



Small Pain, Huge Gain. Josey Carlson, '19 gives blood while best friend, Emma Heinisch, '19 holds her hand in support. Carlson has donated ever since she was able to. "It was my fifth time donating and it definitely still hurt, but Emma was there to comfort me. I donate because my pain that lasts for 10 minutes saves three lives," said Carlson.

Wear Your *Heart* on Your Sleeve

Students Discuss Importance of Participation in Blood Donation

"I help with blood drive because it goes to a good cause and saves a lot lives, and it's fun too! You meet a bunch of new people and get to work with them. Just knowing you're making a difference in someone's life by giving blood is a great way to give back," senior **C.J. Busch** said.

Science club members put time and effort into the blood drive even when they can't donate themselves. "I haven't donated blood before because I've always been too young; I think blood and organ donation are vital to our society so I don't see why anyone who could donate wouldn't," junior **Emma Bernick** said.

Others like senior **Gage Coghill** take part in both helping to organize West High blood drive and donating at it. "I donate because I've heard stories about people needing the blood, so I personally want to help. It's a good feeling knowing you contribute to that. Helping organize the blood drive makes me feel better because I'm a part of it. I'm a part of doing good in the school and the community," Coghill said.

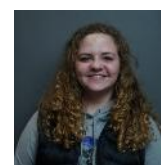
Without blood donations approximately 4.5 million Americans could die each year and just one pint of blood can save up to three lives. "I donate because when my brother was younger he needed a blood transfusion," junior **Megan Peek** said, "I know it helps saves lives."

There's always a huge need for blood, sometimes even for friends and family, "I donate because since I was little my family has always dealt with medical problems, so I thought it'd be nice to give back. Later on in life I might not have that chance. Having the ability to save lives gives me another purpose," junior **Makayla Covey** said.

Whether you're helping to organize and run West's blood drive or physically giving blood, what matters is saving lives, "I think at the end of the day it's like we did a good thing today and we had fun while doing it," Busch said.



C.J. Busch



Emma Bernick



Gage Coghill



Megan Peek



Makayla Covey

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Selfless Donor.

West security guard Junior Hernandez participates in the 2017 blood drive. He kept his positive attitude and high energy throughout his donation. "It's not about what you get, it's about what you give, and that's why I donate," Hernandez said.

Learn to Give.

Kylie Howell, '20 stands by while occasional sub Mr. Wulf donates. Even though he doesn't work here, Wulf still had the courtesy to donate. "The teachers come by during their day and just go right back to class after donating, I think it's cool that they take time out of their work day to donate," Howell said.



Dating and Donating.

Taylor Ross, '19 comforts her boyfriend, Laquan Williams '19 during the blood drive. They decided to donate together as a couple. "He had to lay down for two hours because he thought he was going to pass out. This was his second time donating, but the first time he donated he was fine," said Ross.

Clotting and Stopping.

Reagan Honts, '18 smiles during her donation. Although she looked happy at the time, she didn't have the best experience. "During the December blood drive my blood clotted and we had to stop the donation," said Honts.



Doubling Up.

Austin Richards, '18 participates in the 2017 December blood drive. the December drive was his second time donating doubles. "My experience with doubles is pretty similar to singles. I do doubles because I know I can. It's about saving other people's lives, so I do it to give as much as I can," Richards said.



2nd Time's a Charm.

Trevor Burkhart, '18 is shaky while donating this time. He was one of many that had bad reactions. "My first experience donating wasn't the best, but I decided to give it another try. I enjoyed helping to save other people's lives," Burkhart said.

Calming Quack.

Nancy Le, '19 loves giving back anyway she can. Le got along well with her nurse and made the experience more bearable. "The worker knew that I was super nervous even though it was my third time so she gave me a rubber duck to help calm me down," Le said.



Science Club OR Blood Drive Club?

"What we do is basically plan the blood drive and help the Mississippi Blood Drive people with the donors. I think we tried out a lot of different science-related activities, but the blood drive ended up being what we were best at," said sophomore **Mason Dunn**. Science Club, headed by teachers Amy Jensen and Renne Leitz, is responsible for organizing the Blood Drive.

"I didn't even know that blood drive was a part of science club, but I still would've participated in blood drive if I knew that it was part of science club," junior **Jenna Dougherty** said. It's not a well-known fact that science club is the group responsible for running the blood drive. It's often the common thought that Blood Drive is it's own organization. "I think a couple years in the past we did more science-related activities, but Mrs. Leitz and Mrs. Jensen still do a good job of getting us organized and stepping up if the other teacher can't oversee the club," said Dunn.

Science Club



Front: Jenna Dougherty, Megan Peek, Gracie Gutierrez, Tayla Pulse **Middle:** Mary Baril, Kylie Howell, Jordyn Driscoll, Bree McMahon, Shayla Cooper **Back:** Alexa Glandon, Mason Dunn, CJ Busch, Gage Coghill, Kevin Masterson, Katie Melville



Mason Dunn



Jenna Dougherty