Students feel new ID policy is burden

by PRIYANKA SHELLAY
EDITOR IN CHIEF

A herd of students squeeze through Kover doors, trudging forward toward the first day of school assembly. They try to leave for lunch through Gordon Parks but catch themselves, remembering that the door is no longer in use. They come back and tap into the security system with their IDs in the name of safety.

Student IDs have become more ubiquitous as Lab’s security measures become stricter following the security breaches at Earl Shapiro Hall in 2018.

Every time students in grades 6–12 and non-employee adults enter Lab, they will need to tap their ID card on a card reader, which will confirm that they have an ID card that is both active and up to date. Anyone who does not have an ID card can request a new one by sending an email to lostid@uchicago.edu. Students are required to have their ID and lanyard with them at all times while at school.

Entrance and exit protocols have been changed. Student IDs will no longer unlock the Gordon Parks Arts Hall entrance, which will now be used exclusively for special events, such as plays and concerts. Furthermore, Kover Gymnasium has become the main entrance to the gym buildings. Students will need to use their ID to enter Kover and may no longer be buzzed in by security. A security officer will be stationed inside Kover from 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. on school days. The Jackman Field entrance to Kover will be unlocked only during special events.

While Lab administrators have been motivated by the security breaches in early June, strengthening security has been discussed before the incidents, according to the admissions office. Lab students, faculty and administrators will have the opportunity to decide on the permanent vendor through a request for proposal process, which will include food samples, “food committees, focus groups, surveys, and lots of conversation,” Ms. Coyle said.

Ms. Coyle explained that Lab chose Quest Food Management because Quest “knows the Lab community and will now work in a school environment. They know our students, but one, went on the retreat, connections. All freshman advisories that are more academic in nature occurred on the Lab campus instead of the retreat site. At Cedar Lake, the freshmen played ice-breaker games, wrote their letters to their senior selves and wrote short- and long-term goals — activities that typically occur during the overnight stay. The orientation and retreat helped students, new students, peer leaders and teachers form connections. All freshman advisors, but one, went on the retreat, so advisors were able to spend time with their advisory groups at school before heading to the retreat site, according to Assistant Principal Asra Ahmed.

“I was able to meet my friends again,” freshman Kara Tao said with reference to her favorite part of retreat, “but more importantly I was able to build connections with the new people that will be coming to Lab, and I thought that was a fun experience.”

“Frist Day Assembly”

Mr. Jones also stressed the importance of each member of the Lab community doing their part to ensure collective safety.

“Whether that is the student who sees a questionable item or person or behavior and should share their observations with a teacher or administrator, or that is a community safety officer asking to see identification,” Mr. Jones said.

While understanding the intentions of the school, some students find the ID process to be an extra task.

“I think the new security measures have our best intentions at heart, but I feel like in the morning when I’m really rushing, tapping my ID, while every time I leave, they make me tap back in,” said senior Shreya Dhar. “It can be time consuming.”

Christopher Jones, associate director for finance and operations, Mr. Jones also stressed the importance of each member of the Lab community doing their part to ensure collective safety.

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11 new faculty and staff members join U-High

by EMMA TRONE & JACOB POSNER

Sharon Williams, college counselor

Ms. Williams joined U-High as a fourth college counselor. She has worked in college admissions on both the college and high school sides since 1986, most recently at Morogoro International College in Tanzania, and prior to that coordinated English programs across Kenya as a Fulbright Scholar.

Outside of work, Ms. Williams enjoys exploring some of Illinois’ natural highlights.

Laura Doto, learning coordinator

Ms. Doto joined the learning and counseling department as learning coordinator and replacement for Kevin Van Eron, who took a new job over the summer. Prior to working at U-High, Ms. Doto spent 18 years as the high school sides since 1986, most recently at Maret School, an independent school in Illinois.

Ms. Doto said that her diverse counseling background is something new she brings to her position.

“I’ve spent the last five years working for (Northwestern’s) Feinberg School of Medicine as a medical coach, so I’ve done a fair amount of work in regard to medical education,” Ms. Doto said.

Ms. Doto’s interest in learning and counseling extends beyond the time she spends at work.

“I love to learn, so I read a lot,” she said. “I’m really interested in executive function and strategies for learning. I geek out on neuroscience.”

Tori Fox, art teacher

Ms. Fox joins the fine arts department as a high school art teacher. A Chicago native, Ms. Fox comes to Lab after completing her master’s degree at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in art education.

Ms. Fox said she’s excited to share her interest with a community of engaged learners.

LITERARY LEARNING. New English teacher Hasham Bhatti speaks to a freshman class. This year’s new faculty members represent more people of color than in past years.

What would they do to fix it,” Mr. Stripling said. Biking, soccer and martial arts are among Mr. Stripling’s outside hobbies and interests.

Hasham Bhatti, English teacher

Mr. Bhatti is a new teacher in the English Department. He joined Lab from Evanston Township High School and previously at Hinsdale Central High School.

Mr. Bhatti said that he’s looking forward to forming connections with U-High students, who he said seemed particularly well engaged with classwork and their communities.

“In all of my positions that I’ve held, what I’ve been most proud of is supporting all of my students, and really looking at how I’m being inclusive in my classroom with students of color and English as a second language,” he said.

Additionally, Mr. Bhatti is pursuing a second master’s degree, when not working at Lab. He currently has a bachelor of arts in secondary English education from DePaul University and has a master of Science in instructional design and technology from Columbia University.

Along with new teachers, 5 new administrators will join Lab for the coming school year.

Brian Hewlett will be director of innovation and technology. Mr. Hewlett has a background in education and technology, having spent the last 3 years at a director of technology in an independent school. He has replaced Kurtis Liebenow though the goals of his position are different.

He’s excited to work on directing Lab down a path of using technology and knowledge over the course of their time at Lab.

“There will be a set of skills that you develop. You develop your technology skills,” Mr. Hewlett said. “Once you learn how to do spread sheets, you can do more data analysis, and then you’ll be able to teach you more in-depth programming, until you can do a full-blown data analysis.”

Damon Cates, executive director of alumni relations and development, will be coming to Lab from Loyola Academy. Before Loyola, he was Senior Associate Vice President of Alumni Relations and Development and the campaign manager. He has also worked at universities around the U.S., including Stanford and the University of Pennsylvania.

Other new administrators include Carla Ellis, assistant director of the Lab School’s foundation; Noah Rachlin, dean of teaching and learning; and Dugan, director of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

With soccer game, restored Jackman Field makes debut Saturday

by MIRA COSTELLO

Marking Our Turf. The grass on Jackman Field has been replaced with marked turf, which should be ready by Sept. 15. A jogging track will ring the soccer field.

MARKING OUR TURF. The grass on Jackman Field has been replaced with marked turf, which should be ready by Sept. 15. A jogging track will ring the soccer field.

Jackman Field Day

When: Saturday, Sept. 15

Boys soccer game vs. Latin: 3:30 p.m.; JV: 10 a.m.; varsity, 11:30 a.m.

“Mouna” screening: 7:30 p.m.

The new field boasts multiple upgrades, namely “state of the art” artificial turf, Mr. Ribbens said.

Though some students initially expressed concern about the new turf material being hazardous to players, Mr. Ribbens emphasized that the substrate “allows for a safer, more level playing surface for soccer and all physical education activities.”

According to the Lab website, the previous field was not suitable for the heavy use the field receives, and the new turf will also “withstand . . . Chicago’s harsh climate.” The administration expects that the remodell will prevent injuries from being moved to another field or canceled.

Mr. Ribbens added that the field and its new three-lane track, bleachers and LED stadium lighting will be utilized by student and physical education classes of all ages, not just certain athletes. He also expects the baseball team to practice on the HSSA regulation-size field during the spring.

Senior Jacob Beiser, varsity mid fielder, was one of the players during the field’s opening with excitement.

“I’ve been watching its progress every week,” he said. “I never could’ve imaged that it would turn out so well,” he said. “I hope it gets people excited to come to our games this season.”

MR. Bhatti

Midday Reporter

The boys soccer team runs onto Jackman Field this Saturday. Players and fans will hardly recognize it: the months-long project to install artificial turf, a jogging track and improved lighting is almost complete.

Since development began in June, athletes, coaches and students have anticipated the renovation of the area that many have seen remain the same for years.

According to Athletic Director David Ribbens, the donor-funded project should be completed on time this week Sept. 14.

To recognize the field’s reopening, a two-part celebration will be held this Saturday, Sept. 15, consisting of soccer games at 10 a.m. and a movie for Lab families at 7:30 p.m.

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Summer spent on adventures

by IVAN BECK
FEATURES EDITOR

As Reuben Slade treks onward, he hears the silence and takes in his surroundings, continuing his solitary journey through a landscape of lava fields and gysperts. Every few hours a fellow hiker passes him, but these brief interactions only last seconds, and then he is back to a journey of solitude. Alone in the wilderness. During his summer, Reuben traveled to Iceland, taking a journey of total independence—arranging the trip and finding the trail on his own in a foreign country.

Some students worked, some backpacked, and some, like Reuben, discovered new places—all meeting people outside of their school community over the summer, working their way forward on the path to adulthood.

Incoming freshman Philip Kellermeier visited Spain for a trip with his soccer team. While he was on the trip, he ended up playing for a team that was one age group up from his typical team assignments. Although he was not playing with his usual team, he quickly got into his groove.

“I got to meet a lot of high schoolers that were not from Lab, and they all greeted me and welcomed me to the team,” Philip said.

This was one of many instances in which a U-High student experienced a valuable connection with individuals outside the community.

For Reuben, a senior, summer was a time for personal adventure and discovery. During his trip to Iceland, Reuben took a five-day solo hike measuring about 30 miles, walking through the chilly wildness. Reuben traveled from campsite to campsite through the wilderness of Iceland, during which he interacted with many other hikers.

“It was a really good personal experience for me to spend a lot of time by myself while challenging myself,” Reuben said.

During his trek, Reuben met a couple who, just after meeting him, invited him into their house for a meal. Reuben explained that this “opened my eyes to how welcoming and friendly people can be.”

Instead of spending his summer on vacation, senior Ben Epley spent his summer working as a lifeguard in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. He personally rescued 16 people who were drowning or were at risk of a heart attack. During a single triathlon he helped supervise, he assisted 14 different people.

“The reason that I have found it so important to work over the summer is not only because college is expensive,” Jen said, “but students who have anywhere from the classroom and teachers to you, the real world, preparing you for your future life outside of the classroom and teaching you how to deal with all kinds of people, not just students and teachers.”

MOUNTAIN MAN. Wind whipping through his hair, senior Reuben Slade takes a selfie on a mountain in Iceland, where he went on a five-day solo hike during summer break.

by AMANDA CASSEL
MEDWAY REPORTER

Ruba Rabab’a has spent her whole life in Amman, Jordan, at the Al-Ihliel School. She knows almost everything about everyone in her school and never got to be a new kid or meet a whole new group of people—experiences similar to that of a Lab lifer.

“All of that is about to change.”

Ruba applied to the Kenne-dy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Program to spend a year in a U.S. city as an exchange student. Through the application process, Ruba took tests from different forms but finally, she was paired with U-High.

“The program is completely sponsored, which means it’s full scholarship for everyone,” Ruba said. “And that’s really incredible, but it also means there are five levels to the application process and it takes about a year to complete the whole process.”

U-High paired her with two host families to split the year between. The first half will be with the Arain family and the second half with the Hughson family. Although most of the children in the host families are middle and lower schoolers, Aman Arain is a sophomore at U-High and can help Ruba adapt to U-High and its community.

“I have always been the oldest, and Ruba has always been the youngest sibling,” Aman said, “but now I am excited to essentially have an older sibling.”

The Arain family signed up to host because they want to share American culture and learn about Jordanian culture.

“As soon as we met Ruba, she fit right into our family, and I can’t wait to get to know her while she stays with us,” Aman said.

Just like the rest of U-High, Ruba has been back at school for a week. Like any U-High student, she sometimes gets lost between her locker and classes, and must work through nightly piles of math, science, English and history work.

“I have been very impressed by how kind and willing to help all of my classmates and teachers are,” Ruba said, “and I can’t wait to join clubs and see what the rest of the year holds.”

Along with all of her school and club requirements for the exchange, Ruba also has to do 20 hours of service to her community. Ruba has not picked out her location yet, but cannot wait to give back in any way she can.

“I really think there is a lot to be said for anyone who can give back to a community, no matter your role in it,” Ruba said, “And I think it’s great that all sophomores are required to do service hours.”

Ruba is considering U-High community service clubs to complete her service hours. She is interested in clubs like Feminist and Refugee Awareness clubs.

“The number of clubs and opportunities Lab kids have is incredible,” Ruba said, “I am going to take advantage of everything I possibly can. This exchange really is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.”

by JACOB FOSNER,
PRIYANKA SHEIKHJAY,
EMMA TRONE
EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

As editors-in-chief for the 95th year of U-High, Ruba Rabab’a, a Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) exchange student from Jordan, prepares students to return to their classes like any other student. During her stay, Ruba will attend U-High classes like any other student.

Editors promise an in-depth, relevant Midway

While we know it has been said more than once in the last two years, the media has faced increased distrust, we want to stress the importance of journalism. Its place on a high school scale is to provide you with school-related news, to cover student activities and to showcase student perspectives.

We recognize that it is more important now than ever to fight that distrust by reporting thoroughly and overtly, and we take seriously our rule as your source of schoolwide information, accurate reporting and fierce advocacy.
Sailing through the summer
by ABIGAIL SLIMMON

SPORTS

Ava Wilson spent her summer break training for a world championship.

“Ava spent her summer traveling around the country racing M32 Catamarans with her new team, ‘Convergence.’ The team worked on promoting growth for this new type of sailing, getting any missteps out of the way and gaining more experience before the M32 world championship regatta in Chicago Sept. 8-10. Ava spent the summer on the water with her team sailing as much as possible while working on getting stronger both physically and mentally. "The physical strength is really important to sail these boats because of their size, but the mental strength is what’s behind it all," Ava said. "If you don’t have the will to do the training, then you’re not going to get anywhere, and you will be letting your team down." Ava first became interested in sailing these boats the summer before her sophomore year, when she watched her dad sail them in the world championship in Sweden. "I remember sitting there watching the race and realizing how different and cool these boats were," Ava said. "I knew that I wanted to be involved in something as amazing as this." One of the downsides of racing M32s is that the boats are bigger and more complicated than some of the smaller boats that high schoolers typically sail. According to Ava, racing M32s is a hard, full-body workout which results in few people ever being the same. In most races Ava and her aunt, who helped her first get involved in racing, are the only women. "I’m really proud to be in this sport and to be able to say that women can do it too," Ava said. "Every time we go out and win a race, it pushes the rest of the world that it’s not about gender."

SAULING AWAY. Ava Wilson, far right, works with her team to sail a M32 catamaran. Ava said that the sheer size and complexity of the boats makes them physically and mentally challenging to sail, will continue to practice. Parts of these boats, Ava said, “If you have two people that are conflicting with each other, or a disconnect across the boat, the team can’t do well.”

Fall teams open seasons with new coaches, spaces

Cross Country

With a new set of talented freshmen, the incoming season change, the cross country team looks toward advancing farther in the state series this season. Partially due to the boys’ team size decreasing over the last 10 years and recent underperformance in the state series, the IHSA shifted the boys team from AA to the A Division. “It’s actually really exciting for us because now that we’ll be competing against schools with teams that are more matched to us in terms of size, we have better chances of placing well as individuals and winning meets as a team, and eventually advancing as a team in the state series,” captain Abraham Zelchenko said.

Girls team co-captain Hannah Herrera said that while the girls’ team is also expected to perform well, but she doesn’t think the team dynamic will change. “Even though we have a bigger team this year it’s still smaller than others, and that just means more bonding and closer relationships,” Hannah said.

At the St. Patrick Invitational Aug. 28, the boys team placed fourth, while the girls team placed fifth. Freshman Amanda O’Donnell placed first in the frosh/soph 2-mile race with a time of 12:31.4, while Abra- ham placed seventh in the varsity 3-mile race.

Golf

The boys and girls golf seasons are in full swing, with new coaches and new practice space.

Marco Fajardo, a former assis- tant baseball coach at the University of Chicago and former Major League Baseball player is the new coach, replacing longtime boys coach Chin Ngaplo. While both the boys and girls team used to be coached by the same staff, the girls team is now coached by Car- ol Rhoades, the former head wome- n’s golf coach for the University of Illinois at Chicago and winner of the Illinois PGA’s 2017 Professional of the Year, the first woman to obtain this award.

The teams have previously practiced at the Lost Marsh Golf Course in Hammond, Indiana, this season they have been practicing much closer — at the Jackson Park Golf Course.

“While Jackson Park allows us to practice on a full course, Lost Marsh has a better range and short game practice area," boys captain Shiva Menta, a senior, said. “We don’t get as much practice on cer- tain facets of our game, but Jackson Park is much closer and will save travel time.”

The both teams will next com- pete in the IL Invitational, hosted by the Latin School of Chicago Sept. 14.

Boys Soccer

As the boys soccer team waits to play and practice on the newly turfed Jackman Field, new and returning players have been working to secure a new team dynamic.

Team members believe the turf field will impact both the game play and social aspects of the sport. “I know everyone on the team is excited to use the new space and we’re hoping that we can kind of help turn things around for how we’re playing at Lab and make it a bigger thing," senior Connor Smith said.

“The new turf field is very exciting. Its introduction will allow us to train hard on an excellent sur- face, which we have lacked in years past," senior Jacob Beiser, said.

Senior Jonah Lindau says that the influx of new players and the departure of last season’s seven se- iors means the dynamic among teammates is different. “I think our biggest challenge will be really bringing each other up rather than breaking each other down and really pushing each oth- er to get better,” Jonah said. “I’ve seen some of it so I know the guys can do it, it just comes with time.”

The varsity and JV teams will compete against North Shore Country Day Sept. 11, at the U of C South Turf Soccer Field.

Swimming & Diving Girls

The girls swimming team is undergoing a lot of chang- es this year, particularly the introduction of the first girls diving team.

“I got first excited seeing the O’Chicago divers while we were at practice, but I never really thought of starting a diving team until I saw another high school diving team at a meet,” junior diver Nika Kumar said. “My friend and I went up to my coach and asked her what she thought about us starting a diving team. She was really nice about it, and gave us some resources. Now, I’m just really excited to see where this goes.”

However, the swimming team faces a challenge in replacing the talented group of seniors that left last year. “Last year we had a ton of se- niors,” junior Donna Tung said. “That was really upsetting. They were an especially dedicat- ed group of people who always worked hard, even if not all of them were team leaders.”

Other swimmers have filled the gaps in leadership and events. “The team has definitely stepped up, whether it be in terms of leadership or just in terms of be- ing able to do the events," Donna said. “There are more ninth-graders and sophomores, even though swim pre-season is pretty rough, they stuck with it.”

Both Tung and Donna said they have the highest confidence that they will do well due to the extra practices and the all-around cul- ture of the team.

“I know we are going to make history like it’s never been made before this season," Donna said. “So look out for lots of exciting news.”

The girls begin their season on Sept. 11 against Lake Forest Acad- emy.

Tennis Girls

The girls tennis team is working hard both on and off the court with a new middle school tennis program this year.

In order to better prepare some of the middle school tennis players for the high school team, the girls tennis team has implemented a mentorship program for the mid- dle schoolers. “We are hoping to show them we do on the high school team and get them to join when they get to high school,” co-captain Jenny Lewis said.

Although this program has just been implemented, the vari- sity team is already enjoying a fair- ly unique balance of grades repre- sented. “Our varsity lineup is really bal- anced between grades," Jenny said. "We have all four grades represented, which hasn’t always hap- pened in recent years.”

The tennis team started their season on Aug. 21 against Mother McAuley High School. While the varsity team was able to secure a 3-1 victory, the JV team was narrowly defeated. The next match will take place against Francis Park School Sept. 14 against Francis Park School.

Volleyball Girls

With a team of mostly seniors, the girls volleyball team is excited to compete in the fall.

“With all the new talent in their abilities this season, we think that since we’ve already spent a ton of time working out this year we’re going into this sea- son as a team," senior Xiaolu Zeng said. “We have a lot of chemistry together, senior Xuxandra Nicole said. "Top players Andrew Kim were elected varsity captains. The team will begin their season on Aug. 23 with a win against Infram- tic Charter School. The teams will play their next home game Sept. 15 against the British School of Chicago.

Sailing

With the largest sailing team in U-High history, the team members are focusing on the upcoming season. According to captain Emerson Wright, the team has a lot of new freshmen and a few new upperclassmen.

Emerson said with all the new faces, they have a lot of raw talent that they will be looking to refine. “We aren’t starting off as well as previous years,” Emerson said. “But, we do have a lot of opportunities to get a lot better.”