

Headline: A Future to Fight For

Subhead: Students attend protests for the first time

Up and down the streets, people shouted their opinions to make their voices heard. Protesting became more common over the summer after the death of George Floyd on May 25. Protesting allowed people to have their viewpoints acknowledged. Senior **Kayden Williams** attended the Black Lives Matter protest hosted by Blue Valley Northwest's Black Student Union on June 12.

"I live my life with the knowledge that a movement is happening," Williams said. "I am using my voice to educate people."

Not only did students participate in protesting social injustice, but also to attend school in person and participate in sports. In August, the district board of education voted to postpone the beginning of the fall sports season. This sparked a protest where many students and families gathered to encourage the BOE to rescind their decision. One of these students was sophomore **Thomas Ippolito**, who said he joined his peers and teammates because he wanted to play football.

"It's high school experience playing sports, so I just felt like we needed to [protest]," Ippolito said.

Ippolito said he believed protesting could be a powerful thing to get an idea across to a large group of people.

"More voices can be heard and we can express our opinions on [the topic]," Ippolito said.

Freshman **Bailey Weber** was also in attendance at the Let Them Play protest. Weber said she was excited to experience her first high school sport, until it was taken away from her and her teammates. She said having adults and students come together to express their voices was special.

"Kids don't have the amount of power adults do," Weber said. "I feel like adults and kids coming together and raising their voice is a very powerful thing."

Williams said people need to continue to speak up and practice their first amendment rights to peacefully protest.

"I think it's important because there have been a lot of instances, both in the country and within our own state and district, where it's been clear that sometimes people don't actually realize what is happening to minorities in this country," Williams said. "I think it's important that we fight back and rise up against injustice."