

HOW DO YOU

BE A PANTHER?

How do you even begin? How could you possibly tell the stories of over 2,800 Panthers, condense 180 days of education, and intertwine our school's past 134 years of history in just under 224 pages?

Each and every one of us was new to West once. We weren't a Panther - yet. We wondered: how were we supposed to "join the Pack"? But with time, we adapted, grew, and became part of our vibrant West High community, all while balancing it with "just being yourself".

As I reflect upon 2023-24, I'm proud of our many firsts. Our inaugural boys volleyball team kicked off with a victory at their first game of the season, marking the dawn of a new dynasty. Our student athletes shattered several school records. Our new all student-run podcast, the Panther Pawd, met a roaring reception. Our first ever student health clinic opened right in our own Tech Wing, with services spanning primary and mental health care.

We also experienced change, in *many* ways. We welcomed Mr. Justin Thompson as the outstanding new athletic director. Student Government, alongside new advisors Pickle and Ms. Holly Reynolds, revised the West High Constitution for the first time in 30 years. We also came to terms with the new "Activity Hold" policy in full swing, where unsatisfactory attendance meant being unable to attend social and extracurricular events – this sure motivated a lot of us Panthers to go to class!

And these aren't even the only highlights of the year. Yearbook staffers, editors, and adviser alike: it was your tireless effort and unwavering commitment that have preserved our *many more* memories for generations to come. You captured the essence of the Panther spirit.

With so many voices and experiences, each of us has our own story; each of us has our own way of *being* a Panther. No one – and especially no instructional book – can tell you how to *truly be* a Panther. I hope this book can instead be your compass, pointing you in a direction you want to go.

I invite you, dear reader, to relive this year once more. Feel the school spirit shining from the bright colors, spot your fellow Panthers in the dynamic pictures, absorb the diverse and unique stories of *our* West High. I have no doubt you will rediscover for yourself **how to be a Panther!**



Hanxiao Shi
The Panther Yearbook Editor-in-Chief (2023-2024)

Create a theme.

Make a plan.

Hustle on that
grind.

Work hard!

Engage with the
community.

Discover something
you love doing.

Show your school
spirit.

Be yourself.

Teamwork makes the
dream work.

Stay classy.

Restore the Roar.

Once a Panther,
Always a Panther.

Slay.



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LETTER FROM
THE EDITOR

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Spirit Bowl



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READY?

LET'S GO, PANTHERS!

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