

The Tornado Times

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Griggsville-Perry High School

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New Survey Uncovers GP Students' Stances on Bullying

Students and faculty share their thoughts on GP trends in bullying and harassment to mark October's Bullying Prevention Awareness Month

by Bailey Scoggins and Abeni Broyles

Sometimes it is a look, a shove in the hallway, a rude text, or a post on social media. Sometimes it can be much more than that.

October is Bullying Prevention Awareness Month, and the Tornado Times conducted a survey to learn more about the school culture surrounding bullying.

The survey, in which 82% of students participated, showed that 57% of Griggsville-Perry respondents admit to having

been bullied. This is compared to the National Center for Educational Statistics which showed that only 20% of students nationally say they have been bullied.

Counselor Allison Dokey said that this large difference might be because students in Griggsville are so close together socially and that they do not realize what they are saying might be hurtful.

“It's easy for everybody to get in each other's business,” Dokey said. “I think a lot of it might have to do with gossip and word of mouth and, you know,

just everybody getting involved in each other's personal lives.”

The Tornado Times survey showed that 43.9% of the students who answered the survey have been bullied online. This is a big difference from the national average which was 15.5% of students in 2015 according to the Center for Disease Control.

Senior Nathan Walston said he is familiar with online bullying.

“Bullying occurs more over the internet than at school because it's the easiest way [for students] to contact,” Walston said.

Dokey thinks that GP's rate of cyberbullying is fairly high.

“I think it really easy to bully or be bullied online,” Dokey said. “It is easy to say something to someone if you don't have to look them in the eye and say it.”

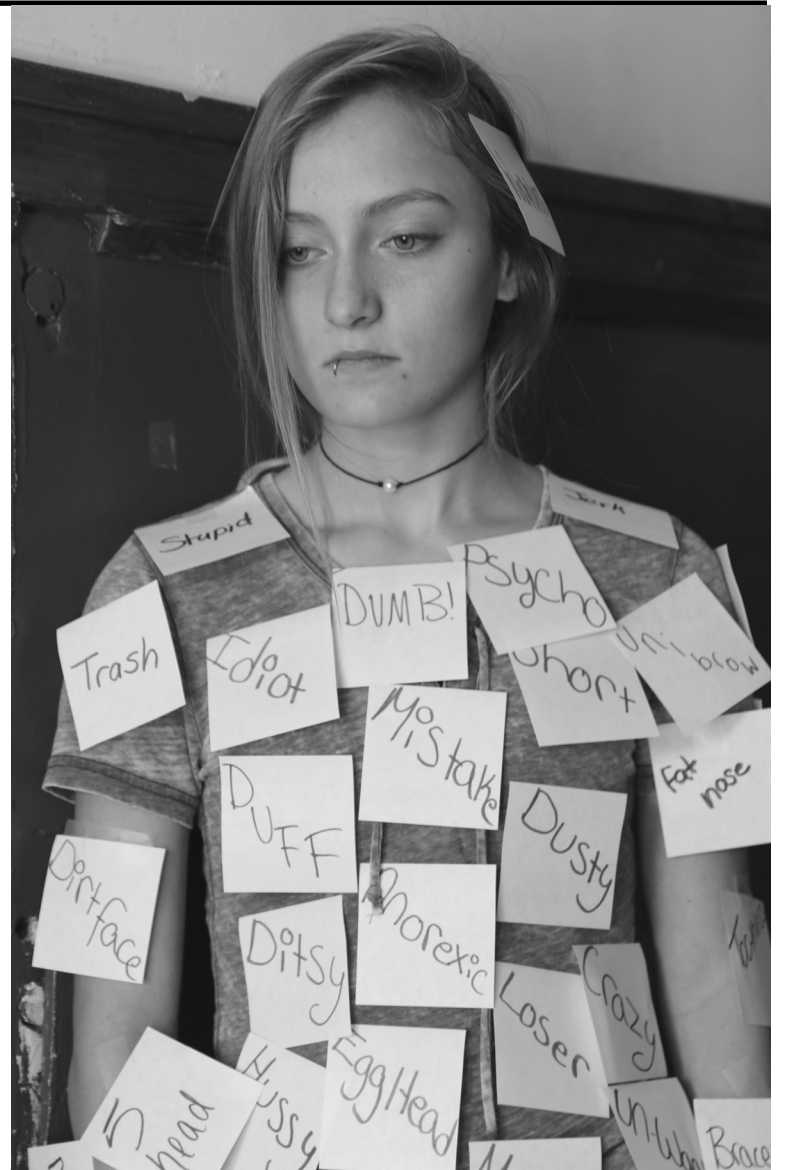
Dokey believes that people don't realize it is bullying that is going on online.

“I see a lot of Snapchat or Twitter bullying,” she said. “I would of thought would be more prevalent.”

The Tornado Times survey showed that boys at Griggsville are three times less likely than girls to report to someone if they are bullied or see bullying going on.

Dokey believes this difference between sexes is because boys feel if they report bullying it might make them appear weak.

“I think that they try to put on a stronger front when really it bothers them just as much if a girl was bullied,” Dokey said.



Sticks and Stones May Break My Bones// The rhyme taught to children is often used as a way to deflect the hurt caused by painful words. For some students, though, though words can leave a lasting mark.

Senior Troy McCarter believes that boys are less likely to report bullying out of social fear.

“Boys might be afraid that the bully will start to pick on them if they tell a teacher, or someone around them,” McCarter said. “Then the bully will gang up on them.”

Students at Griggsville-Perry are encouraged to report bullying to any staff member, parent/guardians, and another adult. Students can also anonymously report being bullied by phone call or writing a letter. The September

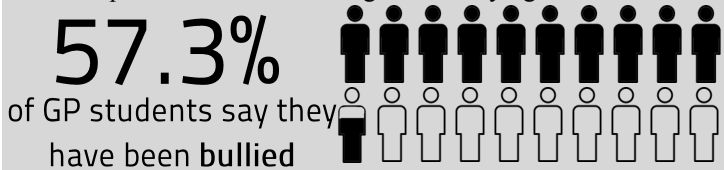
2017 student handbook states, “A student will not be punished for reporting bullying or supplying information, even if the school's investigation concludes that no bullying occurred.”

For those who have been bullied or will be in the future, Nathan Walston shares his own advice: “There's always a light at the end of the tunnel; don't let your hopes get down.”

Additional reporting by Brayden Sounneborn

bullying by the numbers

The Tornado Times surveyed 82 students to learn more about their experiences with and thoughts on bullying.



boys are 3x LESS LIKELY to tell someone if they've been bullied than girls at GP

35% of GP students say anonymous reporting would make them more likely to report bullying



Farewell, Lady Tornadoes

Dwindling Interest and Opportunities for More Victories Lead the Lady Tornadoes Basketball Team to Collapse and Join Pittsfield Saukees



The Last Picture//No one thought when this photo was taken after a loss to Routt that it would mark the end of an era. This photo serves as the last picture of a Lady Tornadoes basketball team. The final players include (from left to right) Savannah Irving, Devin Battefeld, Baylee Stain, Kaylie Scoggins, Lauren Kennedy, Jordan Brite, and Courtney Harris. Kennedy and Brite will play basketball again this year as seniors on the Pittsfield Saukees team.

by Courtney Syrcle

This year for the first time, the Lady Tornadoes will be combining with the Lady Saukees for basketball.

The limited number of girls that go out for basketball caused the two teams to combine.

“[Last year] we barely had breaks and that took the wind out of us,” senior Jordan Brite said. “We had a signup sheet with some people who never played [but did] sign it, it showed that no one would take this seriously.”

Both senior basketball players, Lauren Kennedy and Brite, are going to miss being

able to be a part of the girls' basketball program.

“No words can express the feeling of never being in a maroon and gold jersey again playing my favorite sport,” Kennedy said. “There's no question that I'm gonna miss playing here in front of our own fans.”

Brite added, “I'm going to be upset that I'm not acknowledged as a Lady Tornado anymore because I never thought this would happen. But I know I will always be a Lady Tornado at heart.”

The hopes and expectations for playing with the Lady Saukees

are pretty high this year among the senior girls.

“We worked together easily,” Brite said.

Kennedy added, “I think we will be pretty decent because Jordan and I are looking forward to playing with Lilly Pepper. She got nominated for Player of the Year. We will hopefully be .500.”

Kennedy and Brite want the school's support, not just for themselves, but the Pittsfield and Pleasant Hill girls as well. This, they say, should apply not only to the boys' sports but the girls' as well.

Get-to-Know a Senior Our ongoing series exploring the lives of GP seniors once more before they graduate

Tragedy and Trials No Match for Hannant

by Mary Nash



A year ago Mercedes Hannant seemed to be shy, but this year, she says, she went

through the Apple Festival pageant and learned she's a confident, go for it girl.

Senior Mercedes Hannant plans on attending SIUE. Hannant is going to college to go into the medical field. Hannant is involved in many sports and other activities.

"My favorite sport has been cheerleading most definitely. I love the stunts we have accomplished," Hannant said.

Hannant even though having a tough year still strives and succeeds everyday.

Hannant says "[This year has been] very, very stressful with my dad being diagnosed with cancer and my brother

falling out of a tree stand," Hannant said. "It's been super stressful and we're always on edge about things. Things just don't calm down."

Hannant's favorite memory in high school so far is homecoming.

"This is the only week my class actually comes together and does something," Hannant said.

Brite Making Moments of Unity Count in the Class of 2018

by Ashlee Jones



Jordan plans to attend McKendree after high school.

Jordan's favorite sport to play is softball.

Jordan Brite is either playing volleyball or softball in college.

"Softball has been a huge part of my life since I was ten," Brite said.

Jordan's favorite part about

being at Griggsville-Perry was how close everyone was and how her class is a big family.

Jordan Brite has big plans after high school.

Jordan said, "It feels great [to be a senior]."

Jordan thinks her life will be great. But she does not plan on staying here.

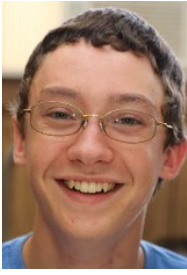
Jordan was asked if she wanted the readers to know anything that wasn't asked she said, "Don't be shy kids I'm a nice person!"

"Jordan is very helpful with anything I need," Mrs. Dokey

said. "Jordan is always the first to lend a helping hand. She is a great student all around."

DeJaynes Looking Forward to a Life with Cars in Pike Co.

by Brooklyn Crone



This year Nick DeJaynes is a senior. Nick's personality shines in PE he is a quiet student.

Nick said that he wants to be a mechanic after

school.

DeJaynes said, "I have always loved working on cars"

DeJaynes said, "After school, I want to be a mechanic".

Nick is quiet and likes to stand to the side.

Nick wants to stay in Pike County after tech school.

DeJaynes said that he wants to go to Rankin tech school.

Nick is looking forward to not having to come to school after he graduates.

I am looking forward to not having to come to school."

GP Choral Students Perform in Jacksonville

by Trinity Schaaf

On Wednesday, October 18th, the Griggsville Perry Choir students went to the Jacksonville Illinois Choral Fest.

Maddie Carl, sophomore, was one of the Griggsville Perry Choir students that went to Choral Fest.

"[We sang] Dreams of Thee, Festival Sanctus, The Galway Piper, Keep Your Lamps, Michael Row, Misty Morning, and Veni," said Carl.

She was a little nervous but toughed it out and enjoyed the experience.

"I was very nervous," Carl said. "My family was there along

with many other people I didn't know."

Mattea Mott, junior, was another Griggsville Perry choir student who really enjoyed Choral Fest.

"We practiced all day and our throats were sore," wrote Mott to the Tornado Times.

At Choral Fest the audience filled up fast.

"In the audience, I'd say there were about thirtyish people," said Mott. "As for the singers, we had 20 to 30 people."

Both girls stated that if

given the opportunity to go again they would go back to Choral Fest.

Carl looks forward to chorus in the future.

"If I could go again I would take the opportunity in a heartbeat."

KAYLIE'S QUESTIONS

KAYLIE SCOGGINS ASKS IMPORTANT QUESTIONS ABOUT LIFE

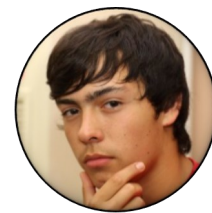
Q: What is your favorite part of Halloween?



"Scary movies!" Dallas Miller, Sophomore

"Scarring kids!" - Jakob Freeman, Sophomore

"Candy!." - B, Sophomore



Freshmen Reflect on Surviving Quarter One of GPHS

by Brayden Sonneborn

The transition from middle school life to high school life can be a hard one, especially during the first quarter when students are still getting adjusted. A few of GPs newest students spoke out about how the transitions been for them.

Rena Martin, freshman, compared the middle school work to high school work. "The teachers are a lot stricter," Martin said. "And we get more homework than in middle school."

Jasmine Butler, freshman, agreed.

"We have gotten more homework than ever before," Butler said.

Martin said that she thought that her classmates were not adapting well to high school life.

"It's because most of the freshman class doesn't do their homework," Martin said.

Both Martin and Butler thought having A & B days was a benefit in the high school.

Cash Kirk said that his most interesting class is "freshman seminar."

"English because it is sweet to learn," Tanner Leady said.

"Civics because I like learning about that" Avery Bradshaw said.



PEASHOOTERS BY TRINITY SCHAAF

