

Delavan-Darien Prom is a magical event



Prom goers enjoy dancing to the music.

interesting.

By Jacob Prado Cometeer staff

Prom is one of the most magical and most memorable parts of high school. This year, Delavan-Darien High School hosted its annual Prom on Saturday, April 6, from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. at

Gengler and Shannon Piecha.

at home.

This year's theme for Prom was "Enchanted Forest" and while the theme made Prom very magical, it was not the only unique thing about Prom. D-DHS hosted 20 German students from April 1-11 and, as part of their stay, they were lucky enough to attend Prom and experience this American tradition. During Prom, the DJ

the Riviera in Lake Geneva. Over the years, Prom has had many different themes, kings, queens, and mix of students, but this year's Prom was very

also recognized the Germans Prom King and Queen - Ross by giving them a shoutout and playing some music for all of us to enjoy, but also for the Germans to listen to music they would

Prom is a big deal for many juniors and seniors and, while all are invited to attend, the Prom court is made up of a group of juniors. This year's Prom court included Liana Gonzalez, Jasmin Speth, Shannon Piecha, Jordane Torres Raby, Stephanie Vaughn, Kailea Timmerman, Ross Gengler, Dieonte Orth, Ryan Hoey, Oliver Hetzel and myself. It was very much fun to see this year's Prom skits during the school assembly, not just the juniors, but representatives from every class did a amazing job with skits. One down part of the Prom assembly, I will say, is that the end-of-day bell went off during the middle of all the skits and many students left the building in trying to get to the busses on time.

Every year a Prom king and queen are announced from the Prom court and are given crowns by the king and queen from the year before. The 2019 Prom king and queen were Gengler and Piecha.

Overall, the awesome decorations, the beautiful location, and the abundance of different music put together for one night made Prom spectacular and hopefully all D-DHS students, and our German friends, who attended feel the same way.



D-DHS students attending the prom



Prom Court Left to Right - Kailea Timmerman, Dieonte Orth, Jasmin Speth, Ross Gengler, Jordane Torres-Raby, Ryan Hoey, Liana Gonzalez, Oliver Hetzel, Stephanie Vaughn, Jacob Prado and Shannon Piecha.

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Kraml tells the differences between Germany and USA



AFS student Luke Kraml

By Morgan Lock Cometeer staff

Luke Kraml is one of the German foreign-exchange students at Delavan-Darien High School with the AFS program. Although many of the AFS students from Germany arrived around the beginning of April and stayed at D-DHS for only a few weeks, Kraml has been here since early December of this school year.

He has been staying with the Morris family and will be staying here until June 25, so he will finish out the school year at D-DHS.

Kraml says there are many differences between the U.S. and Germany, but the biggest change for him would have to be the opposing school and education systems. Pretty much everything about the education systems in Germany and the United States is different. The grading system is different, because they use a number grading scale, instead of a letter grading scale, as is used here. Also, in Germany, everybody starts at one school for the elementary level, like most here have experienced, but how they divide up after that is unusual here. Their elementary school is from first grade to fourth grade. Then, depending on grades, skills, and teacher recommendations, you can advance to one of three other schools. There is a school called "main school" for five more years, and this is for people who aren't the best at school, and have bad grades. When students are done with that school, they can move onto the next school, or they can try to find a job with the diploma



Staff - Jacob Prado, Morgan Lock, Vianney Perez Fonseca, Kaia Warner, Casey Huerta, Jacob Szczap, Calvin Lumkes and Trinity Dement

Advisor - Thom Aiello Design - Wendy Shafer that they have from the main school.

"Real school" is the next level up and that is for people with average-level grades. The same concept applies after they are done with this school and earn their diplomas, as well. This school actually takes six years to complete, instead of five.

The third school takes eight years to complete, but when a student is six years in, he or she can choose what classes they want to take, instead of the government deciding.

Although they can now pick classes, they still don't have as many options as here in the U.S. In Germany, there aren't any woods classes, or photo classes, or electives like that. Kraml says that, personally for him, he likes the education system better in Germany because he thinks it's better designed for helping students with their futures, with what they want to do specifically. Although, he does like his basic photo class here, and others like that.

Another big difference he has talked about was the culture of sports and social events. There are no sports associated with the schools in Germany, unlike in the U.S. This might seem unusual here because a lot of students are involved with sports, and like to watch games their friends are in and such. Again, Kraml does like the system in Germany better because he can meet people from other schools during sports practice as the teams are all associated with the communities.



Luke Kraml



Prom Court



Prom Assembly Prom Court back row left to right - Cameron Patterson, Jeremy Brown, Eric Gonzalez, Ryan Hoey, Oliver Hetzel, Ross Gengler, Dieonte Orth and Jacob Prado. Front row left to right - Molly Jedlicka, Emily Graham, Caitlynn Kirsch, Liana Gonzalez, Jasmin Speth, Kailea Timmerman, Stephanie Vaughn, Shannon Piecha and Jordane Torres-Raby.

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Delavan-Darien baseball team improved

By Jacob Szczap Cometeer staff

After a tough start to the season, the Delavan-Darien High School Comets baseball team had a little more confidence heading into its final weekend before heading into the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Division 2 regional at Edgerton on May 23.

The fifth-seeded Comets (4-16 at the time of this writing) had been competing much better over the last few weeks and looked much more improved than they did at the beginning of the season.

Delavan-Darien gave new life to its season by stomping rival Elkhorn 8-1, handing the team its first Southern Lakes Conference win of the season. After losing a well-pitched 2-0 game to Lake Geneva Badger the previous Friday, the Comets knew they could compete, and came in hungry to beat their rival Elks. They did just that with great pitching by Seth Sybesma and a powerful bat supply, giving the Comets a much-needed win.

After losing 4-1 to Elkhorn the following Thursday, they made the trip to Edgerton on Saturday, ready for another win. Thanks in part to a big homer by Trent Hernandez, the Comets won their third non-conference game of the season by knocking off a talented opponent.

They were looking forward to their WIAA regional quarterfinal game, against the same fourth-seeded Edgerton team that they beat a week earlier. Confident and ready to go, the Comets thought that they can do some damage in the tournament. Since they have faced some of the best teams in the state in their conference, they had the experience in the regular season needed for a tournament run. If anything, they would be playing easier matchups than in the regular season. Delavan-Darien looked to surprise some and go on a WIAA tournament run.

(Advisor's note: This article was written before the WIAA tournament began. The Comets lost 9-8 to Edgerton in the regional quarterfinal game on May 23.)



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Band trip, a fun experience



Members of the Delavan-Darien High School band marking their stop in Louisiana.



By Morgan Lock Cometeer staff

This spring break, I travelled as a part of the Delavan Darien School bands tour to St. Louis, New Orleans, and Memphis. I learned a lot about some traditions that all of these cities have, and how unique they are. It was also a super fun experience, because I got to grow musically with my friends.

Our first stop was St. Louis, where we got to go up to the top of the arch, eat Ted Drewe's Frozen Custard, and go to a musical clinic at a beautiful church. All of these experiences started off an amazing trip, because we learned a lot about our music and we got to try some of the best custard, which is just one of the delicious foods that we ate.

After St. Louis, we went to New Orleans, the main stop of our trip. New Orleans was such a fantastic place, because we got to learn about traditions and experience things that we hadn't culturally experienced before. We got to enjoy so many fun things like a swamp tour, mask-making at mardi gras world, a masquerade ball, a competition, a carriage tour around the French Quarter, and a jazz river boat cruise. It was amazing for us to perform down in NOLA, because it gave us exposure to comments on our music. Also, the mask-making and masquerade was super fun and interesting, because Mardi Gras is probably the number one thing that New Orleans is known for, so for us to experience something even kind of like it, was amazing. Another thing that I could never forget is how positive the atmosphere is.

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The band in front of the Gateway Arch in St. Louis.

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OPINION

Major film companies lag behind in LGBTQ+ representation

By Jacob Prado Cometeer Staff

Warner Brothers, Sony Pictures, Walt Disney Studios, Universal Pictures, and 20th Century Fox are all major film production companies that every year release movies that ring in millions. While the films that these companies release are usually the ones that make the most money, they lack in change and producing films that go against social norms.

While many of these companies release films with leading female and African-American characters, film festivals and streaming services such as Netflix and Hulu have been doing this for years. These companies may have released films with female and African-American leads, but they lack in addressing other things like LGBTQ+ topics, while film festivals and streaming services seem to excel at addressing these topics head on.

Beginning with streaming services, companies like Netflix and Hulu seem to be producing more shows and movies that have main LGBT characters and address the topic of sexuality. Netflix originals like Alex Strangelove, 13 Reasons Why, One Day at a Time, Atypical, and so many others all have one thing in common: positive LGBTQ+ representation.

One way that Netflix really has broken boundaries here though is in Alex Strangelove, where not just is there a main LGBT character, but the idea of discovering your own sexuality is widely explored throughout this film, as it is also the conflict. Besides Netflix's own original films, both streaming services Hulu and Netflix share an abundance of different LGBTQ+ films that explore the issues and ideas that so many different production companies are lacking. But where do all the films that these streaming services have right come from, if not from major production companies?

The Sundance Film Festival, Toronto International Film Festival, Tribeca Film Festival, Chicago International Film Festival, and many others have been positively representing LGBTQ+ topics for years. While these festivals typically have much more leeway when it comes to a director's creative process, the films that succeed at these festivals can be, and usually are, picked up by major film companies and even end up in theaters. What this means to me is that these major production companies should also be breaking ground and advancing LGBTQ+ issues similar to those that these festival films do.

Examples where these films address LGBTQ+ topics head on include Call Me by Your Name, Boy Erased, Moonlight, The Miseducation of Cameron Post, and so many others that the list could go on and on. What makes these films different from the Netflix originals, I think, is their filterless directing and the way they address issues head on instead of presenting LGBTQ+ as a side issue. While I have never been able to attend one of these film festivals in person, I think it is important that these films are shown to a wide range of audiences and is not limited to those who attend the festival.

Before I conclude, I want to make sure it is clear that I am not trying to downgrade major film production companies' strides to include LGBTQ+ characters and address the issues that need addressing. An example where the main character's story revolved around the issue of sexuality is shown in Love, Simon, where Simon struggles throughout the whole film to come to terms with his own sexuality.



In other films - quite a few of them - many main characters are part of the LGBTQ+ community, but the topics are not addressed the way they are in other films like Netflix originals and film festivals. I am simply expressing the idea that while these major film production companies may make strides in many areas of social justice, they lack in efforts in addressing LGBTQ+ topics and issues that are important in our world today.

In conclusion, I believe throughout the last few years many different films have made genuine and large steps towards the positive representation of LGBTQ+ people in our society. While major film production companies like Warner Brothers, Sony Pictures, Walt Disney Studios, Universal Pictures, and 20th Century Fox all work hard to try and address these topics, they are years behind streaming services and film festivals.

Judging by how many film festival films have made it to theaters across the country, I am hopeful for what these production companies will bring to the big screen in the future. Overall, for where we are in the representation of LGBTQ+ people, these production companies are not that far behind, but in the future I hope they address these issues as much as streaming services and film festivals do

Private school to public high school is a big adjustment

By Calvin Lumkes Cometeer staff

When you go to a private school before high school, things are pretty smooth and easy. But when you graduate, things start to get crazy. All of a sudden you have to get up earlier and school is starting 45 minutes earlier than it usually does.

Classes at Delavan-Darien High School are always learning and the teachers are always teaching. Now, instead of having all of your classes in one room at the same time, you are constantly moving around the high school to get to your next class.

There are some new things that are added to the day, like breakfast, choice lunches, and your new "student ID." In the private school, we never had breakfast as an option and when it was lunch time, you were having either the one entree that the school was offering, or you had cold lunch. We never had student IDs and attendance was done on paper and brought to the office daily by a student. The amount of students in the class was always the same

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Balancing school, work, life

By Morgan Lock Cometeer staff

High school, it's just school, right? Wrong.

Most students at Delavan-Darien High School are involved in after-school events, jobs or activities at home. A lot of students need to have jobs to save money for a car or for college or for plans for their future. They get involved with clubs because they are fun, but also because being involved looks good for colleges.

So, how do students balance school, a social life and a job? Well, there are many different ways to figure out how to make it work. First, high schoolers should always make sure that they know what they are doing and when. Having a schedule and a plan is very important for managing with many things going on. If there are any conflicts, they should be dealt with as soon as possible.

Next, another thing high schoolers have a lot of with these factors in their lives is stress. Managing stress and taking care of mental health is very important. Students should always put school in front of work, but they should always put their health before everything. If someone is staying up hours on end working, and they are so tired that they are falling asleep in school, that is a prob-

Band trip...Continued from page 4

Wherever you walk, there are people laughing and smiling. There will be people selling art and making food on the streets. There are rainbow flags everywhere. Everyone that we met on the trip was super nice to us, and they all had that "Southern Hospitality" you always here about. Another thing that is so fascinating about New Orleans is the food. If you're travelling there, you definitely will be expanding your palate. Most of NOLA's cuisine includes seafood. Some of the new delicacies that I tried were an alligator (yes, Alligator! It was one of the best things I ate!) poboy (a type of sandwich,) a fried green tomato poboy, gumbo, jambalaya, and beignets. Beignets are the best dessert I've ever eaten! They

are made of a dough, and they are pastries that are completely covered in powdered sugar. You definitely don't want to wear black if you are going to Cafe DuMonde (the best place to get beignets!)

Our last stop on the 2019 DDHS bands tour was Memphis, Tennessee. We visited the Rock and Soul museum, which was a great cultural experience. After that, we ate dinner at Hard Rock Cafe, which of course, the food was very tasty there, as well. Even though we spent the least amount of time in Memphis, it was still a unique experience.



Overall, I am super thankful that I was able to go on the band tour. I was able to broaden my horizons, musically, culturally, historically, and food-wise. I also was able to bond with some of my best friends and expand my friendships in many new states.

lem. Students shouldn't be overworked. They need to know how to manage their time. Also, it is important to know how to not push themselves too hard.

Sometimes, high schoolers can get involved with too much, and push themselves in the way that they think they can do everything. I, myself, have struggled with this many times. I think I can do everything, when, in fact, I will overbook myself sometimes and that is very stressful. That is why it is very important to manage stress in a healthy way, not overbook schedules, and put mental

School change... Continued from page 5

number and the same people were in every class of the day, so if you didn't know where to go, just follow your grade to the next class.

There are also some aspects that are lost in the transition between going to a private middle school and going to high school. One big change is that you don't have recess included in the day either before or after lunch. A person that went to a private school might also lose some of the daily "chores" that they had to do; now, this might be a joy to some people, but chores did keep you on edge, always checking for if you have to do something, and what you have to do.

Freshman Grayson Morris from Our Redeemer Lutheran School says that going from a private middle school to a public high school has a lot to differ from with all of the activities and objectives that were done at his school.

A big thing in private schools is sports, not necessarily baseball and football, because those were not run through the school, but sports like track, soccer, volleyball and basketball. Some of the people who played sports in middle school now have to face the cuts. This is a big event in a person's sports career if they are cut from the team as a freshman. The competition is also better because the opposing high school can take all of the best players from all the different teams in the area. A little thing that happens in high school is that all of the players that you rivaled with, you now have to play with, which may be hard to do because you were "frenemies," and now you have to participate with them.

One technological change is that when you get into high school, you get your own chromebook. Members of Delavan Christian School had only class chromebooks that you can use on projects occasionally. In high school, having a chromebook is a big responsibility; charging, taking care of your chromebook, and making sure that you aren't using it as a distraction are some of the responsibilities that come with having a chromebook in high school. Many people get in trouble because it is so easy to use your chromebook to play games or go on inappropriate websites. Chromebooks do help you, though, to track your work and to see your grades as quickly as

Private schools prepare you for high school academically, but there is a lack of preparation for the knowledge of people in high school. Although the social aspect is lacking, private schooling is still an excellent way to get ready for high school and work your brain so that you get good grades and it has a great atmosphere to get some friends. Whether you go to a public middle school or a private middle school, there are still multiple advantages and disadvantages to attending the school you went to before high school. (Calvin Lumkes attended St. Andrew's in Delavan before becoming a freshman at D-DHS.)

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Pioneering:

My three cents worth to graduates

By Thom Aiello Cometeer advisor

This is about things that you learn in school. That makes sense, right?

It used to be called offering my "two cents worth," but I'm thinking with inflation over the years, let's make it my three cents worth. All of which is me saying, no one has asked me, but if I were to give a graduation address at Delavan-Darien High School, this is what I would tell the students. (Real graduation speakers can feel free to use this. Then we will know you are well-read. If I used emojis, you would have seen the smiley face there.)



Thom Aiello

Ah-hem...

When I was at St. James Catholic School for grades 1-8, we all knew each other well in class (see Calvin Lumkes' related opinion piece in this edition), School was great - a solid learning experience and seeing your good friends every day, as well as participating in sports. I had teachers that really cared about the students. But, things changed some in seventh grade and then even more in eighth grade. Two teachers shared classes those two years and I was not very happy with either one. I loved being with my friends, but I felt I needed a change.

The original plan would be that I would follow to St. Joseph High School in Kenosha. That is where most of my friends were going to go. But, after discussions with my supportive parents, I ended up going to ninth grade at Lance Junior High School (where it was grades 7-9). That meant I actually really knew just one other kid going there - my cousin and best friend, Joe (who had been there all along). We were part of the baby-boom era and Lance was a big school. I was curious how this venture away from what I had known for eight years of schooling would be like.

Everyone, with a bit of luck, has one - a teacher who makes a difference. For me, that teacher was Judy Pace. Starting in her class, the only connection I could think of was that I wore Pace deodorant - go figure! I cannot recall at this age just what she taught me in her class. What I always remembered is she helped restore my confidence in myself. Could there be a more valuable lesson?

By the time I reached Kenosha Tremper High School the next year, I was feeling great. It was one of the largest high schools in the state of Wisconsin at the time with what, I believe, start off at somewhere near 1,000 students just in our one grade level! I saw somewhere a while ago that, as I recall, we had more than 750 students in our graduating class.

So, easy to get lost in the shuffle, right? Instead, I thrived.

Yes, everyone has struggles - that is important to note - everyone has them, no matter if they hide them better than others or not, no matter if they are small or large. The thing to know is that,upon graduation, that doesn't change. Therefore, the key may be how you deal with your personal struggles. Sometimes you see other people and you think, "They are lucky. They are always happy. Everything goes right for them." The truth is, no one is that fortunate. Maybe they are for a period of time, but life has a way of throwing obstacles or challenges in your way.

For me, I leaned on my family, my friends and what I felt was a strong foundation. Self belief, even if at times it gets shaken. Everyone is good at something! Remember that. It applies to you, whoever is reading this.

I had plenty of very strong teachers at Tremper also. Two of the

biggest influences were Ferne Hoeft and Joe Trotter. Hoeft was my journalism teacher, creative writing teacher, and she headed up the school newspapers. I would go to school very early every morning to set up our newspaper club tables, where we raised money by selling doughnuts and juice, coffee or milk to other students, especially the early-arriving "country kids" who came off the buses. We had a very strong journalism program. Even though I already knew the career path I wanted to follow, Hoeft certainly helped keep it in focus. Many of her students went on to newspaper or related careers. (My work with the school yearbook also worked well with this.)

So, besides making a lot of money for our school papers, what else was learned from selling doughnuts? I got to meet hundreds of students I might never have known otherwise. They used to have "jocks" and "freaks" (or "hippies") in those days. But, guess what? Both parties liked eating doughnuts in the morning! So, a person can make friends with every sort of other person around. Isn't that a great trait that carries on in life? That is not taught just in a classroom.

Remember, then, that not everything you learn in high school comes from inside a particular classroom. The same will be true when you go to college or start a career, or just going about daily life. Being friendly and good to other people, even if they seem different than you, is very important. And, you may learn a lot by paying attention. (I'll get back to that in a bit.)

Trotter was an African-American social studies teacher. I went to high school from 1973-76. The 1960s was a time of great change in America, including a major civil rights movement and a growing protest over a war. One thing I remember that Trotter said in class one day that influenced me for much of my life is that you do not need to have an answer to say something is not right. (This was in a time of "Love It or Leave It" attitudes by a portion of society, if that rings familiar.) Some people would say, "If you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem." Trotter helped me believe that I may not have all of the answers to "fix" everything, but I can still try to determine what is right and what is wrong.

So, inspired in part by that, I wrote a letter to the editor to The Kenosha News. A former Kenoshan named Len Iaquinta was working for what I recall as a "think tank" in New York. He read my letter, liked that a student wrote it, and corresponded over time with information regarding journalism and such. So, there was a statement made inside of the classroom that led to another part of forming who I would become.

I wrote a bit ago about paying attention. Many of you graduating students had me as a substitute teacher in the past. One time in class there was a video, I believe simply called, "Look Up." Even as an adult, I learned from that video and still believe its message. It showed a person who was too busy with his nose buried in his cell phone always to notice anything that was actually going on around him. Then, as a recall, they showed what he noticed by just simply looking up. I seem to recall he met the love of his life who he might have just bumped into and moved on if he stayed looking down on his phone. There were several other examples.

So, as graduates, take the time to look up more often. Participate in life; don't just be caught up constantly looking at your phone. (I often do not take my phone in some places so I can focus on what is really going on around me.)

From my experiences, what I have learned - and continue to learn every single day! - is what happens inside the classroom is important, what happens at work is important, what happens when you are not in class or not at your job is important...and the people in your life or the ones you are yet to meet and get to know, they are important also.

That would be my graduation speech. Hopefully, it's worth three cents to someone.

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This is the last edition of



for the 2018-2019 school year, but consider joining the staff for the 2019-2020 school year.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!



Bring
Your Ideas.
If Interested
Contact
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