

Outside of COVID-19,
the most memorable
event of this year
was when I was
invited to sit with a
group at lunch, and
started to fit in here.

-Maisy Skull
(6)



It ended too soon. We were let out for spring break a week early to do our classes online because of COVID-19, but we all thought we would be back. The next thing I knew we were online for the rest of the year. When my dad told me, I burst into tears. If only I had known that it would be the last time, I would have hugged my friends tighter, said goodbye to my teachers longer, and taken one last look at my locker before I forgot the code forever. We always complain about school-- "It's so hard, there's so much to do, early mornings, fitting in, and the daily busy-ness"--but now I just want to go back. As an 8th grader, it is unbelievable that it all came to a halt so fast. So much is gone, things I will never get back: Saying goodbye to the Drake halls, friends who are going their separate ways, and my favorite teachers.

WE BE TIGHT! Eighth graders Kaden Kline, Gus Kelley, Mason Trebilcock, Luke Varholdt, and Ryan Jensen throw a little attitude. Like many of our eighth graders, this friend group would be split between competing high schools, but for the moment, "My year was pretty good. I got to hang out with my friends a lot, and I had great teachers," said Kelley.

BALLOON MAGIC! Watching his balloon closely, Jake Floyd participates in a science experiment. The most important thing he learned this year, however, was "to work hard, be resourceful and always have fun." When asked about his favorite memory, he said it was "being a T.A. for Ms. Nelson and just getting to meet a bunch of seventh graders."

FOCUSED STUDY. Academically driven, Shannon Farrington (8) stays hard at work during class. Though her honors classes could prove challenging at times, she "felt a strong connection" to them. "A memory I will take away, is all of the wonderful experiences I've had with my peers, friends and teachers alike," she said about her final year.

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