

[we love life] Dating

By Kelsey Kiley

"I don't believe in love at first sight, but I do think that sometimes there is a gut feeling that knows more than we do."

-Dexter Payne, 11

"I would like to believe in love at first sight. It's possible, but rare. You know, so that the next time I'm at the grocery store, I can be like 'what up' and we'll fall head over heels in love."

- Maggie Koetter, 11

"I think you have more than one soul mate, but you have to go through a few bad ones to find them."

- Emily Wehman, 10

"I'm all for liking people, and all that cute stuff, but it's annoying when people think they can be 'in love' in high school..."

-Ryan Darbonne, 11

For better or for worse... No it was not usually that serious, but many have said that love in high school does exist. Who knows, it is possible to come back to a high school reunion and see those old couples happily married.

Until then, love and dating were rocky affairs. Those who had the relationships worked on keeping everything going smoothly, which could be just as hard as dealing with singledom.

"With everything that teenagers have to do in our day and age, we don't have time to be in a relationship and give it 100%," said **Stuart Solomon, 11**.

Usually the benefits outweighed the difficulties, especially when both halves were happy. Like when dances rolled around. It was wonderful to not have the stress of wondering, "Will I get asked? Who will ask me?" However, not everyone minded being single.

"I like not being tied down. If I want to go out on Saturday night, I will, and if I don't then it's not a big deal. I don't have to plan ahead," said **Kelli Rogers, 11**.

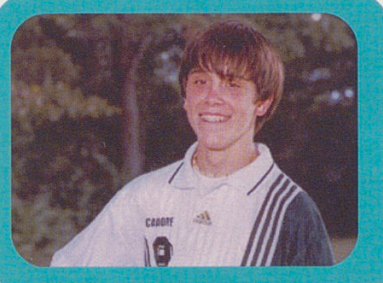
"Most people date in high school for fun, but every now and then, you see a couple that can make it. Besides that- everybody just likes getting together on the weekends," said **Jillian Steinberg, 10**.

Whether single or "going steady", love was in the air. Or at least "like".

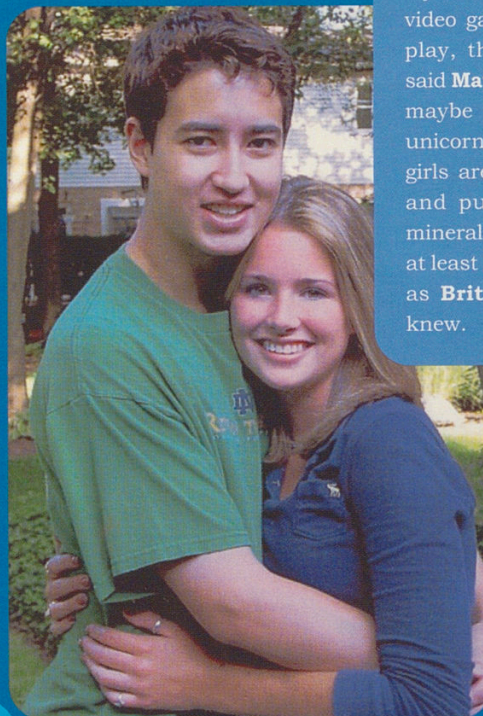
IDEAL DATE? "September 24th," said **Jennifer Konerman, 11**. "This is the ideal date because it's the perfect weather and school hasn't gotten hard yet... wait, you mean a date? Oh, I don't care, I'm just not paying."



KEEPIN' IT SIMPLE, THE classic way. "If I were going on a date with someone, I would first like to go see a movie, then we would go to a nice dinner. Afterwards, we would go back to my house and chill for a while. Then I'd take her home," said **Jon Bregger, 9**.



RELATIONSHIPS WERE HARD, BUT NOT if you get all philosophical, **Napierski** style. "Relationships are like video games. The more you play, the easier they get," said **Matt Napierski, 12**. "Or maybe they're like herding unicorns. All I know is that girls are like Dasani. Fresh and pure, full of natural mineral-ly goodness." Well, at least he treats them right, as **Brittany Jochum, 12**, knew.



WHAT MAKES IT WORK? THE RECIPE FOR success varied, but keeping your friends in your life, not just your significant other, seemed to be important. "We've been dating since freshman year, and we have all the same friends, so we can hang out with each other and our friends at the same time. This made the relationship a lot easier, because we didn't have to divide ourselves between each other and the other people that care about us. Overall, it's been pretty great," said **Jen McLaughlin, 11**. Sounds like they agreed. "The most important thing is to not lose touch with your friends, but with us, we're best friends. We talk about stupid stuff that only we understand," said **Ryan Davis, 11**.