

# THE BUZZ



VOLUME 93  
ISSUE 1



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### Policies

As preservers of democracy, our schools shall protect, encourage, and enhance free speech and the exchange of ideas as a means of protecting our American way of life.

The Hornet's Buzz is the official student-produced medium of news and information published/produced by Journalism II: Multi-Media students.

### Media-Level Policy

The Hornet's Buzz is and has been a forum for public discourse for student editors to inform and educate their readers as well as for the discussion of issues of concern to their audience, the student body of North Kansas City High School. Advisors may — and should — coach and discuss content during the writing process.

### The Role of Student Media and Mission Statement

The mission of The Hornet's Buzz is to inform and educate the student body of North Kansas City High School by increasing readership through presentation of quality information that is relevant to the lives of teenagers. Our purpose is to educate the members of our audience, the student body of North Kansas City High School, on matters of interest and importance to young people. The Buzz will offer opinions on certain issues identified by the staff as important in the form of unsigned editorials written by the editorial/opinion editor.

### Emails/Letters to the Editor

#### Guidelines and Requirements for Submitting:

The Hornet's Buzz may accept letters to the editor, guest columns and news releases from students, faculty, administrators, community residents and the general public. We ask that letters to the editor, guest columns or other submissions be 300 words or fewer and contain the author's name, address and signature. All submissions will be verified.

The Hornet's Buzz editorial board reserves the right to withhold a letter, column or other submission and/OR return it for revision if it contains unprotected speech or grammatical errors that could hamper its meaning. Deadlines for letters and columns will be determined by each year's student staff, allowing sufficient time for verification of authorship prior to publication.

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Crossword Answers  
1. HORNET  
2. JOINER  
3. CHICAGO  
4. PURPLE  
5. PHONE  
6. MOLLIE  
7. STILL  
8. DIAMONDS



@nkchsbuzz



@hornetsbuzz1

# What's the Buzz?

## Home Game Highlights

On September 26 the hornet football team lost their winning streak with a rigorous game against Kearney with the score of 20-24.

Upcoming the hornets take on Park Hill south for homecoming and liberty for the final home game.

For the final home game the best band in the land is having their annual light show following the final home game.

By: Liam Hoke and Matilda Whitley  
Social Media Editor Senior Editor

Brief news coming out from the hornet hive

## 100 Homecomings

After 100 years of change the school proudly holds the title of being the most diverse in the state of Missouri.

To celebrate those one hundred years the homecoming theme is 'Golden Gala'. The class of 2026 will be the 100th graduating class of North Kansas City High School.

The dance will take place in the field-house on October 18th from 7 to 10 p.m. Dress your best for this glamorous night of fun and celebration. Don't forget to grab your tickets on GoFan in advance—this is a night you won't want to miss!

# Senior Sunrise

By: Matilda Whitley  
Senior Editor



Students stand around while wearing their "senior jeans"



# Albums of the Summer

## Jessie Murph's *Sex Hysteria*

By: Gracie Hankins  
Writer

Jessie Murph is a singer/songwriter who is best known for gaining a large following on social media apps like TikTok. She released a new hip-hop/rap album July 18th, 2025, titled "Sex Hysteria."

The album has a total of 15 songs, lasting around 42 minutes. In this album I was looking for stories within the songs and meaningful lyrics that can easily resonate with someone. I also looked for more basic things like catchiness and how well the song flowed.

The first song is called "Gucci Mane," and the song is decent. It's not on the beat and the lyrics don't flow well. For example, she says; "I would rather not throw him right under the bus, though I used to wish someday that he'd get hit by that bus." This lyric doesn't rhyme, and it sounds like very little effort was put into it.

The next song is "1965," which gives a false representation of women and life back in the 60's. Women in the 1960's were dealing with discrimination like wage gap between men and women and that women were expected to stay at home and be housewives to men. It feels as though Jessie Murph is romanticizing this lifestyle, and it encourages a sexist and outdated mindset. "I want you to want me, I think I'd give up a few rights" is a lyric that is incredibly offensive to a lot of women, especially women who work every day towards making things more equal and giving women more rights.

A lot of other songs on this album gave those same vibes and feelings of "what was she thinking when she wrote this?" However, some songs that break that pattern and have catchy lyrics that aren't very controversial, and flow nicely are "Couldn't Be Worse," "Bad As The Rest," "Ain't But a Thing," and "The Man That Came Back".

Overall, I do not recommend the album. I think a good album should have more meaningful songs with lyrics that flow better with the beat, and not much of this album was able to achieve that.



## Sabrina Carpenter's *Man's Best Friend*

By: Noon Elhiweej  
Writer

Sabrina Carpenter's 2025 album *Man's Best Friend* features 12 songs. The album begins with "Manchild", a track that targets emotionally underdeveloped men. It dives into the frustrations of being with a partner who, despite their age, avoids maturity and personal accountability. Later in the album comes "Goodbye", where she's basically asking her ex to forgive her and move on. The song itself isn't bad the beat carries a jazzy, vintage vibe that gives it an old school feel. In "Nobody's Son", she reflects on her pattern of unlucky relationships, where she expresses her emotional exhaustion through the lyrics 'Crying in bed, what a familiar feeling' later following it up with, 'He's like the rest' reflecting her sorrow and the endless loop of relationship struggles.

Overall, her album reflects on past relationships and the endless cycle of falling in love only to be treated the same way. The songs are backed by a nostalgic, old school kind of beat. Her songwriting sticks to the same message throughout the album, keeping the theme kind of boring. "Man's Best Friend" wasn't really to my liking, the songs weren't catchy, and the beats didn't stand out either.

The album wouldn't come highly recommended, as it sticks to one central theme throughout which isn't always a bad thing but in this case, the songs feel inconsistent. One moment she's trying to move on from her ex, and the next she's expressing how badly she wants him back, creating a back and forth that makes the album feel emotionally confusing.



# Putting the Phones Down

The Buzz Editorial Board weighs in on the electronics ban

By: Buzz Staff

The NKC school district's electronics policy is overkill. It's an overdone attempt to bring back control into classrooms. The policy is designed for admin to get their way. It barely puts students in their best interest-allowing made up rules to hold power.

July 1, 2025, the day the Missouri senate bill went into play for school districts. "Requires school districts and charter schools to promulgate a written policy regarding student possession and use of cellular phones" said in Senate bill No. 1481 summary. In this bill, it does not outline what is and isn't a proper policy for phones. So, the district took the liberty of prohibiting other electronic devices even though they are not backed up by a bill.

The devices prohibited to be in use during school hours are:

*The devices prohibited to be in use during school hours are:*

- Cell phones
- Smartwatches and wearable devices
- Headphones, AirPods, or similar accessories
- Personal tablets and laptops
- Audio/video recorders or media players

"The policy may provide that a student who possesses or uses a cellular phone in violation of the policy may be subject to disciplinary action" said Missouri senate bill No. 1481 summary. The word "may" is what trips people up, schools do not have to punish students for being on their phone but rather choose to.

The bill leaves a lot of breathing air for school districts to make the right decision for their district. It's not illegal to have your phone out of class, it's only against district policy.



Though the bill linked on the school district's website for the electronics policy is not the actual bill highlighting student cellular device use. Instead, the bill on the site is Senate bill no. 68 and does not mention student electronics use.

The bill does not mention nonacademic break times such as lunch and passing period as times where phones need to be put up. These places are supposed to be a small break from the stress of school and can turn into a phone call to home. Schools have bigger fish to fry rather than trying to take away a student's phone during passing period or times where the school let loose. Who does this help when all it seems to do is make students look worse/feel restricted.

The restrictions on some devices make sense in a few cases but a rule on audio and video recorders is a strange rule. It's unlikely but not impossible that someone would bring a camera to school with the purpose of recording a fight.

For the non-freshman, you've probably gotten an email in the previous year saying to stop recording fight videos. With consequences such as getting a suspension for a week or two for recording a fight video. So rather than address the issue on why students feel the need to record a fight video instead of doing something to help- there for no video recorders allowed. No audio recorders allowed, so if you have a project for a class requiring you to record something, you gotta wait till schools out according to district policy.

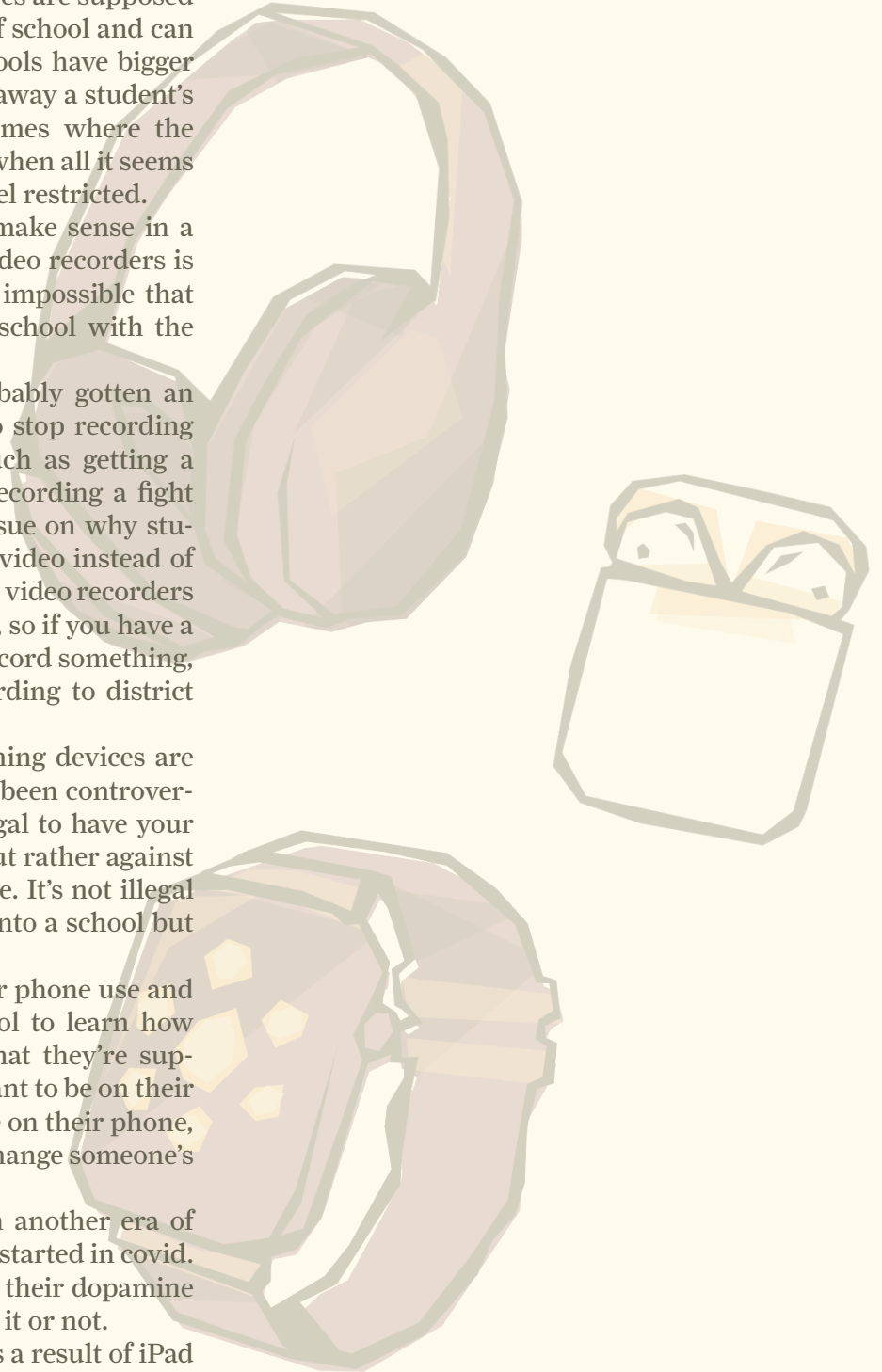
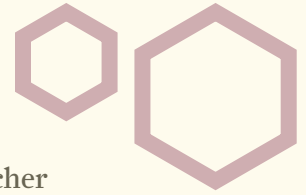
Headphones and other audio listening devices are prohibited in the district, which has been controversial in some classrooms. It's not illegal to have your AirPods in while walking to class, but rather against the rules same as is in the dress code. It's not illegal to wear a shirt with profanity on it into a school but it's against the rules.

Students just get sneaky about their phone use and other devices. People come to school to learn how to hide their phone rather than what they're supposed to learn. If someone doesn't want to be on their phone, they won't- if they want to be on their phone, they will. A policy won't magically change someone's behavior towards phone use.

Teachers again have to go through another era of student behavioral changes that first started in covid. An era of a generation trying to quit their dopamine addiction, whether they want to face it or not.

After all things like these happen as a result of iPad kids turning into iPhone teens. But what is the district's electronic policy's purpose, is it meant to lean people off their dopamine addiction from years of

being on the internet. Or is it really just that teenagers have gotten so out of control— that this is a solution to hand back power to the teacher without corporal punishment making its way back.



# Hornet Football

## What it Means to be a Family

By: Lillian Tsuglis  
Writer

The North Kansas City Varsity football team is buzzing its way through the hive and taking down all the teams in the way. With a win against battle high school (56-22) on Aug. 29, Park Hill (69-51) on Sep. 5, Excelsior Springs (48-10) on Sep. 12, and St. Joe Central (58-34) on Sep. 19.

Senior Romie Still said the new transfers such as Mehki Fields, Aaron Coleman and Kevin Addison brought it all together for the team.

“Feels like you’re fighting for something more when you’re fighting for the person next to you and your head coach” Still explained.

Still added that “Coach Joiner has been building up the past year and got it locked in”.

Still, defensive line, said it’s an awesome experience getting to play right next to his younger brother Finnwick Still and getting coached by Karl Zubeck who has put a lot of work into them.

“Just like any other family, we grow together, work together and spend a lot of time together.”

Seniors Ray Bolen, linebacker, and Curtis Ligon, receiver, said that it’s important to be a family because everyone plays better, when we play unlike a family, we play the weakest level of football. Bolen reflected on what it meant to be a family.

“All my brothers go out on Friday nights and not just then but every day, go out and fight for me and everyone else on the team,” he said.

Senior Jhamari Vickers, corner, said the team did a lot of things to get prepared, getting speed right, and even eye and mental discipline right. Vickers also said that bringing the new transfers “added a lot of good things to the team that last year didn’t bring, such as the atmosphere being more like a family, than just a team”.

Vickers also reflected on how the season is “Sad, going to miss the experience. I’ve enjoyed it while it lasted”.

The North Kansas City Hornets, football isn’t about winning games, it’s about building a brotherhood that lasts long after the Friday night lights go out.

“Being a family connects you with so many people that you wouldn’t have expected”, said Curtis Ligon. “Even though they’re not blood related, they’re still brothers” Zubeck) said.



Kevin Addison 29, photographed by Link Weaver



Massive tackle made to stop the Kearney Bulldogs offense, photographed by Link Weaver



Photographed by Matilda Whitley

With the 2025-26 school year kicking off, senior performers at Northtown are already reflecting on the impact their teams have had throughout high school. For teams like cheer, dance and majorettes the impact they have is what means the most.

For senior captain of the hornet cheer squad, Natalie coons, said “It really got me out of my shell and got me to be involved with so many different things with Northtown”.

Aubrey Steele senior captain of the majorettes finds that diligence is important for the team. “Theres many things that come with being a purple diamond. If my underclassmen don’t carry that until their upperclassmen then it just loses the whole grit to the team”, said Steele.

After 4 years of dancing with the stingers, Senior dance captain Mollie Bujak better found herself, “I’m not really afraid to go up to people anymore and just express myself”, Bujak said.

# Spirit Squads

By: Kassidy Poole-Morris  
Writer

Cheer, Dance, Majorettes



Pictured is Gracie Hankins, varsity player



Aysha Hasanovic, JV player



Bella Jones, varsity player

# Girls Tennis: The Fight to Win

By: Brooklyn Spataro  
Writer

The Hornets girls' tennis team is not only focusing on their playing this season but also their mindset on the court. "Focusing on improving, not putting others down, and having fun" Angel Denopol says is what the girl's tennis team is about.

This year, the team has 30 girls on their roster they are setting each other up for victory. Whether that be through team bonding, cheering each other on, or allowing each girl to take the time to talk about their dreams on and off court.

"The coaches and teammates are very positive, always uplifting and never pushing me down, and it helps me feel more positive in my mindset when we're playing", said Journey George, a third-year player and junior.

The girl's commitment to the sport and each other is what allows for this mindset to happen. "Our goals are to win as many as our team duals and tournaments as possible, as well as getting one of our members to state whether that be single or doubles" said Coach Kyle Cumberland.

"I want to make it to individual state, but I don't want to create expectations for myself so I'm focusing on improving and having fun", Said Mai-Linh North, a senior on the varsity team.



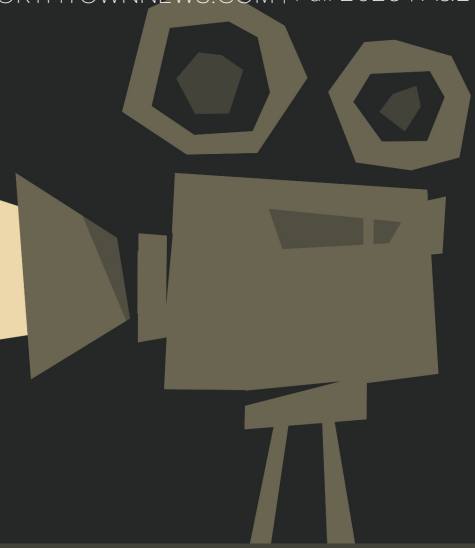
Varsity, JV and Novice teams doing their chant



Mai-Linh North, varsity player

# Movies on the Move

By: Liam Hoke  
Social Media Editor



## Tron: Ares

The highly anticipated third installment in the Tron series—follows Ares, a highly sophisticated program, on a risky mission that pushes the limits of advanced technology. Set to the pulse-pounding music of Nine Inch Nails, this action-packed film promises thrilling races, groundbreaking tech, and high-intensity battles that will keep you on the edge of your seat. As the next chapter in the iconic Tron saga, fans can't wait to see how this story unfolds.

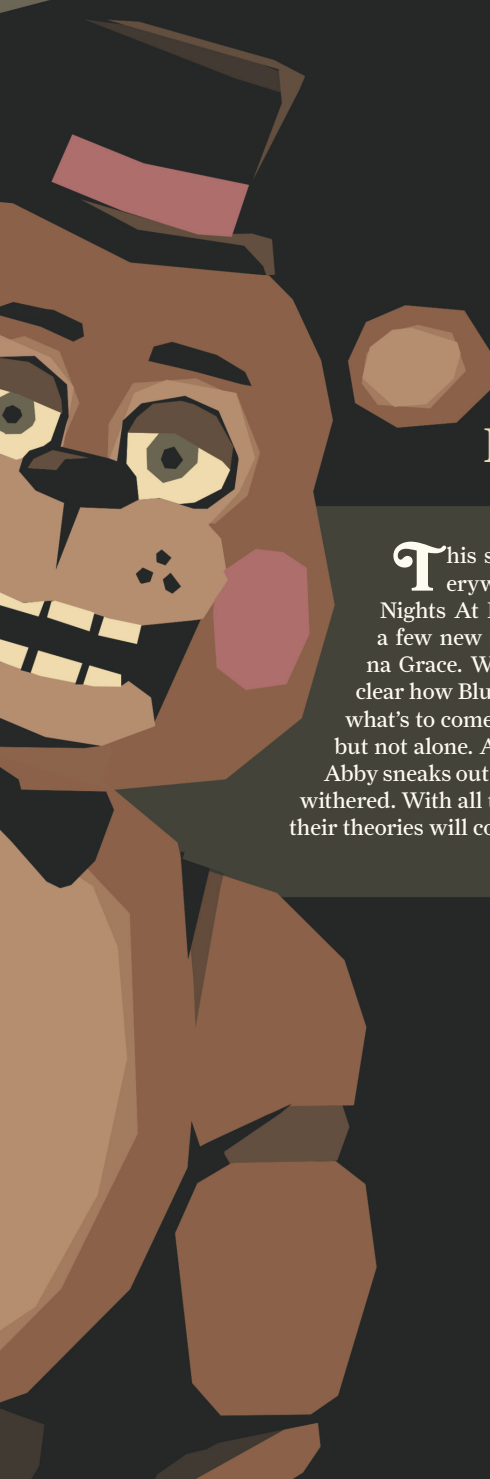
## Five Nights at Freddy's 2

This spooky sequel is definitely catching the eyes of fans everywhere—whether in anticipation or disapproval, Five Nights At Freddy's 2 is bound to turn some heads. In the trailer, a few new names are introduced to the franchise, such as Mckenna Grace. While the lore from the games offers some clues, it's unclear how Blumhouse will adapt the story for the film. Fans, unsure of what's to come, predict that William Afton will return as Springtrap—but not alone. Another popular theory suggests that when Mike's sister Abby sneaks out to reconnect with her old friends, they may have become withered. With all this speculation, fans can only wait and see if their theories will come to life on the big screen—in theaters December 5th.



## Zootopia 2

The pair are back at it! Judy and Jason—I mean Nick, are returning to the ring, but this time they're more than just partners in crime. The trailer hints at obstacles their newfound relationship might bring if they continue working together. Chief Boggo doesn't seem thrilled about them bringing their relationship to work, and he's giving Judy yet another trial run—this time, to see if she and Nick can function as a team. The trailer also introduces a mysterious adversary, teasing cunning schemes and the crook's possible motive. Fans are eagerly predicting another thrilling chase through the districts as they track their elusive suspect. With so much to look forward to, fans can't wait to see how Judy and Nick's dynamic evolves in Zootopia 2.





## Northtown Theatre Association Prepares for

# CHICAGO

By: Brooklyn Spataro  
Writer

The Northtown Theatre Association has been working hard on their fall musical, “Chicago.” This re-imagined teen version of the show is based off of the 1926 Broadway jazz musical. Each of the students taking part feels as if they are excited to get the show started.

“We are mentally ready and excited for the show. Physically ready, however, we could use some work”, said Kobe Starr. This mental readiness has provided a way for the show to continue moving and for theater members to create progress.

“I think it’s going really well. I think this is the most prepared for a show that we’ve ever been”, said Jada Strother. Overall, members of the Theatre Association feel quite prepared for what’s to come.

“The show’s going amazing so far. We’ve made great progress with the songs, choreography, and blocking, and the cast as a whole is so talented”, said Esther Taylor. The heart of the cast as well as the talent allows for the rehearsals to feel like they’re moving quickly.

“I love Chicago; it’s fantastic, and everyone in the cast is very funny and cool, and rehearsal is awesome”, said Lulu Swafford. Something that makes rehearsal awesome is their choreographer-- Marc Wayne, as he has been on Broadway many times, including just concluding the show “The Color Purple.”

“We are truly inspired by Marc Wayne knowing that he and we are excited to have advanced dancing on the show, and we are even hoping to win a Blue Star because of it”.



**Auditionees practicing choreography, photographed by Toby Brown**

**Esther Taylor (Left) and Mrs. Xandra Potter Gonzales (Right) demonstrating audition choreography, photographed by Toby Brown**



**Mrs. Lacy Cunningham speaking to the auditionees, photographed by Toby Brown**

While show rehearsals are going well for the members hard at work, there are still some issues and problems that the cast feels are present.

“I’m a bit worried about the cast listening to our director and taking notes. We’ve had a bit of trouble with it, but I’m hoping as we continue with rehearsals that everyone will start to understand the importance of listening to make the show better”, said Esther Taylor.

Despite these feelings of worry from some members of the cast, many other members feel like they are ready. “I don’t know, I’m not really worried much, and I’m most excited for the dancing scenes, Chicago has great dancing scenes”, said Swafford.

The show members are working hard to be able to be fully prepared for opening night, which is on November 13th, and the show runs until November 1th. Before opening night there is an official matinee with the middle schoolers, which students can come to upon invitation.

# Northtown's Notable Alumni

Highlighting some graduates worth a spotlight

By: Adonis Qureshi & Liam Hoke  
Junior Editor Social Media Editor

In honor of the 100th year anniversary of learning at Northtown, these are alumni throughout the years, the year they attended and where they are now.

## Roldofo "Rudy" Reyes

Marine veteran, actor, non-profit owner, and COD WWII character, Rudy Reyes went to Northtown class of 1990. During his years at Northtown they renovated the stadium to what it is now an constructed the track field next to Norclay. In 89 Football won conference champions and Women's Tennis won 3rd in state.

Outside of Northtown, Reyes learned martial arts at 18 and at 26 enlisted in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). After earning 12 medals/commendations and leading over 50 patrols behind enemy lines and saving countless lives, Reyes founded Force Blue. A veteran non-profit that pairs marine scientists with former special operators to rebuild and restore coral reefs. After founding Force Blue, Reyes made his appearance in Call of Duty: Modern Warfare II on October 28th, 2022. Operator Enzo Reyes was modeled and based after Rudy Reyes and his service in the military.



## Mark Patton

Gay icon, ex professional actor and art store owner Mark Patton went to Northtown Class of 1974. During his time at Northtown orchestra and band took the spotlight. Band and orchestra had many concerts through the year, the big one being Christmas concert, "Bach's Magnificent" Marching Band also made their mark performing at Arrowhead Stadium during Pat Bickle's fund-raising game.

Outside of Northtown, Patton was in 11 films and 3 television series throughout his life and fought through a lot of adversity. In 1982 Patton played Joe Qualley in the "Come Back to the Five and Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean" Broadway play, a pre-transition teen transgender woman. But Patton was disallowed by the industry to do an interview with LGBT-interest magazine The Advocate. In 1985 Patton made his biggest appearance in Nightmare on Elm Street 2. Patton played Jesse Walsh marking the first male protagonist of the series. Patton and his character Jesse Walsh gained a following in the LGBTQ community for representation in a mainstream film. Later Patton said he gave up his career in acting after being cast in a CBS series, he would have played a gay character when, "They began to ask me if I would be comfortable playing a gay character and telling people I was straight if they began to question my sexuality. -I walked away from Hollywood and decided to move on to a place where it was totally acceptable to be gay." After almost dying to pneumonia, thrush and tuberculosis Patton moved to Mexico where he met and married Hector Morales Mondragon. Where he and his husband opened and currently operate an art store in Puerto Vallarta.

## Trent Skaggs

Former member of the Missouri House of Representatives, Trent Skaggs went to Northtown class of 1991. In his time at Northtown, he was part of multiple activities throughout the school. He was a member of the student council and even won Mr. NKC his senior year. One big thing Northtown did for Skaggs was help prepare him for his future.

"...Forensics and debate really were helpful in me being able to speak and not be nervous about speaking in front of audiences, and I spent time in the Missouri legislature, and so all of that helped and translated," said Skaggs. Outside of Northtown, Skaggs was a Missouri Representative assuming office in 2002 and leaving in 2010. During his time in office, he sponsored bills that focused on the wellbeing of the community. Now, he's a CEO of a company that owns rural hospitals.

Skaggs' advice for Northtown students is to "Never give up, just keep working the problem."



# Fall 2025 Contributors



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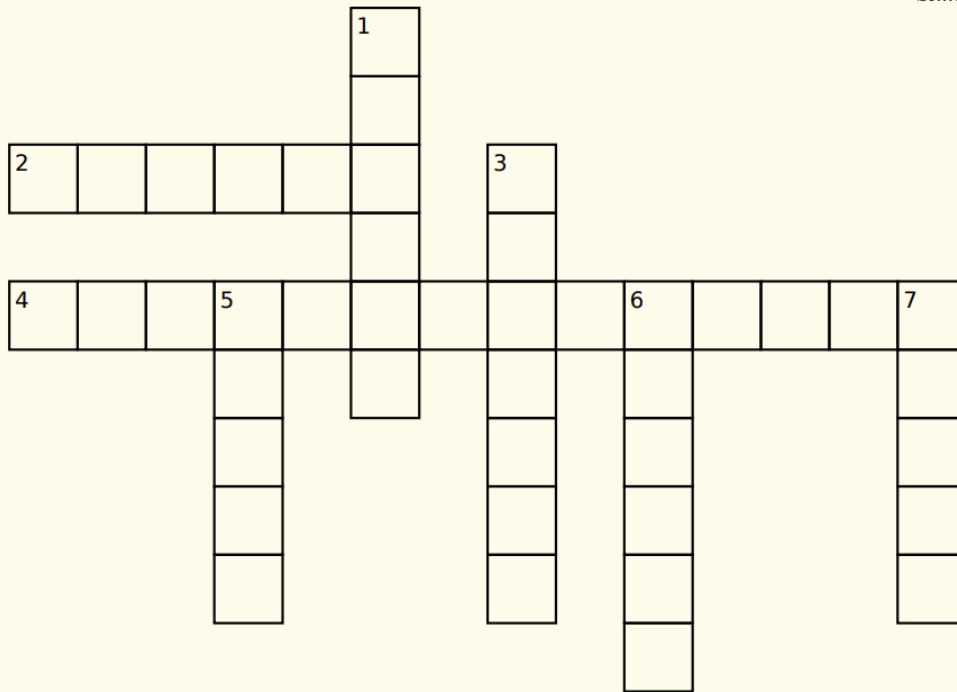
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# The Buzz's

## Fall 2025 Crossword

By: Matilda Whitley  
Senior Editor



**Down:**

**Across:**

1. All my life I wanna be a \_\_\_\_\_!

2. Last name of the head football coach

3. Name of the upcoming fall musical

4. The majorettes' team name

5. The school is a no \_\_\_\_\_ zone

6. The senior captain of the stingers dance team

7. Last name of a brother duo on the football team