

# Students feel new ID policy is burden



MIDWAY PHOTO BY EMERSON WRIGHT

**TAPPING IN.** A middle school student taps his ID as he enters school in the morning. Lab's new security policy requires students to always carry their IDs and lanyards. The ID photos, once scanned, show up on the security guard's screen.

by **PRIYANKA SHRIJAY**  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

A herd of students squeeze through Kovler doors, inching 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@ucls.uchicago.edu](mailto:lostid@ucls.uchicago.edu). Students are required 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, Kovler Gymnasium has become the main entrance to the gym buildings. Students will need to use their ID to enter Kovler and may no longer be buzzed in by security. A security officer will be stationed inside Kovler from 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. on school days. The Jackman Field entrance to Kovler 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

*"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 it's an easy thing to do, but every time I leave, they make me tap back in. It can be time consuming."*

— SHREYA DHAR, SENIOR

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.

"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.

Mr. Jones also noted the significance of Lab's security staff's role in the school's safety.

"Our security staff's commitment to these policies and ability to execute them is a focus of our training and attention as we enhance security measures on campus," he 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 it's an easy thing to do, but every time I leave, they make me tap back in," said senior Shreya Dhar. "It can be time consuming."

# Lab's new food-service provider is here for a year

by **JACOB POSNER**  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

A farmstand with infused waters, apples and bananas has replaced the baskets of gushers

While Quest Food Management Services provides cafeteria services at Lab this year, the whole community will be involved in choosing a permanent vendor, according to Colleen Coyle, director of family life programs, who oversees campus dining options.

The selection of a new provid-

er had been in progress for months before Café Lab failed a food inspection in May. The timing was coincidental, according to Ms. Coyle.

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 a new food service provid-

er because the administration was not serving the student body well with Aramark, a food service provider with services not designed to work in a school environment.

Lab chose Quest Food Management because Quest "knows the K-12 education space. They know how to work in and with schools. That's a bit of shift from where we were with our prior vendor."

Additionally, Rachel Brown, a food service director who worked with Lab through Aramark a cou-

ple of years ago, knows the Lab community and will now work with it through Quest.

Quest makes all meals from scratch, uses local food sources and cooks "authentic international meals," according to its website. Ms. Coyle said faculty can also work with Quest staff.

Aramark employees who worked at Lab were given the opportunity to stay at Lab, but just two remained.

"Quest had an open meeting

with all of the employees and invited them to apply and retain employment with Quest if they were interested," Ms. Coyle said. "Aramark also guaranteed all of those employees employment at another location."

Quest employees will fill any former Aramark positions, including at the Judd Hall coffee shop, which will now offer more snacks as well as U-High spirit gear with coffee sourced by Intelligentsia, according to Ms. Coyle.

# 35 new students join high school, 29 are freshmen

by **GRACE ZHANG**  
ARTS EDITOR

The Class of 2022 began the school year by attending a modified freshman orientation and retreat Aug. 30-31 at Cedar Lake Ministries in Cedar Lake, Indiana. The freshman class of 161 students includes 29 students new to Lab. Other new students include three sophomores and three juniors, according to the admissions office.

This year, freshman orientation was run a little differently, with the overnight trip starting later and the orientation on the school's campus lasting longer than in previous years.

The freshmen toured the school, set up their lockers and split off into advisories to participate in a scavenger hunt, look at their schedules and plan their first day schedule. In past years, some of these activities were done at the retreat location. In addition, new students attended a technology session prior to orientation to set up their Lab accounts.

According to Dean of Students Ana Campos, some of the conversations 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 advisers, but one, went on the retreat, so advisers 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."

## FIRST DAY ASSEMBLY



MIDWAY PHOTO BY ELENA LIAO

**FIRST DAY FUN.** Senior Connor Smith and sophomore Madeline Kolb participate in the annual scooter race at the first day assembly on Sept. 4. Students from different grades partnered together and pushed each other across the room in scooters. At the assembly, the new student council introduced themselves and stressed the importance of friendship between grades.



# 11 new faculty and staff members join U-High

by **EMMA TRONE & JACOB POSNER**  
EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

**Sharon Williams, college counselor**  
Ms. Williams joins 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 Maret School, an independent school in Washington, D.C. She also worked at Elgin Academy in suburban Chicago.  
Ms. Williams said her new position at Lab offers her the opportunity to work in an environment that values diversity.  
“In every position I’ve been in, I’ve typically been the only person of color or the first person of color,” she said. “So it was important for me to be in a place that not simply values equity and inclusion, as well as diversity, but really is trying to do something to be sure that that’s an active part of the culture.”  
Outside of work, Ms. Williams interested in equity and inclusion issues, community service, international travel and live music.

**Mariah Bender, history teacher**  
Ms. Bender joins the history department as a teacher for Early World and AT African American History classes. She taught history most recently at Morogoro International School in Tanzania, and prior to that coordinated English programs across Kenya as a Fulbright Scholar.  
Ms. Bender said she hopes to incorporate components from her varied educational background into the classroom.  
“I’d really like to incorporate a lot of my experiences living on the continent both in my curriculum, and in a lot of the traditions and things that people do when they interact with one another,” Ms. Bender said. For example, she plans on introducing the Swahili word for welcome, *karibu*, to start class each day.  
In her spare time, Ms. Bender enjoys performing in Carnivale parades and is looking forward to exploring some of Illinois’ natural highlights.

**Laura Doto, learning coordinator**  
Ms. Doto joins 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 Director of Academic Support and a Spanish teacher at Montclair Kimberley Academy in Montclair, New Jersey. She has also worked for Northwestern University and the University of Chicago.  
Ms. Doto said that her diverse counseling



MIDWAY PHOTO BY EMERSON WRIGHT

**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.



*Mariah Bender*



*Laura Doto*



*Tori Fox*



*Theodore Stripling*



*Sharon Williams*

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 fall quarter substitute for Veronica Bruce’s art classes and advisory. 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 interests with a community of engaged learn-

ers at Lab.  
“I studied photo history, and I worked in the archives of my school library,” she said. “I think I might be able to integrate some of that into my curriculum.”  
When not working, Ms. Fox likes to spend her time cooking, making jewelry and running.  
**Theodore Stripling, counselor**  
Mr. Stripling joins the counseling department as a school counselor, taking over the counseling assignments for Ronald Tunis, who retired. He previously worked as a school counselor in the Chicago Public School system and at the Celerity Nascent Charter School in Los Angeles.  
Mr. Stripling said he hopes to introduce a conflict resolution program to U-High.  
“I’d like to do a formal, actual program for conflict between students in general. It doesn’t necessarily need to be about bullying, but more if students have a problem with one another, they have a place to see

what they can 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 most recently worked at 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 engaged with classwork and their communities.  
“In all of my positions that I’ve held, what’s been most important to me is supporting all of my students, and really looking at how I’m being inclusive in my classroom with students of color, LGBT students, etc.,” 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 Concordia 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 7 years as the director of technology in an independent school. He has replaced Kurtis Lieneck, though the goals of his position are different.  
He is excited to work on directing Lab down a path in which students build on knowledge over the course of their time at Lab.  
“There will be a set of skills that you develop at each step along the way,” Mr. Hewlett said. “Once you learn how to do spreadsheets, you can do more data analysis, and then we’ll be able to teach you more in-depth programming, until you can do a full-fledged statistical analysis.”  
**Damon Cates**, executive director of alumni relations and development, will be coming back to Lab after a year working at Loyola. 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 Schools, **Noah Rachlin**, dean of teaching and learning and **Priyanka Rupani**, director of diversity, equity and inclusion.

## With soccer game, restored Jackman Field makes debut Saturday



MIDWAY PHOTO BY ABIGAËL THINAKARAN

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

by **MIRA COSTELLO**  
MIDWAY REPORTER  
When 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.

*Jackman Field Day*  
**When:** Saturday, Sept. 15  
**Boys soccer game vs. Latin:** JV, 10 a.m.; varsity, 11:30 a.m.  
**“Moana” 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 newsletter, 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 remodel will prevent activities from being moved off the field or canceled.  
Mr. Ribbens added that the field and its new three-lane track, bleachers and LED stadium lighting will be utilized by students and physical education classes of all ages, not just certain athletes. He also expects the baseball team to practice on the IHSA regulation-size field during the spring season.  
Senior Jacob Beiser, varsity midfielder, has been anticipating the field’s opening with excitement.  
“I’ve been watching its progress from the beginning, and 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.”



# Summer spent on adventures



PHOTO PROVIDED BY REUBEN SLADE

**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.

## Far from home, Jordanian student stretches comfort

by **AMANDA CASSEL**  
MIDWAY REPORTER

Ruba Rabab'a has spent her whole life in Amman, Jordan, at the Al-Jubeiha 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 — an experience similar to that of a Lab lifer.

All of that is about to change. Ruba applied to the Kennedy-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 and filled out 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 adjust 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 other 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 anyway she can.

"I really think there is a lot to be said for anyway you 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 as well."

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

"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 **IVÁN 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 geysers. Every few hours a fellow hiker passes him, but these brief interactions only last seconds, and then he is back to hours 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 played sports 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 Kellmermeier 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 adven-

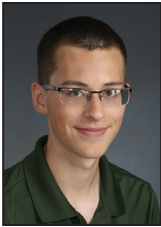
ture and discovery. During his trip to Iceland, Reuben took a five-day solo hike measuring about 50 miles, walking through the chilly wilderness. Reuben traveled from campsite to campsite through the wilderness of Iceland, during which he interacted with many other hikers.

"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," Ben said, "but also because working puts you into the real world, preparing you for your future life outside of the classroom and teaches you how to deal with all kinds of people, not just students and teachers."



Benjamin Epley



MIDWAY PHOTO BY ABIGAËL THINAKARAN

**HELPING HAND.** Ruba Rabab'a, a Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) exchange student from Jordan, prepares asparagus for the Arain family. During her stay, Ruba will attend U-High classes like any other student.

## Editors promise an in-depth, relevant Midway

by **JACOB POSNER, PRIYANKA SHRIJAY, EMMA TRONE**  
EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

As editors-in-chief for the 95th year of the U-High Midway, we have three main goals for the coming school year. We want to show the true nature of U-High, keep the student body up to date on news with our website, and ensure the truth of our reporting in a time when journalists face intense scrutiny.

People craft perfect portraits for their Instagrams, Facebooks and Snapchats. We see

those profiles and reflect on our own lives, which often seem sad in comparison. Even though it's unrealistic, we can't help it. It's part of being human. In the coming year we will work to dispel confusion and assumption, and home in on what students, faculty and administrators are like as real people. Through news, personality profiles, cultural analyses, reviews, sports, leisure and more we will work to reveal U-High as it actually is: what the administration does, what students think and feel, how our community fits into Chicago and the world.

As our world becomes more digitized, the

Midway has, too. Our new website, uhighmidway.com, will serve as a more flexible way to keep U-High students, administrators, parents and alumni informed and entertained. This platform will also give us the opportunity to approach storytelling in different and engaging ways than have been possible for our staff in the past. Our printed paper will still be just as robust and thorough in reporting as it has always been, and it will continue to be a focal aspect of our organization, but we are excited for the new world of possibilities and stories that the website offers.

While we know it has been said more than ever in the last two years as the media has faced increased distrust, we want to stress the importance of journalism. Its purpose 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 role as your source of school-wide information. accurate reporting and fierce advocacy.



# Sailing through the summer

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

by **ABIGAIL SLIMMON**  
SPORTS EDITOR

With the sun glistening across the water, wind whipping across her face and the freedom of summer in her mind, Ava steps on the dock ready for another long day of practice.

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 mistakes 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 is 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

*“Every time we go out and win a race, it proves to the rest of the world that it’s not about gender. It’s about having the mental will and motivation to go out there.”*  
— AVA WILSON

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 her age being involved. 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 proves to the rest of the world that it’s not about gender.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY AVA WILSON

**SAILING 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 make them physically and mentally challenging to sail. Although the summer has ended, Ava and her team, Convergence, will continue to practice.

It’s about having the mental will and motivation to go out there and do it.”

Because her team only became official at the start of this summer,

Ava wants to continue to work to bring the team closer together and strengthen their bond.

“The bond within the team is almost one of the most essential

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 and a division change, the cross country team looks toward advancing farther in the state series this season.

Partially due to the boys team’s 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, a senior, said.

Girls team co-captain Hannah Herrera said that while the girls team is larger than in past years, 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 Invite 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 Abraham placed seventh in the varsity 3-mile race.

## Golf

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

Marco Fajardo, a former assistant baseball coach at the University of Chicago and former Major League Baseball player is the new coach, replacing longtime boys coach Clint Naegelin. While both the boys and girls team used to be coached by the same staff, the girls team is now coached by Carol Rhoades, the former head wom-

en’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.

While 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 certain facets of our game, but Jackson Park is much closer and will save travel time.”

The both teams will next compete at the ISL 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 adapt to 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 super excited to use the new space and we’re hoping that we can kinda help turn things around for how sports are viewed 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 surface, 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 seniors means the dynamic among teammates is different.

“I think our biggest challenges will be really bringing each other up rather than breaking each other down and really pushing each other 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 changes this year, particularly the introduction of the first girls diving team.

“I first got excited seeing the UChicago 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 Nikita 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 seniors leave,” junior Donna Tong said. “That was really upsetting. They were an especially dedicated group of people who always worked hard, even if not all of them were year-round swimmers.”

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 being able to do the events,” Donna said. “There are more ninth-graders than I expected and, even though swim pre-season is pretty rough, they stuck with it.”

Both Nikita and Donna said they have the highest confidence that they will do well due to the extra practices and the all-around culture 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 Academy.

## Tennis Girls

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

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 middle 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 varsity team is already enjoying a fairly unique balance of grades represented.

“Our varsity lineup is really balanced between grades,” Jenny said. “We have all four grades represented, which hasn’t always happened in recent years.”

The tennis team started their season on Aug. 21 against Mother McCauley High School. While the varsity team was able to secure a 9-1 victory, the junior varsity team was narrowly defeated. The next game is on Sept. 14 against Francis W. Parker School.

## Volleyball Girls

With a team of mostly juniors, the girls volleyball team feels confident in their abilities this season.

“I think that since we’ve already spent last season playing together this year we’re going into this season working a lot better together,” senior Ruxandra Nicolae said.

Juniors Troy Johnson, Sydney Rogers, and Audrey Kim were elected varsity captains.

The varsity and junior varsity teams began their season on Aug. 23 with a win against Intrinsic 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 training the new recruits.

According to captain Emerson Wright, the team has a lot of new freshmen and a few new upper-classmen.

Emerson said with all the new faces, they have a lot of raw talent that they will be looking to refine.

“With all the new talent 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.”



MIDWAY PHOTO BY LILY VAG-URMINSKI

**SOCCER SPRINT.** Varsity soccer player Phillip Kellermeier dribbles a ball at practice. The team has been practicing at one of the University of Chicago’s fields while Jackman Field is renovated.