

What was the most challenging about Link?



BEN WILLIAMS (11)...

"The initial part of trying to get the freshmen comfortable the first few weeks."



ADDIE RANDEL (12)...

"The biggest challenge with our freshmen is making sure they know we walked the same path and we aren't superheroes."



LESLIE APODACA (11)...

"Is having the freshmen understand what they need to do. We would tell them to do their homework or give them advice and they would just blow it off."

Overcoming Challenges

Link advisers, Chad Shaw and Brittany Turnbull, mentor Link leaders and pair them up with freshmen advising classes. The Link leaders served as mentors to freshmen to help them transition and be successful in high school. They aid in helping the freshmen understand the ins-and-outs of high school as well as be an experienced student they can lean on for help. Turnbull said, "Our Link leaders are absolutely amazing. They come from a variety of different backgrounds with different personalities."



1... NEW FACES Freshmen attend orientation the day before all students begin classes.

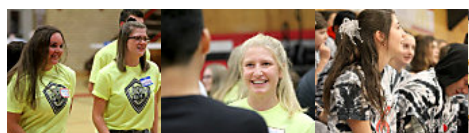
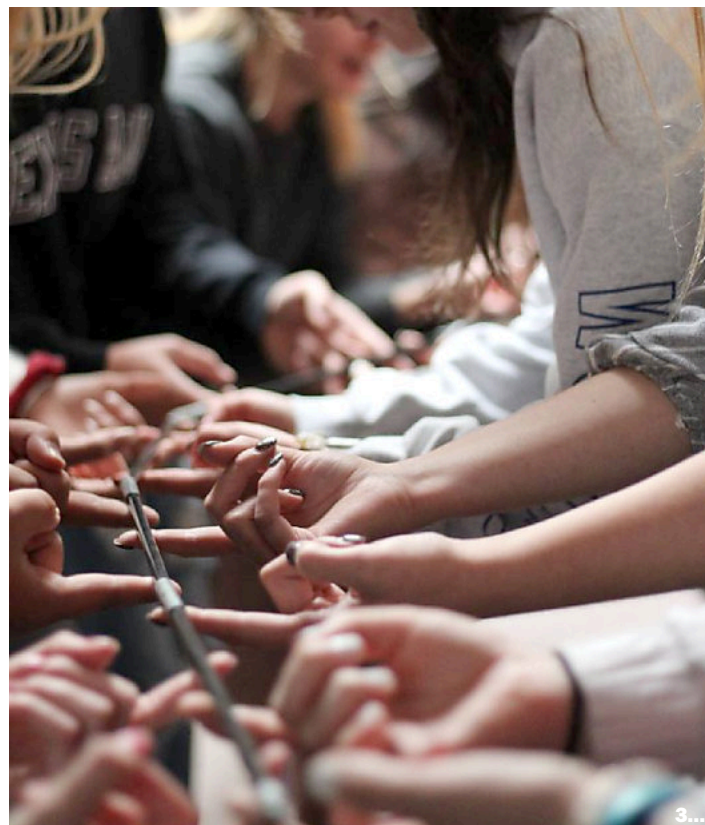
Freshmen meet their Link leaders, tour the school as well as get to know their peers in their advising class. Chad Shaw said, "The meaning behind [that activity] is to get them to become aware of the other people in their class."

2... CROCODILE HUNTER In a game of bunkbeds, Gabriela Morales Varela (12) and freshman Karver Lamoreaux partner up for the crocodile hunter move. Morales said, "The activities we do, we try to engage them and get them out of their comfort zone."

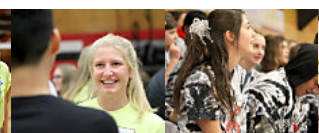
3... HELIUM STICK Before teaching the freshmen this activity, the Link leaders completed it for Shaw and Turnbull. Delaney Ochsner (11) said, "The helium stick activity teaches you patience and to rely on the other people in the group to do their job as you are doing yours."



Photos by Abby Silva



...ANNALISE HOLTE (11) & SARAH-CATE OGDEN (11)



...MIKAYKA SCHWARTZ (12)



...MACKENNA DALTON (11)

...EMMA BLASKOWSKI(11) & CATELYN ADAMS (11)



...WALKER SCOTT(12) & BRYCE LEAFGREN (12)



...LILIANA LARA(12)



...CADE MAWSON (11)



...GRACE SMITH (11) & CADE BEAN (12)



FIRST STEPS...

1... DANCIN' Link leaders demonstrate a new dance during freshman orientation. Emma Blaskowski (11) said, "It's weird dancing in front of 150 people who are staring at you, but at the same time our main goal is to make them feel appreciated and welcome; even if that means making a fool out of myself for them to feel less weird and scared."

2... WHAT'S POPPIN' During freshmen orientation two teams race to see who can pop all of their balloons first. Teagan Joseph (9) said, "It was a lot of fun but really weird when we couldn't get the balloon to pop."

3... FIRST DAY Shaw and Turnbull explain the meaning behind the ice breaker games and split the freshmen into advising groups with their Link leaders. Turnbull said, "The biggest challenge is encouraging all Link leaders throughout the year to press on with the freshmen even when their being difficult."



1...



2...



3...

Photo by Abby Silva



LINK LEADERS... Bryce Leafgren (12), Elijah Taylor (11), Jadon Johnson (11), Kameryn Gartrell (11), Evan Messmer (12), Anna Augustine (12), Jennifer Jarnagin (11), Grace Smith (11), Sarah-Cate Ogden (11), Ben Williams (11), Leslie Apodaca (11), Cade Mawson (11), Gabriela Morales Varela (12), Addie Randel (12), Lauren Weaver (12), Becca Doughty (11), Emma Blaskowski (11), Aspen Ashford (12), Annalise Holte (11), Walker Scott (12), Matea Floryance (12), Katelyn Leclair (12), Nakaiya Kuskie (11), Delaney Ochsner (11), Catelyn Adams (11), Mackenna Dalton (11), Kacie Henrichs (11), & Cade Bean (12)



Freshmen Nathan Juarez, Carter Brogdon, Hunter Olinske, Logan Heinz, Morgan Tribbett, Karver Lamoreaux, Cache Sanger, Brayden Duncan, Reata Moore, Sammi Markwardt, Arlette Flores Hernandez, Dayana Hernandez Reyes, Shelby Shuman, Tiana McDaniel, Jaeli Lewis, Ethyn Preston, Hayden Pollman, Zachary Grable, & Josseline Garcia-Campos

What is the best aspect of your Link leaders?

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"The group I have are really diverse and are really willing to connect with the students."

...AMY IRWIN

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LINK RETREAT...

During the summer Link retreat at Pingree Park, seniors Addie Randel and Bryce Leafgren play bunk beds. Randel said, "My favorite memory is going to the Link retreat with everyone and getting to know everyone on a personal level."



Photo by Delaney Ochsner

PARTY ON...

Waiting for the freshmen to arrive, Cade Mawson (11) and Matea Floryance (12) have a dance off. Floryance said, "I was honestly so excited to meet and help the freshmen."



"At first it was terrifying because I was a leader for these freshmen, but when they finally graduated EATON 101 I was relieved. They would be able to become who they wanted to be and use the stuff they learned from us in their real lives."

...MAKENNA DALTON (11)



...MAKENNA DALTON (11)