



439 INFORMER

*Produced for the Parents and Patrons of
Sedgwick Public Schools, USD 439*

The Will to Persevere and Thrive

As the school year comes to a close, it is impossible not to look back and reflect on the amazing, strange, once-in-a-lifetime year that was the 2020-2021 school year. Though it will undoubtedly be remembered as the year that Sedgwick Public Schools reopened under the cloud of Coronavirus, it should also be remembered as the year that the students, staff, and community persevered under difficult circumstances.

Many schools in the state of Kansas and throughout the nation did not open their doors for in-person learning at the beginning of the school year. Though USD 439, under the guidance from state officials, pushed the first day of school back several weeks to allow educators to prepare, the doors to R.L. Wright Elementary and Sedgwick Junior and Senior High Schools did open to students. It was immediately clear that the students appreciated their ability to go to school each day and learn with their teachers and classmates.

Many families opted for remote-learning, and the district and educators worked tirelessly to make sure that each and every student received a quality education, regardless of where the student was physically each day. Quarantines of students and staff were handled with flexibility and grace by all. Hybrid and full-time remote learning in the secondary building provided challenges, but students and staff still "showed up" every day prepared to do the business of learning.

Now that the end of the school year is upon us, it is important to reflect on the accomplishments of all USD 439 stakeholders. It is a time to celebrate the graduates who spent their senior year masked-up and socially distanced. It is a time to thank the teachers for doing double duty as online and in-person educators. It is a time to acknowledge the hard work of the support staff who kept our buildings clean and safe, and provided extra help to students who needed support during the challenges of the year. Without a doubt, every single student, staff member, teacher, and administrator was met with obstacles and challenges this year. Now is the time to say WE DID IT!

Thirteen Years as a Cardinal....a Lifetime of Cardinal Pride!

By Paige Brown, senior

Out of 35 of the seniors, 22 of them have been at Sedgwick Public Schools for thirteen years. All 22 of these seniors have been united since kindergarten and have made memories to last a lifetime. When we were in kindergarten, we would look up to the seniors never thinking we would be one. Here we are thirteen years later with a week left of our years at Sedgwick Schools. We are filled with excitement, anxiety, and sadness that we will never be at school again with some of our greatest friends made at



Sedgwick. The thirteen year students have made great memories together including: the classroom birthday parties, the field trips, A.R. parties, playing sports together, uniting in the student sections, and the awkward school dances. When Nolan Crumrine was asked what his favorite memory

was out of the thirteen years at Sedgwick Schools he replied, "Going to the State baseball tournament." Another thirteen year student, Kami Matson said, "Playing kickball at recess." While Jayden Ferguson's favorite memory was, "Beating Inman football in the seventh grade by 0.1 second and we dumped water on Coach Stauth." All of these memories were made together at the schools we have been at for thirteen years together.

While all of these memories aren't things we will always remember, they are something we will look back on in pictures and reminisce about. After graduation, some of these thirteen year seniors will go to college, some will get jobs right away, and some will take a year off from everything. These thirteen year seniors have bright futures ahead of them while some will stay in Sedgwick and raise their children, others might move away for their job and families, and some might not even stay in the State of Kansas. We are so proud of all of the seniors and cannot wait to see where these thirteen year graduates go from here!



The Thirteen Year Club!

Collin Bogunovich	Jayden Ferguson	Karissa Liby	Dustin McGonigle
Paige Brown	Olivia Grattan	Kami Matson	Remington Nold
Henry Burns	Cora Harper	Madi Matson	Kalin Rowley
Eli Croxton	Winter Hersh	Camryn McGinn	Logan Vandergrift
Nolan Crumrine	Anna Liby	Dillon McGinn	Austin Wilkes
Lauryn Wilkinson	Emma Wyatt		

Memories of the Past

By Olivia Grattan, senior

The seniors of Sedgwick high school have had many memories that will stick with them forever. When we look back there are many memories it can sometimes be hard to choose just one. People's favorite memories ranged from recess, to holiday parties, and memories from class. Some memories go as far back as elementary school. When senior Brianne Catlin was asked what her favorite memory from Junior high or elementary school was, she responded "The non-band in sixth grade in Mr. Fleming's was for the elite, we would sit around and talk forever and play games." Another senior Anna Liby was also asked what her favorite memory was, and she replied "getting our scissors taken away in kindergarten because we were making a mess with the paper." Jayden Ferguson stated that his favorite memory was "having Mr. Fleming during his last year of teaching." Junior high was a couple of eventful years where many memories were created. Many of these memories include sporting events, funny moments during class, and class activities. Dillon McGinn stated "cheering for the girls at the seventh grade volleyball tournament." Over the years at Sedgwick high school we have collected many memories that we will never forget.

We owe Sedgwick High School more than we might think.

- **Please see each senior's favorite memory on the two pages that follow**





Chloe Alcorn- Being able to come back to school after remote.

Gracie Ast- Football season and all the memories make with my friends during the games.



Collin Bogunovich- Friday night football games.

Paige Brown- During softball season we beat Hutch-Trinity and Murphy took us to Bogey's. IT was my favorite because we were all together for the win and we were having fun.



Henry Burns- Winning regionals and going to state in baseball.

Brianne Catlin- Freshman year during hitting practice I was the last one to hit in the cage and I hit the ball right up the middle and it went through the net and dropped Mr.Allen. Practice was cut short.



Eli Croxton- Making Hilliard mad for the way I park.

Nolan Crumrine- Winning regionals and playing in the state baseball tournament.



Jayden Ferguson- Hosting a 3A Jefferson West in football and beating them 35-7 as the underdog.



Brayden Good- When Qayden Shepherd punched Hooper Schroeder because it was funny .

Olivia Grattan- Going to get coffee with my friends before school.



Cora Harper- Shrek the Musical when a cast member knocked over the outhouse when he came out of it during rehearsal.

Katelyn Heier- Meeting a lot of dope new people and hanging out since I was the new student.



Winter Hersh- Murphy's class and the boys putting a fake snake in his chair.

Bradlee Howl- My favorite high school memory was hanging out with my friends at lunch and in classes.



David Hubler - Working with Mr. Schroeder in my business classes.

Coleman Kinzer- Beating Inman in the district championship.



Taylann Lacey- Beating Moundridge 7 times in one volleyball season.



Anna Liby- Practicing under the lights for softball.

Karissa Liby- Falling asleep in Vinroe's class, he calls me sleeping beauty.



Kamryn Matson- Messing with Murphy and calling him grandpa and gramps.

Madison Matson- Winning league all four years of volleyball



Camryn McGinn- State cross country freshman year.

Dillon McGinn- The football bus having to be escorted out of Elkart, after we won our game because Elkart fans were VERY unhappy about losing.



Dustin McGonigle- Taking the gator for a ride.

Remington Nold- Whenever we pushed Coleman's truck around the parking lot and put trash cans around his truck.



Julian Perales- Working with Mrs. McGee who was always there to help me.



William Peters- Spending time with my little from the CHAMPS program were i get to play board games and spend time with a kid from the elementary school.

Kalin Rowley- The things I'm gonna miss the most are just the ordinary memories we make on a daily basis.



Savanna Skiles- Painting the senior brick with Ms. Werth.

Jayden Towles- When Collin tried kicking a gator ball and Charlie browned himself.



Logan Vandegrift- Still being able to goof off with my friends during card time while being remote.

Austin Wilkes- Winning the regional title for baseball sophomore year.



Lauryn Wilkinson- When Drew made a make shift drum set and he broke the sticks and they went flying everywhere.

Emma Wyatt- Jamming out with my guitar during my band classes.



Mike Hilliard Retires After Decades of Sedgwick Service

By Josie Cochran and Bailey Bevan, sophomores

The most significant duty a teacher has is helping students find themselves; coincidentally the students also end up paying back the favor. Mike Hilliard has been a loyal patron of Sedgwick High School. Hilliard's past has proved him worthy of a long and peaceful retirement. His journey to this point started in a little town named Riley outside Manhattan, Kansas, where his high school experience sprouted into a passion for mathematics and chemistry. This new found dedication led him later to teach junior high science in El Dorado and Roswell Kansas for long enough to move on. Mike had explained happily his story of Sedgwick, finding the perfect home for he and his wife to settle down. Describing Sedgwick's loving community that brought back memories of his roots in a tiny town setting. Coincidentally the universe gave him a chance, with a junior high math position opening that



ended up being one of the best happenings in his teaching career. After nine years of teaching what he loves, when the principal position opened up he decided to go for it. Subsequently he got the job and had the luxury of watching his kids grow up during their education, which Mike had effortlessly described to be the most glorious and worthwhile part of his entire career, having the honor of handing them their diplomas victoriously. Even though his long and noble years of education are looking to come to

an end Mike Hilliard is looking forward to a new beginning of teaching again in Hutch Trinity in his later years, he will be missed by all students and staff reminiscing his presence.

Throughout all his years teaching, Mike Hilliard has made strong bonds and amazing memories with other staff members and students. He has made a great impact on every student and staff member. When interviewed, Nancy Culp said "The thing I will miss the most is all the stories we shared (funny and sometimes sad) every morning between 6:30-7:30 a.m. Before others came into the office and 'Did I ever tell ya'. And his giggle and 'surprised' reaction when we celebrated at exactly 2:00 p.m. every year on his birthday with cake and singing". Culp also added that one of her favorite memories was when they were having a dance party in the office and some students saw and joined in on the fun, and playing a game of "name that tune and artist"! Hilliard has dedicated so much to Sedgwick High and will be missed greatly, he has touched the hearts of many students and staff giving so much to everyone. A great leader, teacher, coach, principal, friend, participant. Mike is not one but all of these, and though he is retiring he will always be them at heart. And though we all say a sorrowful goodbye to Mr. Hilliard, he will always and forever be a part of everyone's lives.



A Career In Pictures. Good Luck Mr. Hilliard!

Cheering Through Covid

By: Lily Thomas, 8th grade

The 2020-2021 junior high cheer season was a year for the books! Covid made a lot of things different this year, starting with tryouts. Since they couldn't be in person, each student had to submit a tryout virtually! That was no easy task. Once that crazy process was completed, the cheer squad consisted of 9 members, seven 8th graders and two 7th graders. The members that made this year's team were Lily Thomas, Ethan Tolin, Emma Koehn, Lexi Perez, Courtlyn Davis, Gaby Petersen, Blythe Harris, Mackenzie Roberts, and Aubrey McGaugh.



Before the squad could perform in front of fans, we had to learn all the cheers and routines. That meant we had to meet for practices a couple of times a week. Our practices were usually an hour long. For some of the 8th graders, many of the cheers were already known, since they had cheered the year before. We had many cheers but liked the crowd cheers best. One of our favorite things to do as a team was stunting. At the beginning of the year, we were told that there would be no stunts allowed at the games because of Covid. Right before the season ended, some restrictions were lifted and we were able to stunt again. Emma Koehn, 8th grade, said, "My favorite stunt was a flamingo into a scale and then cradle." This is a very complicated stunt to describe, it is where you have to balance on each of your legs. Another enjoyable stunt we did was the extension, the extension is where the bases lift the flyers feet above their heads.

Over the season we bonded and created memories that will last a lifetime. Ethan Tolin, 8th grade, states his favorite memory was, "The home game where the junior high cheer team performed. Not only because we performed but because we laughed a lot that day." "Every game that we cheered at as a whole team was my favorite memory," added Lily Thomas, 8th grade. Each game we grew closer together and had so much fun cheering on our team. Being a cheer team was one thing, but becoming a family was so much more.

Although our cheer season was different, it was still amazing. We were able to cheer on our school for football and basketball, which due to Covid we thought was going to be impossible. We made it through every obstacle and got to enjoy a full year of cheer fun.