

# THE WAY WE SEE IT.



## WHERE EVERYONE BELONGS!

Joelle Wageman (8), Jamie Cox (6), Sydney Aikin (6), Ava Florence (6), and Ella Seevers (8) do an activity on the first day of school. The group, lead by Joelle and Ella held pinkies in a circle and tried to keep a balloon in the air. "I wanted to help the sixth graders be more comfortable," Joelle said.



# it was...

A continuous struggle.  
Some turned homework in on time, while others totally spaced it.  
We balanced busy schedules.  
Math homework, football practice, friends!  
How did we juggle it all?

We navigated complicated relationships,  
and branched out of friend groups.  
Dated for the first time.  
Learned that heartbreaks hurt,  
and friends change.

We tried to live up to the expectations,  
from teachers, parents and each other.  
The pressure was real!  
We learned as we went.  
And dealt with it as best as possible.

The opportunities were endless:  
Band, Yearbook, Sculpture?  
Sometimes we discovered our passions...  
writing, debating, coding.  
Sometimes we discovered our weaknesses..  
exponents, integers, algebra?

We set new goals!  
Get on honor roll.  
Become an office TA.  
Turn in all work.  
Get to school on time.

At times we hated it.  
At times we loved it.  
Through the drama and the gossip.  
Through the grueling schoolwork.  
All while we created bonds.

Middle school was complicated,  
fun, traumatic and stressful.  
We had different perspectives,  
But we got through it!

And this was the way we saw it.



**Twinning!** Hannah Boeding (6) and Ryan Palminteri (6) pose together for a picture of twin day during spirit week. "We're really good friends, and we know what each other likes, we've been friends since kindergarten," Hannah said. **Helping Hands.** Tayvin Struebing (7) helps someone with something in a class. "It's more hands on. It's not 'do this, by this time'. [Teamwork is important,] but sometimes it can drag you down," said Tayvin. **Learning hands on.** Gina Elliot (8), Emma Vencer (8), Shilah Pless (8), and Roslyn Baker (8) pull on a rope during science class to demonstrate  $F=MA$ . "It just gave me a better idea, like I knew the concept better," said Shilah.

