



pictured: Spencer Kidd '20
<https://tinyurl.com/tw6776>

catching up

1.



SHOWDOWN! up for showdown

Showdown is the exhilarating class-wide battle some students call the highlight of the year

It's the least ditched assembly that becomes a super energetic competition between the classes. It's cropping shirts too short and using too much paint and glitter in the bathrooms. It's the mounting tension and energy as each student shuffles into the gym with their class. It's losing your voice after two and a half hours of screaming. It's Showdown.

"From the moment I got to the school, teachers and other students made it clear that Showdown is very important. Coming from the middle school, I thought Showdown would be less competition and more speeches by the staff. It was a lot of excitement and cheering for your team, everyone fueled by school spirit and all the hype surrounding it," Lily Defnet '23 said.

Showdown is the annual battle of the grades, which is as unique to Castle View as the intensity and feeling of family that defines the assembly. "It's really fun. I don't think any other high school does it. Everyone cheering, I think that's a big part of it. It really unites you as a grade. It just kind of makes you feel like a family, like, you're together on

one team. In high school, you need school spirit or you're so lame if you don't have it," Chloe Riley '22 said.

People expect to leave Showdown with ringing ears, sore throats and lost voices after spending the day chanting, cheering, throwing balloons, and blowing horns to one-up the other grades.

"WHEN WE GOT POINTS TAKEN FOR BEING SUPER ROWDY"

"The most surprising part of showdown was probably when we got points taken away for being super rowdy and they thought we were being too crazy," Jack Tuttle '20 said.

Showdown closes the tense competition in a chant that binds the school together on the gym floor, a tradition so important that when the bell rang at 2:55 p.m., a majority of the students stayed five more minutes to make sure the assembly ended with the signature do it chant.

"Our school is sweet. I love the do it cheer. Every year, everyone just gathering in the middle and screaming. It's very tense at first and it's a huge competition between the juniors and the freshmen and the sophomores and the seniors and you can just feel that energy," Alexander Hotzfield '21 said. **Copy by: Madeline Robinson**



Photo by: Annabelle Kiyan

one ending & one beginning

A freshman and a senior compare impression of Showdown

"I definitely thought there wouldn't be as many people there, because a lot of people don't show up to school events, so I was surprised at the amount of people who showed up and got into everything."

rielly mcneill '23

"This Showdown was the best one since the start. It was finally our year to be the loudest in the gym and beat everyone else. I just wish it was on a better day closer to the start of the year so it wasn't snowing."

nicolas little '20



Photo by: Annabelle Kiyan



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1. THE FRENZIED FLOOR FRAT: As they congratulate their team, Antonio Ursetta '20 and Zachary Cushman '20 cheer along with their sophomore supporters and senior squad. Ursetta and his friends have had floor seats at all of their showdowns. "It's important for the team and I to be in the front because we are really good leaders for the class and also we have the great energy that we bring to our class. It's like a chain reaction; we get everyone going," Ursetta said. **2. CHANNEL THE CHEER:** A group of boys including Alexander Hotzfield '20 use signs as a visual to guide the freshmen through the fight song's chorus. Hotzfield found it important to help the freshmen survive their first Showdown. "Sometimes you're like 'aw, come on guys' but you still have to be there for them and you know you were in their shoes when you were a freshman, too. And so you have to try and think back and say ok. I was like that, too. I should try and help them out and give them support," Hotzfield said. **3. THAT ROWDY TYPE OF HYPE:** Shortly before the official kickoff to Showdown, Jack Tuttle '20 hypes up his class as they enter the gym. One of Tuttle's favorite parts about Showdown was entering the gym and feeling the energy levels increase as the start of Showdown got closer and closer. "My favorite part is just being with the guys and my like friend group and celebrating. One time I got too fired up and my glasses fell off my face and they broke in half," Tuttle said. **4. A CAN WORTHY OF THE GODS:** To start off the trash can parade, Katherine McKenna '23 and Taimoor Sajid '23 roll their float across the gym floor. The freshmen's chariot-themed trash can beat the sophomores for the best trash can in their section of the parade. "It was everything I had hoped and more because I just loved the whole energy. It was super high energy and everyone was super excited and so happy to be there. That whole week had been leading up to Showdown. I'm happy I go to a school where I can experience something like this," McKenna said.



Photo by: Annabelle Kiyan



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5. RESPECT THE SENIOR CITIZENS: In support of the seniors during the singing of the school's fight song, Chloe Riley '22 and Alexis Stege '22 wave the flashlights on their phones. Riley considers the support system between the seniors and sophomores one of the main reasons the underclassmen participate in Showdown. "I like how the upperclassmen really hypes up the underclassmen and I think it is really important, otherwise the underclassmen would probably just sit there and be quiet. It's like a big brother situation; they look out for you because you're smaller," Riley said.

pictured: Thomas Bosco '20

goes by FAST

Jackson Stephens '22 considers Showdown the best way to introduce new students to the school.

"It's a whole school thing and it's really inclusive. It's really unique because our school has a lot of school spirit and I don't think a lot of other schools have that school spirit, and I think that really contributes to it. I think the support [between the grades] is important because it kind of lets the freshmen know that they belong and have a part in this school," Stephens said.