

According to the Voyager

In its beginning years, Guilford was the school everyone wanted to go to. Known for things such as school spirit, state championship sports, and brand new facilities, Guilford had it all. But now, in 2017, it's quite upsetting to say that we can't even fill the student section stands for a Friday night football game. What once seemed like an unwavering school spirit has since faded into a handful of enthusiastic kids wanting to transform our sports event into a high energy student section. Guilford has approximately 1800 students, leaving no room for excuses for not having a great turnout of students and parents at each and every game. It's time for us to influence the current classes and transform our narrowly filled stands into a lively display of affection for our school.

This year, we have some of the best student section leaders around, and kids from all grade levels are dedicated to Friday Night Lights as well as other sporting events. For the first time in a long time, we are starting to fill the stands at sporting events other than just football; soccer and volleyball have been shown

endless amounts of support from the student body. This is not to dismiss the fact that collectively, as a school, we should do better when rallying the troops. With classic football themes like USA and Hawaiian, and more original themes for other sports like jerseys, Guilfordians should be proud to carry long-held traditions on our backs.

We have all year to improve our attendance; our goal is to support every sport for the whole year, reaching all the way to spring athletics. The student section is and always will be a key factor of every sporting event, and leaders Conrad Cuevas, Olivia Hagerty, and Troy Swanson (all seniors) plan to show support through the very last game of the year. Being involved in the student section is a great way to get involved with your school and build relationships with your peers, and it would also solve the problem of the lack of PDA shown for Guilford.

Not only do sporting events give you the chance to express yourself, support your class, and be creative, but so do spirit days. These are most commonly

found during homecoming week (seniors get the added benefit of prom week). They're an amazing opportunity for you to gain gratification and exude the honor you carry from being a Viking. Things like the pep rally for homecoming also qualify as a "spirit day." At the pep rally before homecoming, each class battles to be the loudest in shouting our school's colors. This is an expression of pride for not only Guilford, but also for your class. Sadly, we have seen lower numbers of attendance at recent pep rallies.

When it comes down to it, you'll never know what's out there until you set out and discover it for yourself. That homework will still be there on Saturday, but the Friday night experience won't be. At Guilford, you don't need to be shy or worry about being judged. We are one. If you dress to impress, cheer on the team, and share some laughs with some friends, you will be welcomed with open arms and smiling faces - and get a higher level of satisfaction than from watching it on someone's Snapchat story while procrastinating on that night's homework (I'll admit, I'm guilty of that, too). There

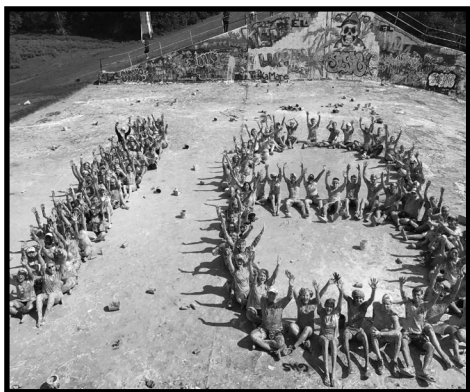
are many things you get second chances at in life, but high school isn't one of them.

If you're a student who has yet to contribute to themed games or themed days, or even to just get out there and enjoy yourself, do so. Bring your friends, make new friends, and try new things, because in the end, we only regret the chances we didn't take. It is worth the time, it is worth the effort, and the memories will last you a lifetime. We are one big family, and it's important to show support for each other and to make your high school experience one worth reminiscing about. Get out there and show not only your school colors, but also your true colors, because high school is the prime time to explore your horizons, and Guilford is an exceptional place to do just that. So I encourage not only you, but also your friends, to join your fellow Vikings on the voyage of a lifetime: high school.

This editorial was written by Lauren Bear and Isabella Pumo and reflects the views of the The Voyager editorial board.

PAINT THE DAM SPAWNS SLIPPERY CONDITIONS

Matt Huf
Reporter



Seniors get together to form their class numbers, a Guilford tradition. *Andrea Bear/PHOTO*

Paint the Dam usually takes place over the summer for seniors at Guilford. This year, however, it was scheduled for the 10th of September. After a good two weeks into their year, seniors finally underwent this traditional rite of passage.

"I would rather have the event hosted in the fall because most seniors are busy with other things over the summer," said Eric Lawson, senior. "It's much easier to coordinate when you have every senior in school because it's easier for word to get around about the event."

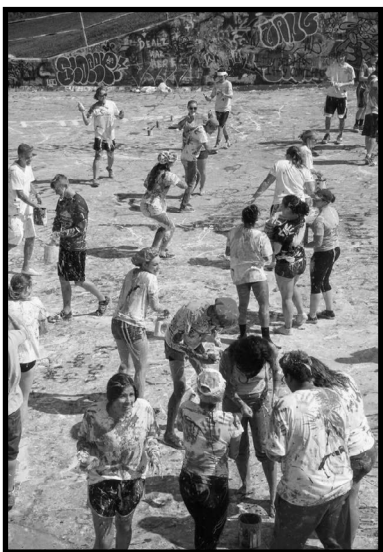
Paint the Dam began in 1954 with a group of West High School Basketball players as an act of school spirit. For many years, the park district did not require the different Rockford Public High Schools to have a permit. In 2003, the Park District was forced to sanction the activity, after a group of students failed to clean up their mess. In order to receive the permit, you must apply and pay a fee. This year, Guilford's student council was unable to get the check in because the school wouldn't allow it to be submitted until after registration.

"I think that Paint the Dam is a fun activity for all of us seniors to revel in," said Ryan Baxter, senior. "At the end of the day you'll be

covered with so many colors and filled with an incredible amount of joy. It's a lot of fun for the beginning of the end of what has been a great four years. It's a great way to kick off our final year with a bang."

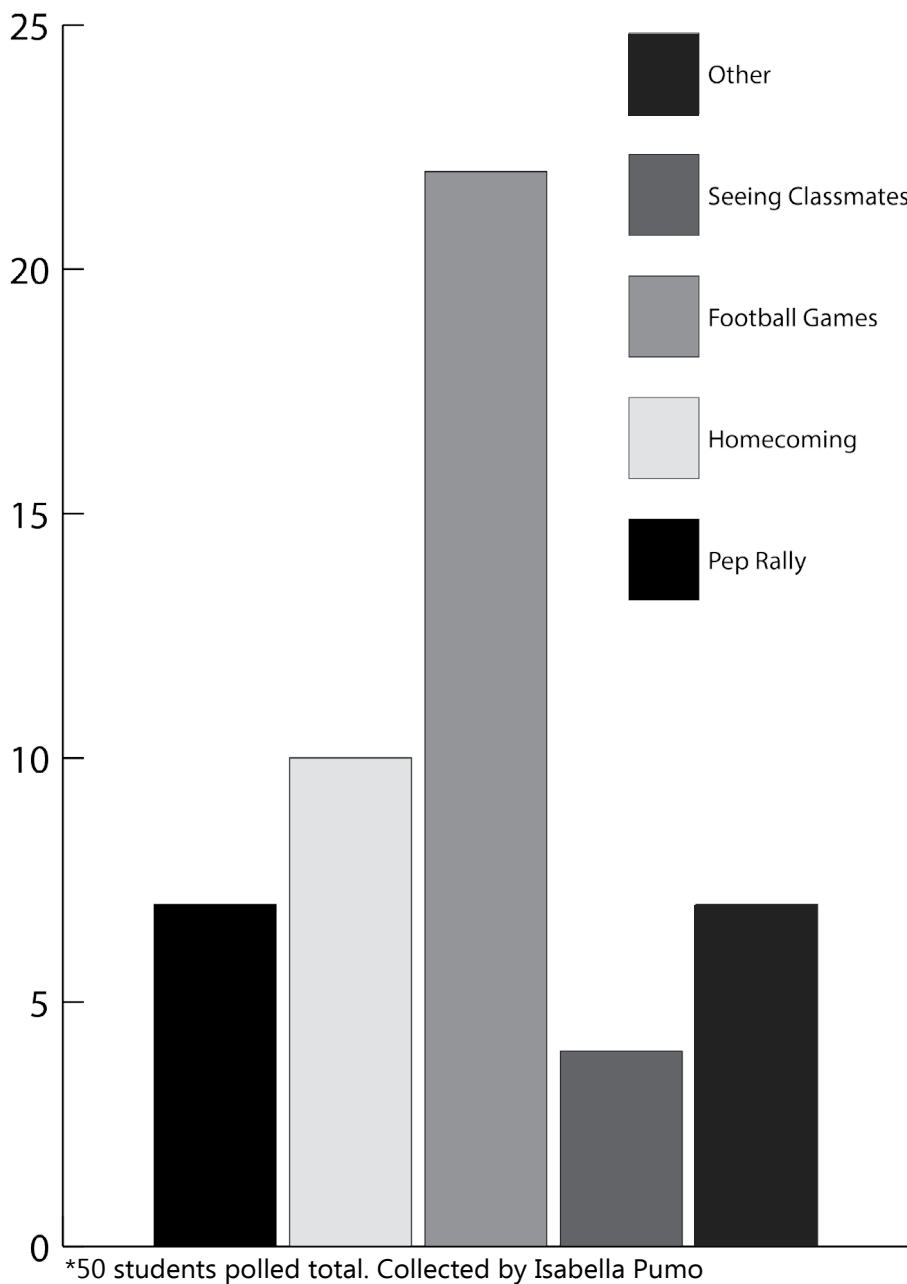
You could call it a blessing in disguise for the Guilford class of '18. They got the chance to one up every other high school in the area that was able to paint the dam earlier in the year. It also allowed for transferring seniors to get to know their fellow classmates before they became one cohesive group.

"I enjoyed getting covered in paint along with splattering others," said Randy Lundeen, senior. "The event was better than I expected it to be although it was a pain to get the paint off."



Seniors splash each other with paint at paint the dam. *Andrea Bear/PHOTO*

What is the best part of the back to school season?



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"The Voyager strives to inform, inspire, and enlighten its readers. Our goal is to report news about the school and community and to provide an unrestricted forum for the free exchange of ideas and opinions among students. We demand accuracy and hold ourselves to the highest ethical standard."



AD-DRESS-ING CHANGES IN SCHOOL ATTIRE

Isaac Leon
Reporter

‘18

This year, some small changes have been made to the dress code. Many students perceive the changes as more lenient.

In previous years, shorts had to be lower than two inches above the knee. Now, it has been relaxed, so that shorts have to end between students’ palm and fingertips.

“Material on shorts has to be

touching part of the hand,” said Mr. Schrank, assistant principal. “We want our students to dress ‘student professional’ in nature. We want our students to wear what they want to wear, but keeping in mind how they might appear to others.”

Still, a lot of students think the dress code is too strict and that they should be able to wear what they want every day. Students would love to have more freedom when it comes to their wardrobe.

“I think the dress code can be strict at times,” said Elissa Morales, senior. “Sometimes students get detentions just for showing too much of their shoulders.”

Even though a lot of students do not agree with the dress code, it is necessary to have one. Without one, there would be quite a few people wearing costumes and inappropriate shirts in the halls.

“A dress code is necessary; we have to set a good reputation for our community,” said Morales. “I just think that if it were to be less strict, the dress code wouldn’t be an issue for most students.”

The dress code is moving in the right direction. Although some people do complain, it isn’t the worst case scenario. School uniforms are always an option. With the freedom to dress how students want, students are able to express who they are through their clothing.

“School uniforms might be a good idea, but can be costly,” said Mr. Schrank. “We want to give our students a chance to express themselves and wear clothes they want to wear, not what we choose.”



Kacie Barker, senior, wears Nike shorts that go against the “fingertips” rule from years prior. CJLarson/PHOTO

STUDENTS EXPLORE THEIR OPTIONS WITH OPEN CAMPUS LUNCH

Marie Burns
In-Depth Editor

‘18

This year, Guilford is trying something different, but not entirely new: open campus lunch. Guilford has not had an open campus policy since long before the current students and staffs were here.

Open campus lunch will only be open to seniors who meet certain requirements. They must have a permission slip signed, good grades, and a history of good behavior.

“We have a lot of consequences for bad behavior. Open campus is a nice privilege, a reward, for kids with good behavior,” said Mrs. Ashley Carlson, assistant principal. “The biggest concern is safety and not rushing because students will think they are late to class.”

The main concern of students is the process in which they can participate in open campus. Many think that having to be approved and then giving security guards their ID’s before they leave the school is a bit of a hassle.

“It is unfair that we have to walk around to the main office from the student parking lot in the back of the school whenever we return from going out,” said Miriam Hernandez, senior. “Maybe I will participate in open campus one day a week, or even one day every two weeks.”

Another new feature this year to Guilford is “late start.” Every Thursday, the school day does not begin until 9:25 a.m. instead of its usual time at 8:30 a.m. This new setup allows teachers, administrators, and other school officials to have weekly meetings to better improve the school, while giving students some time to do things such as catching up on tests or detentions.

“Students can go work on Edmentum to work on credit recovery,” said Mrs. Carlson. “We want this to be a time to work on academics.”

Students are already becoming somewhat familiar with late start, which began on September 7th. Eventually, Guilford plans on allowing students to fill the time by working on Khan Academy, SAT prep, and possibly open gyms. However, as of now, many students who take the bus are left with staying in the cafeteria and commons from 8:30 to 9:15 with not much to do.

“Having to sit around for an hour was pretty boring,” said Faith Bruecks, freshman, one of many students who takes the bus every day. “I wish there were more things to do. The cafeteria was too loud to do work in; I wish the library was open.”



Senior Hannah Willis looks forward to visiting Dunkin' Donuts during open campus lunch. Jackson Gehrke/PHOTO

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDENT SECTION

Prycilla Rodriguez
Entertainment Editor

‘18

Back in 2016, 97ZOK’s Sweet Lenny dubbed Guilford to possibly have “the best student section in town.” Here’s why: when you first step into Swanson Stadium, you are greeted with bright lights that shine across the field, while the smell of popcorn and pizza linger the air. The field is dominated by the atmosphere of adrenaline-pumped teenage boys ramming into each other, trying to score a touchdown. On your right, the opposing team’s fans crowd the small bleachers, desperately trying to rile up their team. On your left is the real show: the Guilford High School student section. The Killa Crew, as described in their Twitter page, are dressed up in their craziest attire to correspond with the night’s theme. Still not impressed?

Let’s start at the very beginning of the Viking experience the start of the week of the game. When you first step into the Commons, you are greeted with the colored posters that display information on events occurring here at Guilford. Because of their loud and pep-filled voices, the students who roam the Commons are the only thing you can hear. Without school spirit, Guilford would just be another boring public school.

“It’s game day!” is often heard throughout the corridors on Fridays, announcing the excitement that most students contain.



The Guilford student section gets rowdy in the decade themed game against Honeogah on August 25, 2017. Isabella Pumo/PHOTO

Game days are the most treasured days of the week where you can pull out your best GHS spirit wear, showcasing your pride for your school and its athletes. It is important to be involved with your school to enhance your high school experience. At any Guilford sporting event, the student section radiates Viking pride.

Much like the school, the Killa Crew was built upon tradition and originality.

The student section leaders are usually seniors. This year, they are Olivia Hagerty, Conrad Cuevas, and Troy Swanson. For just a few moments, the trio straps you into the Viking Roller Coaster, which has earned its title as one of the best parts of the student section. Buckle up because you’re not leaving until you’ve have the ride of your life. With every game comes a different

theme. These past few years, “White Out” (traditionally the night of the homecoming game), “Blue Out,” and “Black Out” have been deemed to be some of the most popular themes, preceded by the U.S.A themed game and the Hawaiian themed game.

Of course, with every pro there has to be a con. Attending every game is a difficult task, especially away games, but do not fear the distance because showing up in the massive student section and cheering on the boys is worth every mile. Another downside is the weather. In the August/September football games, the temperature tends to stay relatively consistent. During the JV games, the sun is usually out, making for warm weather, but when varsity plays, the sun sets and it gets chilly. But not to worry, that’s nothing a thick sweater can’t solve. Thanks to Booster club, hot chocolate (sold in the concession stands) is a treat during the September/October games, which helps out with the dropping degrees.

The student section contributes to the success and positivity of our student body and of the football team, and we are full of nothing but love and support. Much like our chants declare, we are one. Guilford Vikings band together at every sporting event to become one big, united team; that’s something that you don’t want to miss. The next time you’re stuck choosing between binge-watching your favorite TV show for the fifth time or going to a Guilford sporting event, you’ll know which one to choose.