestling room is at least 90 degrees every practice. As regionals and state are coming, we do shorter practices, but we work harder.

My record this year is 26-5 and I am favored to win the regional tournament. Then I am to go on and take at least fourth at state. It is going to be hard, but worth the challenge.

Being a freshman, wrestling seems like it is hard, but it is great.

Our upper classmen help keep us motivated and stay with the team. We have lost five kids on the team and it has been hard to deal with, but we have. We have two weeks left in our season and it will go by fast. It will be hard, but it will also be worth it. Do you do something that you work hard at?

What is heart?

By Logan Lampe
What do you think of when you hear the word heart? You may think of the organ in your body or maybe even Valentine's Day. When I think of the word heart, I think about the emotional meaning.



Lampe

The meaning of heart emotionally is to keep on fighting and never give up. My father always refers to heart when I struggle with something like sports. I think a person requires a lot of heart to participate in different sports.

One sport that requires a great amount of heart is wrestling. When you get on your back, you have to fight until you have no more breath. If you get pinned, you look bad. That is why you must have some heart. The referees' position is all about heart, too, because you have to move and scramble to get out. The referees' position is what heart is all about in wrestling.

I have seen and experienced a lot of heart in my life. One example of heart is our junior high football game against Goodland. They had a very good team that year and they beat us 36-0. Even though the score didn't look great, I think my team played their hearts out. I was glad to have been a part of that game.

In conclusion, I think heart is a need for almost anything. Whether it is life, sports, or other things it is needed strongly. Do you have any heart? If you do, use it to an advantage.

Paintball

By Mason Schlitz
I could hear the little pop coming from the other side of the field. I saw my teammates running to meet the enemy. I was at Derek's birthday party and we were having a paintball war. The battle I am speaking was my first paintball war ever.



Schlitz

All my teammates had gotten out except me and it was just Derek and I left going after each other. We circled and stalked each other for at least ten minutes trying to get a decent shot at the other. Finally, the match ended as my gun jammed and refused to fire.

When that was over, we rested for a couple minutes. Then we reloaded our guns and started another game. In this game one of the player's dads played with us. We all knew him well because he was also our eighth grade basketball coach. My friend Tyler and I teamed up and decided to take out our old coach. We ended up plastering him and he was out. Our coach then took revenge on us because he started firing his paintball gun from out of bounds by his car. It was all for fun, though.

When the sun was finally starting to set, we had our last war. It was during this war that I got shot the worst. I was hit several times in the wrist and was out. After this game, we headed out for pizza.

We cleaned up after the war and talked about our battle scars. Many of us had small bruises where we were hit, but that is just part of the fun of paintball. All of us are ready for another one when the weather warms up again!

The best years

By Raneé Grover
Some people look forward to their entire lives; some people dread the oncoming years. The years fly by, or they can drag on for an endless amount of time. The most can be made of the next few years, or they can be put on fast-forward. Whatever the outlook, the years



Grover

can't be escaped; teenagers will be in high school the next four years.

There are both pros and cons to being a freshman in high school. A couple positive things are being out of middle school and a whole new world of opportunities is opened. There are more extracurricular activities available to try.

One of the downsides to being a freshman is being at the bottom of the totem pole once again. The upperclassmen always get first choice, and the freshmen are stuck with whatever they don't want. One of the many things that freshmen have to work harder than upperclassmen is for playing time in sports.

Whatever the case may be, you're only a freshman once, so make the most of it. Incredible memories can be made that will be unforgettable. A balance has to be found between school, work, extracurricular activities, friends, family, and many other things. Although, once that balance is achieved, these years can be the best years of your life.

Up in flames

By Shelby Cassaw
I woke up at one in the morning to glass exploding, smoke swirling through the air, and flames breaking apart the roof of our garage. My dad was yelling at me to call 911.



Cassaw

Ten feet away from my window were flames roaring out of the garage.

As my step-mom is yelling across the house at my dad to be careful, it finally hits me how serious this situation really is. It feels as if it's 400 degrees in our house. As my windows are breaking, I go to my brothers' room. They are both crying. I try and settle them down as we hear gun shots in the air. Outside the garage, the suburban has caught on fire. We then realize that my dad had left guns and bullets in there.

My dad rinsed the house's roof off so it wouldn't get catch on fire. By the time half the roof was rinsed off, the water went out. The

fire trucks showed about an hour later. We all sat in the back of my grandpa's pick-up watching the young firefighters put out the fire.

That night we slept at my grandma's. After school, the next day the school bus dropped us off at our house. The garage was lying there in a black pile. Our garage was gone. Why would something like this happen?

My role model

By Scott Warren
Who is the role model in your life? The role model in my life is my older brother Shawn. I have always looked up to my brother all my life, and not only because of his height either.



Warren

My brother is my role model because he is very smart and helpful. He helps me with my homework if I need help with it. He passed every class in high school with A's and B's in every class. He is currently in college trying to become a dentist.

Shawn has persuaded me to do things, not only by convincing me, but by his actions. He got me into football because when I went to his football games I saw how much fun he was having. He was a lineman in football and was great at it.

I also wanted to enjoy in the fun that this wonderful sport is. I did football in junior high and my freshmen year and it was very exciting. I am also a lineman just like my brother, only I play in different spots than him. I hope that when I get older I can be as great of a football player as my brother. Do you have a role model in your life?

Riding horses

By Tyler Lee
Have you ever ridden a horse for a n y t h i n g other than recreation? If you have, you would know they are two different experiences.



Lee

One is more physically demanding. This is because you have to run the horse in rounding up cattle than for a recreation ride.

The way I got started riding horses was because my grandma had a small farm with two horses. One of the horses wouldn't let anyone ride him. When I turned three, I started to learn how to ride with my grandpa's horse. For my fourth birthday, I got the second horse. The day after I got him, I climbed over the railing and started to ride him around the pens. After I thought I was ready, we went to the road so I could see how fast he could go. My horse's name was Jimmy. My family got him from an Indian reservation where we had bought buffalos from.

My horse died in the summer of 2010. After that, I got Jimmy's daughter, a yearling mustang, so I would always remember Jimmy. Do you have the same interest in horses that I do. Do you have an animal that you've loved and has died?

(Look for more essays next week)

Student receives honors

Peru State College recently released the names of students who have earned a place on the Dean's List for the fall semester. Jessie Krien, daughter of Troy and Jan Krien of Waverly, Neb., was named to that list.



Krien

To earn a place on the Dean's List, students must have a grade point average of 3.75 or higher for the semester during the past semester and have no incomplete grades for the semester.

Jessie is the granddaughter of Billy and Karen Krien, St. Francis.

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