

LOUISVILLE'S

THE HIDDEN CLUBS, PROGRAMS,
AND BUSINESSES TAKE THE
SPOTLIGHT

BEST-KEPT SECRETS



WELCOME TO THE DUNGEON: D&D CLUB'S QUEST FOR NEW PLAYERS

BY EVA QUAM

The brisk air brushes across my face. The stagnant air fills my nostrils. Dim lighting guides me down the stairs toward the science classroom. Mysterious sounds echo through the long hallway surrounding me. I cross the threshold from the real world into the mystical world of Dungeons and Dragons Club. The once-scientific classroom has now turned into a fantastical world, filled with spells, dragons, and elves. Led by Mr. Van Meter, the members of the Dungeons and Dragons Club are searching for new members.

The fearless leader, also known as the Dungeon Master, is 7th-grade student Kole Holmes. As a Dungeon Master Kole's roles are similar to that of the president. Kole is in charge of leading campaigns and guiding the players' actions. The Dungeon Master holds many responsibilities and is necessary for success.

Kole remarks, "This is the place to fight dragons and make new friends!" his possible strategies.

As a new club, they are in search of new members and want to make it known that they are always open to new members.

The members of the club have made it very simple to join as the Dungeon Master Holmes has the power to write characters into the campaign. The process is simple: find a member of the club and ask to join, fill out a character sheet, and wait for the best moment to join.

7th-grade student Chance Parrill joined the club recently. Chance recalls the steps he took to join: "I waited until the end of a campaign. I filled out the character sheet and jumped right in!"

The other members of the club hold roles equally important to that of the Dungeon Master. Some of the different roles include Thief, Fighter, and Cleric. Every single role has different responsibilities. The Cleric, for example, holds the role of healer. The Thief, on the other hand, is sneaky and nimble in combat.

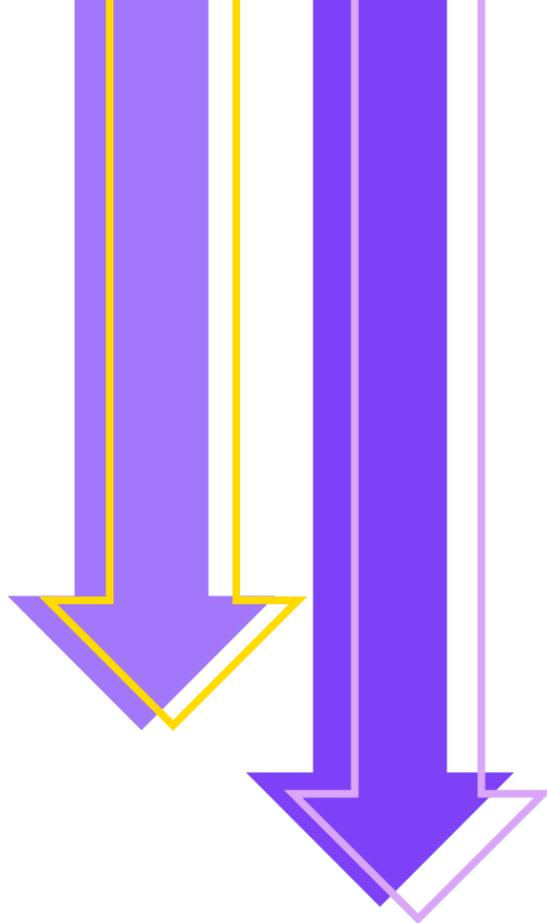
Arin Loeffelholz, an 8th-grade student, has been a member of the D&D Club and has been there since the beginning. Arin loves the positive atmosphere and hopes that more people will join the club to add to the fun.

"We have a lot of fun. My favorite part of the club is the constant joking around," mentions Loeffelholz.

Although walking into the dungeon-like classroom may be intimidating at first, the members of Dungeons and Dragons ensure that all feel welcome. Whether you are brand-new to the fantastical world or have been part of it for years, the D&D Club has a place for everyone.



Ready to roll the dice, sophomore Robyn Loeffelholz smiles during a campaign.



CHECKMATE: LHS CHESS CLUB STEALS THE HEARTS OF STUDENTS

BY EVA QUAM

"Checkmate!" The winner of the match proudly stands as applause erupts from the surrounding games. Everyone takes a moment to celebrate the victory of the player. The surrounding games continue until the last bell finally rings.

Knowledge of the ancient game is soaked in, sportsmanship is demonstrated, and critical thinking is enhanced each time the members of the Chess Club take a seat and move the first piece.

In March of 2022, seniors Anthony Crayne and Eva Quam noticed a problem: students wanted to play chess, but there was never a designated time or place to gather. After taking a few weeks to discuss the logistics, find a sponsor, and get approval from the administration, they finally had an official club. The only problem now was getting more students excited about playing chess.



Months went by, and the club never really gained popularity. The school year may have ended, but the hope of creating this club never ended. At the beginning of the 2022 school year, Eva and Anthony decided to try again with the Chess Club, but they could never have imagined the popularity it would soon gain.

Soon after the initial meeting, more and more students wanted to try their hand at the game. After just a few weeks of meetings, there were already 10 new members.

Anthony mentions, "[Chess Club] creates a fun space to play compared to playing alone without friends watching."

Many of the students that have joined the club are seeing skills required to play chess transfer to the classroom.

Junior Lauren Green says, "I think more critically now that I play chess more often."

The grit and determination of two seniors has provided an opportunity for students who share a passion to enjoy a new community at Louisville High School.

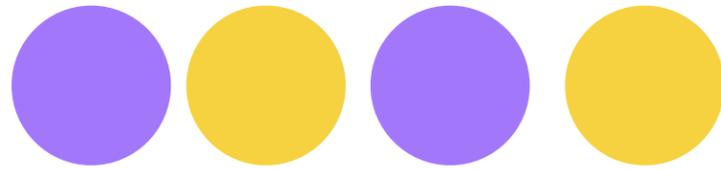


Stressed about his next move, Senior Anthony Crayne focuses on the game in front of him.



Focused on pieces of the game, Senior Kole Albert thinks through his next move.

SMALL TOWN GEMS: STUDENT ENTREPRENEURS



BY PIPER MEISINGER

On average, a high school student spends 30 hours a week in class, not including the hours spent on homework, extracurricular activities, or sports. Most students who decide to get a job work between 6-12 hours a week outside of their educational duties. Some have gone above and beyond to create something they are truly passionate about. At Louisville High School there is a surprising number of students who have started their own businesses. Ranging from baked goods to footwear, there is an array of businesses that these tenacious students have built from the ground up.

Nola Nelson, a sophomore at Louisville High School, started her cupcake business back in 2021.

She said, "I started making cupcakes to enter into the Cass County Fair and then family and friends asked me to make them for their birthdays and events."

With a simple start, Nola never expected that her cupcakes would turn into a business where she would be able to share her creations with the locals and surrounding towns. Through word of mouth from the community and her supportive family, Nola was able to start her business: Nola Mae Bakery. In order to get her name out there, Nola makes appearances at events in Louisville. Recently she attended Small Town Christmas, which was an event shared among the small businesses in town. Nola was able to give out samples, take orders, and share her gift with an encouraging community.

Once she started making a profit from her business, she put her earnings into her brand to ensure the cupcakes were of the highest quality. Along with her business, Nola is a full-time student who enjoys participating in basketball and track.

Nola said, "It can be tough at times and you could have some late nights, but it's definitely worth it, and, most importantly, it's fun."

Being able to pursue passions through a business is a very special small-town trait that Louisville carries. Along with a baker, Louisville High School also has a student who specializes in woodworking. Charles Shera is also a sophomore who started Priority Custom Woodworking. He makes custom pieces of furniture such as coffee tables and dining room tables. Not only does he create pieces from scratch, but he also finishes and fixes woodwork, windows, floors, and trim.

Another student entrepreneur is freshman Jager Barnes who sells, buys, and trades shoes. He attends conventions and searches the web to find shoes in good condition. After negotiating a good price, he takes the shoes and makes them look as good as new before selling them again to make a profit.

Although these three students aren't the only entrepreneurs at Louisville High School, they are definitely three of the small-town gems Louisville has to offer.

"It can be tough at times and you could have some late nights, but it's definitely worth it, and, most importantly, it's fun."
-Nola Nelson



BRINING LOUISVILLE TOGETHER: THE G.R.E.A.T PROGRAM COMMENCES AT LPS

BY EMMA HENIOLD

The 2022-2023 school year has introduced many effective changes to the LPS school system. Now a part of the middle school, the 6th grade class had a few challenges to overcome but found a way to make an impact in Louisville nevertheless.

Beginning this school year, the Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) Program was integrated into the school day, which takes form as a type of sequel to the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) Program, which the 5th graders complete. The G.R.E.A.T. Program was created to raise awareness and understanding of gang violence, while encouraging students to make a difference in classrooms and communities.

Community service is taught during this program as a method to gain community support and inspire inclusion, which the 6th graders learned helps slow the spread of gangs.

As part of the program, each student is to create a community service project. Students Ava Mixan, Mya Hudson, Jillian Harvey, and Preslee Kiss created a community service project held at All The Home Things, a store run by the Mixan family in Louisville. The girls, with the help of their mothers, formed an event centered around Halloween where kids of all ages could come enjoy snacks, press-on tattoos, pumpkin decorating, coloring, and cookie decorating.

Many other community service plans sprang into action. Picking up trash alongside roads and in town and hosting bake sales were some of the impactful services completed. Students like Maliah Staben even volunteered at a soup supper for her project.

"The G.R.E.A.T. Program has had a very positive impact on our grade," Maliah Staben stated. "It helps us be aware of gangs and brings people together."

Bringing the school and town of Louisville together is essential. Students learn what it feels like to make a difference and that feeling can guide them to make positive choices and develop their leadership skills.

"G.R.E.A.T. teaches how to pick your crowd wisely," Mrs. Stieren, a 6th-grade teacher stated.

"It brings the community together and helps families have fun," Ava Mixan commented.



6th graders Jillian Harvey, Ava Mixan, Presslee Kiss, and Mya Hudson prepare for their Halloween Bash celebration to pay homage to the G.R.E.A.T. Program.

