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NORTH

POINTE

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CONTACT US
707 Vernier Road
Grosse Pointe Woods MI, 48236
Phone: 313.432.3248
Email: northpointe@gpschools.org
Twitter: @thenorthpointe
Website: NorthPointeNow.org

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FACULTY ADVISER: Shari Adwers, MJE

PHOTO BY: AUDREY KAM

It’s all fun and games, but no one is there to see it

Dear students,
We go all-out — decked in school colors, faces painted, horns, whistles, screaming, chants, the whole package — every year for the the North-South game. The stands are packed and the atmosphere is alive.
This is not the case when it comes to our student section at other sporting events or even other football games. Not all of us can represent Norh on the field, but we can show support for our school and community by cheering in the stands.

School spirit isn’t something to be embarrassed about. Most of the time, students only stay for a portion of the game, if they show up at all. Sometimes the away team, even if they drive over an hour to get here, has more bodies in the stands than we do.

This doesn’t make us look very good. At the white-out on Sept. 18, the student section lacked numbers and white. Around half-time the crowd dispersed, leaving the stands bare with only a few students remaining.

The D Zone, a news source for Michigan high school sports, has a running list of top student sections in Michigan. North has never been among them. Each week the updated rankings are posted and usually involve the same contenders. Schools like Chippewa Valley, Rochester and Stoney Creek dominate the top few spots. These schools have student sections with overflowing stands, themes that everybody participates in, and props including cornstarch, signs and anything that makes noise.

We aren’t saying that it’s easy to attend every game in green and gold. Students have lives. There are other sports that have practices and games, there’s homework, and there’s other things to do. We are saying that not having a student section doesn’t accurately display the levels of school spirit we have, and it’s possible to change.

“Hey are we allowed to bring cornstarch or signs to the game? I didn’t think we could. I also heard that body paint wasn’t allowed.”
False.

Cornstarch and signs are allowed. So is body painting as long as it maintains a standard of decency that would be expected at school. The main goal administrators have for the student section is for us to be safe and represent North well.

Imagine if we took the enthusiasm we have during spirit week and the North-South game and applied it to other sporting events. We could become a serious contender for one of the top student section slots. And while having a strong student section isn’t just about being number one on a list, a supportive student body would build a stronger sense of community here. Sporting events would be more fun if people were more willing to participate. Leaving at half-time or just talking about having a “hype” student section isn’t enough to make it happen.

It’s unreasonable to assume that our student section will transform overnight. But next time there is a game — be it football, basketball, softball or any other sport — we, as students, should take a moment and consider how our participation could help. Not only would we be supporting our fellow peers on the field, but we’d be creating a more positive school environment.

We are the example for future classes, and our legacy shouldn’t include a lackluster student section. School may not be the place we want to be for seven hours a day, five days a week, but we might as well approach it with the best attitude.

School spirit isn’t something to make fun of or turn your nose up at. It’s a display of our Norsemen pride, and making our student section one to be reckoned with is an easy way for us to show our spirit.

Check out *The D Zone* on Twitter @The_DZone or online at www.thedzone.net.

Top Tweets

Adam Schade, junior

@IAMADAMSCHADE

Colleen Squillace, senior

@COLLEEN_MS08

Ben Sliwinski, junior

@BENHOLLA AAA

Erin Kaled, sophomore

@ECKALED

YOUR TURN: How do you feel about boys being on homecoming court?

“I think it’s great because everyone is equal. I think having guys on homecoming court will make the pep rally more hype.”

Natalie Wietecha
FRESHMAN

“I feel like it’s good because it should be equal between the two genders.”

Emily Cherry
SOPHOMORE

“I thought that homecoming court was a female position, but I think it’s fine that they’re going to be elected.”

Chloe Walters
JUNIOR

“I think that boys running in the homecoming court is actually a pretty good idea, especially because I hope I win.”

Darion Brummitt
SENIOR

“I think it is a good idea. It will get more people involved. When I was in high school, boys were involved on homecoming court, so I don’t see why they wouldn’t be here at North.”

Eric Vanston
MATH TEACHER

“I know many schools that have a court that includes a king and a queen in their attendance, and I see nothing wrong with that, and if we’re going to do it, I’m in favor.”

Barb Skelly
COUNSELOR