

You're back. It's time for you to make the most of the year, in your own way. It's time for you to form the relationships that'll guide you through school. It's time for you to lead a life that's yours in the building that will become your playground. It's time to start defining who you were, who you are, and who you will be. It's time to study and practice and work more than you ever have. It's time to stop taking being in school five days a week for granted. You spend every class, every off-hour, and every lunch, working towards something. You're revising your book before it goes to a publisher. You're running from office to office trying to check in with teachers to see what you missed in class, after spending yesterday at South Suburban on the green. You're in the band room, the weight room, the journalism room. At any given moment, you're striving towards being better. Being better than you were last year, last week, last period. You're improving; you're growing. Because everything you see, everything you do, is working towards something unimaginable. It's working towards you.

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SURROUNDED BY FALL LEAVES, students enjoy lunch on the south lawn. For JANE GRIFFIN, 11, the changing weather was a welcome change. "The fallen leaves make you feel happy, like there's change in the world," Griffin said. Photo by A. Evangelista.