Leading a double life
Twindividuality is all about being best friends

KAITLYN KRZYZANOWSKI
Feature Writing
Gering High School

It was a really busy nine days at Regional West Medical center beginning on Nov. 27, 1995 and stretching until Dec. 5. Three sets of twins, all from Gering, were born at the hospital that year and now those twins are in the junior class at GHS. Mathieu and Kelsea Prieels were born 31 minutes apart on Nov. 27. While they were still in the nursery at RWMC, Laettner and Shelton Blanco were born on Nov. 29 just nine minutes apart. Then, on Dec. 5 at 1:01 a.m. Nick Ferreyra entered the world and was followed by his brother Nate just five minutes later.

Everyone is unique in one way or another, even siblings who go the extra mile and share nearly 100% of their genetic traits. While the Ferreyra twins are identical, the Blancos and Prieels are both fraternal twins.

"I can't count the number of times someone has asked me, 'What's it like being a twin?' Sometimes I don't know exactly how to answer. Being a twin is just who I am," Nate said. "What am I supposed to say? It's cool, I guess." Nick said.

Shelton and Laettner agree that it is fun to be a twin, but answering the questions all the time is annoying.

"I hate when people ask 'Are you a twin?'" Laettner said. "I always want to ask 'Are you stupid?"

The six juniors agree they have more similarities than differences. They also say they have more similarities than the average brother or sister, even to the extent that there are times they believe they feel the other's pain. Literally.

"One time she [Shelton] was in a car accident and she hit her head. I had a horrible headache for days and she didn't feel anything at all," Laettner said.

"I had the same kind of experience on time when Nick was in a wreck," Nick said. "I knew something had happened or something was wrong even before we knew about the accident. It's just weird that way."

Nate and Matthieu agree that sometimes they are able to "sense" something about their twin.

"It's kind of a like a sixth sense," Nate said. "I can tell when he is down or having a bad day even if we haven't talked or seen each other yet."

Contrary to popular belief, the twins aren't clones. They are in fact separate people with distinct personalities.

"Our mom always dressed us alike when we were little and we hated it," Laettner said.

Nate and Nick agreed. "We always had the same outfits too. They were color-coordinated clothes – the same style but different colors," Nick said. "I would always wear blue and he was always in red. It's crazy because now our favorite colors are the exact opposite."

"We always wore clothes that were similar to each other," Mathieu said. "Obviously we weren't dressed just alike, but we always had the same color and clothes that were coordinated."

According to the Blancos, being a twin is like being related to your best friend.

"We like hanging out together and we share pretty much everything," Shelton said. "But even the best of friends get a little tired of one another sometimes."

"The best part of being a twin is that you are never alone," Shelton said. "The worst part of being a twin? It's the same thing... you are never alone."

The Ferreyra brothers agree.

"We are actually more alike than we are different. We like a lot of the same things and we are really best friends," Nate said.

"We play the same sports and we like to play a lot of Xbox, especially Black Ops 2," Nick said. "With so many similarities it is difficult to find their own individuality."

"Not really," Nick said. "We look alike. We like a lot of the same things but we are also different. It's crazy. We just realized that all six of us had braces at the same time."

"We all went to different elementary schools, but we met in junior high and we have all become friends," Nick said.

Now, the three sets of twins have become one group of friends.

"Sometimes we hang out together on weekends and that's always a good time," Nate said.