

# Traditions

From spirit days, to spirit bus, and all the way up to the homecoming game and dance. How do you celebrate Homecoming?

Whether that's getting ready with friends or going to all the events, Homecoming is a week of traditions, full of habits and fun memories repeated throughout the years. "We've gone to all the events in the past three years and we've been in the tug of war for the Powderpuff game," said Connor Hommes (12). Moe Patterson (12) argues that the best traditions of Homecoming week are the more atypical and personal events occurring that week, such as all the spirit days and Spirit Bus. "Being with and celebrating with all my friends...it's kind of like one giant party every time we go to a school," Patterson said.

For Kealey Marshall (12), the best part of Homecoming are the spirit days, ranging from Black and White Day to Meme Day, in which all students are invited to participate. "The spirit days, those are the best for me," Marshall said. "No one's gonna make fun of you...you're here to have fun in expressing school spirit." Hommes

corroborates this, saying that the joy of Homecoming would be lost without the tradition of spirit days. "It would be a lot more boring without the spirit day." All of these traditions blend to form a community of caring.

Not only are the spirited events and planned days important in regards to making every student feel included, they're vital to the actual Homecoming experience.

"It wouldn't be as fun as a whole week in general [without spirit days]," said Hommes.

"Honestly, it's fun and always positive... there's never any negative energy or anything. It's only super loving, and outgoing," Marshall said.

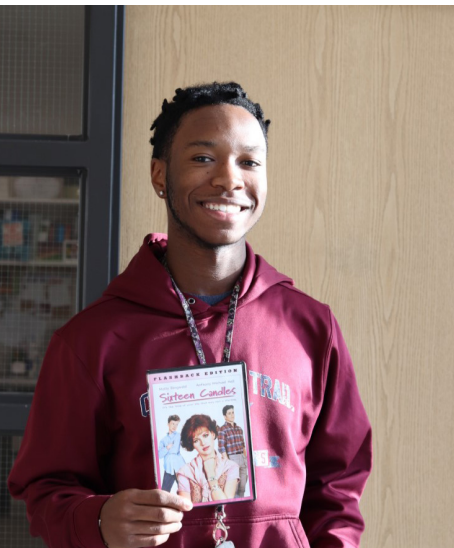
The traditions that create Homecoming Week form a culture of caring, in which every student can find something they enjoy and then continue to do. Traditions make us who we are. "The culture is like being on a team or like being a family," Marshall said.

"That's kind of what CT is like, we're all united as one." *E. Sumner*



Showing his school spirit by wearing a voluminous white wig to the White-Out football game against Horizon on Sept. 2, Connor Hommes (12) gazes out towards the field amidst a chaotic crowd. "It's always fun to keep doing the events that are coming," said Hommes.

Smiling in the early morning light, Anthony Hicks (12) clasps a copy of *Sixteen Candles*. "[I thought that] everybody would be so happy. Everybody just has a blast, right? [It's] the complete opposite."



## HOLLYWOOD homecomings



### Carrying the next generation

Morgan Gibbons (12), carries a cheering mini-pom on her back on Sept. 12 at the CT versus Horizon football game. "I thought [high school] would be a lot more parties and more school spirit," Sydney Mitchell (12) said.

### Does the silver screen truly depict Homecoming?

Hollywood loves to make movies and television shows surrounding Homecoming. The beautiful dresses, the music, and going home with a smile. But does it paint a picture of truth?

"I don't think they should make movies about the actual high school experience because I don't think that'd be [a good representation]," Skyle Woodward (11) said. "I don't think [Hollywood] should replicate it for any reason." Woodward went on to talk about how different her Homecoming experience was compared to Molly Ringwald's.

Not only is the idea of the general Hollywood Haze creating high expectations for teenagers across America, but the harsh reality of the overcrowded dance floor in the overheated cafeteria shoots down those expectations. The

rose-gold picture of slow dancing has been replaced with a different real-life experience. The typical refreshments table replaced with just two water coolers with long lines and that's just the dance. Hollywood paints the game to be a place where the community comes together and cheers for the team, which is also cast in the Hollywood Haze.

"I thought [high school] would be a lot more parties and more school spirit," Sydney Mitchell (12) said when in reality, the atmosphere around the stadium can match the biting cold air surrounding it, according to students.

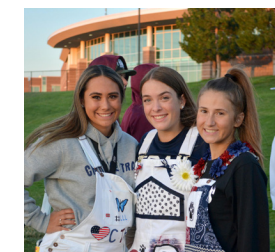
"[I thought that] everybody would be so happy, everybody just having a blast, right? [It's] the complete opposite," Anthony Hicks (12) said.

Cougars prepare to make a play against Horizon Hawks on Sept. 12. "I don't think they should make movies about the actual highschool experience because I don't think that'd be [a good representation]" Skyle Woodward (11) said. Photo by Thomas Wynne.

*L. McMillan and E. Sumner*



Senior girls applying to Powderpuff line up. "For me, it was the best part of Homecoming," Moe Patterson (12) said.



Grinning on the soccer field after Senior Sunrise, Adreanna Lance (12), Hunter Gilbreath (12), and Ashley Quinn (12) pose.



Last year's Powderpuff poster hangs proudly. "[Traditions] make [Homecoming] a lot better," said Moe Patterson (12).