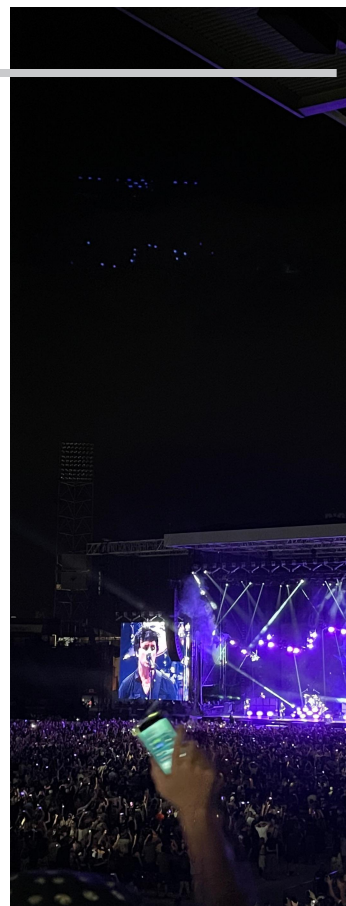
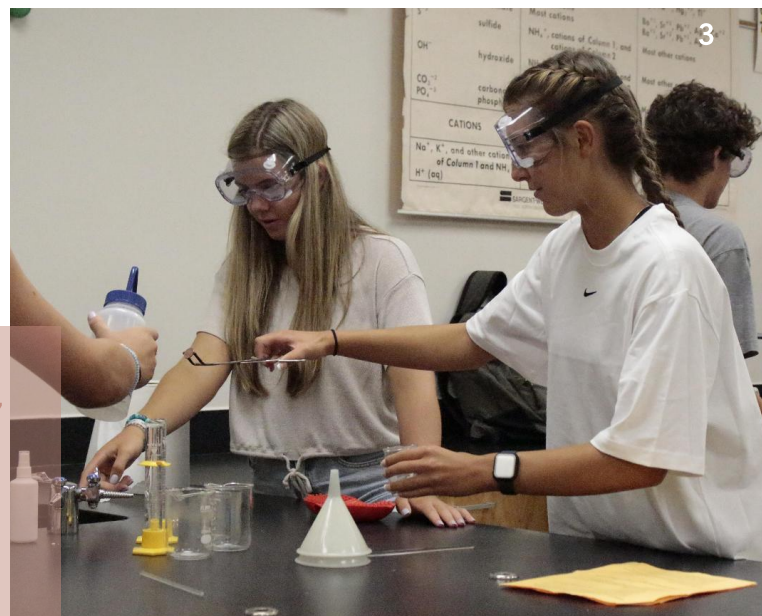




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STUDENT LIFE AUGUST
summer

BACK and better than THE RETURN TO SCHOOL WAS FILLED WITH RELIEF AND EXCITEMENT **EVER**

by Arianna Evangelista, Leah Grier, Kyle Sanchez, and Aaron Zancosky

After spending a year in the TOPS online curriculum, **JACK DYER, 12**, spoke on his junior year. "In TOPS, there was no school spirit. It didn't even feel like it was run by LPS. I got a really bad sleep schedule. When I was on Google Meets, I was the only one who had my camera on besides the teacher, of course. But I felt bad for the teachers because they wanted to see their students' faces. It was a bizarrely different experience than in-person school," Dyer said. However, to Dyer, there were some silver linings to last year's TOPS program. "The plus side of being in TOPS was that I could take as many breaks as I wanted to, which was nice. Also, I could work outside on my homework because I was just on my computer," Dyer said. Being back in school was like a breath of fresh air. "Coming back here, school spirit is huge. Like an explosion of games and sports. Everything that's happening feels so much more vibrant. I'm happy to be back."

1. COLORED CHALK IN HIS HAIR, MATEOS TAYLOR, 09, navigates the crowd at the Back to School Dance. For Taylor, the music and colored powder created an exciting first high school dance. "I loved it because I got to meet new people and hang out. Because of the dance, now I have a ton of new and awesome friends," Taylor said. Photo by A. Zancosky. **2. AT THE COLLABORATION CONCERT WITH WEEZER, FALL OUT BOY, AND GREEN DAY**, students enjoyed the long-awaited performance. The show was originally set to happen in July 2020. "It felt really weird to be around that many people again, but it was nice to go because I had waited for over two years for it," **ANDREW SCHNEIDER, 11**, said. Photo by A. Evangelista.



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3. PENNY IN TONGS, HANNAH RESLEY, 11, completes the gold coin lab. Resley was nervous about taking Chemistry, but doing labs helped her understand the content. "When Mrs. McKnight said we were going to do the gold coin lab, I was super excited. I thought it was cool that we got to use chemicals on the first day of class," Resley said. Photo by K. Sanchez. **4. AT THE LINK CREW COOLER CRAZE, MORGHEN GILCHRIST, 11, AND JULIANNA BRANDBERG, 11,** hand out popsicles to students during lunch. Link Crew volunteers organized a fun way to engage with the student body. "[Link Crew] builds a support system that freshmen or any students can go to when they are struggling," Gilchrist said. Photo by A. Evangelista

5. SHARING LUNCH, KAITLYN POWELL, 12, LYDIA DALLAPIAZZA, 11, ALEXANDRA LAMBERT, 12, MARINA HUSTER, 12, AND MAX ANNA, "MAX" LOCKET, 12, enjoy their time back at school. For Dallapiazza, coming back to full in-person was shocking after a year online. "I didn't learn much online, there were far too many distractions. As for becoming a junior, not much has changed, and I still feel like a sophomore," Dallapiazza said. Photo by L. Grier.

like
MIKE
JUNIORS DEBATE A
THEME FOR THEIR
CLASS JERSEYS



"Over summer break and in August, most of the juniors were in a big group chat just to vote over the [junior jersey] theme. We chose 'Like Mike' because Michael Jordan's jersey number was 23."

[LYDIA ILIEV, 11]

Q&A

STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT CHRISTOPHER "CHRIS" KAHLER AND ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL BRIAN CERIANI ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT LEADERSHIP

Q: HOW DO YOU MAKE CONNECTIONS WITH STUDENTS?

"I give it my best effort to say hi to everyone and just ask how they're doing. I also like to be present in classes and events and make sure that everyone feels known."

[CHRISTOPHER "CHRIS" KAHLER, 12]

"I ask myself how I can make a great experience for these students. I really try to make it my mission to incorporate school into their lives, not just as something they do, but as something they love."

[BRIAN CERIANI, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL]

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Q: WHAT ARE YOUR HOPES FOR THIS YEAR?

"I hope we can stay together as a community and help one another, just as we did last year through the hard times."

[CHRISTOPHER "CHRIS" KAHLER, 12]

"I hope to give students an authentic experience, and I hope that they are able to be in school, as school is supposed to be. My goal is for kids, that when they leave, they say, 'this was a great year.'"

[BRIAN CERIANI, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL]



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