Middle School Experience

Cross Country
by Debra Harlow

In the beginning of the seventh grade I started cross country. In cross country you have to get up every morning and be there by 6:30 am for practice. We did warm ups as a group. At 7:00 am we go outside to run for a mile or so, and then at 7:30 we went into the locker room to change into school clothes. At 8:00 am we leave and go off to 1st hour and start the day. We had 3 meets during school hours and the rest on the weekends. Cross country was fun, because you meet new friends and they help train with you, go to the Y.M.C.A, and run a mile or so with you. I made a lot more friends during cross country, since we had about 7-8 meets. When cross country was over I said goodbye to everyone, and told them I would see them in the halls at school.

Coleman Middle School
By Joshua Hong

Coleman Middle School is a great place to go to school. There are lots of things to do there; you can join clubs like the chess club, where you can become a master at chess. You can face lots of kids and see how good they are at chess. There is also Open Gym where you can play basketball, buy food, play board games or even just hang out with friends. My favorite part is the basketball and hanging out with friends. There is also the new wing. It is a new building because the school needed more room.

You can be a proctor if you are qualified, because your grades have to be A's and B's. There are lots of activities like art, music, gym, computers, bands, orchestra, etc. There is breakfast in the morning if you didn't eat breakfast at home. The lunch here is ok, but I would prefer going out to eat. Best of all, you have recess in all grades, but some middle schools don't have recess. That's all there is about Coleman Middle school.

The Transition
By Isaiah I. Tsimonjiea

How easy is it for a person to transition from one school to another? For some people it's a piece of cake and for others it's terrifying! It's in the middle for me I'm not really terrified but I know its not going to be a piece of cake. I love Coleman Middle School and I know I'm going to miss it, but Northeast High School sounds like fun. I think these things will be a lot of fun: sports, JROTC, contest, and much more. At first I thought middle school was going to be hard but my middle school experience wasn't that bad after all. I loved so many things about Coleman like free dress, and contest they had, but high school looks like its going to be tough. I know I can handle it as long as I stay focused, have the support of my family as well as friends, and never give up.

*Middle School Experiences continue on page 2*
Middle School Experiences continued......

Wilbur Middle School
by Bryce Janie

Wilbur Middle School is a good school. Except for the cafeteria food like the cheese sticks which taste like rubber. My favorite class at Wilbur this year was band. I play alto saxophone. It’s a fun instrument to play. Our teacher Mrs. Ross is nice unless you play your instrument while she’s talking. This year we got to do things like go outside and play while we marched. It wasn’t the most fun thing because it was really cold and windy so our music would blow everywhere because half the people there didn’t bring their liars (a music holder) so they used tape and it didn’t work well. Next year I’m playing the sax in regular band and I will be playing bass guitar for the jazz band.

The one thing Wilbur needs is more sports. Right now we only have basketball, softball, track, and cross country. We need a football team and a wrestling team and maybe a soccer team. I play all of those sports. Right now at Wilbur we are having construction done to our building, they’re moving the office, extending the library, and making a whole new building for science labs. The problem is the construction might not be done by the time school starts. Which means all the kids might have to go to Northwest High for first semester until December which will be really confusing because there will be sixth grade all through seniors so it will be very crowded and confusing.

Our p.e. class is pretty fun and our teacher Mr. Vanmetre, is pretty cool. All we do is play football or do other fun stuff all day. Other than that there are some pretty fun, cool teachers -- but not many. I don’t really have a favorite teacher but my favorite class is Mrs. Haslerhorst’s class because you can get away with pretty much anything in that class.

From One World to the Next
by: Britney Crigler

I was so excited in the fifth grade to go to sixth grade but, it was harder than I thought. I got in trouble a bunch of times: I didn’t get along with my teacher or my peers. I didn’t want to be there anymore, but I continued. My seventh grade year was fantastic I was on the volleyball team and the basketball team, it was wonderful.

Everything was going how I planned it until my eighth grade year. Things were not going right at home, I could take it but, I wish I could hold my temper and take my time with things because I messed up again. I plan to never to do that again!

I am really excited about going to North. They came to Marshall asking me to play for their team. I haven’t even been there yet. I know someone somewhere will see me in the newspaper for V.I.P. I am really proud of myself. I know you will be hearing from me again in the future. This summer has been great and you know what they say? A great summer is a great school year. I plan to be the best I can be.

A Brand New Thing
by Aaron Bennett

High school is a new thing for middle school students or junior high students. Once you get that big position like fifth grade or eighth grade you know you’re bigger than everyone else at your school. When you move on to the next grade like sixth, seventh, ninth, tenth and eleventh you feel like everyone is bigger and older than you. They are, you just have to get used to it. When you’re a freshman, a.k.a. freshman, in high school it has been known there is a Freshmen Hell Week so watch out for the Seniors. There are four rules from me to you for when you and I go to high school. Rule 1-Watch what you say; Rule 2-Watch what you do; Rule 3-Watch what you wear; Rule 4-Learn how to fight because their crazy in high school.

Once you are a senior it all goes down hill and up hill. Down hill because this is the grade where your grades count, up hill because you’re the oldest and the biggest students. They say you can’t walk (walk down the diploma ceremony awards) if you have an F on your final report card. That’s one of the down hill parts. But once you think about it after all of the school is over then you can go to college and for four or however many years you need to graduate. After you graduate you can get a well paying job.

The Metamorphosis
by: Julius Duong

I attended middle school at the Traditional Magnet of Allison Middle School. My name is Julius Duong. I had many friends at Allison Middle School because it was the only school that I attended the longest in my life. Many people think middle school is nothing compared to high school, but when they reach high school they are suddenly frightened by the peer pressures and scared by what might happen to them. Being the lowest grade in high school makes you the person everyone picks on. People talk about you and your whole reputation depends on your first day of school. You might not care about it but if you are me you would want to do everything in your power to fit in and try to have a good day at school the rest of the year and maybe the rest of your life. Once you’re done with high school there are only two paths to take; drop out or stay in school for a more efficient life. If you drop out of school then you will have a tougher time getting a job since most jobs
exercises and punch the bags. This week is going to be too tight for me because today or all this week I'm going to be sparring and in a couple of weeks I'm going to my first real boxing match. The good thing is I feel honor and proud because I'm already sparring and about to fight and I only started two weeks ago, while other boxers have to wait months to start sparring and fighting in a real match.

My Volleyball Years
by Arianna Blake

Over the past 3 years at Allison Traditional Magnet School I have been playing volleyball. It has been great. I love volleyball, because the way it makes me feel when we win or when I get the ball over the net. In all the years I have played volleyball we have been undefeated! Our team was great! We all worked together to get what we needed to do done. In high school I hope to continue playing volleyball and still be undefeated. Volleyball is something that makes me happy.

Over the summer, I have been practicing volleyball at the YMCA to get ready for high school so I can make the team. My friends and I get together over the summer and just hangout and play volleyball because most of my friends were also on volleyball teams. We work together to help each other improve on what we need to work on, we don't get upset when someone says you need to work on something, we just take it to heart and remember next time to work on that certain thing. I enjoy volleyball and would love to become a professional, but if not there are always other things I have my mind set on. My coach was great! She told us what we needed to work on and taught us about team work. She is the one that has taught me a lot of what I now know. I thank her for that because I have been playing ever since.

Book Reviews

Green Angel
By Gabby Ramirez

Green Angel is a book I recommend you read. It's about a 12 yr. old girl named Green, she is quiet and not really noticeable. She has a younger sister that is the opposite of her; she is wild and really active. You can find this book at the library and any bookstore.

One evening, Green's parents were discussing a trip into the city. There was only one problem, there was nobody to take care of the house and farm. Green volunteered to stay back so she could have some quiet time for herself. Green's Mother was worried about her staying at home alone, but Green told her mother just to go and not worry about anything, everything would be fine, so they drove off.

The second day she decided to go pick berries, as she approached the woods she saw smoke. She ran to see what was going on but when she got there she seemed to be trapped, she was surrounded by fire. There was one little space she could escape from, so she ran through the space. The fire spread quickly and a branch fell on her head and her hair caught on fire, she was screaming and yelling. The fire soon spread to her body and her eyes. Green was running as fast as she could towards water and jumped in.

When she got out she immediately ran home. It was hard for her to see because her eyes had been burned and everything was blurry. She made her way to her parent's room; she found her dad's leather jacket, working boots and her mom's checkered skirts. She walked into the bathroom, got a pair of scissors and cut the rest of her hair off until she looked like a boy. She did this so nobody would recognize her. She is now a new person named Ash. Now she must start to build her life back together.

Ramona Forever
By Naomi Mitchell

Ramona Forever is by Beverly Cleary. In this story Howie's (which is Ramona's friend) Uncle Hobart is coming to visit from Saudi Arabia, he is rich. Ramona's mother and aunt have been keeping secrets about Howie's uncle. Will Ramona's Aunt Bea and Howie's Uncle Hobart fall in love? Maybe even get married? If you would like to find out the answers to these questions you'll have to read Ramona Forever. (Don't miss out on this exciting book!)

The Cay
By Chris Berger

The Cay is about a kid named Phillip and his Mom and Dad. The country they are in is in a big war. Phillip's Dad has to go to war. He told them to go to a safer place for now. So they got on a boat called the S.S. Alto. Then a torpedo hit the boat. Then they had to get on life boats. That is when they got separated and were put on different boats. Then Phillip got hit in the head by a board. When he woke up an African American named Anthony was there. One day, Phillip woke up and he was blind because of the board which hit him in the head! Then they found a cay, which is a like a island. After a few months of being on the cay a big hurricane hit. Anthony protected Phillip

four
require a high school diploma and credits. So middle school isn't the most important place in your life, it is where you are after it.

Truesdell JROTC Middle School Program
by: Tajaiha M. Moore

JROTC is a wonderful program for students all over the country. This program helps you start focusing on what you want to be when you grow up. JROTC can be fun in many different ways. One way of having fun in JROTC is playing dodge ball. JROTC is for students who want to fight for their country. In JROTC you learn more about self-respect and respect for others. Sometimes when a cadet messes up you do push-ups. The commanding officer or sergeant will say, "Cadet Moore! drop and give me 5 or 10." One thing you don't want to do is front hand position, that's very hard. When a student first starts they began as followers to become leaders. Every student is a cadet! The JROTC program talks about the war and what happened in the war. You are a team to become a better citizen. Citizenship is a very important task. Many people have low self-esteem so they need something to help focus on more respect and power in your self.

My Middle School Experience
by: Jahmal Clemons

For the past three years I have gone to Allison Middle School; a Traditional Magnet. In case you don't know what a traditional magnet is, it means there are strict teachers and stricter dress code rules. Most of the students hate it but, on the other side we have some of the highest test scores in math and reading for U.S.D. 259. I got through it and now I am going on to high school with a lot of new rules regarding life that maybe if I had gone to a school like Brooks or Stucky I may not have gotten. So this begins my look back on the past three years; the good and the bad but, most of all the truth. Starting with my sixth grade year and working to the graduation from eighth.

When I started sixth grade I thought I knew what I was doing but, really deep down inside I had no idea. True, I had gone to all the orientations so, I knew what the school's expectations were and how to get around but, I still was very worried about the people, what the students would be like, and on top of all that I didn't quite understand how the whole locker thing worked. So needless to say I had a bit of learning to do. But as the year progressed I realized the class I was in was a little too easy. So we requested I be moved to advanced skills so I would be more challenged but, to our dismay the team leader said she didn't believe that that would be a good idea. Well I didn't understand why she didn't think so, all she said was that advanced skills classes were totally different and she thought it would be better if I stayed were I was but, I didn't want to. So after many battles with the teacher, and the threat of her job, I was finally moved to where I believed I should have been in the first place. In a sense it was all in vain because as I later found out we really didn't learn all we needed to in order go on to pre-algebra. This brings me to the next year.

Seventh grade was a little better. There was the threat of freezing to death because of the construction leaving the aged school with large holes making the students susceptible to every form of weather. A little frostbite was the least of my worries. There was a slight struggle again math, but this time it was more with the understanding of the subject rather than the teacher. Pre-Algebra was nothing to shake a stick at. Very few people in the class really had a grasp on what they were doing. All in all I finished the class with an 85%. So I guess all of the hard work paid off and now I was looking forward to a truly rewarding final year.

Eighth grade was by far the easiest year, environmentally and most gratifying year academically. I made honors list always, but I really felt I got more from the classes. The teachers made all the subjects very interesting and I made outstanding grades in all subjects even math. Though I didn't fully understand all I had learned in math and I didn't get an A or B. I felt as though I truly worked for the C that I did receive and made it more meaningful to me. As I finished the year I received many academic awards including the Outstanding Geography Performance Award for my paper on the Mexican American War of 1812.

Now that is all over I feel ready to tackle any thing that comes my way. Allison was a very tough school and it would be an untruth to say I always knew I would make it. In fact, there were many times when I thought I wouldn't but I did and now I look on to high school and hope to achieve bigger and better accolades than before. I believe I can. I have already come through a lot and I am sure there will be more. But I'll always have the memory of Allison Traditional Middle school to fall back on when I feel as though I can't go on, because well, I have been through a lot already.

SPORTS

Boxing
by Joel Gallegos

Do you like boxing? Well I like boxing a lot. For example, boxing is not fighting, boxing to me is using my head the right way. For example using and throwing combinations at the right time and place. I mean you cannot box by just throwing punches, that's not boxing. I also like boxing because it helps me have a healthy body and life. For example, right when boxing starts I have to run two miles. That's from the boxing club all the way to the fire station. After running we start
from the storm which caused him to die. So Phillip was there alone for a few months until a boat came to save him. When he went home to his parents they took him get his eyes fixed.

**Movie Reviews**

**Garfield The Movie**
By Dale Ballenger

Garfield looks like a good little pet… well, when it comes to laziness, boringness, and meanness Garfield is number 1 at it!! Don’t mean to brag, but Garfield is much cuter than Odie. In the books, Odie is much cuter than Garfield, I just don’t get it!! Oh well. Now I will tell you about Garfield the movie. Garfield begins with Pooky getting John up in the morning by doing a cannon ball on him. Then John adopts a dog. A few minutes later, Odie runs away from home, because of Garfield. This evil man tries to force the dog in doing tricks by hurting him. Then Garfield comes in. Find out what happens!!

**FIELDTRIPS**

**Sedgwick County Courthouse**
by Austin Sheppard

First we went to the Sedgwick County Courthouse. We talked to Commissioner Unruh about what he did and how much he reads. Then we went to the County Commissioner’s Meeting. After the meeting we went downstairs to talk to the Appraiser’s office worker, Sabrina Henry. She told us about what she did and our houses. She also told us if you don’t turn in certain forms over all your personal property the appraisers can and will hold you back from getting your car tags. Then we walked to the Detention Center. There we talked about how lack of education and no job can get you in jail or worse. After that we walked to the first African-American church. There we looked at African-American art. They showed original art like a war hero and Barry Sanders to things made out of bike parts that looks like a woman with an umbrella. Then we walked to the City Hall building. That’s where people pay fines like parking tickets, speeding tickets, and even jaywalking. Last but certainly not least, we went to All-Star Sports. There were arcade games like Pac-Man, racing, and shooting. All types of games to play. There was the $15 deal to get on any outside game as long as you wanted. Go-karts for all sizes, Miniature Golf, and Bumper-Boats were three of the choices. Overall, it was a great field trip. A little education here a bit of fun there you know, the good stuff.

**SUMMER FUN**

**Master It**
by Chaska Clemons

"Master It," an Emporia State University math and science camp, doesn’t that sound like fun? Well it has its pros and cons. First the pros: you were able to live in the dorms like a real college student. In science and biology class you were able to mix chemicals, make putty, chapstick, and perfume. You were also able to interact with reptiles such as lizards and snakes. The teachers were great and so much fun! We had great food and fun activities such as karaoke, visiting the Cosmosphere in Hutch, going to the movies, and learning about different careers.

But there were also some bad points such as: The camp was a week long so I had to sleep in freezing dorms and try to get cleaned up in these microscopic showers. I definitely hated that! We also had to be in our separate dorms by 10:00 and we had to have lights out by 11:00. I did sneak a friend in one night after 11:00, and we would have gotten away with it if it wasn’t for my roommate’s big mouth! On campus we had to walk everywhere. If you don’t know, ESU’s campus is huge! I was always tired after each day. We went to bed at 11:00 and woke up at 6:30...it was treacherous! Eventually some of the girls figured out that going to bed at 10:00 was better then being tired all the next day. Overall, the camp was a lot of fun!

*Summer Fun continued on page 6.....*
Video Game Information
by Chase Dempsey

Hello everyone, this is Chase Dempsey speaking to you about violent video games. As you see on every game your children buy a rating at the bottom left hand corner. It will show "E" for everyone, "T" for teenagers 13 and up, and "M" only for mature adults 18 and older. You should watch what games your children buy. For instance if your child plays a mature game and they are only 12 or 11 they might try to do the same thing on the game in real life. The game you should watch out for is Grand Theft Auto Vice City. This game is extremely violent. It is not a safe game for 15 year olds and younger. Some games you can get for little kids are "E" games, because they're not violent.

Dollz Mania
by Tabrianna Jones

Dollz Mania has a great collection of cartoon dolls, doll makers, icons, games and more. They also have a message board if you need help and/or information. If you have any questions you usually find your answers. There you will find tons of dolls including preps, guys, gals, couples, groups, races, skates, Wonderkins, and fairies. Become a Dollz Mania member and you can access more dolls and more doll makers. I recommend this site to anyone who loves to play with dolls and dress them up. So, if you are on the internet and just want to have some fun go to www.Dollzmania.com

Big Brother & Big Sister Program
by Jimmy Iniquez

My name is Jimmy I have a big brother, his name is Shane. Having a mentor has really changed my life. I’m happier and I have improved my grades. Having a big brother helps a lot; it’s like a dream come true. I was feeling very lonely but now I have a big brother. People talk about being a big brother, have you ever tried to be one? Having one is really special. It’s really a good advantage. If you are planning on being a big brother, you are really helping a person out. You are changing a life for a little one and helping you learn to teach someone else. You should help out a young one and help them with their problems and what they need help with. Kids who really need a big brother really don’t have one because we need more people to volunteer their time. Big brothers can show them how to be a successful person in life. People who think that it is a waste of time, it’s not. It actually isn’t if you can think about it. So you make a big difference in life if you join.

NYSP
by Devin Scales

At NYSP I was in the white panthers group and our team leader was CJ. We played in the pool, played basketball, mat ball football and sometimes we even played tennis. There was math, science, health and of course, lunch. I had a great time at NYSP!

POETRY

Feelings Meaning Nothing To You
by: Macala Watley

The way I feel will remain the same
The way you are it won't change
The things that I say to you will be real
The things we do I'll remember still
Don't forget me
Don't go away
Just stay
I can't explain the way I feel
But I can tell you my love is real
I'll cherish every moment that we make
I'll cherish every moment that we faked
You matter a lot to me I wish you could know
You are my true love
But you said No
You hurt me real bad
How could a guy like that make me so sad?
I'll have to move on all my friends say
I'll have to get a knew love I should pray
But until the day I die
I will love that same guy

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Visit us on the Web: wichita.edu/talentsearch

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