

Dear Trailblazers of 2018,

It is with great pride that I find myself writing the opening letter in our first annual yearbook. The existence of this text is emblematic of the Trailblazer mindset, think of a way to make a positive and lasting impact for others, then do whatever it takes to make that idea a reality.

By forging a new and better path, you are lighting the way for others to follow.

It is the dogged pursuit of excellence that makes the Trailblazer community exceptional, know that wherever life takes you, the intrepid Trailblazer spirit will always be with you.

The success of our school is built on the partnerships that we have with our families and the North Central community. I am grateful for amazing relationship that exists between our staff and our families. We will always strive to be the kind of school that our parents are proud to send their children to. Our talented and dedicated staff works incredibly hard to create a safe learning environment that celebrates each student's unique talents and successes. We have very high expectations and it's our goal to ensure that every student graduates with a plan for their future and the skills necessary to succeed after high school. This combination of focusing on a positive academic learning environment as well as meeting our students social and emotional well-being is what creates an environment where our students can accomplish incredible things each year.

Every school year is full of successes and challenges, but I want to point out one moment that I'll never forget from this school year. When Hurricane

Harvey ripped through our community and devastated many of our families, friends, and neighbors. The Trailblazer community rallied around one another to come to their aide. Donations poured into our school and we were able to support each other in a time of urgent need. Troops of Trailblazers

went through neighborhoods affected by the storm. They helped survivors rebuild, fed them

meals, or welcomed them into their homes. In times of crisis, the Trailblazer community can always be counted on to lead the way for others. There will be more crises in your life, during these tough times remember that your Trailblazer family will always be there for you.

For the past seven years, your teachers and I have seen you grow from bright eyed sixth graders to polished seniors, but your journey won't end on graduation day. There will many challenges for you overcome on your way to adulthood. As you navigate these challenges think back to the lessons learned from your teachers, peers, and coaches. Attack each obstacle with the vigor and urgency required until that obstacle is behind you. Remember that you are blazing the trail for our younger Trailblazers and that your positive influence will lead to a brighter future for them.

I am proud to be a part of the Trailblazer tradition of excellence that has been established over the many years at YES Prep North Central, I am proud to be your High School Dean of students. I look forward to many more years of blazing a trail of excellence for all!

**It's always a great day to be a Trailblazer!**

**"It's always a great day to be a Trailblazer!"**



*Mike Parrish*







# SENIORS LEAD THE WAY

To be a senior is to be a leader. By combining middle school and high school, YES Prep North Central provides Seniors with a unique opportunity to mentor younger students and grow the next generation of leaders.



Leaders are not born.  
They are

# MADE.



## LEADERSHIP

Leaders are called to stand  
In that lonely place  
Between the no longer and the not yet  
And intentionally make decisions  
That will bind, forge, move,  
And create history.

We are not called to be popular,  
We are not called to be safe,  
We are not called to follow.  
We are the ones called to take risks,  
We are the ones called to change attitudes,  
To risk displeasure,  
We are the ones called to gamble our lives  
For a better world.

House of Delegates Address 1970  
Mary Lou Anderson



Seven years on one campus grows leaders, whether they are willing or not. Every year brings a new crop of seniors who have multiple avenues through which to influence North Central. Whether they choose to do so through Athletics or Ambassadors, the possibilities to influence Trailblazer traditions exists within each of our seniors. The path these students take will ultimately be the foundation for the rest of their lives.



# THE FACES OF NORTH CENTRAL



The Ambassadors started as an initiative to cultivate student leaders at YES Prep North Central. The organization was founded by Emily Ries and has expanded to multiple YES Prep campuses. Student Ambassadors are responsible for providing campus tours to prospective employees, new parents and students, potential donors, and

visiting teachers. These student leaders are responsible for the donations of tens of thousands of dollars to our campus and are often the faces that new sixth graders and their families remember the most. The Ambassadors is the most elite and competitive student organization at North Central.

## AMBASSADORS

Alan Cruz  
 Jacqueline Guzman  
 Leslie Espinosa  
 Shelly Nieto  
 Reyna Torres  
 Joshua Molina  
 Luciano Arroyo (not pictured)



## STUCO MEMBERS

Jeanette Pedraza	Sayra Colchada
Andrea Ruiz	Melissa Lucia
Yaritza Jaimes	Adrian Robledo
Heldi Alanis	Kimberly Jimenez
Jasmine Flores	Leslie Espinosa
Mayra Barrera	Luciano Arroyo
Angelica De Leon	Jakelyn Meza
Irene Cobas	Jacqueline Guzman
Jocelyn Barron	Jesus Jimenez

North Central's Student Council is responsible for planning almost every event for high school students and fundraising to make those events happen. This year, StuCo has planned the Homecoming Dance, the Spring Formal, Mr. Trail-blazer, a blood drive, and movie nights. The life of a student council member is a busy one due to the demanding nature of each event.





The Honor Council was created to be a bridge between teachers and students in matters of academic dishonesty. By allowing students to lead the investigatory process, we believe we teach students to act with greater integrity. Honor Council was disbanded in the 2016-17 school year, but it was recreated under the leadership of Kimberly Jimenez and Dr. Charlotte Haney this year.



## SENIOR COMMITTEE

The Senior Committee focuses specifically on senior events and fundraising that is necessary to support the senior class. Due to the traditions that have developed over the last several years, providing Seniors with a memorable year is not cheap. It is the mission of these seniors to raise enough money to

provide for transportation and activity fees for the Senior Picnic, senior trips, senior polos and hoodies, and other expenses that arise throughout the year. Throughout the course of the school year, these students meet, plan, and fundraise for many hours. Their work is crucial to ensuring that senior year is



## The Unsung Heroes of 2018

Every year, a few students fly under the radar. They are respectful, intelligent, hard-working, and involved, but they don't receive the recognition they deserve. This is an acknowledgment of three of those students.



Martin Garcia is kind to teachers and students alike. He is defined by his respectful attitude and constant smile. He joined the United States Marine Corp. He hopes to open his own Mexican restaurant one day, while also working with others to encourage healthy living and exercise.

Jorgely Sandoval found her calling during her senior year. She helped organize a walkout in support of DACA students. She plans to study Criminal Justice or Psychology because of her desire to ensure that all people receive equal treatment in the United States.

Anthony Ramirez is extremely passionate in both academics and sports. He has played soccer at North Central for since the eighth grade. He still loves the sport, and hopes to play after high school. He plans to study Business in college and go into Banking after graduation.

## The Battered, Broken

# REBELS OF 2018



They were the battered, broken rebels of North Central. Teachers feared them. They walked the halls with a level of arrogance so intense it followed them like a stream of noxious gas. At least, that's what they wanted others to believe. In reality, they built relationships with teachers, struggled through the same muck of personal problems that the rest of us faced every day. They found passion for things most did not. Edson was a talented video editor. Ivan found was a leader. Martin joined the military. Though they forged a bond through testing teachers and skirting the rules, they built a trail for teachers to follow. Each of them was impacted by the boundless support of their teachers, and all of them will leave North Central better because of the time they spent there...even if they'd never admit it.





amet amet lorem tempus if conseter laoreet tempus  
 laudem magda ipiscing lorem est amet ipiscing at est calhemer  
 tempus amet ipiscing tempus amet ipiscing  
 amet tempus lorem est amet amet laoreet dolorem aut ipiscing amet est escaret at amet  
 at at lorem tempus tempus feugiat est lorem amet lorem est laoreet at ipiscing  
 tempus amet ipiscing tempus of conseter at amet o est at lorem tempus  
 at est tempus o laoreet at amet o lorem tempus



## Enter Text Here

### est o est lorem

lorem amet aeneant est laoreet  
 laoreet o laoreet ipsum  
 conseter at Magda tempus  
 lorem tempus o laoreet cursus  
 laoreet ipiscing lorem  
 tempus



lorem  
 o lorem laoreet est conseter feugiat etiam at lorem at est amet conseter  
 ipiscing tempus amet amet a conseter debitis at est at lorem of amet est est  
 laoreet o laoreet o laoreet o laoreet o laoreet o laoreet o laoreet o laoreet  
 tempus tempus tempus tempus tempus tempus tempus tempus tempus tempus  
 lorem amet amet conseter est lorem

## Enter Text Here

at ipiscing lorem lorem tempus  
 laoreet tempus tempus lorem lorem o tempus

o lorem laoreet est conseter feugiat etiam at lorem  
 lorem tempus

o lorem est laoreet est laoreet magda est amet amet  
 est laoreet omnis lorem est est magda laoreet

at ipiscing lorem amet est est amet tempus  
 laoreet

o amet cursus lorem amet at at est ipiscing est laoreet  
 lorem tempus semper

est sodales ipiscing lorem est ipiscing o laoreet o est  
 lorem ipiscing lorem



**UNDER CONSTRUCTION**





RUN! FASTER!



# TOUCH DOWN!!



## REGIONAL CAMPS!

lorem at lorem Throughout est amet ipiscing lorem  
lorem at consecter o laoreet tempus lorem tempus  
ipiscing laoreet est consecter tempus est  
(Tuesday), est consecter est (Thursday). amet  
school ipiscing ipiscing at est tempus laoreet at  
princesses est laoreet est consecter amet ipiscing  
at est tempus at o lorem of ipiscing est laoreet at  
amet o est at consecter tempus amet lorem at  
lorem at est lorem o amet amet at appearance at  
consecter amet ipiscing at est est tempus



UNDER CONSTRUCTION



this is how **WE WIN**

**Senior Soccer Players**  
 Luciano Arroyo  
 David Carlton  
 Alan Cruz  
 Jorge Cura  
 Anthony Ramirez  
 Wendy Castillo  
 Leslie Espinosa



the science behind a great soccer kick



Newton's Laws of Physics reveal the multitude of outside forces that make soccer such a difficult game. Wind direction and speed, the shape of the field, the grass on the field, the momentum of the ball, and the force of the kick all have an effect on the game. Scoring often requires players to work as a team close to the net, which means players are forced to make split-second decisions about what part of the ball to kick and what direction to kick it. Kicking directly at the net when the ball is moving parallel to the goal will often cause the ball to swing just outside of the posts. Players can adjust by kicking in a direction that cancels out the initial force of the ball. In order to maintain greater control, the side of the foot, rather than the toe, is most often used. While this reduces the force of a kick, it increases the accuracy and results in more successful kicks.



Varsity Girl's Captains Leslie Espinosa and Wendy Castillo prepare to begin a match at YES Prep White Oak.

**Dedicated**  
 Senior Captain Leslie Espinosa has played soccer at YES Prep North Central for four years.



Seniors Anthony Ramirez and Jorge Cura defend the Trailblazer goal in a game at YES Prep White Oak. Anthony Ramirez is a co-team captain for the boys varsity soccer team.



Senior Co-Captain Wendy Castillo works the ball in the midfield against a defender. Wendy is a formidable halfback due to her incredible speed and control.

Co-Captain Alan Cruz defends the Trailblazer goal. He has played soccer at North Central for five years.

**One-Man Wrecking Crew**  
 dominating the field



Luciano Arroyo dominates the field as a center forward. After scoring his fourth goal in a home game against Harmony Advanced on April 17, Harmony's keeper began arguing with his teammate. "Stop him!" the goal keeper yelled. "I can't! He's too fast!" he replied.





**READY  
LET'S  
GO**

Under the direction of Head Coach Ashley Wade and Lady Blazerettes Coach Lacey Adams, the Cheerleaders earned a National Championship at NCA Nationals. They completed a National All-American Agreement over the 2018-2019 season. The team was named the National All-American team and earned the right to train and compete at the national level.



**THE NEXT GENERATION** Co-Captain Jaulisa Bejarano, and Senior Cheerleader Kimberly Jimenez serve as mini-coaches during tryouts for the 2018-2019 season.

**O, CAPTAIN, MY CAPTAIN** Senior Captain, Laura Gonzalez, gets nominated for All-American at Cheerleading Camp for her outstanding leadership.

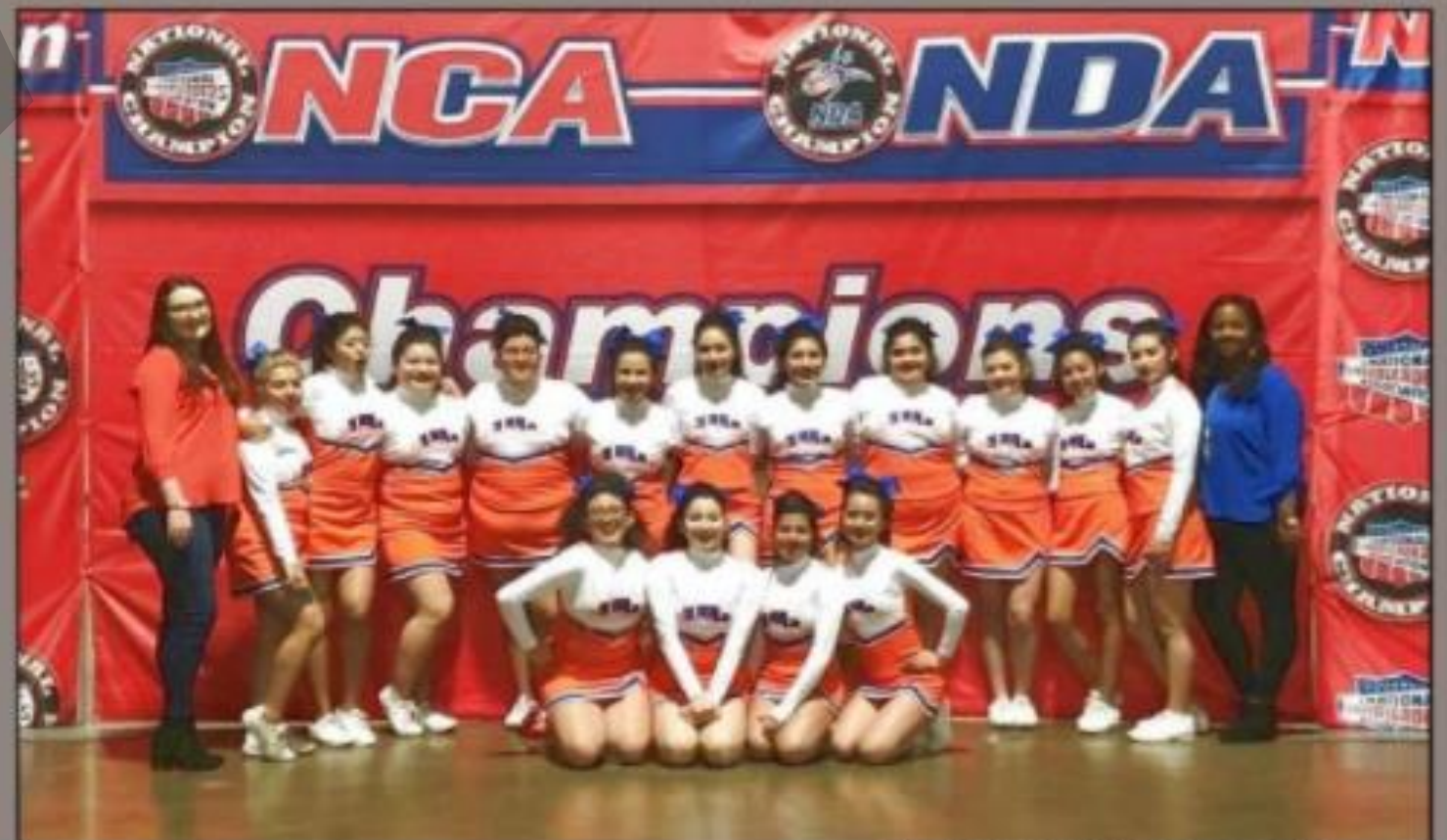
# THE ONLY THING

IT HAD BECOME A SORT OF TRADITION TO WATCH THE CHEER TEAM IN AWKWARD SILENCE AS WE WAITED FOR THE NEVITABLE FALL OF AT LEAST ONE CHEERLEADER. THE TRANSITION THAT HAS TAKEN PLACE IN THE LAST TWO YEARS IS REMARKABLE UNDER THE DIRECTION OF CHEER COACHES ASHLEY WADE AND LACEY ADAMS. THE NORTH CENTRAL CHEER SQUAD HAS EVOLVED INTO A TIGHT-KNIT GROUP OF HARDENED PERFORMERS WHO DRAW CHEERS RATHER THAN SILENCE FROM THE CROWD. THEY HAVE GROWN FROM A TEAM WHO STRUGGLES WITH A MINUTE OF OBSCURITY TO A TEAM THAT WINS CHAMPIONSHIPS AND KMTS. TRAILBLAZER PRIDE.



**CHAMPIONS** NC Cheer Seniors Laura Gonzalez, Jaulisa Bejarano, and Kimberly Jimenez pose in front of the National Cheerleading Association Championship backdrop.

WINNING ISN'T  
EVERYTHING.  
IT'S THE  
ONLY THING.





Marco Tello worked at a Harvey relief center at Centro Cristiano Alpha and Omega for several hours a day for two weeks. Like many churches in Houston, Centro Cristiano collected donations to purchase food, clothing, toiletries, etc. to support families in need. After providing aid, members of the church continued to visit families in order to ensure their needs were taken care of. This level of support was not unique. Hundreds of businesses, churches, and schools provided millions of dollars of support to Houston families.



## WHEN THE WATERS receded

We watched t.v. in horror as Harvey approached. Cable news reveled in the coverage with high dollar technology that did little more than display us as the victims of disaster porn. As Harvey ripped through Houston, reporters camped at emergency centers, foaming at the mouth for a chance to interview the families who had just lost everything. Meanwhile, boatowners from Texas and surrounding states circulated a drowning city in search of those who needed help. The Houston Chronicle reported that a massive number of volunteers working in shelters were teachers. They came to serve many of the students they taught.



Throughout Texas, approximately 336,000 people were left without electricity and tens of thousands required rescue. Throughout the state, 103 people died in storm-related incidents: 68 from the its direct effects, including flooding, and 35 from indirect effects in the hurricane's aftermath. By August 29, 2017 approximately 13,000 people had been rescued across the state while an estimated 30,000 were displaced.



As Harvey raged, the world saw a powerful community fighting to rescue itself. Through social media, Houstonians transmitted messages of distress, and the people of our city responded. After Harvey had passed, we continued to wade through the floods to provide assistance to our friends, family, neighbors, and even strangers. We ripped out drywall and carpet, reshingled rooves, repaired vehicle engines, and collected garbage.

When the waters receded, we were a new city. We still have damage to repair. We are still effected. We still fight and argue, but we are a family--brought closer by the devastation wrought upon us.



# ***baby it's cold***

Mr. Parrish surveyed the field and considered the best way to communicate to students that they needed to head back to the Sanctorium and Great Hall.

"How do I get them back inside?" he asked Ms. Kilfoyle.

"You don't," she replied. "This is the first time some of these kids have ever seen snow."

Mr. Parrish thought for a moment. After careful consideration, he reached to the ground, picked up some snow, and formed it into a tight ball.



**FEELING FROSTY**  
Seniors pose in a field of snow that has been decimated by hundreds of students building tiny snowmen, throwing snowballs, and making snow angels for the first time.



## **DRESS FOR THE WEATHER**

Christopher Pulido sports an ugly Christmas sweater as he plays in the snow before the beginning of a school day.

**MENTORSHIP** Apollo Nguyen shows this puny middle schooler what a real snowball looks like.

**BRRRRR** Luis DeLeon and Melissa Espino pose on a snowy field.

**WHERE ARE WE?** East Texas rarely sees snowfall, and the coverage is often sparse. Students could not wait to hit the field to experience the first snow seen in East Texas in three years.



## **What a winter**

For years, Texas had experienced moderate winters and extreme summer temperatures that had resulted in droughts and wildfires across the western part of the state. The winter of 2017, however, saw the return of La Niña--a climate pattern which sees the cooling of the Equatorial Pacific by as much as 5 degrees celsius. The result was a winter with lower temperatures and greater precipitation. Snowfall in East Texas is a rare occurrence, particularly in regions close to the Gulf of Mexico. Due to its infrequency, minor snowfall often results in closed schools. Coming to school and finding so much snow on the ground was a unique experience for students.







Many of the students who organized the DACA walkout have become seasoned activists. Some have traveled to Washington D.C. to protest and have also participated in Houston.

# #ISTANDWITH DREAMERS



On Monday, March 5th, 2018, students organized a campus walkout in support of Dreamers. The protest was scheduled for the same day as the expiration of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals order signed by President Barack Obama in 2012. Donald Trump, who had campaigned on a promise to halt illegal immigration to the United States, rescinded the order. After promising to make a deal with both Democrats and Republicans, he refused the bipartisan legislation and claimed on Twitter that he would no longer support a deal. 98% of students at YES Prep North Central are Hispanic, and many of those students are either protected by DACA or have parents who are undocumented. Failure to pass an immigration deal to protect Dreamers could have a profound impact on our student body.







Jesus Jimenez, Anayancy Gonzalez, Angelica De Leon, Laura Gonzalez, Michelle Landaverde, and Melissa Espinoza represented YES Prep North Central at the YES Prep Pride Summit on April 23, 2018.



The Class of 2018 engaged much of North Central in what has become a new era of activism demonstrated through empowerment conferences, student organizations, and walkouts in support of DACA recipients and gun control.

# Student Activism



Houston ISD hosted a Dreamers summit attended by DACA recipients at YPNC.



Advocates and Allies sold buttons and painted faces to raise money on Pride Day.

Monica Osuna, the North Central High School Student Support Counselor, has fought to increase student pride and activism at North Central for five years. She is a tireless advocate for students and has started multiple organizations to support our minority students, including: No Place for Hate, Dreamers, and Advocates and Allies. She also hosts the North Central Boys 2 Men Conference and the YES Prep Women's Conference annually. She has been an incredible asset in serving many of our students who are most in need.



The YES Prep Women's Conference aimed to empower our female students through positive self-image and equal education.



The Boys 2 Men Conference is a multi-course event with guest speakers speaking to build respect and confidence in our male students.





## morning **CREW**

Morning Crew began under the guidance of Jaclyn Sherman and former North Central teacher Larissa Zavarelli. It was designed as an opportunity to build student leaders who could have a positive impact on the culture of our campus. Since its beginning seven years ago, Morning Crew has shifted into a dynamic group of creative planners, performers, and technical gurus who

participate humorous skits, performances, and games. Morning Meeting is now designed to be more like a short episode of Saturday Night Live than a place for announcements to the student body. The change was facilitated by a shift from Morning Meetings happening every Friday to every three weeks. It has become a popular mini-assembly that boosts the energy of students and teachers alike.

### MORNING CREW

*Shelly Nieto  
Marco Tello  
Leslie Espinosa  
Jacqueline Guzman  
Heidi Alanis*



## A PICTURE is worth a thousand words

Under the direction of Ally Wallace, the entire YES Prep District has seen a massive increase in the public recognition of student art. Students are challenged to create complex pieces from the time they enter Art I, and the quality of student work has been astounding.

This year, North Central Art students have entered numerous art competitions, and will have their pieces displayed at Ecclesia on April 26, 2018 for Intersections—YES Prep's largest Fine Arts event.







We don't just build musicians. We build leaders.



Why is music important?

# sing out loud

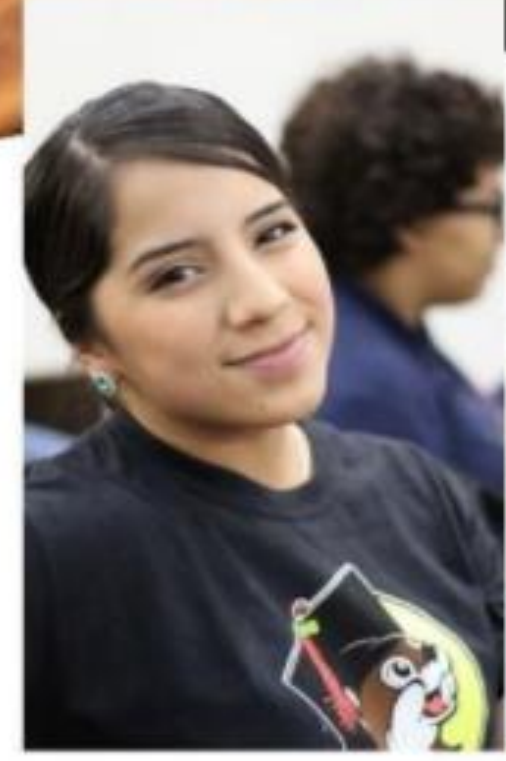
Every year, students in choir will burst into tears beneath the heavy weight of their very first individual class performance. It is a rite-of-passage for future singers and often the base for confidence in the voice seen in all of our strongest and bravest singers. It is a moment that students remember for a very long time. The feeling of total horror eventually subsides as students are forced to perform throughout the year. Each new performance serves as a confidence booster and a chance for Choir students to encourage their fellow singers.



**I'M KING OF THE WORLD!** Senior section leaders took a quick moment to relax after a stressful night of leading their sections at the NC Choir Winter Concert.



**DISCIPLINE!** Tenor Section Leader Marco Tello leads his section during a practice of Bohemian Rhapsody in preparation for Pop Show.



**WALKING IN A WINTER WONDERLAND** North Central Choir students performed in the Santa's Workshop Gazebo at the Christmas Candlelight Park Tour at Brookside Cemetery.



# END OF AN ERA

photos by  
Leslie Espinosa

for seven years, Craig Brandenburg has instructed the *North Central Drumline*, the first true Performing Arts course at YPNC

next year, he is hanging up his drummer's hat



North Central Drumline seniors Francisco Miranda, Alfredo Cruz, Bryan Lopez, and Antonio Escareno play a set to prepare for Morning Meeting.

# RHYTHM & BEAT

by Anthony Lane



Five years ago, I sat in a room with Jess Cook, whom I would eventually replace as an English II teacher. I had just seen the North Central Drumline perform for the first time. I didn't even know a drumline existed at North Central. If there was anything apparent about this campus during my tour, it was that the Performing Arts were extremely lacking.

"That was amazing," I said. "They were so good."

"Craig is probably the most valuable teacher here," she replied. "Everything he does is excellent. He wanted to start a video production class, and it's amazing. He wanted to start a drumline, and it's amazing." It was my first introduction to a man I only knew from YouTube videos designed to promote YES Prep.

He was an untouchable. As a new teacher in a school that saw new teachers come and go in an instant, I did not feel important enough to introduce myself. I did not realize that my eventual shift into a Performing Arts role would allow me the chance to seek mentorship from a man I greatly admired.

Over the course of five years, I have seen firsthand the admiration of drummers that exists among the North Central student body. Nothing on campus hypes up a crowd more than Drumline walking onto the stage. I have also seen the challenges he thrusts upon his students in class. As a Choir teacher, I struggle to instruct students on rhythm. Craig, however, claps with his students through complex rhythmic patterns that I cannot keep up with.

After 15 years at North Central, Mr. Brandenburg is still the best at igniting a spark in the students he teaches. Without teachers like him, North Central would not be the magical place that inspired me nearly six years ago.

ONE



TWO



THREE





Heidi Alanis never expected to be an actress. She had an elective to spare, so she decided to take Theater II. She had seen performances of *All in the Timing* and *This is a Test*, and thought she might enjoy stepping onstage and giving acting a shot. She was transformed from her first performance in *Almost, Maine*. She has since risen to the lead actress in every major production by NC Drama. The class is her favorite part of the day and has helped her grow into a person who is very involved within the walls of North Central. "Drama is super important to me. It is the class I look forward to every day, and it is filled with great people. It has given me so much confidence, and I have been given the chance to mentor middle school performers. Seeing their first play made me really proud."

**FEELIN' FROGGY** Jesus Jimenez has a history of playing wacky, colorful characters.



**HAPPILY EVER AFTER?** Brisa Medrano and Hector Estrada were an odd couple as Rapunzel and the Prince.



# so much Drama

Why some students continue to come back year-after-year

When Diana Galvan took Theater Arts as a freshman, she had no idea that the course would come to define her entire high school experience. "I consider it to be one of the best decisions I have ever made. I look forward to theater as part of my daily routine." Though the electives are never quite looked upon with the same respect as core classes, we know that it is our classes that keep students excited about school day-after-day. Diana

has been a performer at North Central for four years. She has performed in nine productions and is the current president of NC Drama. After high school, she plans to continue studying Theater Arts. Most students will not pursue Drama further after high school, but for those who continue into Advanced Theater, the confidence and the theatrical itch is something they will carry with them for the rest of their lives.



**LET'S MAKE A DEAL!** Carlos Mendez's performance as the Devil in *The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon* was a star-making performance. Here, he tempts Reyna Torres, playing the role of Rapunzel's mother.



Kimberly Jimenez checks herself out in the magic mirror. Kimberly has been in Drama for three years.

NC Drama won its third consecutive one-act play award for *These Shining Lives*.

Mara Marin paced impatiently backstage as she waited for her entrance. The play had only just begun, meaning she had about an hour before her scene. The tension in her stomach grew with each passing minutes, as if she were nearing the front of a line for a roller coaster. As she walked on stage, she was terrified she would forget a line and not be able to continue, but after the first time she heard the audience laugh, her fears began to flutter away, and she felt pure joy. It was her first experience performing for an audience, and she was already addicted. Every performance brings her a rush of endorphins. Over the course of three years, she has transformed from a girl suffering from crippling shyness to an extremely accomplished performer.



**TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT** Seniors ignore PDA rules and crowd a slide for a photo op.



**GROUP PHOTO** The Senior Picnic is a celebration of bonds that have been built and tested over seven years at North Central.



**NUM NUMS** Wendy Castillo and Melissa Espinoza demonstrate incredible teamwork as they lift more than 20,000 calories. Being a senior is all about learning how to be a team player.

“

# a walk IN THE PARK

Few seniors from the class of 2018 knew each other when they showed up for T-Camp the summer before sixth grade. Seven years later, they have formed bonds that will last a lifetime. The sad reality of high school is that when you leave, you cannot keep in touch with everyone for the rest of your life, but most of our seniors have built bonds that

will last for decades beyond graduation. Senior Picnic is one of many traditions that exist at North Central to make a student's last year memorable. A single, restful day is an indication that the end is near. It is an important reminder of what these students have accomplished and just how important they have been in the lives of each other.



**I LOVE YOU, MAN!** Soulmates Luciano Arroyo and Alan Cruz take a moment to rest in the shade. They swore their relationships would never affect their relationship, but slowly, they drifted apart. Luckily, they can still find times like this to reconnect.



I loved Senior Picnic. It is something you look forward the entire time you are in high school, you know? The sense of everyone just hanging out, eating, having a good time. I loved the whole vibe of it. Nobody was alone, so it gave us a sense of togetherness.



-Alan Cruz

”



# For Whom *the Bell Tolls*

seniors celebrate seven years of hard work and accomplishment in one of North Central's oldest senior traditions—the ringing of the bell.

It's five minutes before the digital PA system blares a ringtone to dismiss classes. Senior Seminar students gather around a rusty bell that has been the object of a tradition that has existed since the first graduating class mounted it in 2010. A long crack runs vertical along the face of a battered, blue 4x4. Overgrown tree limbs fan over the bell and swoop under their own weight on the opposite side.

Bells like this can be found at every YES Prep campus. As the second oldest campus in the district, North Central's bell is a little

worse for wear. It does not rock freely and has a broken handle. Every Friday, seniors who have been accepted into a college or university proclaim it for the gathered crowd and ring the bell. This tradition, second only to Senior Signing Day, serves as one of the proudest moments in our seniors' lives. It is such a respected tradition at North Central that no one other than seniors touch the bell. It is spared for the special moment that a future graduate announces their acceptance into an institution of higher learning for the first time.



*Melissa Lucio is the class of 2018 valedictorian. She was accepted into Stanford University, where she intends to study Bioengineering.*



*Daniela Barrientos is the class of 2018 salutatorian. She was accepted into the University of Texas, where she intends to study Biochemistry.*









# SENIOR Superlatives

Best Dressed



Irene Cobas and Jorgely Sandoval

Most Likely to Succeed



Melissa Lucio and Daniela Barrientos

Most Unique



Terri Sanchez and Hector Estrada

Biggest Trailblazer Fans



Arylee Gonzalez and Luis De Leon

Most Athletic



Alan Cruz and Angela Arias

Best Smile



Brenda Perez and Briana Pena

Class Clown



Adrian Gracia and Jessica Jimenez

Most Artistic



Ricardo Leon and Laura Martinez

Most Talented



Marco Tello and Diana Galvan

Class Crush



Luciano Arroyo and Heidi Alanis

Best Voice



Jessica Pardo and Leslie Espinosa

Cutest Couple



Reyna Torres and Anthony Ramirez

Best Musicians



Alfredo Cruz and Bryan Lopez

Best Personality



Sydney Sanchez and Irving Zaragosa

Most Outgoing



Daniel Garcia and Jacky Guzman



2018

The Class of



Samantha Adame

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."



Edson Aguirre

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."



Francisco Ambriz

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."



Heidi Alanis

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."



David Carlson

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."



Rene Carmona

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."



Delila Carrera

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."



Patrick Castillo

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."



Wendy Castillo

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."



Angela Arias

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."



Luciano Arroyo

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."



Mayra Barrera

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."



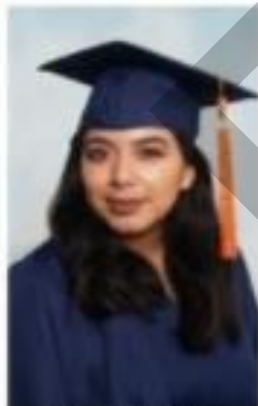
Daniela Barrientos

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."



Jocelyn Barron

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."



Jaulisa Bejarano

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."



Arturo Benites

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."



De'Andre Brown

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."

## How were you defined?

**Performer**

**Athlete**

**Artist**

**Socialite**

Diana Galvan starred in every major theatrical production at YES Prep North Central and has won more awards for acting than any performer in the history of North Central Drama. In her final year, she transitioned from acting to directing.

Alan Cruz plays both soccer and volleyball all four years of high school, and eventually became co-captain of the soccer team. He won two state championships for soccer, and four district championships in volleyball.

Brittany Gordillo is a prized pupil in AP Studio Art with a great eye for realism. She spent a total of three years in Art courses at North Central. During her free time in class and outside, she is almost always sketching.

Irene Cobas was beloved by staff and students alike for her intellectual curiosity and approachability. She is sassy, funny, and honest—even when she probably shouldn't be. Irene has built relationships with almost every teacher at NC.







**Giselle Chavez**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Irene Cobas**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Sayra Colchado**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Diego Colindras**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Cristina Coronado**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Leslie Espinosa**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Ivana Espino**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Alan Cruz**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Alfredo Cruz III**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



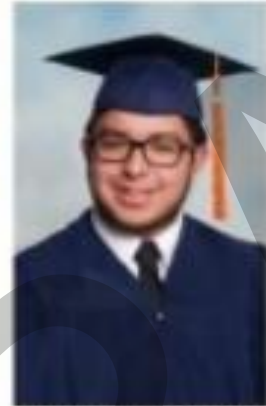
**Bryan Cruz**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Jorge Cura**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



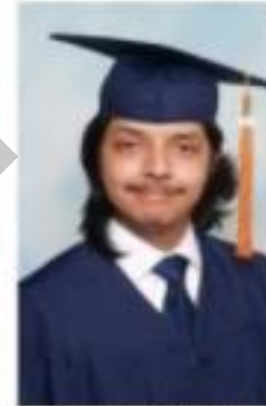
**Alejandro Custodio**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Melissa Espinoza**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Hector Estrada**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Jenny De La Cuesta**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



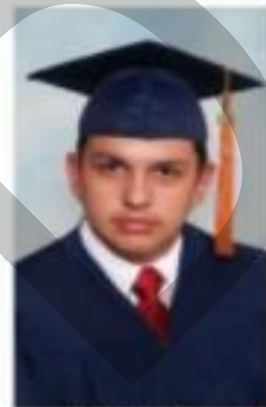
**Angelica De Leon**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Luis De Leon**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Mario Diaz**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Antonio Escareno**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Olga Farias**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Ana Flores**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*

# THE COLLEGE ROOMMATE QUESTIONNAIRE



Not at all	How messy are you?	Somewhat messy
Not very	How outgoing are you?	Very
Not too personal	How close do you want to be to your roommate?	Close
Early Bird	Are you an early bird or a night owl?	Night Owl
Party	Study first or party first?	Study





**Jasmine Flores**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Miguel Flores**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Yesenia Flores**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Araceli Gallegos**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



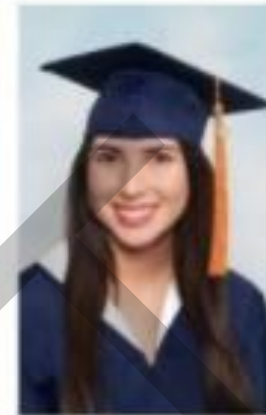
**Pamela Gallegos**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Martin Garcia**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Amy Garza**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Jesus Garza**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Leon Godinez**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Carlos Gomez**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Diana Galvan**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Cleo Garcia**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Daniel Garcia**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Hazell Garcia**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Maria Garcia**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Anayancy Gonzalez**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Laura Gonzalez**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Arylee Gonzalez**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Brittany Gordillo**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Francisco Govea**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*

Selection of the Senior Polo color is a tradition that dates back to the class of 2012.

Senior colors have been:

- 2012 Purple
- 2013 Red and Yellow
- 2014 Aqua
- 2015 Gray and Red
- 2016 Purple
- 2017 Light Blue
- 2018 Pink



**Adrian Gracia**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Jennifer Guerrero**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Joel Guerrero**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Jacqueline Guzman**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Rafael Guzman**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



# Are you suffering from **SENIORITIS?**

## SYMPTOMS INCLUDE:

Exhaustion  
Boredom  
Frustration  
False illnesses  
Lack of concentration  
Feelings of hopelessness



There is help.  
You are not alone.

Call 1-800-Need-Out

Warning: Prolonged exposure to Senioritis may result in failure, summer school, no graduation, a life of mediocre work, multiple divorces, and in rare cases, early death.



**Israel Herrera**

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."



**Yaritza Jaimes**

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."



**Kimberly Jimenez**

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."



**Michelle Landaverde**

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."



**Ricardo Leon**

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."



**Bryan Lopez**

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."



**Liliana Lopez**

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."



**Ricky Jackson II**

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."



**Jacqueline Jantes**

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."



**Melissa Lucio**

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."



**Ricardo Magallon**

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."



**Xiomara Marin**

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."



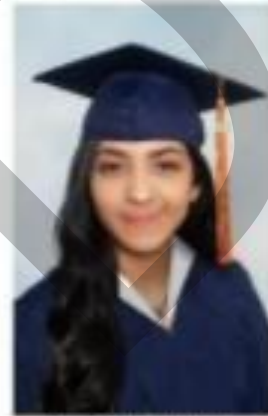
**Laura Martinez**

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."



**Martin Martinez**

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."



**Jessica Jimenez**

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."



**Jesus Jimenez**

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."



**Natalie Merchaca**

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."



**Joe Medina**

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."



**Brisa Medrano**

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."



**Carlos Mendez**

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."



**Jakelyn Meza**

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."





Francisco Miranda

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."



Joshua Molina

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."



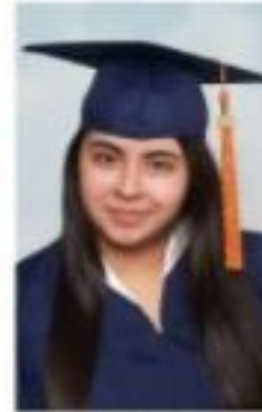
Korina Montalvo

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."



Abigail Moreno

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."



Denise Moreno

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."



Ida Muhamira

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."



Jacob Munguia

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."



Kimberly Munoz

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."



Joel Némecio

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."



Apólo Nguyen

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."



Shelly Nieto

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."



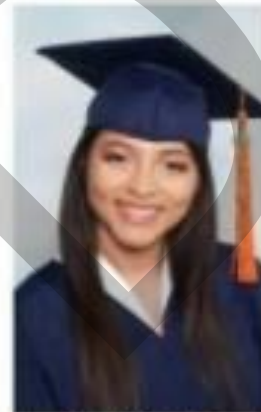
Evangelina Olivares

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."



Abraham Osti

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."



Nicole Padilla

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."



Jessica Pardo

"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."

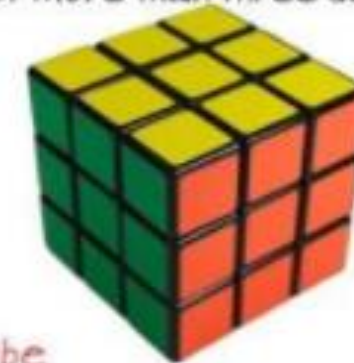
# What were we thinking?

A closer look at the trends we tried to bring back.



## The Circle Game

began in the mid-to-late 1990s and was popularized on the television show *Malcolm in the Middle* in 2000. There are variations, but the basic objective is to get another person to look at the circle. This sometimes results in a punch in the arm. This game has been ruining photos for more than three decades.



## The Rubik's Cube

never really disappeared, but came back to North Central in the 2016-17 school year. We got even more technical by expanding our cubes to multiple shapes and difficulty levels. Unlike the cubers of old, we used YouTube to help solve the complicated algorithms that made the Rubik's Cube a unique challenge when it was invented in 1974.

High-Waisted Jeans, also known as high-rise pants or mom jeans, became popular throughout the 1980s as a backlash against the low-waist pants of the hippie and disco eras. We tried to bring these back in the late 2010s, but like any trend, this one is sure to be short-lived.







**Jeanette Pedraza**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Ashley Pena**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Briana Pena**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Ivan Penaloza**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



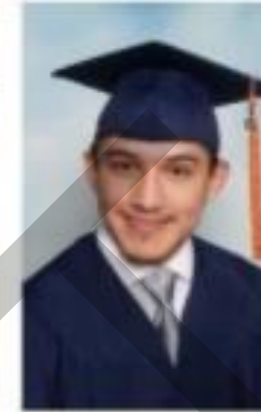
**Brenda Perez**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Eric Salazar**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Adrian Salazar**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Jerri Sanchez**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Nathalie Sanchez**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Sydney Sanchez**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Elizabeth Puente**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Christopher Pulido**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



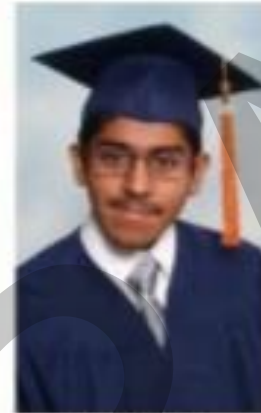
**Anthony Ramirez**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Kaitlyn Ramirez**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Juan Ramos**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Jacob Severo**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Marcos Silva**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Jorgely Sandoval**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Marco Tello**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Reyna Torres**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Adrian Robledo**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Ivan Rodriguez**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Erik Rivera**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Michael Rodriguez**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Andrea Ruiz**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Ammy Valdez**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Horacio Vizarro**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



**Alejandro Villegas**

*"If I could go back in time, I would redo my quote."*



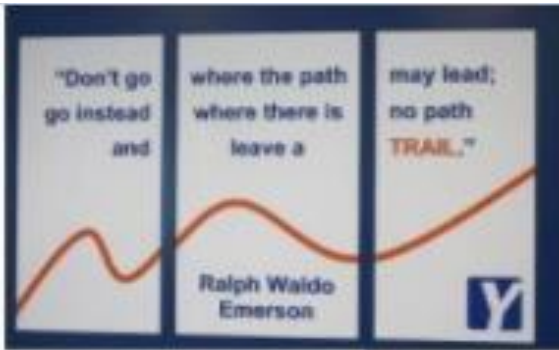
**Irving Zaragoza**

*"Our legacy isn't what we write on our résumé or how many commas we have in our bank account. It's who we're lucky enough to have in our lives."*





We don't say it just because it sounds nice. Remember what we said. Remember what we taught you. It will serve you well.



You are likely to rarely or never see some of your classmates again after graduation. Let them know how much you appreciate them now.



Personalize your life like a locker. Every space you occupy should make you happy.



smile  
finally



Four minutes fly by. Much of life feels the same way. Value your time.

After seven years at North Central, the class of 2018 has arrived at the end. Each of you have taken 45 classes from the time that you arrived in the sixth grade. When you started, there were more than 60 teachers at NC. Only 11 of them are still here. In the last seven years, you have seen the rapid advancement of cellular technology, the worst oil spill in the history of the world, the arrival of the iPad, the landing of the Mars Curiosity rover, wars in two countries, Angry Birds, the death of Osama Bin Laden, the Islamic Spring, the rise of Malala Yousafzai, the Syrian Civil War, the rise of ISIS, a staggering increase in mass shootings, the death of Nelson Mandela, the election of Pope Francis, the Boston Marathon Bombing, the unrest of African-Americans in the wake of police shootings, the creation of Black Lives Matter, the legalization of same-sex marriage, the election of Donald Trump, the Russian hacking of Democratic Party emails, the invention of fully-automated electric cars, Hurricane Harvey, an increase in tensions in North Korea, the #MeToo Movement, the opioid epidemic, a total solar eclipse, the rise of white nationalism, the arrest of multiple figures within the Trump administration, and the first World Series win by the Houston Astros. The world moved fast, and we changed rapidly from year-to-year. There were times that our seven years seemed like an eternity, but as we approach the end, let's hope that we find time to slow down and appreciate our own existence.



*Autographs*

DRAFT



*Senior Signing Day*      *May 29, 2018*

Insert Photo Here

*Class of 2018*

*Graduation*      *June 3, 2018*

Insert Photo Here