

"My favorite part of being on the Cross Country team is growing as a team, and getting closer to my teammates."  
-Palmer Johnson (8)



**ON YOUR MARK!** Audrey Copher (7), Esme Allison (6), Emma Gieri (6), Nate Archambault (7), and teammates take off from the starting line during practice on April 6th. "My mom just signed me up. I wanted to stay in shape for ice hockey," said Audrey Copher (7). **TAKE THAT.** Practicing for their relay, Jack Klug (6) hands the baton to Mason Mullen (6) while Ethan Entlich (6) waits his turn. A particularly cold spring day, the team stayed indoors to practice the hand offs before they braved the weather to race.



photo by lwicke



photo by lwicke

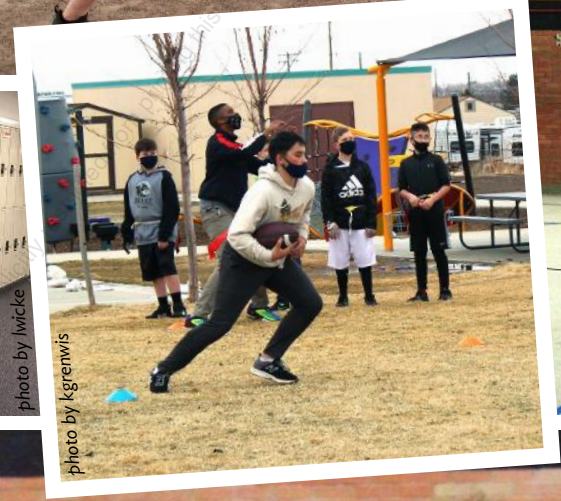


photo by kgrenwis



photo by kgrenwis

**BREAK THROUGH.** Blake Anderson (6) and her teammates work on layup drills with the help of their coach. The basketball team was a positive experience for players. "My overall experience on the basketball team has been great. I will probably remember my team and coach the most for their welcoming and kind attitudes, as well as their helpfulness on this team," said Anderson.





**POINT GUARD.** Kalynn Jones (7) blocks her coach during defensive drills. "I joined to get more practice. I already play for A-West. I love the physical rush of it," said Jones.

**CUTTING CORNERS.** Levi Lueck works on left jabs during football practice. "I was focusing on when and when to cut the corner," said quarterback Lueck. "I have never really played quarterback before so it was very exciting."



photo by kgrenwis

**EYES UP!** Tarik Wilder (8) blocks the ball from Michael Faust-Bradford (8), during an indoor practice. "It's a very fun experience to play with all of my friends!" said Wilder. The boys' basketball team at Drake has only been established for two years.



photo by lwicke

# A-GAME

JP Morain (6) talks about his experience on the flag football team.

**Q: How did you start playing football?**

A: Once I saw a bunch of kids and joined in. It was so fun. I was about 6.

**Q: Why did you chose to join the team?**

A: I joined because it was a chance to finally play for my school.

**Q: How has being on the team helped you improve?**

A: I guess, by pulling flags, because I have gotten way better at it.

**Q: What is your favorite activity you have done during practice?**

A: Probably when we catch the ball and run it down the field.



photo by khenson

# BACK IN ACTION

Students discuss the importance of Drake team sports and how they have evolved during the pandemic.

**By Kyra Henson**

The thirty seconds between plays are up and he takes his spot behind the blockers, where the last flag was pulled. Concentrating on the short distance to the end zone, he judges the play they will run, deciding on 2. "Ready. Set, HIKE" he screams. With the sun in his eyes, he crooks his arm back and throws the ball as hard as he can, hoping that it reaches his receiver. Part time quarterbacks Kaiden Henson (6) and Levi Lueck (7) reenact this moment over and over again, in both games and scrimmages, Henson's favorite part of practice. "Every pass is part of the game," said Henson. "I really get to focus on what my responsibilities are and what I need to do to help the team." The flag football team is one of the many school sports offered to Drake students. 14 members are on the team.

Basketball is another sport in which many students participated this year, for various reasons. "I like basketball because it is active, and action packed," said member Isabella Urban (7). Team environment is also very important to the success of this team. "The coach has been really involved in teaching us new skills, and he helps us

learn quicker. I have a very nice, and bad if you miss a shot or drop the ball," said Urban.

Standing friendships were also a main reason for students to join Drake sports teams. "It's really fun, I get to see my friends. I was on a Premier team but when all my friends joined the school team, I decided to join too," said Tarik Wilder

By far, the largest of the school teams were track and cross country. "At the beginning of the year I ran cross country and enjoyed it, so I thought I'd sign up for another session. For some reason, I just like running. It really gets your heartrate up, and it's good for you," said Emma Gieri (6). The track team participates in many events, but one the team spent a surprising amount of instruction might be surprising. "Passing the baton is not easy because you have to get the timing exactly right while you are both running at the same time. You also have to stay within the passing zone, so it's tricky," said Izaiah Brees (6). The relay event was practiced frequently during team practices. Despite the original difficulties of school sports, the different Drake sport teams provided a safe and fun escape for students, this school year.