

# RISE TO THE TOP

## 8th grade girls have to climb back to the top again

Taylor Berg, class of 2019

April 12, 2018

**A**s an eighth grade athlete, everything is different. You are finally at the top. You are the strongest and oldest. You have more skill and experience which gives you an advantage against your younger opponents. You are the leaders of the team.

“As a seventh grader, I looked up to the eighth graders on the team. When I became an eighth grader, I realized that I am now the leader of the team and I have to step up into that role,” eighth grader Cassidy Rozich said.

As incoming freshmen, these girls will no longer be looked up to. They will be looking for guidance from the older, wiser players. Things will change greatly for them. As a player on the high school teams, the practices become more serious and winning games means a spot in playoffs.

“I will miss a lot of things, but the thing I will miss the most is having to run suicides with Olivia Berg and Cassidy Rozich for messing around during drills. I am going to miss it because freshman year we will be with girls a lot older than us and we will have to grow up and act more serious at practice,” eighth grader Avari Admire said.

But becoming a freshman and joining the high school basketball team isn't all scary; there is a lot of change, but almost all of it is good.

“I am excited to be on the same team as the older girls. I can't wait to grow as a person and a player with everyone and have a great season,” eighth grader Kianna Leiato said.

One big change is the competition. Almost everyone you play against is older and stronger. You are back at the bottom and it can be intimidating.



Eighth grader Olivia Berg gets down in a defensive stance to guard the opposing player.

*Source: Taylor Berg*

“Yes, I am nervous. I'm nervous to be up against girls that are much older than me and I feel as if it will be more challenging,” said eighth grader Olivia Berg.

The overall feelings of the eighth graders are hesitant and eager. They know it's going to be more challenging, but they also know they have people to look up to. They can't wait to play with and learn from the older, wiser girls.

“I am nervous to play against new competition, but I am also excited. I know it will be harder, but it will also push me to become a better and stronger player,” eighth grader Kelli Sheehan said. ●

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This feature story was created by students in yearbook journalism with faculty oversight and is intended for WHSD students, faculty and community members. All efforts will be made to ensure the accuracy of this publication. Please report any mistakes to yearbook advisor Korbin Shearer at [kxs@whsd.org](mailto:kxs@whsd.org)