

1. SHAKE IT UP: The music starts and Peter Rejman '22 takes the field to perform at Showdown on Oct. 1. With the help of some poms girls and Rejman's cheer experience, they brainstormed the choreography. "Performing is nothing new for me. We compete for cheer seven times a year and I love it," Rejman said.

2. GET LOUD: Students shout left and right of Abigail Larkin '23 and add to the eccentric environment of Showdown on Oct. 1. Larkin stayed loud and cheered everyone on and kept the friendly competition alive. "This year being able to get loud, dance, cheer and yell made Showdown one of my favorite moments this year," Larkin said.

3. HEADMASTER ANNOUNCER: To kick off the event, Mr. Michael Schneider - dressed as Dumbledore from "Harry Potter" - hypes up the students on Oct. 1, and sets the mood. Though he was reluctant at first, he later agreed after his friends Mr. Kyle Erlenbeck and Ms. Shanequa Baker decided to do it. "We decided it would be more fun if we dressed in characters and we built out scripts around our chosen characters," Schneider said.

4. PUSH AND PULL: To the best of their abilities, Marc Wessbecker '22 and his fellow athletic teammates play tug of war against the juniors at Showdown. The juniors defeated the seniors. "Showdown was really fun because of all the energy and all of that hype transfers to the homecoming game," Wessbecker said.



Photo by Colin Vismalle
Also pictured: Styler Schillhardt '23



5. PRESSURE'S ON: Eyes from every corner of the field beam on Addison Humphrey '25 while she bounces volleyballs through hoops for a Showdown floor event. The freshman had lacked points and it was up to Humphrey to earn back those points. "I didn't stay very focused, it was really fun and I kept laughing just making the best out of it," Humphrey said.

6. SCOOT SENIOR SCOOT: Pushing themselves down the field, Ethan Henak '22 and his team do their best to win. The objective of the event was to get down to one side of the field and turn back around to make it to the other side in order to win. "I think that through the excitement I was able to be more energetic and outgoing during the event, making me support my team as much as possible," Henak said.

7. THE INSIDER: To keep the energy up, Aidan McGinty '23 and William Mirenda '23 stand out on the field in between Showdown events. The two were members of student government and helped the event run smoothly. "We were on the field to help Showdown run smoothly, and it was a really great experience," Mirenda said.

Photo by Colin Vismalle
Photo by Mirenda Mirenda
Photo by Colin Vismalle

show up, SHOWDOWN

THE ANNUAL EVENT TAKES THE OUTDOOR FIELD WITH A "HARRY POTTER" THEME

2000 students coming together celebrating homecoming all week, building up anticipation for a school favorite event— Showdown. Half of a day, everyone at the school, competing for bragging rights and coming together as one at the end. To keep it new, refreshing and exhilarating, student government had to start planning in August.

It began with theme ideas, and then transitioned into actual event planning. Some students, including Gabrielle Goodwin '23, coordinated with community restaurants to orchestrate food nights.

"Me and a couple of other people went through and we planned out what kind of restaurants we wanted to call up and ask if they wanted to collaborate with us for a Showdown. And then we went through and called each one and we asked them what they'd be willing to donate, kind of like the percentages and stuff like that," Goodwin said.

Food nights were just a small piece of putting on Showdown. The class had to plan spirit days, floor events, night events, and decorations, among others. Once the planning was done, it was time to execute. The morning of Showdown, Oct. 1, the student government crew started to haul materials outside for the second outdoor Showdown. Student government members were pulled out of class for the beginning of the day to make the magic happen due to the time that the setup takes.

"I set up the obstacle course. I practiced cornhole. We got the distance in there because we had to practice that," Aidan McGinty '23 said.

Around noon, it was time to bring the classes out slowly. This only being the second time Showdown was held outside, student government faced several challenges.

"It was stressful, very stressful, because like some of [the events] took longer than others, so I just needed a lot of people to be there, ready to go. Something that could have gone better was like where [students] would hang out to get ready [for events] because they were hanging out with the materials so it was hard to like get the materials out onto the field," Clayton Mullens '22 said.

Crowd control was part of student government's job during Showdown to ensure the events stayed fair and safe.

"We had to push a bunch of kids back cause during tug-of-war a lot of the older, upperclassmen like to push their way towards the event, and it gets dangerous when there's 2000 kids pushing their way towards the middle of the field," McGinty said.

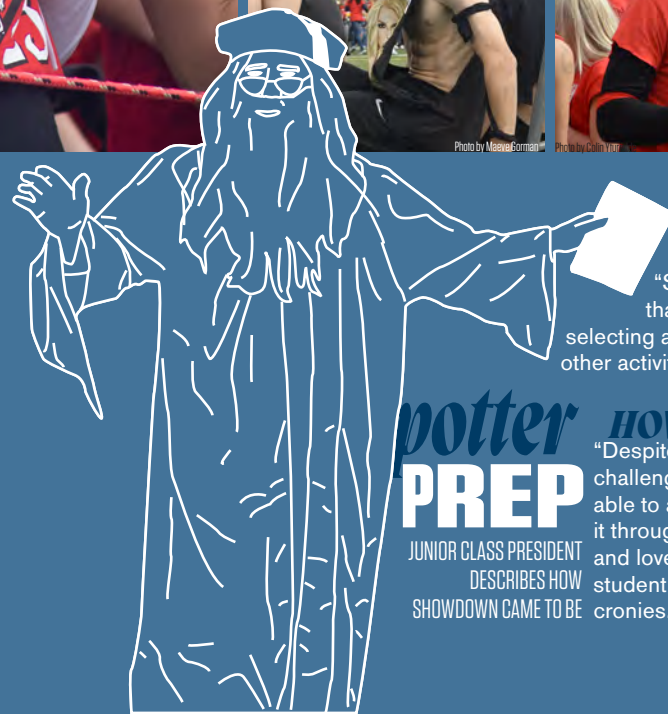
After a little under two hours of

competition, students leave and student government is left with a field littered with trash to clean.

"Everybody helps clean up so when kids throw confetti out, dollar bills, water bottles. Everybody helped bring stuff back to the student government room, all the equipment, and we helped clean up any trash that was left on the field," Rielley McNeill '23 said.

Copy by Karla Castillo

"I set up the obstacle course. I practiced the cornhole. We got the distance in there because we had to practice that." **AIDAN MCGINTY '23**



WHAT

"Showdown is a yearly tradition that is an original idea that involves the collaboration of the entire school. After selecting a theme, we create a plethora of games, challenges and other activities that provide a unifying beginning of the school year."

potter PREP

JUNIOR CLASS PRESIDENT DESCRIBES HOW SHOWDOWN CAME TO BE

HOW

"Despite the various challenges, we were able to accomplish it through hard work and love from the student government cronies."

WHY

"Showdown works not only to give an exciting start to the year, but also ingrain unity and intersectionality between grades."

WHO

"Student government planned the majority of showdown," William Mirenda '23 said.

Well you see, me and Mr. Vice President [Caleb Cancino '22] thought it would be a good idea to run into each other with yoga balls and I got folded like a lawn chair." **SAMUEL MARTIN '24**

ANNUAL anticipations

EACH GRADE COMPARES SHOWDOWN TO PREVIOUS SHOWDOWNS AND THEIR IMPRESSIONS OF THE SECOND OUTDOOR SHOWDOWN

FRESHMEN

"Being outside was cool but it was kind of upsetting if you were forced to the back. It became hard to see. I did the obstacle course; I wanted to be involved in the fun," Anthony Brogan '25 said.

SOPHOMORE

"Showdown for me was a fun way to get involved in a school competition and I wanted to be a part of it. I enjoyed everyone else's energy and it was super fun to be a part of that," Cole Newnam '24 said.

SENIOR

"Showdown was alright, it went by really fast. The volume just wasn't the same," Ryan McEntee '22 said.

