

You're driving me crazy ■ Lesyanit Hernandez [11] tears up when the needle goes in her arm. She was not expecting it to be that painful. PC: Madelyn Pizarich



GOT BLOOD?

Students and local community push past challenges to surpass to collect enough pints of blood to exceed the collection goal

Anxious in the waiting area, Elissa Hicks (11) sat ready to donate in the line of chairs in the gym. Unfortunately, after getting her finger pricked to check her iron level, she ended up not being able to donate.

Hicks said, "My iron was 12.4, but it had to be 12.5 in order for me to donate."

Hicks, however, wasn't the only one who had a complication during the drive. Sierra Felton (11) didn't get enough nutrients before she donated and passed out while giving blood.

"It was probably the scariest thing I've experienced, but I definitely plan on giving blood again," Felton said.

Thankfully, she had her blood buddy, Riley Thomas (11), by her side to ease the stress and make the process go more smoothly.

On a more positive note, student council surpassed their goal of 113 pints, collecting 129 pints of blood with 122 students that

participating. Student Council members like Gina Nguyen (09) floated around during the drive to provide anyone with snacks and water to make sure they wouldn't pass out. Laurie Carter (10) lent a hand and helped with the snack bar to distribute the snacks and drinks. In addition, Tyler Krivanec

(10) was a blood buddy. He helped the donors stay relaxed and made sure they got what they needed.

"This was my first time doing the blood drive, and it was kind of hard to get used to seeing the entire process of the blood being drawn, but I knew it was my duty as a blood buddy to be there for the donors," Krivanec said.

The blood drive has been a tradition for at least three decades, but this year, Student Council modernized it just a bit. They opened the drive for a second day in order to allow members of the community to have an opportunity to boost the collection goal. Every year the drive sets a higher goal to achieve, and they usually meet it or at least come very close. This year was no exception.

■ Hannah Vial & Crysta Selman

"My main goal for this year was to collect more than we did last year which was 113 pints. We collected 129 pints of blood, surpassing our total from last year!"

Reece Bowen ■ 11