

Bella Ramirez

Aspiring Young Journalist

SKILLS

Hard Working Bella will always finish the task at hand and finish it to the best of her ability. Once assigned journalistic duties, she overcomes all obstacles and completes it to the best of her abilities.

Dedicated Her loyalty and dedication to both the staff and her responsibilities are shown in both the finished product and her passion for her craft.

AP Style After receiving her judge sheet from FSPA on her caption writing, she reviewed both the strengths and weaknesses, one of the strengths was said to be her AP Style.

Careful Thinker Bella is a master at critical thinking who always thinks outside the box when it comes to arranging modular elements and interview questions. She also reviews what is truly possible for pages in order to give the reader the most factual and interesting page.

Optimistic Bella always walks into class with a joyous smile, filled with intent to get the job done. She lives to work and leads others with motivation to complete deadlines in a timely manner.

Activist Bella always gets involved with any and all problems with hopes to solve them. Whether that means making a website for change to inspire others to never allow students to be hurt (makechangenow2018.wix.com/newleaf) or arranging a group in all biology classes to collect money to buy a gift for a teacher, everyone can tell that Bella truly cares.

EXPERIENCE

Spotlight Yearbook, American Heritage
Student Life Editor Present

Key Club, American Heritage
Freshman Class Director Present

Speech and Debate, American Heritage
Mentor and Competitor Present

N.J.H.S., American Heritage
Committee Leader, Member Present

Ambassadors, American Heritage
Ambassador Present

Cappies, American Heritage
Cappie Present

Model United Nations, American Heritage
Member Present

Dead Poets Society, American Heritage
Member Present

Pioneer Eagle Eye, Pioneer Middle
Academics Editor then Editor in Chief 7th-8th Grade

Pioneer Pages, Pioneer Middle
Editor in Chief 7th-8th Grade

N.J.H.S, Pioneer Middle
Parliamentarian 8th Grade

Future Educators of America, Pioneer Middle
President 6th-8th Grade

Robotic Eagles LEGO FLL, Pioneer Middle
Member then President for 2 years 6th-8th Grade

Ambassadors, Pioneer Middle
Co-Head Ambassador in 8th 6th-8th Grade

Math Club, Pioneer Middle
Member 7th-8th Grade

L.E.E.O. Program, Pioneer Middle
Designer, Presenter, Highest Rating 8th Grade

Quidditch Team, Pioneer Middle
Captain of Phoenix Fliers 7th Grade

Cooper City Area Rec. Magazine, Pioneer Middle
Featured copy on the sixth grade dance 7th Grade

EDUCATION

American Heritage School

AUGUST 2017 - PRESENT, 12200 W Broward Blvd,
Plantation, FL 33325

Pioneer Middle School

AUGUST 2014 - JUNE 2017, 5350 SW 90th Ave,
Cooper City, FL 33328

Embassy Creek Elementary School

AUGUST 2012 - JUNE 2014, 10905 SE Lake Blvd,
Hollywood, FL 33026

Pines Lakes Elementary School

AUGUST 2011 - JUNE 2012, 10300 Johnson St,
Pembroke Pines, FL 33026

Homeschool Education

AUGUST 2008 - JUNE 2011, No exact address

WRITING CENTERED AWARDS



3rd Place Caption Writing High School FSPA, 9th Grade

3rd Place Personal Narrative AHS Literary Fair, 9th Grade

3rd Place Scene Writing Broward Literary Fair, 8th Grade

Journalism Gold Award Pioneer Middle School, 8th grade

English Gold Award Pioneer Middle School, 6th-8th grade

1st Place News Writing Middle School FSPA, 7th Grade

2nd Place Ekphrastic Poem Pioneer Literary Fair, 7th Grade

Journalism Silver Award Pioneer Middle School, 7th grade

1st Place Ekphrastic Poem Pioneer Literary Fair, 6th Grade

ACADEMICS

Weighted GPA (Present) 5.3

Unweighted GPA (Present) 3.9

Unweighted GPA (7th-8th Grade) 4.0

Perfect Score on Civics EOC (7th Grade)

Perfect Score on Math FSA (6th Grade)

Duke TIP Participant and Top Percentile Scorer

REFERENCE

Ms. Regina Ferreira

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Mrs. Marjory Hammer

Pioneer Middle School, 8th Grade English Teacher,
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Mrs. Rhoda Borombozin

Pioneer Middle School, 6th Grade English Teacher,
rhoda.borombozin@browardschools.com

Mrs. Jennifer Estevez

American Heritage School, English I H Teacher,
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Bella Ramirez
Emerging Young Journalist of the Year
23 February 2018
500 Word Essay (Exactly 500 Words)

Walking into a blue room covered in posters citing the struggle of deadline and “How to make the perfect page” on a cozy August day, I inadvertently started the love story of my addiction to journalism. It all began in this quaint room. I left school sometimes three hours late to make sure finished pages came out perfect. I wrote body copies until my finger tips bled and designed yearbook pages until running out of pages to design. I lost myself in my grand palace of words and images even as the clock ticked away. Immediately I found myself going above and beyond the other staffers. Once granted the opportunity, I wrote an article and published it in my city’s recreational magazine. When no one else wanted to create the newspaper I wrote nearly half of the articles and designed the whole thing myself from a blank first-timer’s InDesign page. I accomplished this all after only a year of catching the journalism bug, it was seventh grade.

In eighth grade I became queen of the world, also known as Editor-In-Chief. I made at least fifty spreadsheets to organize everyone and maximize work ethic. Even then, igniting passion in my peers was as hard as moving a dead elephant. Soon enough however, I needed to address said elephant in the room and get people to work. Instead of priding myself on how many articles I wrote, I began to pride myself on how many people I led. That year I set a precedence for mastering better design quality and capturing the essence of theme. I know that no one remembers that I decided to start the entire design of the newspaper from scratch a second time to let more photos from proud photographers shine, instead they remember me as someone who made a difference in the way they handle their work.

Walking into high school I feared for the end of my golden years. Even with fear gripping my stomach I still suffered a rude awakening. The editors completely deleted the first page I designed, I started from scratch and they edited my pages mercilessly. The queen was overthrown, I lacked knowledge of the caption formula, how to take a picture and AP style guidelines. I spent so much time unopposed that suddenly all those accolades and experience points melted away into one pure truth- I knew little. Oddly enough I felt happiest this year. Everyday I learned new information, new AP guidelines, new photography settings, new interview tricks. I learned photoshop, the Jostens design program and yes, the caption formula. Now I leave my first year of high school with third place in caption writing and a million pictures I am proud of- a new layer of journalism to add on to my love of words. Sure, walking in I barely knew picas from inches, but since the day my origin story began one thing remains true. I love journalism and *that* is the best information I can ever have.

EMBRACE

As we walked through our brick halls, at first glance we just saw a blur of students rushing by. Beyond the label of students, we held lives of adventure and enthusiasm. Our lives could not be portrayed by the word "idle."

Despite the tidal waves of stress and deadlines, we powered through hardship and stayed high-spirited. From the cheers and flips of Powder Puff boys to the strength of community service workers, our peers were more than people who settled for "just good enough."

We transcended the restrictions of our past selves and continued to grow even over the summer. We embraced landmark memories such as driving, partying at homecoming and even just spending time with friends. Our personas could not be held within the confines of four walls or nine buildings. We were beyond limitation.

The school day stretched beyond the mere seven hours. We were infatuated with experiencing it all and more. We were friends who boosted each other when we felt dejected. We were groups who ate lunch in the rain and reminisced upon the laughter later. We were people who socialized in the library and persevered through deadlines.

Even with solar eclipses and hurricanes, we continued to live and thrive despite the setbacks. Between balancing the assignments and tests during school with the events afterwards, we embraced our student life.

STUDENT LIFE

Summer	6-7	Friends	24-25
First Week	8-9	Trends	26-27
School Spirit	10-11	Memes	28-29
Homecoming Week	12-13	Service and Jobs	30-31
Homecoming Game	14-15	After School	32-33
Driving	16-17	Stress	34-35
Lunch	18-19	Contest Entries	36-37
Hotspots	20-21	&	38-39
The Life of a Chair	22-23		



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Near, Beyond & NOW

Reaching past our boundaries

Considering that the top four colleges the senior class applied to were Florida schools, it seemed most seniors wanted to stay in-state. This was not so for seniors Lara Olsson (one of two applicants to The American University of Paris) and Skylar Britton (only applicant to The King's College in London). For Olsson, the jump to Paris did not feel like truly leaving the country. "Paris is a place that I visit for three months a year, so it feels like home to me. I understand French. When I leave Paris, I try to keep up with my French so I can be ready for when I go there because I know some of my classes will be in French," Olsson said.



Despite never having been to the UK, Britton still feels a connection to Europe in a similar way. "I have always had an interest in the UK. I am a real history buff. I just kind of wanted to apply to The King's College and see what would happen because I think it would be really

interesting to have a new culture and different education, and I wanted to be open to the newness Europe brings," Britton said.

Olsson decided to apply to her Parisian school over the summer after realizing she wanted to apply somewhere she felt comfortable, but Britton's story is a little more impromptu. "It was really spur of the moment. I was literally in my English class, and I [thought] 'Ugh, I like my college list, but I am not very happy with it.' I wanted something more, so I just decided, 'I'm going to apply.' I pulled up the application there, wrote the essay, submitted it that night and didn't tell my mom," Britton said.

Britton's greatest struggle was trying to choose where to go. "[My sister] said, 'You know if you end up going to Kings' College you're going to have to stay there for the rest of your life.' And that kind of freaked me out because I'm not ready to choose my life path at 17," Britton said.

Conversely, Olsson feels ready for her Parisian life. "At this point right now, I am thinking of my housing opportunities, which can either be housing with another family or rooming," Olsson said.

University of Washington
13 applicants
45% acceptance rate
#56 National rank (tie)



Pepperdine University
21 applicants
38% acceptance rate
#46 National rank (tie)



University of Utah
1 applicant
76.4% acceptance rate
#110 National rank (tie)



University of Arizona
14 applicants
76% acceptance rate
#124 National rank (tie)



What: Coca-Cola Pay-It-Forward Scholarship
Who: Katherine Quesada
When: Summer before junior year
How Much: \$5,000
How: Nominated on Facebook for the award by her mom for her exemplary community service

Words of Wisdom

with College
Adviser Mrs.
Luciana Mandal

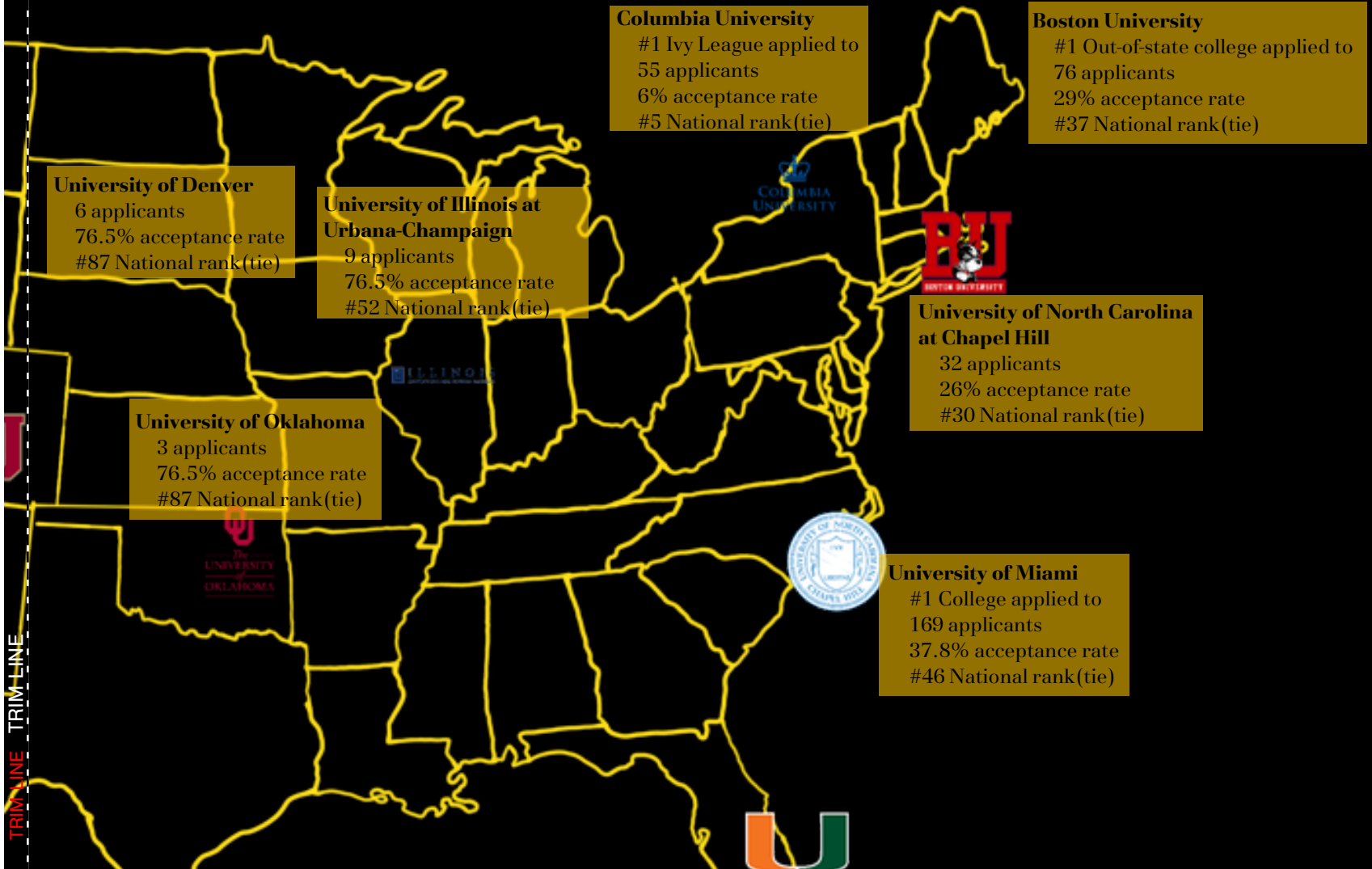
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"I know that prestige matters to you all in high school. The popularity of the name of the college, the ranking, whether people have heard of it or not. One message is to look beyond that and to look at what I call 'fit.' Sometimes, you have not heard of something but it's a really great thing. I would want students and especially parents to look outside the usual ones they have heard of."

The next thing is to think of yourself as an individual. You are not going to college with your friends, so although your friends may have opinions about where you go or where you apply, the student really needs to think of himself or herself as an individual in regards to where they are going to apply in order to get an individual experience and to meet new people. It's hard not to be influenced by your friends, since they matter a lot."

Stats & States

Of 3,460 senior applications as of January 24, 2018



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Come One, Come All

"In 10th grade, College Fair helped me because I got to learn about schools I didn't know before and got more information on them. College Fair senior year gives you that last chance to meet the representative from a school. If they see your name and can visualize your face, it's just human instinct that they'll lean to you more than to an applicant who they've never had interaction with."

- Senior Mikaela Basso

Photos: E. Gellman

The Social, Sweat & SPLASH

Students reflect on the positive impact of the aquatics team

From the graceful strokes of breaststroke competitors to the swift chops of freestyle racers, the aquatics team had an impressive impact on students. "I started swimming with Coach [Tan] when I was about 4 years old, because Coach Carole, his wife, was teaching me the strokes and said it would help me develop," freshman Daniel Watson said.

"Swimming has made me more fit and better as a person because swimming makes me happy. I don't know what I would do without it."

Freshman Jiehoon Lee

Swimmers and divers alike have found that despite swim's individualistic atmosphere, the sport itself was truly team based. "Swimming

has definitely changed [the team] as a whole by [teaching us] to grow as a team and improve on our skills," sophomore Morgan Kirchmier said.

Swimming revolves around the team aspects both morally and through points. "While most compete in events individually, you are trying to get your hand on the wall first for both a personal best time and team points. The team with the most points from all the events combined wins making swimming truly a team sport," senior Nicholas Pacitti explained.

Through the sweat, tears and splashes of the aquatic team, the members were able to succeed as a whole, with third place regional championship and runner-up in both boys and girls at the district meet. "When someone is down, someone else will always be there with a pick me up, and it's nice to know that I have a bunch of brothers and sisters on the team who have my back," Watson said.

Swim team had the best of both worlds with individuality and community within its roots. With their practices, members were able to flourish in our churning waters.

Sophomore Daniel Escobar slices through the water during practice. Diligent practice led for some of the swimmers to learn self discipline and time management.

Photos: Weston Photography

The Hot Spots Around the Pool Area



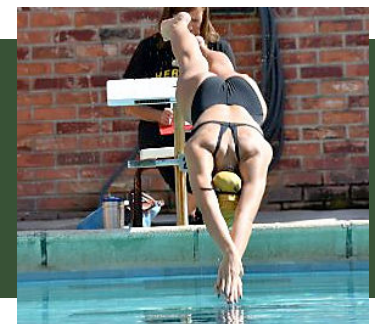
While mounting the diving board, senior Cassidy Kadosh prepares for her freestyle race. She decided to start swimming because it was a great form of therapy. "[Swimming] has given me new friends and a healthier lifestyle," Kadosh said.



Junior Chloe Grabow lunges into the water for her event: the 100-meter backstroke. She has been swimming since she was 2 years old and joined the team when she was only 5. "Swimming makes me the person I am today," Grabow said.



Treasure D'Souza takes a plunge for her events, 300-yard butterfly and 100-yard freestyle. She began swimming to learn water safety, but the events have since blossomed into something more.



Swim team members often took swim as a way to improve their health. "I used to be really unhealthy and overweight as a kid so it's what really got me into fitness and sports," sophomore Jana Kelly said.

&



"I believe that difficulty of events are more dependent on a swimmer's strengths and weaknesses," sophomore Elias Levy said.



Photo: E. Gellman
"I have learned [through swimming] that life is full of challenges and that when a challenge does come, not to get discouraged or upset but to use it as fuel to get more determined," senior Catharine Cooper said.



"Swimming has kept me in better physical shape while also keeping me more active during school," freshman Sean Kim said.



"[Swim has affected me] socially, because I went to a particular camp and met a lot of friends. There were a lot of exchange students from China, Brazil and even Germany!" freshman Jayden Scarlett said.



Senior Kevin Porto speeds through a freestyle practice. Swimmers on the team thought that freestyle could be either the easiest or hardest depending on length.

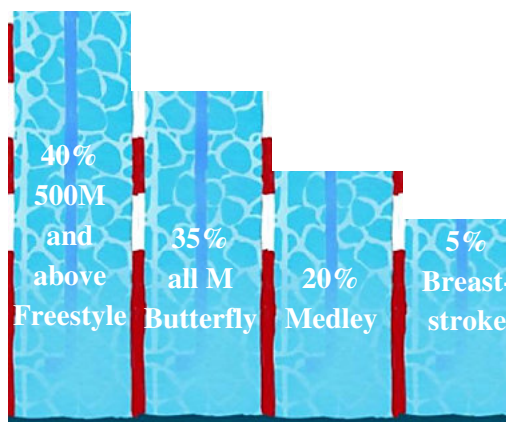
Coach Tan addresses team goals before a swim meet. Although each student wanted to win, students had different motives for joining swim such as health and enjoyment.



Photo: E. Gellman
Junior Annita Huang prepares for launch in a swim practice. Some swimmers make sure to go to practice as a way to condition themselves for a different sport. "I started swimming this year because I had to stay in shape and keep my knee strong for lacrosse season," sophomore Morgan Kirchmier said.

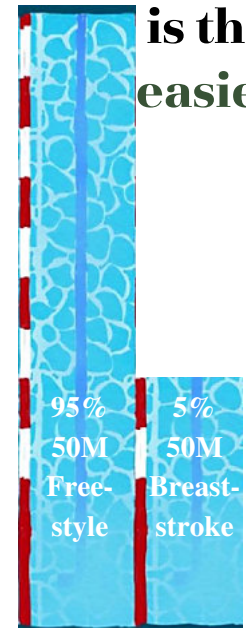
Just Keep SWIMMING

Which stroke is the hardest?



Polled 20 students (freshman-senior) on the Aquatics Team

Which stroke is the easiest?



"Swimming is a part of my life, a part of me. The swimming community is great and I am incredibly thankful to be a part of it." -Freshman Daniel Di Marcobarardino

3 Questions with Junior Molly Weidner

Q: Why and when did you start swimming?

A: When I was a little kid my mom and dad had me try many sports, some being soccer, ballet and gymnastics. However, I disliked them all. Then my mom enrolled me in swim lessons. After Coach [Tan] taught me how to swim, I wanted to continue to swim and joined the Heritage Aquatic Swim Team when I was 6 years old. Swimming was the only sport I enjoyed and excelled in.

Q: Would you say that swimming affected you more socially, academically or both?

A: Swimming has provided me with a different friend group outside of school that I am grateful for. On the other hand, swim practice takes place after school every day from 3:30-6 p.m., lessening my time for doing homework and studying.

Q: How does swimming have an effect on the team?

A: Swimming is a great sport that provides swimmers with an adrenaline rush during races, an overall competitive, fun atmosphere, and it is a sport where we all cheer each other on to win and to swim the best we can.



Photo: J. Haner

Sophomore Christina Prado, swimmer of eight years, braces for impact in 200 M freestyle practice. Prado has met some of her best friends through swimming but noticed she has had less time for social events because of practice.

The Dribble, Hoop & SWISH

Ninth grader Henry Ingraham and 10th grader Jackson Arnberg discuss their basketball careers.

At ages 3 and 6, basketball players Jackson Arnberg and Henry Ingraham respectively began their careers. Since the years have passed, each has experienced high and low moments. "In seventh grade, I was cut from my middle school team [at Falcon Cove Middle], which really

"This year the team is much better than last year when I played and we have a great core of players."

Sophomore Jackson Arnberg

motivated me to work harder on my game and become a better player so that next year I would make the team, which I did," Arnberg said.

Despite negativity, the boys were able to work past struggles and build goals from them. "Basketball has taught me to be confident and

responsible. This year, so far I feel like I developed a lot more skills and confidence than in other years. I started playing basketball when I was younger because I would watch the NBA on television, and I aspired to be like them," Ingraham said.

While Ingraham looked up to NBA players such as James Harden and Allen Iverson, Arnberg started his basketball trek because of his older brother, Harrison Arnberg.

He has also found what makes him different on his team. "I try to model my moves after a lot of different players so I can work on my game all around. I think what separates me from other players is my versatility and ability to play any position," Arnberg said. Ingraham instead feels his athleticism and height makes him different from team members.

Arnberg's final thought depicted his most memorable game of the year for the JV team. "One of the best moments from this year was winning an away game at Westminster when we came in as an underdog," Arnberg said.



Photos: E. Gellman and B. Ramirez

Near and Far

Highlights from the NSU Away Game



Seventh grader Jerry Dinkins prepares himself to intercept the ball. Although tricky, interceptions are necessary to move from defense to offense.



Eighth grader Hayden Stilphen practices free throws and two-pointers before the game. Practices enabled teams to familiarize themselves with new courts.



Seventh grader Hunter Tai Roberts uses his defensive skills to help the JH team block Nova from scoring. Defense was an integral part to winning games.



Eighth grader Canaan Jumper shoots a three-pointer while her team cheers her on from the benches. Teammates were a source of encouragement for all games.



"The team worked pretty hard and showed up to practice. We formed a bond over time and became friends." Freshman John Eastep



"It was fun, you got to hang out with your friends and play the sport that we loved to play." Freshman Jonah Jacobs



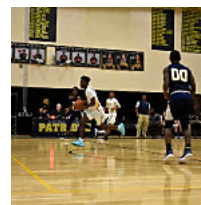
"We did really good and I had a good time playing. Everyone understood that we need everyone to fully function." Freshman Stanley Pierre



Eighth grader Miguel Cedeno and part of the JH basketball team watch the game while cheering. Players on the bench catch their breath after a long time on the court.



Eighth grader Michael McNally dribbles the ball toward his teammates. There were many different ways players could dribble ranging from a high dribble, low dribble and even over their head.



The Cavaliers



Photo: Slate.com

Ways of the Win

John Wall

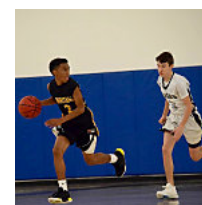
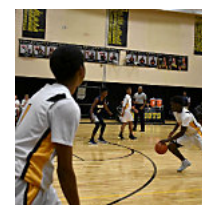
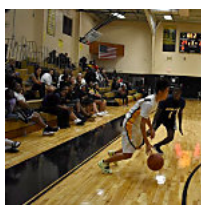
JH moves with seventh grade shooting guard Daylan Holness.



Photo: SB Nation



"I pull a lot of layups from John Wall. [Our team models] the passing on the Cavaliers. Our best moments were with our defense: all the blocks, fast breaks, mob steals and intercepted passes. I did basketball for fun, not really for competition. I'm happy that I did it."



2 Questions with Seventh and Eighth Graders Makayla Petrillo, Emily LeGette and Maya Moise

Q: What was the most memorable moment of the season?

Moise: One of the most memorable moments was getting to the Junior High playoffs for the first time. This was the best season we have ever had for the past two years. Before, our team only focused on progressing as individuals, but this season was the first season we played as a team. We won the most games we have ever had while also enjoying ourselves the most this season.

Q: When did you start playing basketball?

LeGette: I played basketball for a recreation league two years ago and I just started again this year. I played with my friends and we just had fun, it was not really competitive.

Q: Describe your basketball career.

Petrillo: I started playing basketball when I was 5 and model my moves after Stephen Curry. I try to do his handles and long shots. When I was 8, I started my first tournament and I hope to play it competitively and until I die.



Eighth grader Solomon McFarlane and seventh grader Jerry Dinkins rush to retrieve the ball from a fallen "Shark". Both the opposing and home teams suffered many trips and falls through out the games. "I remember that one time I passed the ball to Bria Floyd and it hit her head. It was the first quarter, and everyone was laughing. Basketball isn't as serious as everyone thinks," eighth grader Maya Moise said.



Work Hard & Play HARDER

Junior Chloe Laureano kicks back to review the year

Captain Chloe Laureano has big dreams for her soccer career and a history that fuels her hope. Her career started at 4 years old with her father inspiring her to give the sport a try. "I began playing soccer because of my dad. He has always enjoyed watching the English Premier League and the Spanish Premier League (La Liga). Because of this, I decided that I would give soccer a try," Laureano

"Soccer has taught me that no matter how hard you fall, you must always get back up with a stronger mentality."

Junior Chloe Laureano said. She joined the varsity team in seventh grade with this year marking her fifth year on varsity.

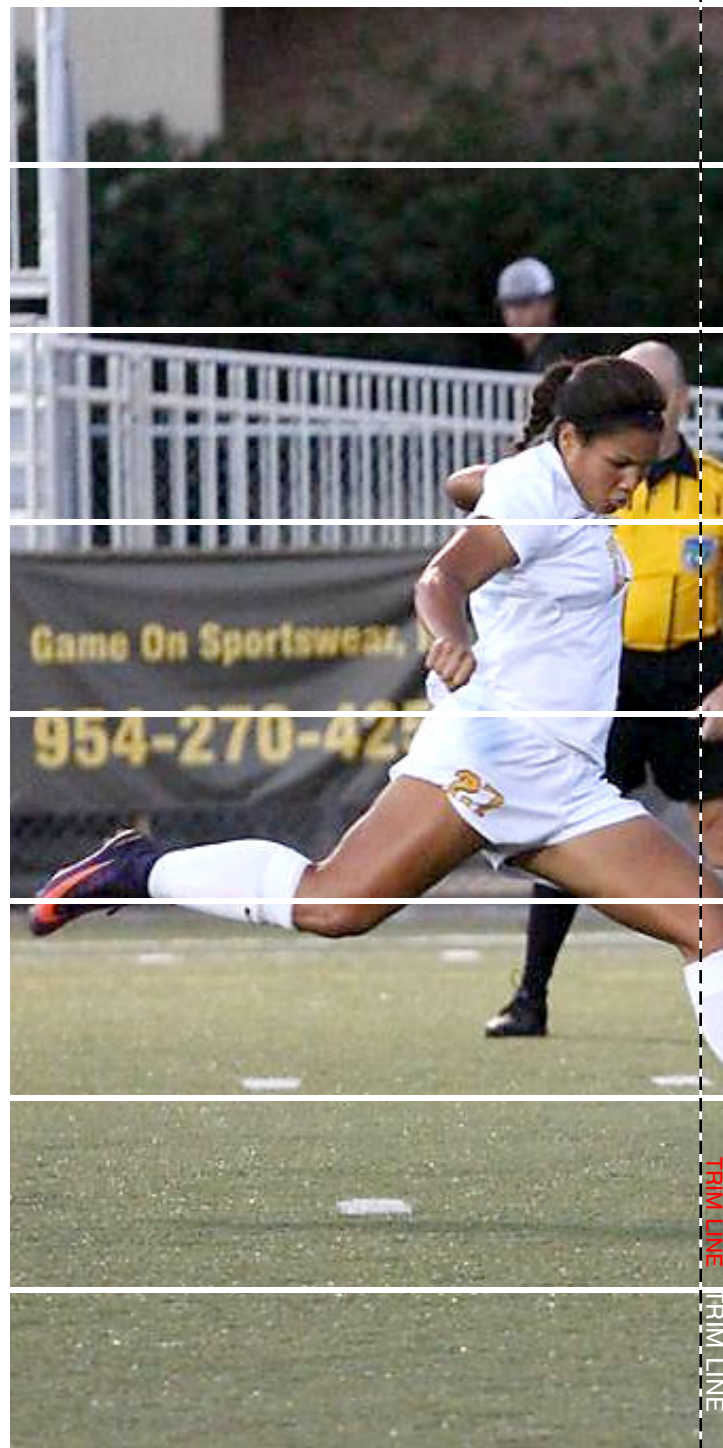
Even with all her experience she feels the pressures of being captain. "Personally, this year is different for me because it's my first year as a captain. Due to this, I feel like I hold a greater

responsibility as a player on this team," Laureano said.

The captain plays outside of school as well. Her other teams include; U17, U20 Puerto Rican National Team and U18 Sunrise Sting SC. Many other players on the team share this quality. Freshman Alyssa Arias plays for Weston FC as well as the school team. "I enjoy the challenge and having friends both on field and off field," Arias said.

Besides friendship, the girls each have a reason to play that is close to their heart. "What I enjoy most about playing soccer is that it enables me to free my mind and essentially forget about anything I'm stressed about. Because of soccer, I've been able to travel a lot and meet new friends that share a common love for the game," Laureano said.

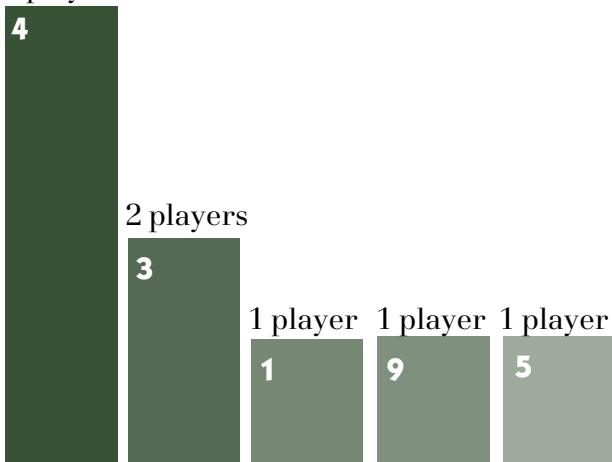
Now, Laureano looks to the future with the hope to play at a collegiate level and possibly, professionally. "Make sure to appreciate the process instead of only thinking about the result. Stay focused and don't ever let an obstacle get in the way of success."



The Where & When of Fútbol

The age the girls started playing

5 players



Polled out of 10 players on the team

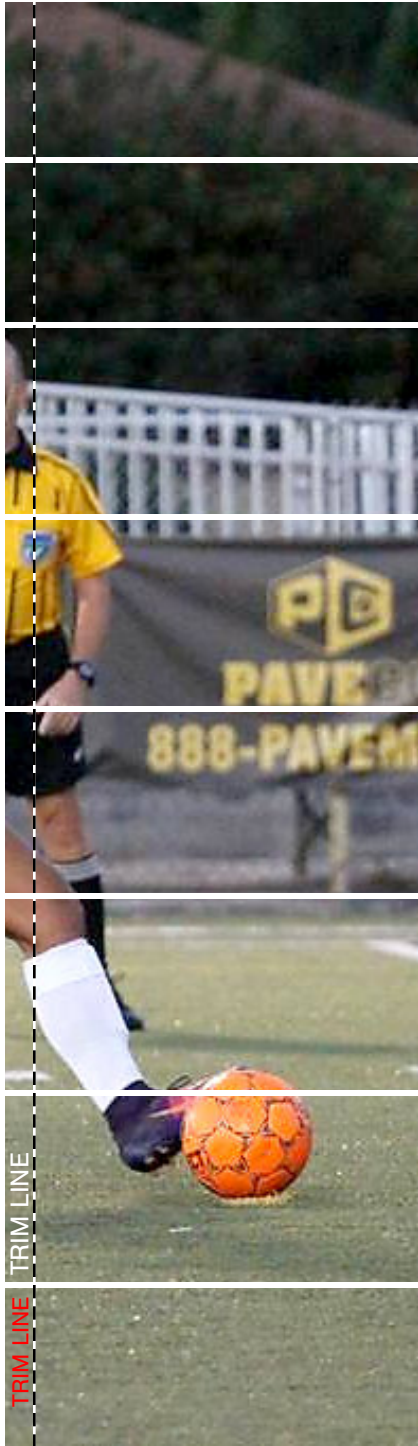
Positions the team loves and plays



Polled out of 9 players on the team



Trying to make a goal, junior Jeanne Smith passes the ball to her teammate. No single player could make goals on their own. Teamwork was essential for success. "I enjoy playing soccer because I have such a love for the sport and being on a team just makes it feel like I have a second family," freshman Jenna Lowery said.



"I enjoy the challenge, and having a group of friends on and off the field."
-Freshman Alyssa Arias



"Soccer has taught me to always have good sportsmanship and to keep your head up no matter what."
-Freshman Jenna Lowery



"My most memorable soccer related memory was when we won states when I was in eighth grade."
-Sophomore Gabrielle Scarlett



Junior Chloe Laureano, captain of the girl's varsity soccer team, examines the field after a play to direct her team to the best of her abilities. This year, the team has many younger players, most of whom look up to the older players like Laureano.



Senior Tori Alfero throws the ball back into the game. The team had a few new faces this year such as junior Lauren McDonald, a transfer from Archbishop McCarthy. "What I enjoy most about soccer is being immersed in the sport to the point where I can forget about other issues in life. I've played with many girls I've never spoken to and being able to connect with them through the sport is a beautiful thing," McDonald said.

Soccer Stars & The Year's Overview

Senior Tori Alfero



"The thing I enjoy most about soccer is the fact that being on a team feels like having another family. I also am a very competitive person and winning is an amazing feeling. This year we have a ton of injuries and so we lost a few starters. I think what makes this year different is that many players, including myself, have had to step into positions that are unfamiliar to us."

"Soccer has taught me to be humble and to never put my head down. I am on a spectacular team with great teammates and amazing coaches. And they are always there for me and they always motivate me. I joined soccer because I was always sporty and I wanted to find something to keep me busy and at the same time fun."

Eighth Grader Savannah Hydes



Questions with Junior Taylor Dobles

Q: What makes this year different from before?

A: This year is different from before because we have a really young squad. I believe a majority of our players are in eighth or ninth grade. Also this year we have several big injuries to previous starters, including myself. I tore my ACL and meniscus at the beginning of the season. I wish I could be out on the field helping this team win another state title, but me being injured gives the opportunity for an underclassmen to step up, and take advantage of their chance to win a starting position.

Q: What do you expect in future years for soccer?

A: I hope for a strong and speedy recovery as I look forward to being back on the field for my senior season at American Heritage. After I graduate I will be attending Louisiana State University and continuing my soccer career.

Q: What tips would you give to JH and JV team?

A: Tips I would give to the JV and JH Team is to never give up on your dreams. If you work hard enough for what you want, things will pay off in the end one way or another.



The girls varsity team poses for a group photo after their years of hard work and practice. Many girls on the team started playing at a young age, ranging from 3 years old to 9 years old. "I started playing soccer around 6 years old. I've played every sport growing up and loved them all but soccer runs through my family," junior Marlee Fray said.

