

The Many Sides of Dating

Students share their experiences and perspectives on dating and the ways in which it has impacted their high school experience. *Editor in Chief Myah Shelton | Staff Writer Aiden Porritt | Staff Writer Maria Toner*



Bri Moline • Long-Distance

Many relationships end when students leave for college and go their separate ways, but senior Bri Moline and alum Dietrich Greiner refused to let go.

Moline and Greiner started dating two and a half years ago, during the summer of 2020. In August of 2022, however, Greiner moved to Spring Arbor, Michigan, to study at Spring Arbor University. Being more than two hours away from each other, the couple found themselves in a long-distance relationship.

Time away from Greiner was a challenge for Moline after spending over two years with him. However, she has used this time apart for personal growth.

"At first it was really hard in August, like I just couldn't function well," Moline said. "But once I'd gotten used to it, I became more independent. I feel like I can function on my own even though he's back now. I feel like I was able to find myself more."

The couple's long-distance status has restricted their visits to once every week or two. This tested their communication as they discovered the best way to connect with each other when they couldn't meet face-to-face.

"Texting is the worst," Moline said. "Calling on the phone was always the best because you get the actual communication. Texting can be miscommunicated in so many ways."

Moline and Greiner kept in constant touch, sometimes calling more than once a day.

"When I was going home from pom practice, I'd call him on the phone," Moline said. "When I was bored, I'd call him on the phone. We'd FaceTime occasionally, but mostly calling because that was easy."

Through long-distance, Moline learned that being proactive and expressing emotions was necessary to avoid conflict.

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Now that Greiner has moved back to Midland to continue his studies at Delta College for the new semester, the couple is able to spend more time together.

However, Moline says their time apart has changed their relationship for the better.

"It's really good now because we know how to communicate with each other," Moline said. "We're not as dependent as we used to be on each other, but now it's a good mix." After experiencing a

long-distance relationship, Moline believes that they are difficult, but can be doable if both partners put in the effort.

"I think long-distance is more scary than it is joyful until you're done with it," Moline said. "If you actually have two people who care, two people who are willing to make it work, it can last as long as you need it to or to. If a person is making you happier and a better person say go for it."

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BRI MOLINE



Morgan Hussey & Brock Adams • Dating

Olive Garden is known to some for their breadsticks and salad drizzled in Italian dressing. To seniors Morgan Hussey and Brock Adams, the chain restaurant is best known for being a staple in their relationship.

Seniors Hussey and Adams have been dating for over two and half years. With Hussey only having been in one relationship prior and Adams having never dated, the two were quite new to relationships.

Over the past two and a half years, the couple has seen their relationship evolve as they've learned to communicate.

"We're very open about something's bothering us," Hussey said. "He's probably more school smart, and I'm probably more social smart, you know, people smart," Hussey said. "He's better at math and science and I'm definitely better at English. We have very different political views, and we definitely have different interests."



Hussey said. "We can have a more mature conversation about that and I really appreciate that."

In addition to seeing their connection grow, the two say they have also grown as individuals as a result of the relationship.

"I'm a lot more outgoing now," Adams said. "I'd say my social skills have increased a lot and I'm able to communicate better."

Despite dating for several years, the two consider themselves to be very different people. When it comes to extracurriculars, the only common activity the two share is National Honor Society, where Hussey is the secretary and Adams is the treasurer.

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The two do have some shared interests, which include a love for Olive Garden, a high value on school, and attending sporting events. The couple also hangs out

with a shared friend group.

"They're kind of like wingmen," Adams said. "If I do something wrong, and she gets mad, one of them will tell me."

Despite help from their "wingmen," the couple still has bad days. Through their years together, they have learned how to handle these strains through communication.

"Sometimes we just need to take a minute away from each other," Hussey said. "But eventually, we always try to talk about whatever's wrong, whether that's right when it's going on or the next day or that night."

For Hussey, being in a relationship for most of high school has definitely been a positive.

"I think it's made my [high school experience] better," Hussey said. "Even if everyone else hates me, or even if he's mad at me, I know that if I really needed something I could go talk to him, it wouldn't matter."



39.4% of students have never been in a relationship

KISS ME

YOU & ME

4.5% of students have been in a relationship for 3+ years

30.3% of students have only been in one relationship

BE MINE

62.5% of students are currently in a relationship

Alauna Millward • Single

While a breakup "party" isn't how relationships typically end, this is how senior Alauna Millward concluded her first relationship.

When entering high school, Millward had a vow to herself: no dating until college. She made this decision after witnessing her friends have negative relationship experiences.

"I was a strong supporter of no dating until college because I had so many friends who had got so much trauma that absolutely ruined me," Millward said. "So I was like, 'absolutely not.'" However, after a



longtime neighbor who attended her church asked Millward out on a date, she decided to make an exception. He asked Millward out the day after she turned 16, which was the age her parents had set for her as when she was allowed to date.

"This was definitely a special occasion," Millward said. "And I still, hypocritically and strongly, support the 'don't date until college' because I know that my situation was a lot different and more secure and well knit together than other people's."

While Millward said she had a positive experience in the relationship, Millward's boyfriend left for Washington on a two-year mission trip four months in. As the mission trip had been long planned, the two had made the decision at the beginning of their relationship that they would break up before he left, something Millward believes was healthy for the relationship.

"It definitely made it a very much more relaxed feeling," Millward said. "You knew that ties were gonna be cut at the end, so there was no, 'do I

continue?' If it were up to either one of us and it wasn't a planned thing, it might have been drawn on for too long and then it would have gone sour."

Despite describing her own dating experience as a positive one, Millward still strongly cautions others in high school against dating at this age.

"I don't want other people to get emotionally damaged during high school, when they could do it and, you know, get emotionally damaged to college," Millward said.

In the year since she and her boyfriend broke up, Millward has found she has more freedom of how she chooses to spend her time.

"Whenever I had free time, I always wanted to spend time with him," Millward said. "Now that I'm single and not in a relationship, I have all this time to myself, and I can be a little bit more relaxed."

As Morgan Hussey and Brock Adams are only involved in one extracurricular together, National Honor Society, they frequently bond over their shared friend group. On the weekends, Hussey and Adams will often spend time together at Poker Nights with some of their mutual friends. **PHOTO: Aiden Porritt**



Based on a survey of 389 students