

DRIVING SOLO

Slick roads coated with ice, slush-filled turns, vision-impending snowfalls. Those can be terrifying or just intimidating, especially for new drivers. Underclassmen who get their first glimpse of being behind the wheel typically encounter winter road conditions.

"I hate sliding on ice and snow," Amber Rose '20 said. "I almost slid into a ditch from sliding."

Iowa weather often seems menacing, especially during frigid winter days. According to Levi Williams '20, who has been driving for almost a year, that creates some bad driving experiences.

"I slid down an icy hill and ended up ramming into the back of a truck," Williams said.

Still, driving yourself—instead of being driven—comes with perks no matter what the season.

"The freedom is the best part about driving," Bethel Tewabe '20 said. "It makes me feel like I'm getting closer and closer to being on my own."

For Brock Pelfry '20, people who "don't know how to drive" really get on his nerves, although he does enjoy the flexibility of driving to school.

"I don't have to worry about being late," he said, "but I have to drive my brother places."

Driving a car carries a hefty price tag, too. Ahmir Kouangothanh '20 said the cost of gas and insurance was "just too much."

For students with school permits—which require students to stay on a direct route—doing so can be difficult when their body demands something to eat or a dose of caffeine.

"I stop at Java House to get coffee in the morning sometimes," Grace Schneider '20 said, "but it's pretty much on my route."

Sometimes, the weather doesn't cooperate when students are trying to get from point A to point B.

"I hate driving when there is a lot of traffic during the winter, since the roads are not always the best," Brody Schilling '20 said.

In the winter, defensive driving is especially important. That may explain why Ella Smith '20 said "the bad drivers around her" were what she hated about driving.

For winter athletes, whose seasons run from November to March, driving home can be a challenge.

"When I get out of practice, sometimes I'm too tired to drive," swimmer Parth Patel '20 said.

That fatigue can strike at any moment, but dicey roads can also create issues on a regular driving route.

"I was turning left at an intersection, but I couldn't see the cars coming at the top of the hill," Angie German '20 said. "I risked it and went, but I almost crashed."

—By Brooke Goodman & Megan Haman

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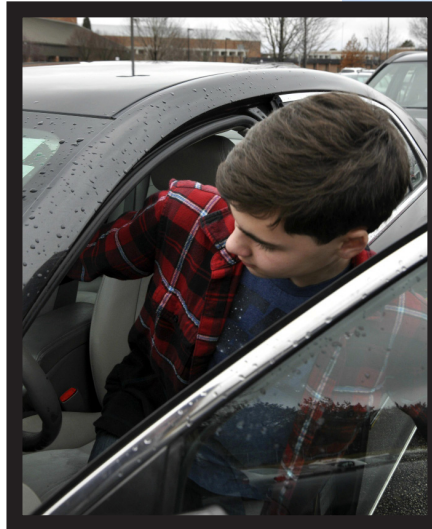


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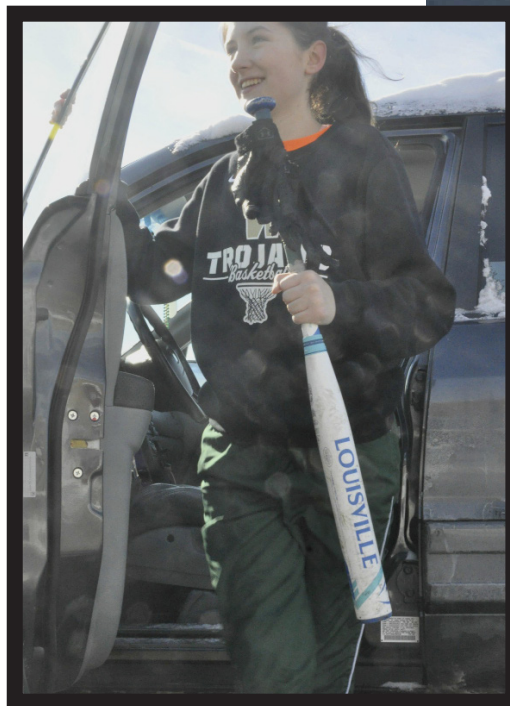
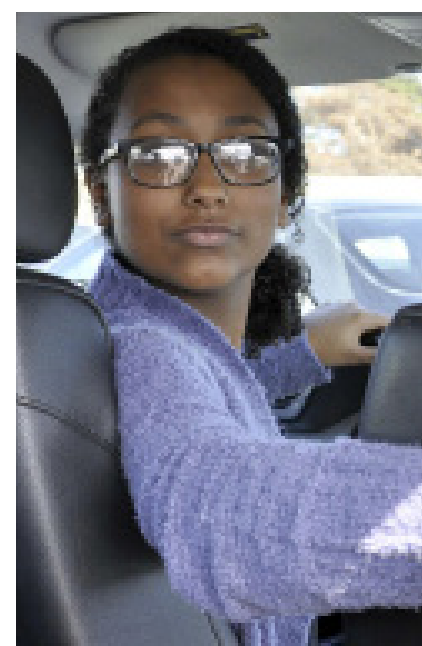


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