

extra WORK

What students did to prepare for standardized tests and college applications

"To prepare myself for the SAT I did More Than a Teacher."



erin glen, 12

"I learned a lot of strategies for the SAT, and it really helped me a lot."



sofia mitre, 12

"I am doing tutoring as well as taking a lot of practice tests."



hayley redding, 11

"I invested my time in art and looked ahead at what I needed to do for my portfolio."



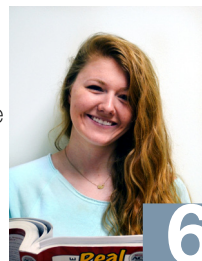
julia caswell, 12

"I took an SAT prep class and worked through both ACT and SAT book programs."



mason sieling, 12

"I prepared for the ACT by going to tutoring twice a week. We did timed practice tests."



maddie mclaughlin, 12

love of the game

Hard work leads to a bright future

by Raina Kishan

Tension seeped through the closed doors of the Lake Travis gym. The Westlake varsity volleyball team was in its fifth game with the Lady Cavaliers, and the last two had gone to overtime. Senior outside hitter Grace Weghorst went up for her 16th kill of the game, and the Lady Chaps sealed a victory with a nail-biting 16-14 win in the final game.

For Weghorst, hard work and intensity were not newfound concepts. She strove for greatness. She wanted Harvard. And Harvard wanted her.

Weghorst began playing volleyball for the West Austin Youth Association in the third grade. Nine years later, her dedication was still unwavering.

"My dad said I wasn't allowed to play football because it was too rough," Weghorst said. "The most popular girls played volleyball, so I decided to try out for WAYA."

An eight-year club player, Weghorst started on varsity her sophomore year of high school. Over the past 10 years, volleyball became her passion and her refuge.

"I've played volleyball for so long it's become my main way to escape the real world," Weghorst said. "You really have to put everything aside when you're on the court."

During sophomore year, Weghorst's dreams began to take shape. She contacted Harvard head volleyball coach Jennifer Weiss, and in no time at all, Weiss came to a Lady Chaps game.

"Harvard has always been a huge dream of mine," Weghorst said. "I've always wanted to go to a school that I thought would push me the most."

Weghorst's career was no cakewalk — she faced several obstacles, many of which she had to play through.

"My biggest setbacks have always been my injuries," Weghorst said. "Just this season, I've had two broken fingers, tendonitis in my elbow, and I have a chronic knee injury called Osteochondritis dissecans. I can't do much about most of these injuries, so I play through it as much as possible."

However, her setbacks seemed to pay off when she received the letter that changed her life forever.

"When I verbally committed, it wasn't actually as big of a deal as most people think. I knew it was coming and nothing felt like it had changed," Weghorst said. "But when I got my official letter, I literally screamed loud enough to make the whole football team, which was about 100 yards away from me, turn around. I definitely cried, too. That was when it really started to feel official."

As excited as Weghorst was for her future, she was determined to lead the Lady Chaps to a successful season.

"Having the chance to go to Harvard is one of the biggest honors of my life," Weghorst said. "Although I can't wait for next year, my focus right now is on Westlake volleyball and getting as far as possible into the playoffs."



crunch time
Skimming through a Stephen F. Austin State University brochure, senior Nik Voelker takes his time at the College Fair on Sept. 25. "The College Fair really opened my eyes and made me see the vast amount of opportunities I have standing right in front of me," Voelker said.

alison bonham



1. barbra gerard 2. alison bonham 3. alison bonham



casey simmons



emma holt

college chat
At the end of the College Fair on Sept. 25, juniors Liam Hanna, Blake Beasley and Andres Gonzalez discuss future plans. "I loved how much information they gave you about the schools," Beasley said.

take note
Searching for the perfect school, seniors Catherine Gonzalez and Cali Capela listen to an Austin College admissions counselor.

&
some
more

"I want to major in Fashion Merchandising and minor in Business. I hope to be a buyer, a personal shopper or own and buy for my own boutique."

cathlyn
jones, 11

"I'd like to major in Business and minor in Political Science at the University of Texas at Austin because I want to be a lawyer."

andrew
laycock, 10

"I want to study engineering because it will open a lot of doors later on in life so that I may be successful."

jake
murphy, 12

"My friends have always told me how good I am at writing. I'd really like to be an English major at Columbia."

charles
bradbury, 10

"I'm really excited about starting down the journalism path. Photos, people, travel and writing ... it was simply a perfect bundle of what I love."

lauren
lardner, 12

"My dream major would be Music Performance because I have always had a passion for it and I hoped I could turn it into a job."

will wright, 10