

first day

It's a lot to come back to school after ten weeks of summer vacation.

FRENZY

• • • • August 16 — The first day of school begins for the Lancer community. The morning air is filled with nervousness and excitement, and students run around school finding their friends, choosing lockers, and checking out the location of their classes. For the upperclassmen this also includes finding a good parking spot. To kick off the day, the school body joined together for a back to school assembly held on the football field. Before them, President **JASON CURTIS** spoke words of encouragement and wisdom: "It's really nice to see all of our students in one place; we don't always get to do that. It's really important that everybody gets to see each other." Meeting on the field on the first day is a fairly new tradition that began after the COVID-19 pandemic. The gathering ended with a prayer led by **SISTER JODI MIN** and a small group of students. Just as the first bell of the year rang, the student body was dismissed to attend their first classes of the year. The once-a-year schedule meant students stayed in each period for only ten minutes. These short periods gave teachers a chance introduce themselves and foster community. The rush in the air from students running to their classes every ten minutes was a feeling present only on the first day of school. Though the first day may

seem hectic from afar, **CURTIS** explains how he stays completely present throughout the day: "I actually don't touch my email at all on the first day. It's really just being with students and educators and parents. It's about talking to and welcoming the students back." Following the periods came a brief lunch for all but the freshmen, and students got pictures taken for their IDs. Luckily for the freshmen, they took these pictures the day before, so they were able to leave school early to prepare for their second day of high school the next day.



[1] Syllabus Shenanigans **ANDREW BROWN** talks his sophomore religion class through the year's syllabus on the first day of school. **[2] Greetings from the Guard** Color guard performs to a crowd full of students on the football during the first assembly of the year. The team had trained and choreographed their performance during Band Camp in the summer. **[3] Walking to the Welcome** Before the first day of school officially starts, **HILLARY CHANG '25, SEBASTIAN BAGALSO '25, DEVYN PONNUVELU '25** walk to the football field for the Welcome Assembly. *photos by michele tjinpitjoen*

LIVE, LAUGH, lanyards

Students and educators describe how they remember to wear their lanyards.

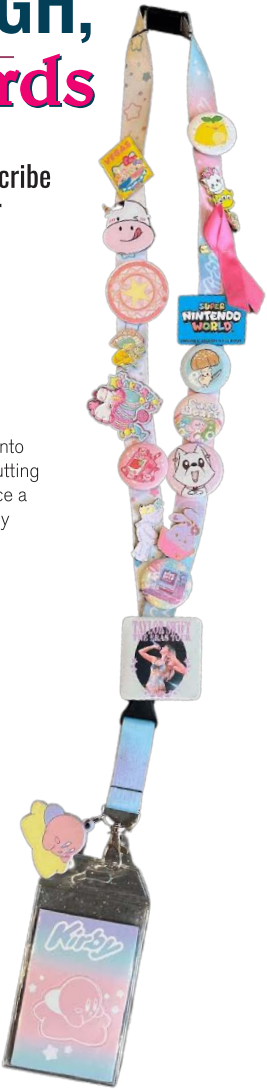
"I like to believe that I took the new rules to heart, by putting it on and never taking it off."
- **CHRISTOPHER HAN '24**

"I remember my lanyard by putting it into my backpack after school and then putting it on when I get to school. At least once a week I forget to put my lanyard into my bag. My strategy is very bad."
- **KAYLA MEAD '26**

"I leave it in my car. That way I never I take it into the house and lose it. I put it in my car at 3:30 after my clubs and then pick it up in the morning."
- **ARNAV BHARDWAJ '25**

"Lanyards are old news. I was wearing them first; I've been wearing one for years. It's how I don't lose my keys."
- **SASHA ORTEGA**

"If I hear the clanking of all my pins around my neck, I know I've got my lanyard with me."
- **CHRISTINE JOY GATUS '27**



"I think that it should be Conrad and not Jeremiah."
- **SOPHIA FISHER '27**

"I think the first season was better."
- **SYDNEY CHUA '25**

"I think that Belly should really just focus on her life and not mess up the relationship between the brothers."
- **AKSHARA PANCHUMARTHI '26**

"I spent the entire time having so much second hand embarrassment for Belly."
- **ANNMAY ANTONY '24**

SEASON TWO OF "THE SUMMER I TURNED PRETTY" GOT **a lot** OF TALK THIS SUMMER. **WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS?**

"I slept through it. Season 2 was boring."
- **AKHIL MAMNANI '25**

"I was satisfied with the ending."
- **JOHN KUSALO '27**

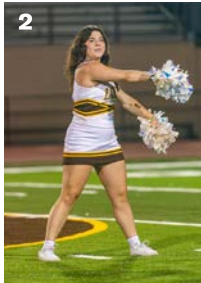
"Personally, I am Team Jeremiah, and I think that Belly is the problem."
- **ASHLEY HENDERSON '26**

"I wasn't a huge fan of Skye being in the show, and it was a tough time for Team Conrad, but it still was a drama-filled season and exuded summer to me."
- **SEMIRA ARORA '25**

kick-off BARBIE-Q

Drenched in pink, football fans celebrate the first game of the season with a delicious meal.

The kick-off barbeque was filled with food, football, fun, and pink! For a school whose colors are brown and gold, pink may be an unexpected color to see at a football game, but fans were decked out from head to toe, glittery outfits and shirts that said "Kenough", inspired by Greta Gerwig's hit summer movie "Barbie." As families sat down to eat various concession stand foods, the Pom Squad performed in the background. Face paint and a bouncy house added to the fun of the evening. When the kick-off neared, large masses of pinked-out families flocked to the stands. Pink may be a fun color, but in this case it didn't prove to be a lucky one as the game ended in a loss to Helix High School.



[1] Cheering for the Players The Rage Cage gets rowdy during the first football game of the year. Everyone in the stands gets hyped for a good start to the season. **[2] Posing with Poms** **LUCY D'ERRICO '24** on the Pom Squad dances during halftime to "Break Your Heart" by Taio Cruz. *photos by abhijit nambiar*

Lancer leaders on RETREAT

Students share their experiences on the student leader retreat.

"My favorite part of the retreat was being able to get to know the student leaders and even moderators a little better"
- **CHRISTIAN CHIFAN '24**

"The funniest part of the retreat was definitely the no-talent talent show. Our performance was super funny! We were doing a cheer-dance thing and we got George Jelly to join, which was hilarious."
- **MOLLYANN CAULFIELD '27**

"The retreat place had a sign on the door that said, 'Pray for the people that come after you' and I thought that was really cute."
- **SLOANE SWENSON '27**

"We understood our goals for Saint Francis, which was to spread leadership and make it contagious. Having this retreat at the start of the school year set the tone for the future of our school."
- **AVA GRACE SANCHEZ '24**

RALLY of the rookies

Freshmen get a taste of true Lancer spirit at the freshmen orientation rally.



[1] First Day as a Lancer The freshmen class ended their orientation singing the Alma Mater for the first time with **EVAN PASION**. It immersed them in Lancer culture, a welcome feeling now that the nerve-wracking application process was behind them. Often seen from a glance as long presentations, learning how to use iPads, and awkward icebreakers, Freshmen Orientation is really an opportunity to experience life as a Lancer. For example, they met their Family Club student mentors, who will guide them through their first year in their advisory classes and give them advice. **FRANCESCA BESSETTE '27** said

"it forced people to make new friends, but in a good way. My advisory group left me feeling so much more confident that I would have fun at Saint Francis than before I had met with them." **[2] Freshmen Fire** The freshmen's first rally of many took place before the school year officially started, during their orientation. They were taught the notorious cheers used at rallies and football games. **FRANCESCA BESSETTE '27** said she enjoyed the rally: "I liked the dodgeball game because it was the first time we really got to root for and support our new classmates. It felt like we were all one big family." *photos by michele tjinpitjoen*