

# BACK TO NORMAL?

photos by Caitlin Alexander



**1. PUSHING THE LIMIT:** On Sept. first, students gather on the courtyard to protest new mask mandate put in place by Tri-County Health Department. After tensions began to rise, Dr. Rex Corr was forced to respond. "You usually knock it out of the park, but today I am disappointed," Dr. Corr said.



**2. END GOAL:** Junior Nathan Schmidt gets taken down by rival Douglas County. Despite losses Schmidt was still hopeful and making goals. "We have to make playoffs and then once we make the playoffs we have to win out to get to state," Schmidt said.



**3. BREAKING THE TIE:** After a successful tie breaker for the senior Powder Puff team, senior Carli Gonzalez moves in to celebrate with senior Peyton Slavin on her game winning touchdown. "My favorite part about winning powderpuff was seeing how happy our team and coaches were after we got the touchdown," Gonzalez said.



**4. CHEERS:** Sophomores jump excitedly as they cheer on their team. Sophomore James Stanley enjoyed spending time with his friends at Showdown. "My favorite part was spending quality time with my friends while building deeper connections with people," Stanley said.

## “MEGAN TRAHAN '22

I feel that we are somewhat back to normal but that we have a while before things will truly feel the same again. Events like football games and Showdown make it feel as if we have returned back to our normal high school life. However, attending actual school still feels a bit off as we still wear masks and take safety precautions that we didn't have before.

To me, normal is more apparent in the environment of the school more than anything else. This mainly pertains to students treating each other with more kindness and respect and not attacking them over their opinions. My personal school life has been very different because of how people treat each other. While there were still problems while our school lives were 'normal', these problems have escalated into violence and hate speech which is very different from the behavior I felt occurred during 'normal' school.

Our school can proceed through these 'not normal' times by stressing the importance of doing what is asked of you. In my opinion, it feels that we keep getting pulled back into the ways of last year because people are not following what is asked of them by the school/the district. While I, along with most students, am not thrilled about masks, I feel that it is still important to wear your mask and do what you are asked if you want things to start returning to what we once knew to be normal.

While I do not love that things do not feel as normal as I wish they would have for my senior year, I try not to focus on my feelings towards it too much. At the end of the day, I just want to get through my senior year so I can move on and I am fine with doing that in whatever setting I need to. I also try to remind myself that while it is not the greatest thing right now, it won't matter to me how we had to do certain things for my senior year in the future as it simply won't matter.

One thing that has made this year feel somewhat normal again has been the sports games. Fall sports being in full swing again, at the correct time too, has made the out of school life feel back on track. Additionally, having homecoming has made the year feel somewhat normal as well because it was something that we did not get to do last year.

COVID mainly impacted my school life because when we would do remote learning, I oftentimes found myself struggling to manage my time well and struggling to find motivation to do my work. At home, I felt impacted by COVID because doing school at home made it hard for me to separate my space for myself and for school."

## “GABRIELLE KOLB '22

I do not think we are back to normal because there are still many aspects of life that are modified from how they were pre-COVID. I think people's emotions regarding the pandemic are causing more differences than the actual pandemic itself.

My vision of normal is being able to entirely return to living the way I did before spring of 2020. I think until COVID isn't a constant topic of discussion, I can't say things are 'normal.'

Life has been different because everyone is scared of everything. Even simple, previously normal tasks require an abundance of additional compromises and modifications that are not always necessary or effective.

We should proceed by doing all we can to stay safe and healthy without living in fear and putting our lives on hold. I feel as if the fear and drama surrounding COVID has been just as negatively impactful as the virus itself."

## “SAMANTHA CANNON '22

I think that for the most part things are pretty much back to normal. I think that if we didn't have to wear masks, we would be back to normal. I think my version of normal is not having to wear masks and not having to worry about being exposed to COVID. Life has been different with things like dances and showdown being outside, but I think that everyone is trying their best. I think that we can proceed with caution and still be careful so hopefully one day things can be completely normal.

I don't mind that things aren't as normal as anticipated because I have seen that people (myself included) are just trying to have fun especially their senior year so we aren't taking a lot of precautions. I think since the majority of us are vaccinated we feel comfortable hanging out and doing what we normally do.

I think going to sports events and being in school full time make everything feel normal. COVID impacted my school life because my grades have been a lot better because teachers have been more lenient. At home I think my whole family has become a lot closer."

written by Bella Terhark