



EMPOWERED Women EMPOWER Women

Story by Karlee Kent/ Aashree Gandhi
 Photos/Graphic by Ashton Overby

In the United States, women are free to make their own choices, but they are still fighting for their role in society. Holding positions of power is yet another fight many women have to endure, even when they are in high school. Liberty North is new, as far as schools go, and while it may not be very well established yet, North is committed to helping female students find their voices.

“Here in school I see a lot of women with leadership roles within clubs and also administration, but when it comes to things like the government, you don’t see very many women in charge. I think giving women more positions of power will give them a lot more strength and encouragement that they need,” senior Megan Day said.

There are a variety of clubs where female representation is visible at Liberty North and the effect of women having higher authority has positively impacted the school as a whole, but having more female representation in the community is still in the works.

“I think having more women

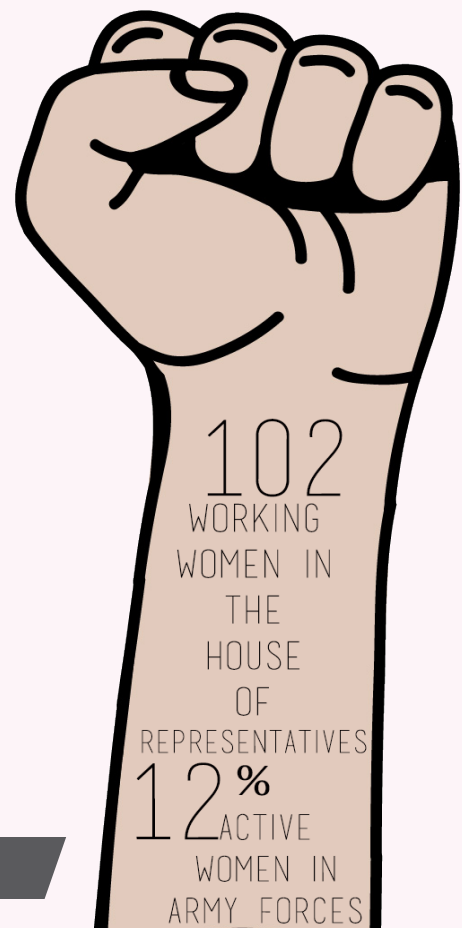
in positions of power in Liberty will help make everyone more comfortable, taking in the whole equality factor of it. If you can see you being represented it makes you feel more confident and more willing to trust the leaders, although I do feel North does a good job of balancing out the power when it comes to genders,”

junior Emma Reiser said. Not only does Liberty North support young girls and women in their academics and athletics, the school also gives them the opportunity to empower themselves.

“After three years of being in high school Student Council, I like the feeling that I actually earned that position and it wasn’t just given to me, so that was big in empowering myself. I’d say that having that position of power, I’ve earned the place where I know that I have a say and I don’t have to hold back and be afraid to say anything, it’s like an ‘I’ve earned my place at the table kind of thing,’” senior Morgan Neal said.

Young women across the world are being told they can hold any position they want and seeing female leaders here at North take a stand has empowered many underclassmen and fellow students.

“There’s a lot to be said about young girls finding confidence and talking to older women, especially women they look up to. I think it would greatly help young girls, like freshmen at North, when they hear that a club is run by all females



they'll be comfortable talking to," Day said.

Students have impressionable minds that allow them to learn from others, and female leaders are inspiring the members of their clubs to follow in their footsteps.

"When students in these clubs are seeing girls give speeches in front of people and running the meetings and being the organizers of big projects, I think that it makes them feel like they can do it too. I've had a lot of girls asking if they should apply for an executive position next year, which is really encouraging to see females are wanting to take the lead," senior Cassidy Norris said.

There are many different leadership skills that the women leaders at Liberty North exhibit, but they need the respect and the support of the students around them to make these skills effective.

"I tend to prioritize what really needs to be done and I like to have a reason for doing everything. As a female, I want what I do to be respected. I think that could go for either gender, but as a female, I'd say that it just gives me an opportunity to be a role model for other girls," Neal said.

The upperclassmen of North know they have a big role to fill when it comes to inspiring other women and young girls at the school. They are breaking down gender roles and replacing them with leadership roles.

"I know that I, personally, tend to look up to people in leadership roles dealing with things that I'm passionate about, such as Key Club or Yearbook, so watching women with those roles has helped me to feel more confident in my own abilities. This is something that I try to keep in mind as someone that now has those leadership roles. I really try to pay attention to the way I'm presenting myself as I lead these groups," senior Isabelle Kanning said.

The ability to become a leader in the environment that Liberty North High School has provided has allowed women to gain confidence and prepare for future where they know they have a role waiting for them.

"The groups I'm a part of happen to be pretty female-heavy, so the fact that I, as a female, am in one of those leadership positions seems like a positive thing for the future of each of these groups. Having these positions, as a woman and a senior, has helped me become so much more confident in my abilities as I prepare to leave high school. I've always known that being a woman will likely do more harm than good in determining my future, but I feel that I've prepared myself pretty well by knowing how I'll handle a leadership position and knowing that it's possible for me to have one at all," Kanning said.



"This graphic resembles the struggle women have faced and overcome to reach a life marked by success, compared to the opportunities given to men that allow a straight path to success,"
Sophomore Ashton Overby said.