FIND ME IN THE PAPER
- This picture will be hidden in the Blue Ink somewhere.
- Look for it throughout the issue as you read the articles and browse the pictures.
- Thank you Mrs. Granberg for creating the Blue Ink dragon

WORTH MENTIONING
- Spring sports meeting is on Monday, March 16 at 6:30. This is for all parents and students who are interested in playing a spring sport: softball, track & field, golf.
- The spring musical has been announced: "The Little Mermaid"

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Garretson, SD

GARRETSON
BLUE DRAGONS

Blue Ink



Too much testing

by **Emma Wolf**
staff writer editorial

It's 6:00 am and your alarm goes off to wake you up for your early morning practice. The night before, you stayed up 'til 12:30 am studying and doing homework after the double header. After morning practice, you are mentally and physically drained but you still have a whole day of school ahead of you. Hopeful for an easy day, you walk into first period just to find out you have to get shoved in a room to take a multi-hour test; this time the ASVAB.

It's not just one time though, juniors are under constant pressure to perform; with multiple map testing periods, the ASVAB, the practice ACT, the actual ACT, it's all just too much, especially all at once. We are constantly expected to perform our best on each of these requirements on top of all of our normal tests, quizzes, and homework. THEN, just as we think we have a break for a little, we are expected to decide what we want to do with the rest of our lives. Like come on, that's way too much for a 17 year old to handle.

Life is already hard enough as it is. With studying for tests, doing homework and dual

Onslaught of tests bring on stress despite intention to prepare

credit, finding a job for this spring, still practicing for sports, and preparing for the play, how are we expected to perform our best on all of the standardized tests too?

It feels like we aren't even students anymore, we are athletes and employees too. We are expected to handle everything at school and in our daily lives like we are adults or something. We are young, so we should be able to have time to live our lives, but with everything that is thrown at us, it feels like a never ending cycle of work.

What we really need in our lives is balance. If testing was spread out a little more instead of all in one semester, that would take a HUGE load off our shoulders. It would give us more time to

Continued on page 5



Left: Blake Benson sprawled to stop his opponent, trying to get a front headlock to score three, but Benson ended up not getting credit for the takedown. Benson has wrestled his opponent multiple times earlier in the season.
Photos by Chase Costello & Zach Hermanson

STATE WRESTLING

February 26-28
Sioux Falls, SD



Above: Macie Miller takes a shot to start the match, she doesn't finish the shot, but sets it up nicely and just doesn't execute. Miller is a seventh grader and thi is is her first year eligible for the state tourney.

Below: Chase Arend is leg riding his opponent to make sure he doesn't escape, while looking over at his coaches so he knows what to do next. Arend's opponent placed in a really tough tournament earlier in the year.



Below: Cole Schleuter forced an underhook to a hip toss in his blood round match to pin his opponent to secure his first victory in the state tournament of his career. Schleuter beat his opponent in the conference tournament earlier in the season to make finals.



BLAKE BENSON (113 lb)

Champ. 1st Round
- vs. Cael Vander Broek (Canton)
- Loss via Tech Fall

Cons. 1st Round
- vs. Michael Becker (Howard)
- Loss via Pin

CHASE AREND (132 lb)

Champ. 1st Round
- vs. Witt Myers (Stanley County)
- Win via 8-5 Decision

Champ. 2nd Round
- vs. Evan Folk (Sisseton)
- Loss via 1-6 Decision

Cons. 2nd Round
- vs. Gabriel Frias (Flandreau)
- Loss via 2-12 Decision

COLE SCHLEUTER (190 lb)

Champ. 1st Round
- vs. Nolan Mentele (Howard)
- Loss via Pin

Cons. 1st Round
- vs. Liam Gunnon (Kingsbury County)
- Win via Pin

Cons. 2nd Round
- vs. Ethan Harris (Philip/Kadoka Area/Wall)
- Loss via 0-10 Decision

MACIE MILLER (120 lb)

Champ. 1st Round
- vs. Gracie Lobbins (Madison)
- Loss via Pin

Cons. 1st Round
- vs. Cadence Bochek (Clark-Willow Lake)
- Loss via Tech Fall

AMAYA MILLWOOD (235 lb)

Champ. 1st Round
- vs. Unique Clairmont (Todd County/White River)
- Loss via Pin

Cons. 1st Round
- vs. Hadley Digmann (Ethan/Parkston)
- Win via 4-0 Decision

Cons. 2nd Round
- vs. Kori Wallner (Canton)
- Loss via Pin

Below: Amaya Millwood defends her opponent's shot well and spins around her to get her three points to secure the win late in her blood round match. Millwood, a junior, is in her first year wrestling.



From student to staff

Jessica Fueston returns to Garretson, this time in a different role



by **Blake Benson**
staff writer and infographic creator

Lots of students after high school think about never coming back, but not for Jessica Fueston. Mrs. Fueston graduated from Garretson High School and now she's back working as a teacher aide. She is now helping students with their homework instead of doing her own.

Coming back to Garretson has been a cool experience for Fueston. "It felt a little surreal; I used to focus on my own work, and now I focus on helping others succeed."

Being back in the building brings back some memories but it also shows how things have changed. Fueston helps out in different ways. She works with students who need extra help, helps teachers get things ready for class, and makes sure everything runs smoothly.

Fueston said the idea of becoming a teacher came after thinking about the teachers who influenced her when she was a student. "I realized it after thinking about the teachers who impacted me and I want to make that same kind of difference."

In the future, Fueston hopes to work as a middle school teacher and is currently going to DSU for her degree. But, after spending time around the high school, she enjoys the constant rotation of students and classes.

From being a student to being a teacher Jessica Fueston shows you don't have to go far to make a difference.

Now instead of sitting in class and learning, she helps students learn in the same place where her story started.

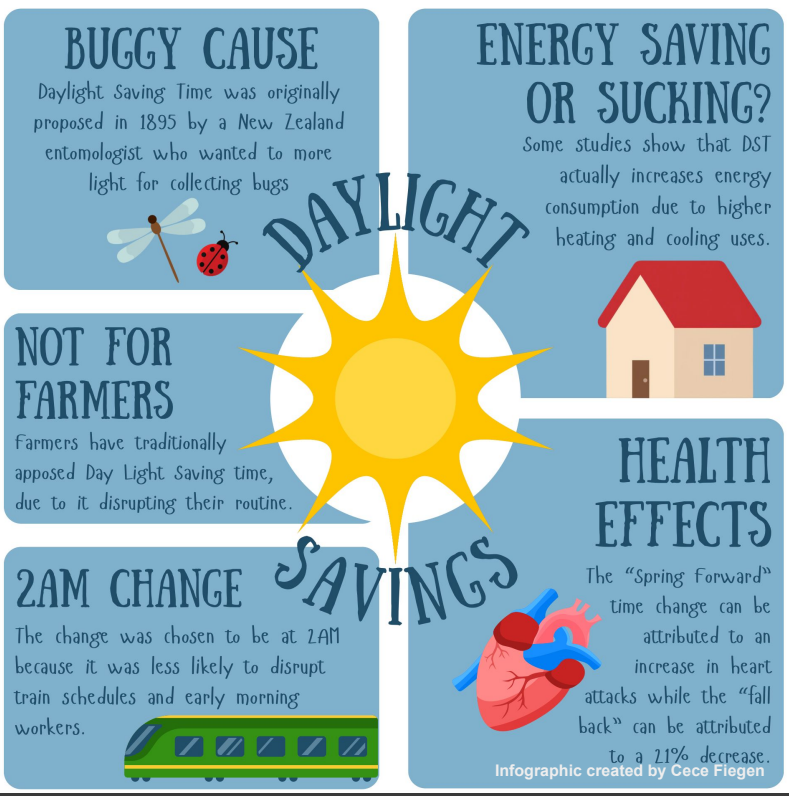
Clocks spring forward

by **Harper Hanisch**
staff writer

This Sunday the U.S. will undergo their biannual clock adjustment, known as daylight savings. Clocks will be set back 1 hour after 2 a.m. hits.

The U.S. as well as Canada, Europe, Australia, and various parts of the Middle East take part in this event. All U.S. states except for Arizona and Hawaii set their clocks back due to practical reasons. This takes place to increase time for afternoon activities and reduce energy consumption for lighting.

Don't forget to set your clocks back to enjoy more afternoon hours!



Senior Spotlight
Nick Wynia



Activities Involved In:
Track (Throwing)

Who/What Will You Miss Most:
Mr. Ehrisman and Physics Class

Favorite School Lunch:
Pizza

Favorite Class You've Taken:
Physics

Plans for Next Year:
Not sure



This Week's Need to Know

Upcoming Events

Friday, March 6
- Read Across America Week
- National School Breakfast Week - Goodies with Grandparents

Monday, March 9
- FFA @ CDE in Emery (10:00)
- School Board Meeting @ Library (6:00)

Thursday, March 12
- No School - Spring Break

Friday, March 13
- No School - Spring Break

Monday, March 16
- FFA @ CDE in Howard (10:00)
- First Day of Softball Practice
- Spring Sports Meeting @ Dragons' Lair (6:30)

Worth Mentioning

THREE GARRETSON STUDENTS participated in the SDSU Honor Band this past week. Congratulations to Casen Smith, Caiden Maack, and Aiden Johnson.

END OF 3RD QUARTER is on Wednesday, March 11. That means there is only a week and a half left of school for this quarter.

SPRING BREAK is Thursday, March 12 through Sunday, March 15. Enjoy the extra couple days away from school before we start 4th quarter.

ORDER YOUR '25-'26 YEARBOOKS today. They are $30 each, a steal for the millions of memories made this year. You can order online at ybpay.lifetouch.com. Please come find Dr. Buchholz if you have any questions.



Boys basketball region snaps

#7 Garretson fell to #2 Flandreau in a tightly contested game





Left: Brecken Weir jumps as he towers over the defender for the lay up.
Right: The team locked down and forced a turnover. They went down and score to bring the game closer.

Photos by Zach Hermanson







Above: Jackson drives towards the hoop with a defender right on his hip. He got fouled and made both his free throws.
Left: Zaza lines up a deep 3 as Buchholz and Arend wait for the shot but it got tipped backwards.
Right: Colton Buchholz popped a 3 early in the game to put Garretson in the lead.

Guess the student



Games created by Shea Smidt



FCA offers fellowship, connection

Group allows for growth in faith and mentality

by **Cade Risty**
staff writer - editorial

A lot of us always want to get stronger, mostly for sports and other activities. But a lot of people tend to not even think about getting stronger spiritually. For me, going to FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) has helped me grow in my faith and become mentally stronger, on and off the field.

Mr Bohl, who is the host of FCA, said, “We started about 25 years ago… and we started doing it because it’s a good place to collaborate with each other and Jesus. It helps us encounter and solve the difficulties we may come across. It also helps students get closer to Christ not just through the church.”

FCA is on every Wednesday at 8:05 in Mr Bohl’s room. Where they will read a small devotional, and ask questions that challenge us spiritually, then end in prayer. So if you want to grow not just physically but mentally, come join the discussion!



The school lunches that hit different

by **Zach Hermanson**
staff writer & infographic creator
editorial

A look at school lunches that students crave and some that they don’t mind passing on

Everyone has an opinion about school lunch. Some days it feels like a win, and other days it feels disappointing. Some foods are way more popular than others. It all depends on what’s being served.

Pizza and chicken sandwiches are in the S tier for a reason. They are filling, taste good most of the time, and students actually look forward to them. When those are served, there are usually fewer complaints.

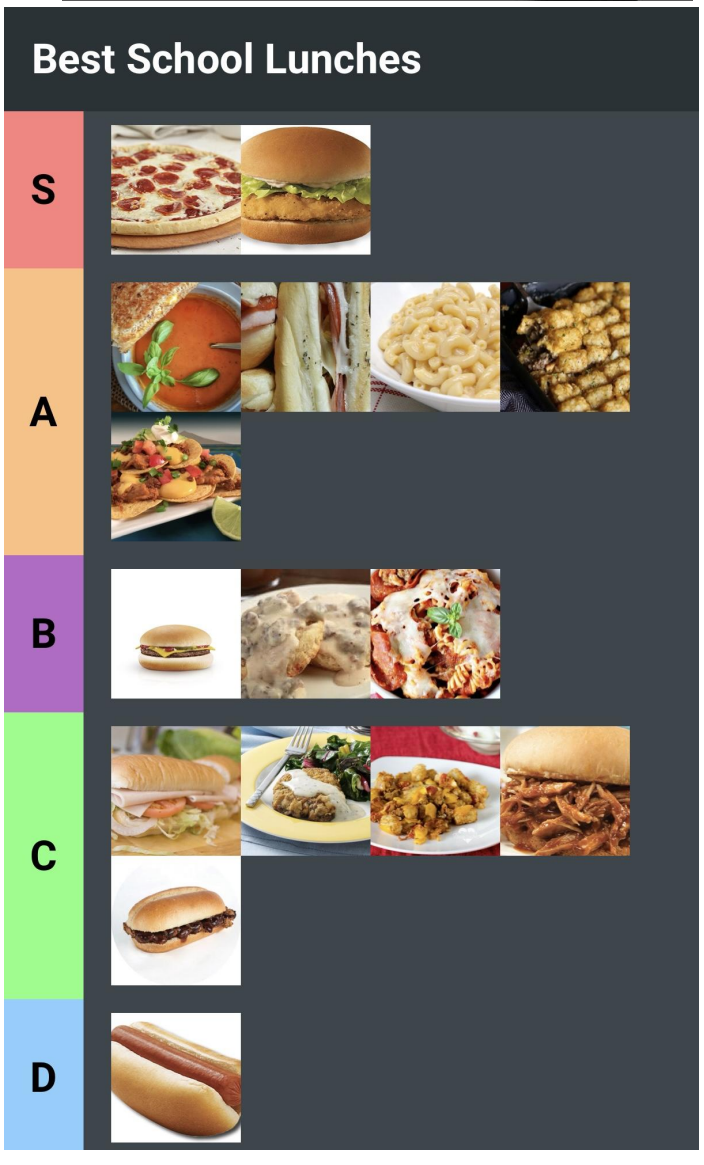
The middle tiers include foods like mac and cheese, subs, tacos, and baked dishes. These meals can be good, but they are not always consistent. Some days they are great, and other days they are just okay.

Lower-tier meals are not terrible, but they are not exciting either. They can feel repetitive and don’t stand out compared to other options. That’s why they ended up lower on the list.

One big thing missing from our school menu is seafood. We never have options like popcorn shrimp or crab, which could add something new and different.

Adding more variety could make lunch more interesting for everyone. This tier list is not meant to criticize the lunch staff. It is just one student’s opinion based on what people seem to enjoy the most.

If the school added more variety, especially new types of food, lunch could be something students look forward to even more.



Boys basketball season comes to a close

First time in more than a dozen years that the Blue Dragons notched double digit wins in a season

by **Cade Risty**
staff writer and infographic creator

This winter, the 2025-2026 Blue Dragons played through their whole regular season. The basketball team has seen a plethora of ups and downs. And the team looked to prepare for regions. Now that the regular season is over, here is a recap over all that has happened.

Sickness and injuries plagued the Blue Dragons all year, but they didn't let that define them. They applied the "next man up" mentality and became a better team all together. With notable players like Shea Smidt, Gavin Coburn, Ethan McGregor, and Michael Hanisch stepping up to the occasion and exceeding expectations with their time on the court.

The Blue Dragons started their season off against Estelline-Hendricks with a loss, but then they picked it up, going 6-4 in their first ten games.

After that stretch they went 4-6 and finished their season 10-10. Pulling off multiple upsets and having their first 10 win season since 2013.

The Junior Varsity team also pulled off an impressive 13-6 season.

The Blue Dragons traveled to Flandreau in the first round of regions on Tuesday, looking for the upset, but the Fliers used their size and eked out a 71-66 win, ending the Blue Dragons' season.



Local teams find success at Summit League tourney

Close location draws big crowds for tourney as SDSU, USD, and NDSU all compete for bid to the Big Dance

by **Colton Buchholz**
staff writer

As March rolls around, so does the March Madness tournament. At the end of the basketball season, each conference has their own tournament for an automatic bid to the Big Dance. Including local conferences like the Summit League.

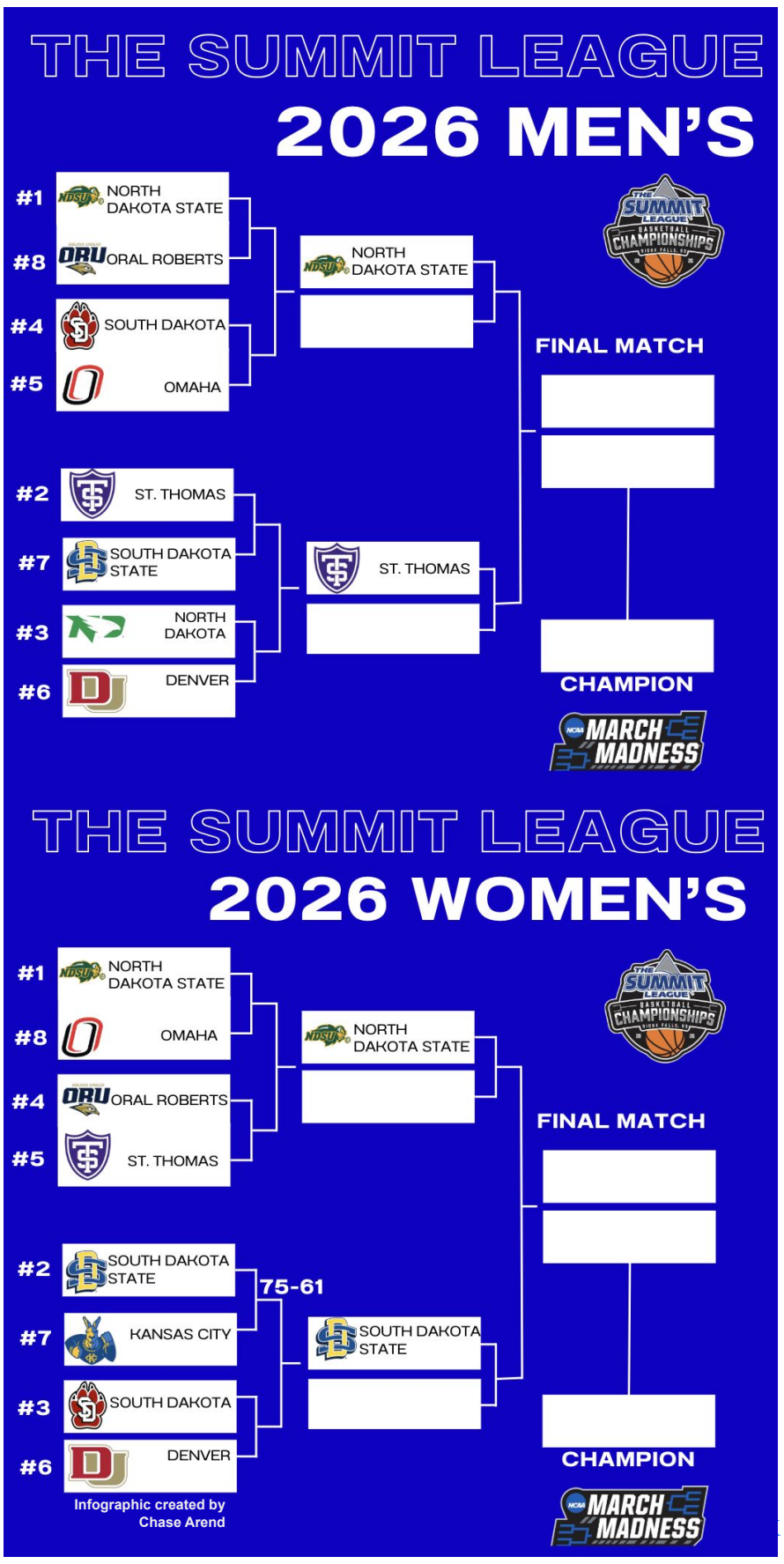
The Summit League men's and women's basketball tournaments started this Wednesday at the Denny Sanford Premier Center with the play in games between Oral Roberts vs. Kansas City on the men's side, and Omaha vs. North Dakota on the women's. The tournament runs through Sunday where the champion will be crowned. This year, is a special year for one of the teams…St. Thomas Tommies. St. Thomas is eligible for the tournament for the first time ever. And with the Tommies being the second seed on the men's side, there is a legitimate chance that St. Thomas will make their first appearance in their first year eligible for the March Madness bracket.

On a different note, North Dakota State has obtained the first seed on both the women's and the men's sides. In the past 14 years, the men's bracket has different winners including Omaha (1x Champ), SDSU (7x Champ), NDSU (4x Champ), and Oral Roberts (2x Champ). But on the women's end, it has been mostly dominated by SDSU (9x Champ) and USD (4x Champ).

There are a couple of dark horse teams to look out for. The Omaha Mavericks on the men's side and the Tommies for the women's. Even though the Mavericks are the four seed, they did just win the tournament last year and acquired the top transfer in the league. On the women's end, fifth seeded St. Thomas could end up shocking some folks. Even with a .500 record, they have played every loss to the buzzer and won with authority.

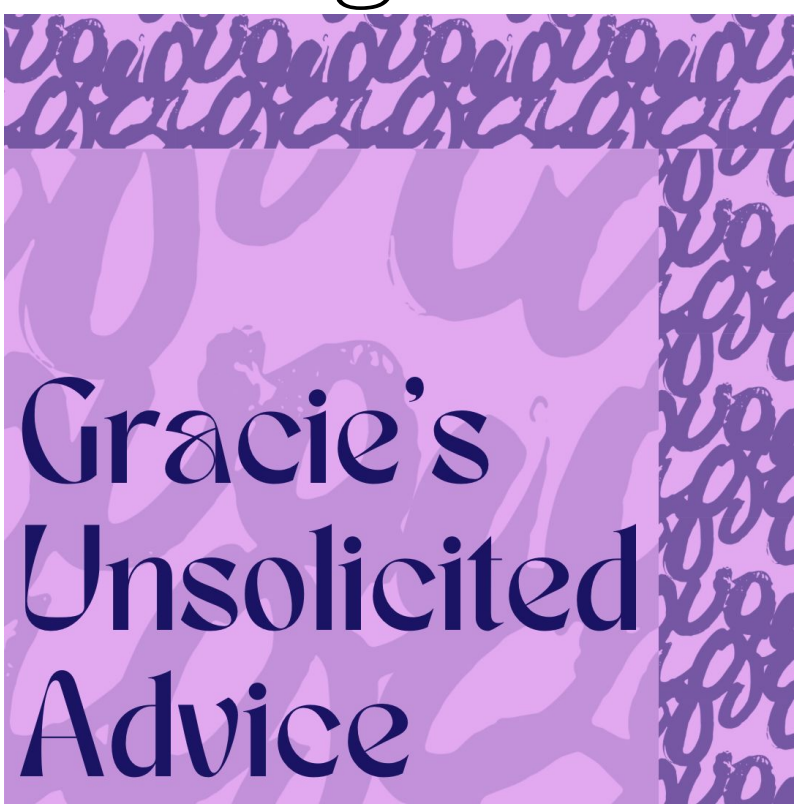
Yesterday, SDSU's race to the summit dreams were kept alive by defeating Kansas City. Today, the #3 seeded USD women's team will play roughly around 2:15 pm while the Coyotes on the men's side will play at 6:00pm.

For more information about the schedule of the tournament or just the tournament in general, visit the Summit League website.



Steps to take before walking that graduation stage

Before you close out or go into senior year...



by **Gracie Fiegen**
staff writer - editorial
infographic creator

Senior year, explained by many previous graduates, is one of the most chaotic, exhausting, and exciting times in your high school experience. While it is filled with a lot of beautiful lasts like senior sunrise, homecoming, and prom, it is also filled with life-altering decisions, scholarships, and big responsibilities.

That may sound overwhelming, but there are so many steps available so you can take a breath and fully soak in the experience.

On the very first day of school, it felt like I was expected to know where I am going to college and which major I am pursuing. While I don't mean to stress you out more than you probably already are, time is of the essence. Decisions need to be made.

Future Choices

Leaving the huge decision of college and career until the last months before graduation can cause more stress than if you just did it right away. The school gives juniors one excused college visit day and seniors two. It is possible with approval from Mr. McGregor to have an excused job shadow day as well.

Mrs. Matthews, Mr. McGregor, and Mrs. McGee are all there to help you find your personal path of career exploration. During my senior year, Mrs. McGee helped me acquire a job shadow with my dream job of event planning. This helped me see first hand what my life would look like if I pursue that career before I got too deep into college classes.

College visits are the best way to get to know campuses and faculty to see if it is a fit for you. College application deadlines come up much quicker than they seem, so I recommend having a plan of which ones you would like to apply for before senior year starts.



Scholarships

Paying for higher education can create a large dent for a fresh adult and their bank account. It may lead to taking out large loans which can create lifelong debt. A way to reduce out of pocket costs is applying for scholarships. Before senior year, you can come up with topics, create a list of potential scholarships, and find somebody for a letter of recommendation.

Most scholarships have classic essay questions about either experiences that changed your life or your future plans. Coming up with a list of ideas for these can ensure you hit the ground running your senior year.

There are many lists of scholarships available online for all specific needs of students. Examples to find are the Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation, other schools' counselors page, and previous seniors. Before this year started, my sister and I created a spreadsheet outlining deadlines and priorities to keep me on track.

Finding somebody to write your letter of recommendation is critical. This letter will highlight the type of person you are. Several times applications only require one from anybody including teachers and coaches, but sometimes they need a non-school associated adult. This can be an employer, a church leader, a community service leader, or somebody else of importance. Building a bond with somebody of this standing can improve your chances of a successful recommendation.

Too much testing cont'd

prepare for each test and to perform to our best ability. Like imagine actually getting a chance to spend time for yourself every now and then without worrying about what the next test is… sounds like a dream to me.

At the end of the day, juniors are expected to do WAY too much and all of these tests back to back add unnecessary stress that we definitely don't need. If we are expected to manage school, sports, and a job all at once, then I think that the least the school could do for us is to spread the tests out. Having all of them crammed together leads to us being burnt out and not performing the best. So, with all of that being said, spreading tests out just a little more could help us SO much so that we don't feel overwhelmed all the time.