



Great Vision

Great Coverage

The Gazette '21-'22

Vol. 85

March 2022

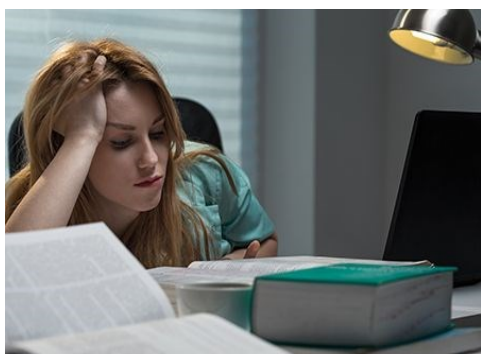
Issue 6

Should High School Start at the Crack of Dawn?

By Tina Tran

Beep *Beep* *Beep* It's time to wake up! You look out the window to see that it's still dark. You enter first period, barely awake, and everyone else is too. So, you wonder, does school start too early?

Franklin's current schedule starts at 7:40 am and ends at 2:25 pm. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that middle and high schools should start the school day at 8:30 am or later. But a study conducted by the CDC back in 2014 reported that 93% of high schools in America open before 8:30 am.



Many students aren't able to get the recommended hours of sleep due to the amount of homework they have.

Now you may be wondering, "why can't students just sleep at an earlier time?" Well, students also have lives outside of school, some have sport practices that might take up until 6 or 7 pm to finish, others might have younger siblings to take care of, and then they need time to do their homework, which on average students spend 3-4 hours on.

"School starts too early for the teenage mind. In AP Psych, we learned that a teen's circadian rhythm functions differently from adults, meaning it takes a longer time for us to fully wake up and for our brains to start working," junior Margarita Alperovich said. "Also, as an AP student with clubs and a job, I tend to go to sleep fairly late due to the amount of homework I have. So, it's harder for me to wake up in the morning and get ready for school."

According to the American Academy of Sleep Medicine, 8 to 10 hours is the recommendation for teens from the age of 13-18. Not getting the right amount of sleep can cause bad side effects, according to the CDC. "Not getting enough sleep is common among high school students and is associated with several health risks including being overweight, drinking alcohol, smoking tobacco, and using drugs, as well as poor academic performances."

Some students and staff prefer to start early. "I don't think so, the people who chose for school to start at 7:40 took into account our afternoon lives (away from school)," sophomore Omar Taylor stated.

"The normal time frame high school starts, you have to start sometimes earlier typically. The middle school and elementary school buses have to run," Coach Book states.

Others prefer to start a little later. "Honestly the start and end times of school are weird, so we should move back the start to at least 8 then the end

time to a little later," sophomore Pierce Rubenstein claims.

"There has been research that claim that adolescents have a tough time waking up that early in the morning, so their brain isn't quite awake," Art teacher Mrs. Bennett says. "I feel like I work best around 9." Do you think school starts too early?



Students have trouble trying to stay awake and be active in the morning due to the fact that their brains aren't fully awake yet.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

BCPS News	2
Franklin News	3
Franklin Profiles	7
National News	9
Student Interest	10
Entertainment	14
Sports	16
Word Search	17

Candid with the Candidates: An Inside Look at the Election for BCPS's Next Student Member of the Board

By Logan Dubel



The 2022-2023 BCPS SMOB Finalists. Image courtesy of BCPS.

Students, are you ready to voice your vote and help shape the future of Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS)? Your chance has arrived, as the campaign for the next [Student Member of the Board \(SMOB\) of Education](#) heats up. As the actions of local school boards continue to dominate the national political dialogue, the time has never been more important for students to take part in this election, set for March 17.

From pandemic restrictions to curriculum, there's no disputing that education is the ultimate hot topic right now, and here in Baltimore County, students have a unique right to choose who represents them at the Board of Education in Towson. This marks the third year that all BCPS middle and high school students have voting rights in the election. Previously, a small cohort of representatives from each school gathered for a nominating convention, leaving many students without a direct voice. Now, with easy-access online voting and countless forums to follow the candidates, the election, facilitated by Baltimore County Student Councils (BCSC), is more interactive than ever.

After conducting an extensive interview process, in mid-February, BCSC announced the two finalists vying for the coveted role. This marks the first time in three years that a finalist is not from Franklin High. The candidates are Masah Farh of Towson High School and Roah Hassan of Perry Hall High School. Both young women are juniors. Their paths to this stage are quite different, as Hassan has gained leadership experience directly through BCPS, while Farh has learned the

ins and outs of government through broader experiences. Still, both are ready to act come July, when one will be sworn in. The SMOB serves alongside eleven other adult members.

Running a campaign is difficult enough for anyone, but particularly a student. While organizing a movement can be exciting, it is equally nerve-racking without the grandeur and advantages of the traditional political landscape. Campaign bylaws prevent students from having an official staff, so much of their extensive and vigorous work is completed independently. Candidates spend each day gaining traction on social media and reaching out to countless groups. So, with all these challenges, why would these candidates wish to represent BCPS' 111,000 students? For Farh and Hassan, the answer is simple – service.

"This role has been on my mind throughout high school, and it has always been my dream since I became involved in the SMOB campaign during my freshmen year. Going to many different schools, I was able to learn a lot about various experiences of students and the opportunity gap across BCPS' different zones," Farh explained. "The disadvantages that exist from students from Dundalk to Towson inspired me to take action. The pandemic has only made these challenges more apparent, and from combatting learning loss and mental health to inequitable funding, we have a lot of work to do. I decided to seek change by joining the Board of Selected Students (BOSS), but I now see that I need to take my passions to the next level by running for Student Member of the Board."

Similarly, Hassan has eyed this position over the past few years.

"When I was in 8th grade, I was a delegate for the SMOB nominating convention, and clearly remember watching the candidates give their speeches and advocate on behalf of students. At that moment, I felt empowered, and it clicked that I wanted to do that too. I wanted to make sure that I always felt represented by my SMOB," reflected Hassan. "I am incredibly passionate about the student voice, and I feel that this position is one in which I can empower all the students I represent. If elected, my first order of business will be mental health."

Both candidates have lived experience in many different regions of Baltimore County. Farh attended Berkshire Elementary and Parkville Middle before arriving at Towson High. Hassan has also jumped around, from Hereford Middle to now Perry Hall.

"The SMOB is a vessel through the student voice. Without students participating in the campaign and then staying involved, the position is virtually powerless," Hassan said. "I love having powerful conversations, and I hope our students see the value in this process."

Although the candidates are both juniors, they cannot forget the important middle school vote, as those students are also allowed to participate in voting.

"Even though I come from Towson, I can't forget about the middle school votes or other schools that we don't hear about as much in my area. From Kenwood, Overlea, Chesapeake, Dundalk, and more," Farh added. "We sometimes only target students who we think of on the surface, but if elected, I will need to be a representative for everyone. That's why I'm taking the time to reach out to every school and club I can because all of their voices matter."

Throughout the campaign, students will see the candidates dressed professionally and constantly discussing policy. However, both insist that the process must be humanized because after all, they are regular students just like you. *The Gazette* asked the candidates to share some fun facts about themselves.

Cont.: Candid with the Candidates: An Inside Look at the Election for

By Logan Dubel



Masah Farh's Favorites

School Subject: Math
Musical Artist: Sza
Weekend Activity: Spend time with family and friends, grab Starbucks, and relax
Daily Ritual: Reading
Dream Vacation: Egypt
Show/Movie: "Grey's Anatomy"

Roah Hassan's Favorites

School Subject: English
Musical Artist: Sza
Weekend Activity: Resting, relaxing, seeing friends, and finding balance
Daily Ritual: Going to sleep earlier and waking up early to be productive
Dream Vacation: New York City or Costa Rica
Show/Movie: 10 Things I Hate About You

No matter the outcome, the next SMOB will face enormous responsibilities but with more power at their disposal than all student leaders that have come before them. Just recently, current SMOB Christian Thomas became the first student

member to ever be nominated for the Board's Vice-Chair position. Although unsuccessful in his bid, this marks the first time a student has received that nomination in more than four decades. Additionally, many activists across Maryland are

continuing to push for the expansion of SMOB voting rights, which would allow students to make decisions on additional matters, most importantly regarding budgetary decisions. To keep up with the campaigns, follow [@masah4smob](#) and [@roah4smob](#) on Instagram. Plus, view their official candidate [speeches and resumés](#) via the BCPS website and catch their Q&A sessions on election day. Do not forget to cast your ballots on Thursday, March 17, to determine who will represent you and your beliefs to the Baltimore County Board of Education next school year.

Franklin News

Do I Still Have a Ride Home?

By Kierra Richardson

Between 2:09 to 2:15 is usually the time we all get the notification of the bus changes.

The beginning of the 2021-2022 school year, a new issue has approached us: bus drivers are striking due to low pay. Things like strikes, walkouts, protests, and sickouts among the school bus drivers have been happening in North Carolina, New Mexico, Maryland, Florida, Indiana, Georgia, Pennsylvania, and New York.

A school bus driver has no paid sick time, even for quarantine, and generally earns low wages. While most bus drivers are concerned about their personal health, studies show that 10% of school bus drivers in Chicago quit when the district announced a vaccine mandate. Bus drivers have decided to strike due to unfair pay compared to other transportation jobs that pay more and include health care benefits. The sickout demanded higher wages and benefits, especially when being asked to pick up double routes.

While there is a big issue going on about the unfairness of the job of a bus driver, there is another one that is in the shadow: the protest and sickout has led to students being stranded and unable to attend their schools.

Everyday we have students who are on the edge between 7th period and 8th period not knowing whether they will be able to get a ride home or not, losing focus on their work just to make sure



Shirl Adams-Green

Franklin High Bus Changes: Monday, February 14, 2022

5184 [Bonfire] 5334

5120 [Berryman's] (No bus assigned)

5210 [Embleton] 5375 (15-30 mins late)

5334 [Pidco] is with 5372

5364 [Deaconbrook] is with 5189

5366 [Butler] 5187

5927 [Handover Pike] (No bus assigned)

**Please check for last minute changes.*

Feb 14 at 1:48 PM • Like

The Schoology message that comes out everyday informing students on whether they have a ride home or not

they can get home. Parents of the students are affected by the bus driver protests, too. The schools expect parents to just give their kid a ride home or get someone else to. It's not that easy for any parent during their workday or others who don't have the transportation. If there is a transfer student who lives further away, it is a lot harder to even get them home. Picture this in your mind: you, a parent, just at work trying to make ends meet but you are worried all day if your child's bus can take them home because you don't get off till 3 hours later and you don't want your child to wait. Schools still believe students can come to school even with the bus delays in the morning or they might ask them to get a ride. They'll say it's ok if they are late. Why should a student come to school if they don't fully know if they have a ride home?

During the duration of this we have been forgetting about the ones who do pick up the slack with more shift, packing up to 70 students at once, working multiple routes during a shift as routes were cancelled. Some buses having been packing up while kids must stand up just to get a ride home.

While you are reading this, just get ready for Schoology message that will pop up on your phone or device for the bus changes.

Behind the Scenes of Yearbook—Getting Prepared!

By Noah Eaton

You know how you record all your memories of things you have done with your family and friends in your camera roll? Well, it's just the same in a school yearbook! Collecting all the exciting things that happened in one full school year from September – June. It's very important however that it is organized and ready for students to pick up by the end of the year.

That is where the behind-the-scenes stuff comes in to play! I was able to interview 2 of my friends and a teacher to find out information on how the yearbook gets prepared, if there was anything different they did this year than usual, what the theme is and more. Franklin's yearbook teacher, Ms. Doll, had a lot of specific details about preparing the yearbook. "There are so many sports teams, clubs, and organizations at FHS that it's difficult to make sure we get as many in the book as we can and with as much information as possible. This year has been especially difficult considering some

clubs had to start "from scratch" coming back from our previous two COVID years. Then, no one could meet after school for most of January," Ms. Doll said. "This year and last year have both been very different from what we did pre-COVID. Last year, every page was a different topic, and we were reliant on the community sending in photos. This year, we again have sections like 'Athletics,' 'Clubs and Organizations,' etc., but we rearranged things to accommodate deadlines and the fact that some events, like Homecoming, did not happen."

Ms. Doll revealed some hints about what we can expect to see in this year's book. "This year's theme is music and MTV, and right now, there are only 16 books left. We may increase the number of books printed, which would mean that there's more than 16 left to sell, but not by much. If you really want a yearbook, you better buy one soon!"

Senior Cyan Randall shared her thoughts on the experiences of preparing the yearbook. "It can be difficult sometimes. I get a little nervous going around classrooms or going up to people in the halls to ask them if I can take a picture," Cyan said. "We are getting super close to the deadline. Our last pages are just finishing up now."

Senior Lea Glaser shared a similar opinion about preparation for the yearbooks. "It can be difficult at times. Especially since many clubs

and organizations have either met only a handful of times or not at all (due to COVID), getting information and photos has been scarce. However, we have a large team to seek out information, especially students of different backgrounds and interests, so they aren't afraid of seeking out the info," Lea explained. "For the yearbook this year, we organized certain photos more in person compared to last year, since it was mainly virtual. A lot of students and staff in the photos are wearing masks, which obviously has been different than previous years." "The theme is FTV, a playoff of MTV (music and entertainment) and I'm not quite sure how many books are left, but they are running out so if you want a yearbook, buy it as soon as possible!"

I know this is a lot of hard work to get done making sure that the yearbook is perfection! Just like the yearbook staff mentioned, the deadline is getting close, and they are running out of books, so please make sure you buy one ASAP if you really want one. As I like to say in sports terms, "Who wants it more?"

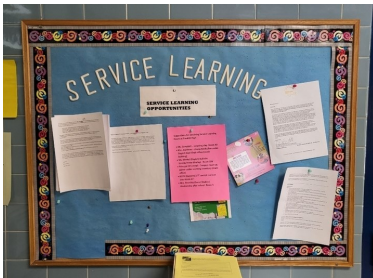


Clubs and Activities

By Lindsay Adjei

Activities around school are hard to come by and even harder to find information on. As we navigate in-person school and get all of our information for school from different sources, it can be easy to miss information and can be difficult stay in the loop. This problem has been something Franklin has been struggling with ever since in-person school started back up.

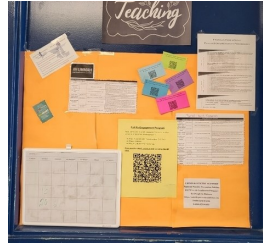
During online school, it was easier and harder for students to find information about school and other clubs, events, and activities in the school. Information was always found online in different bulletins and spaces for classes. Navigating these different forums could be difficult for students if they're unfamiliar or don't know where to look but once you knew where to go, it would be relatively easy to find information. All information hubs during online school were easily accessible and broadcast to students.



Places to get informed! This is information posted about service learning in front of the guidance counselors' office.

Now that we are back in the building and finding new information from different

things like other students and bulletins, it can be harder to find out what's happening and especially what is relevant to your situation specifically. Bulletins around school often have outdated information or don't relay information well.



Bulletins around Franklin. These are links and QR codes posted near the gym and in front of the offices in the hallway.

When students walk around the school, there is a wealth of posters and other infographics present on the walls, but when you really look closer, a lot of the posters just aren't relevant. Posters from the beginning of the school year are still present among things that are still happening and depending on where you walk around school, you may not encounter the relevant activities you want to participate in.

School events like dances, formals, and games, are also difficult to come across depending on what your main source of information in the school is. The announcements do a great job of covering sports games and sport-related events, but clubs and other organizations in school rarely get featured.

These problems make it hard for students to parse through the events, and student often end up not doing the things around the school that they may be interested in. Students just can't seem to find the fun things around school that they want to do.

A good source for events and other fun things happening around the school is the library and specifically, talking with the librarians. Our librarians have lots of knowledge on what goes on around the school and are able to help students find what they need to be more involved in school overall. The counseling team also puts together a packet with clubs and organizations within the school and when they meet. This packet can be found near their offices.

"In the library, the things I try to encourage people to post flyers about events and clubs and promote things that I know that are happening around school," said Mrs. Rigilano, one of our librarians here at Franklin. In the library, Mrs. Rigilano tries to advertise different things around school and gets students in touch with club leaders and those who run the activities happening around school.

As school continues, it will be pertinent to find a way to easily relay information to students and have them be able to access this. The Gazette will be starting calendars compiling all the events happening in the month, though this first monthly calendar will feature events through the week and which are subject to change.

March 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Subject to Change HS = Honor Society		Key Club Trivia Team Guitar Club National Math HS Flag Club NHS Peer Tutoring National Art HS*	National Honor Society SGA National Social Sciences HS* Chess Club* Book Club*	GSA National Science HS	Black Student Union Environmental Club Dungeons & Dragons Club NHS Peer Tutoring	

How Students at FHS are Getting Enough Nutrition from School Lunches

By Aryaan Khan

School lunches are currently free as at Franklin due to the COVID-19 pandemic already putting a strain on families who are struggling with financial stability. "As part of the National School Lunch Program, the county has very specific guidelines that we must follow to ensure that students receive proper nutrition," Mrs. Miller, the Cafeteria Manager at FHS stated.

Also, according to the food guidelines webpage, the food must be whole grain rich and must consist of at least ¼ cup of fruit and/or vegetables. The food must also meet specific calorie, sodium, fat, and sugar amounts, and the size of food depends on the type. For example, a high school is required to have a 12 oz drink while an elementary school requires an 8 oz drink.

"The school lunch is pretty good, but sometimes there aren't a variety of options that fit my religious standards," said junior Hamaad Abbasi.

This QR Code will redirect you to the bcps.org page, according to Mrs. Miller "Under the Nutrition tab are the guidelines Franklin High School



Hamaad complains that the limited variety, such as only having chicken patties one day is inconvenient because he can't eat chicken that isn't cut properly or fit his religious standards. Therefore, having a variety of options everyday such as chicken patties and cheese pizza would make it easier for students.

"I play baseball, and the school lunches are definitely high in the necessary nutrients and calories I need in order to function properly in sports and other activities" explained junior Alec Nahum.

This QR Code will redirect you to the breakfast and lunch menus for this and next month.



Students cannot decline the option to not have a portion of food. They must pick to eat a certain fruit or pick a certain drink. This ensures that students are getting the right and correct portions they need.

The school lunches provided at Franklin High usually have great reviews from students, but some see a lack of variety, and that may be an issue for students who don't bring a packed lunch from home. Hopefully, as time passes by, Franklin will start implementing better variety or alternatives for students who deal with these types of issues.

To Release Early or Not to Release Early

By Ronald Edmund Jr.

We all know at our school, after reaching the 18.5 credit threshold, seniors get the option for early release. Many see it as an opportunity to get out of school early and have freedom, while others seek more productive options to fill their time. Some students work in order to save money for college or a car, while others do dual enrollment at CCBC to earn college credits to save money. A \$60-dollar CCBC credit can save you \$1000 at a university. History teacher Mr. Tortolero says, "early release time can be a great thing when students are responsible and use the time productively."

Many parents question release time because it may not look as rigorous as students who take a full schedule senior year. When I asked grade counselor Ms. Linton her take on this, she said that it is very relative and a student taking filler classes in school isn't equal to a student working

part time and doing dual enrollment. Also, giving yourself super challenging schedules from freshman to junior year with AP and honors level classes, then taking a lighter senior year to focus on classwork endeavors should not be looked down upon.

If you are looking to apply to a competitive university, then you should make yourself look as competitive as possible. AP Economics and AP Psychology are great options for rigorous electives senior year. Also, joining some great clubs like SGA and KEY club are great ways to get involved in your school community. These options are better than taking early release without a plan. You can contact Donesha Nazeer of CCBC Catonsville for more information on dual enrollment and possible class options at 443-840-4046.

I spoke with junior Chiagozie Iyke-

Azobogu for his plans, and he says that he will supplement his early release with meaningful activities that will better set him up for success after senior year like saving money and developing job or internship connections.

When we students evaluate whether or not we take early release our senior year, we must weigh the pros and cons, and it can be a great tool in building yourself outside of school for future success, especially with adulthood knocking on the door after graduation.



CCBC courses and admissions info

Sam's and Wasay's Road to Success

By Dannah Tinio

Success.

By Google definition, the word means “the accomplishment of an aim or purpose.” But to everyone this word means something different.

Samuel Kinstlinger and Muhammad Wasay, are known to be two of the most diligent and dedicated students in the Class of '23. These two both strive for success, having similar work ethics, but do they have similar interpretations of success? And how are they working towards it?

Samuel and Muhammad are actually the greatest of friends. The two call each other ‘Sam’ and ‘Wasay’, which is also what they go by in passing so that is what they will be referred to here.

Sam and Wasay are both taking four AP classes. Sam is taking AP Physics Calculus, AP Calculus AB, AP Computer Science, and AP Psychology, while Wasay is taking AP Economics, AP Calculus AB, AP English, and AP Psychology. Keeping up with these classes is surprisingly not that difficult for Sam and Wasay as they consistently get straight A's. To obtain this, however, they both share the same value of having absolutely no distractions to get their work done. “I don't watch tv, eat junk food, play video games, have social media, or do anything that is a waste of time,” says Sam. He also adds how he makes schedules and does his most important tasks first. Wasay, on the other hand, explains how there's no special technique he has to keep himself focused and attention-driven when he's

doing work, he simply keeps his phone on silent and as far away as possible until he's finished.

Although academically similar, they differ with outside interests. Outside of school, Sam spends his time with robotics, programming, engineering, MMA, amateur bodybuilding, and more. Wasay likes to exercise, play video games, go for drives around the city or scenic roads, and sometimes work on his car, putting customizations on it in his free time. He also started to learn to code for computer science experience and looks into different investments he has, like stocks. To get a start on their prosperous future, their interests now line up with what their goals are for their dream job.

“My goals are to be the greatest robotics engineer in history and all that entails along the way,” Sam states. This is where his main focus lies. “I do anything and everything to achieve my goals. All else can be discarded.”

Besides career ambitions, Wasay values having a well-rounded life. “It is important that I maintain different aspects such as responsibility, shown respect, and integrity,” he voices. He then describes himself as a happy person, in which he believes being happy is essential in life. “If you're not happy then you may not be able to do some of the things that you strive for.” Wasay also takes failure as freedom. He explains how through his failures he is able to do better after reflecting on them.

He plans on becoming either a computer science coder, engineer, or a businessman entrepreneur.

When describing each other, the descriptions are fairly similar. The two have known each other since elementary school. Seeing each other grow, Wasay describes Sam as very smart and hardworking and Sam describes Wasay as very studious and intelligent. “He's become a very close best friend to me, as well as an educational companion,” Wasay explains when talking about Sam. He then elaborates further, talking about how Sam is very motivated in anything he does and will try to do everything to the best of his ability no matter what speed bumps he comes across. “I don't know what I could do without him,” Wasay expresses.

6:25: Wake up
6:25-6:40: Morning Routine
6:40-7:10: Breakfast
7:10-7:40: Bus
7:40-2:25: School
1st AP Psychology
2nd Seminar
3rd AP Physics Calculus
4th AP Calculus AB
A Lunch
5th AP Computer Science
6th Business
7th hon English
8th hon History
2:25-3: Bus (I study and do my hw on the bus)
3: Get home
3-3:30: Finish Hw
3:30-3:45: Make protein shake
3:45-5:30: Gym
5:30-6: Shower
6-6:30: SAT Prep
6:30-7:15: Dinner
7:15-7:45: Nighttime Routine
7:45-8:15: Study Physics
8:15-8:30: Study Calculus (If I have a big test I'll study something other than Physics and Calc from 7:45-8:30)
8:30-9:30: one of my 4 Science Olympiad events
9:30-10:30: Another of my 4 Science Olympiad events

A look into Sam's daily routine

6:00: Wake up and Pray
6:30: Shower, eat breakfast, feed my cat
7:00: Go to school
2:25: Finish school
2:30: Wash face, get changed, eat a snack
3:15: Start homework/study
3:15-5:30: Finish up all homework/studying
5:30-7:30: Practice for SAT, Learn more coding for computer science experience, look into different investments such as stocks
7:30-9:30: Eat dinner, Spend time with family, play with my cat
9:30: Nightly routine and pray
10:15-10:30: Get ready for bed and sleep

Wasay's daily schedule

So what meaning does the word ‘success’ have in the lives of these two individuals who are similar but also different?

“Success is reaching your maximum potential in whatever your goals are.”

“True success is happiness.”

Who do you believe said what?



Samuel Kinstlinger (left) and Muhammad Wasay (right)

Making a Routine with Ms. Bruce

By Mariana Noyola-Hernandez

Students constantly struggle with work overloads. They get stressed and procrastinate over their tasks, but with routines, students can stay organized and have an efficient day. Routines are used by many including our own teachers here at school, one of them being English teacher Ms. Bruce. She starts her day waking up at 6:00 in the morning. She doesn't waste much time as she brings her breakfast to work and at school, she gets a coffee from the Allied students. She drives herself to work, and if she has any errands, she takes care of them after work. She gets to school at about 7:00 am, just about 40 minutes before classes start. This short break helps her wake up as she listens to the news or as she talks with her sister on the phone. Once she gets inside the building, she checks if she has coverage duty for period 1, and if not she goes to her regular classroom and prepares for her second period class.

"I get two preparation periods, but if I have coverage or meetings, those periods go away," said Ms. Bruce. Her preparation periods are not much for relaxation, but to help her stay organized. Her prep periods

also give her time to microwave her breakfast. "I set a firm boundary against working while I eat, so while I have my breakfast and my lunch, I am not working," she said.



Ms. Bruce's homemade Madeleines

Eating while working acts as a distraction and can sometimes get messy which goes against organization. After school, once she gets home, she can begin to relax. At

home, she finds cooking and baking to be relaxing, as well as playing solitaire and listening to music. Ms. Bruce separates her job from her home life. She plans ahead of time and makes sure she gets things done during her workday, so she doesn't have to take those things home. Some days she might have to stay at school a little late, but because she uses her time wisely, those days don't happen frequently. Now that Ms. Bruce has gotten more accustomed to the way things work in BCPS and at FHS, she was able to create her own efficient routine.

Every teacher and student have different lives, so it is best if they have their own routines that can correspond to their way of living. In order to have any efficient routine, one has to make a plan and rely on calendars that are updated frequently. The user dedicates themselves to work during the time that they had planned for. It is also a good idea to be away from any distractions and taking little breaks can help keep one's mind fresh. No matter how big of a goal you set, working towards it step by step will help you get there.

Should Students Learn Virtually On Snow Days?

By Gavin Burris

Keeping schools open is the top priority of school boards and governments, but sometimes it's just not safe or possible to keep schools open. Whether it is weather-related or not, schools close down for emergency reasons every year. But how much can these closures affect students and their learning? A study completed by "Harvard Kennedy School assistant Professor Joshua Goodman finds that snow days do not impact student learning. In fact, he finds, keeping schools open during a storm is more detrimental to learning than a school closure." Most kids will be too distracted by the snow or the weather outside and not focus on their teacher. This could cause them to not complete their work for that day, putting them behind a day.

But what about the kids that need that school day for extra learning? Staying home and sleeping in can cause them to forget what they just learned in the last class. Junior Alexa said, schools should "open up an optional virtual class on snow days for those kids who want to learn and need to attend class." The recent decision BCPS made is to have one more snow day if necessary and add one day to the end of the school year, June 18. If any additional snow days are needed, then those will become virtual learning days. This raises the question, how will they make kids show up to it or really be "in class"? Junior Olga countered that opinion with, "if you open virtual class for kids to go to, it will mess up where everyone is in class when they come

back together." Like everything else, there is always a con to any decision made.

Still, school is not something we can simply shut down. After all, it's a lot more serious since we are the future of our society. Trying to make the perfect decision is impossible because schools are not safe to go to when roads are slippery and snowy. But at the same time, they want the students to learn and stay on pace with what is going on in class. Making the students happy is not necessarily the top priority. Their top priority is doing what is best for the students in the long run.

The Words “When COVID is Over” are Starting to Sound Like “When I Get My Hands on the Secret Formula...”

By Rachael Harbus

Let's face it, everyone is tired of COVID and wants this pandemic to be over. COVID has almost reached its second birthday in the United States. Most of us thought it would be over shortly after the vaccine came out.

While we're allowed more freedom socially compared to the start of the pandemic back in March 2020, we weren't allowed to go anywhere mask-less until March 1. In addition, schools are also limiting activities like dances, which are either cancelled or modified. Life is still different than it was before COVID.

When asked when they think COVID will be over, two students and one teacher from Franklin High had very different answers.

“Medically, I think COVID will end when the numbers in America and worldwide begin to stabilize for long periods of time. However, I also think COVID has been used politically and in that sense, I do not know when COVID will end because it appears that many different candidates use COVID to further their campaign,” senior Katie West stated.

“I think that COVID will be over 2 years from now because so many people don't fully understand what they have to do and how to prevent certain things. Many people have their different views on COVID by not getting vaccinated or not wearing masks because either they have the choice and a lot of places are lifting the mask mandates, which affect us more because cases keep rising. So, I think it's going to be 2 years from now just by people's actions, which is holding us back from moving forward,” senior Allie Patzwall explained.

“I don't think it will ever end, but I do believe it will start to be treated more like the flu soon,” gym and health teacher Ms. Diehl stated.

It has been scientifically proven that if most people in the United States get vaccinated, then we can obtain herd immunity, leading to the spread of the virus being significantly less and the positivity rate being at an all time low.

A large chunk of the population is vaccinated. And there are many reasons why people chose to get vaccinated.

For example, getting the COVID-19 vaccine prevents the transmission and receipt of COVID-19. The mRNA vaccines teach our cells to make a harmless piece of the spike protein. Our immune systems respond to

that protein and create antibodies. Antibodies prevent an individual from getting sick from an illness. Traditional vaccinations like the J&J COVID-19 vaccine and the flu vaccines have a very weak version of the virus that is injected in your bloodstream which has the responsibility of helping the body create antibodies. Most vaccinations are successful.

The COVID-19 vaccine is also more effective than flu vaccine. The flu vaccine only has about a 40% efficacy rate while the COVID-19 vaccine has an 85% (Johnson & Johnson) and 95% (Pfizer and Moderna) efficacy rate.

Also, since the vaccine has been released to the public, the positivity rate of COVID-19 cases has decreased by almost 20%. Currently in Maryland, we have a positivity rate of 3.41%. We have also had fewer hospitalizations and deaths from the COVID-19.



An adult giving a thumbs up after being vaccinated, indicating a sense of comfortability knowing that vaccination went well and that she is more protected from the virus. Image from publichealth.jhu.edu

However, having everyone vaccinated in the United States is impossible. There are many reasons people may not get vaccinated.

They have a medical condition. The COVID vaccine has side effects like injection site pain, headache, fatigue, fever, muscle pain, nausea, and chills. Some may get them, some may not. Some may get a more severe version of the side effects. This is in nobody's control. People with weakened immune system or who are taking other medications may not be able to get the vaccine. Either the side effects will make them incredibly sick or the chemicals in the vaccine may fight with the chemicals in their medications.

They have an allergy to an ingredient in the COVID vaccine. This is another example of chemicals not getting along.

Allergies occur when your immune system makes a mistake and thinks that a food, plant, or substance is harmful to the body. So, it fights against it within the body, most likely making the host sick. Except this time, it is between the body and the vaccine. This could cause a variety of health issues or potential death if anaphylactic.

They are underage and are not allowed by a parent or guardian to get vaccinated. An individual no longer needs parental consent when they turn 18 years old. This means that if a person is under 18, they must have parental consent to be vaccinated. However, the consent is not always given. The COVID-19 vaccine is available to all individuals 5 years of age or older. Usually, elementary age children are not given a choice (based on maturity). Also, every household is different and parents may not want their children to be vaccinated at all.

They simply do not want it. An individual may be skeptical of the vaccine or does not go outdoors or communicate with others often. It is a personal choice and the United States has freedom of choice. As long as nobody gets hurt, people may do as they please. Using this logic, if a person chooses to be unvaccinated, it is their responsibility to wear their masks, social distance, and follow CDC guidelines for everyone's safety.



Three masked individuals using their phones while waiting at the train station, appropriately social distancing to prevent transmission of COVID-19. Image from rutgers.edu

Simply put, COVID-19 will not be going away. It will always be a part of our lives. But we shouldn't let it run our lives. The best thing that we can do is use the necessary tools that we are given in order to prevent getting the virus and spreading it. These tools can be wearing masks, social distancing, or getting vaccinated.

Tips for Getting on Top of Your Work and Always Meeting Deadlines

By Genesis Iglesias

Have you struggled to do your assignments or turn them in on time? Is it lack of motivation, organization, or time? Here are some useful tips for getting on top of your work to make sure you are motivated and always meet your deadlines. In eight class periods, students receive a lot of information that may be overwhelming or hard to understand.

"I basically take notes. The note sheets that they give us are very useful. I just try to use all of my resources, like depending on the subject, I use quizlets," senior Rachael Harbus claimed. Notes seem to be a useful and effective tool for processing information. Junior Disha Patel explained, "I try to pay attention by taking as much notes as I can and highlighting key information that is mentioned. Whenever I'm confused, I ask questions to allow me to have a better understanding on the topic."

Getting many assignments in all different classes and meeting the deadlines for all of them may also become a struggle for many students. Senior Rachael Harbus said, "If something is due that day, I make sure to get that done first, or if I have a project that is due in a couple of days, I do a small part of the project each day, and I also set time for myself to finish an assignment, like instead of 20 minutes I give myself 40, just so I won't feel super rushed. I also take small breaks, and breaks might be like just taking a walk or going to the bathroom, but I don't go on my phone because I know if I do, I'm not going to get off of it."

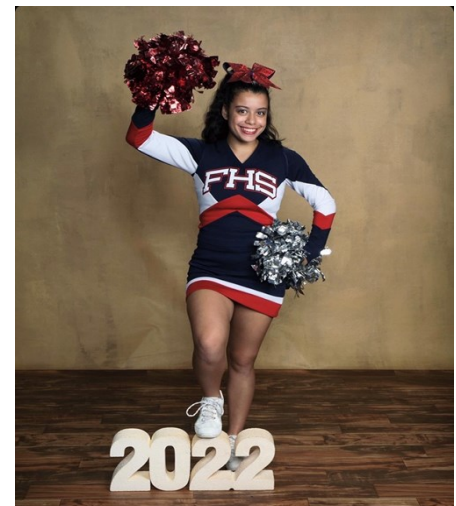
Breaks can be beneficial for the mind and overall performance of getting your work done. "I try to balance my home and school life by taking breaks every hour or two while catching up on assignments which are the most important. To help you get done on time, you can work on some of your assignments in class when you aren't doing anything or whenever you have free time," Disha Patel explained.

Organization is important in any workspace, but making sure you have all your work online or in a physical copy can become difficult and overwhelming. "I have a planner. Basically, in my planner I have my eight classes associated with a different color. I write the assignments for each class, even assignments that are due days from now, so I can get a head start. It's better to get it done sooner than later," explained Rachael Harbus. Figuring out how to organize the order in which you do assignments could also become a huge factor in procrastination, so you may wonder where you should even start. "I start with my AP classes and the classes which are harder for me and try to study or go over the topic that we have studied before going into class the next day. After I finish my more challenging classes, I focus on the easier classes which I do during school or in my free time," Disha Patel claimed.

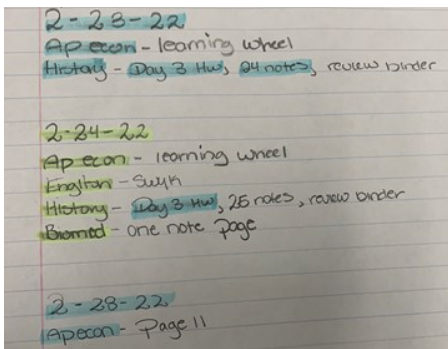
Giving yourself time to focus on your personal life is important, and it may feel like you can't do things for yourself because of all the work you get throughout the week. Disha Patel shared, "After 9pm on week-

days, I stay away from school work and try to go on my phone or talk to my friends, but on weekends I get my work done on Saturdays. On Sundays and on Fridays, I take time to just hang out with friends and spend time with family."

Weekdays become very busy and hectic between school work and other activities that could come throughout the week. Cheerleader Rachael Harbus explained what she does to balance out being a cheerleader, gymnast, and having eight classes. Rachael said, "The schedule I've followed is I come to school, then I go to cheer, and then I go to gymnastics, and I don't get back until 9pm, so what I do to balance it out is whenever I have time in a free period or finish something early in class, I will start doing the work that is due that night."



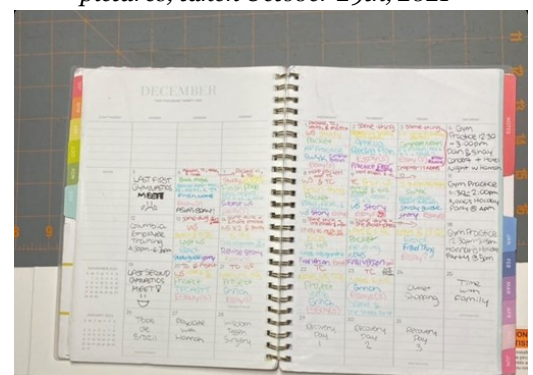
Cheerleader Rachael Harbus' Senior pictures, taken October 29th, 2021



A look into Junior Disha Patel's list of assignments.



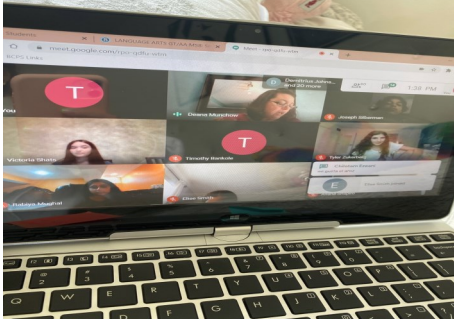
Junior Disha Patel, taken February 6th, 2022



A look into senior Rachael Harbus' color coordinated weekly planner.

What a Freshman's Mindset is Really Like

By Fiona Durante



Online schooling for the freshmen (8th graders at the time) from last school year. Staying at home, being isolated from everyone else.

As we go back to in person learning this year, most of us who have been in high school before lockdown are now upper-classmen, thinking about college. The sophomores finally get a chance to experience high school. Now we have a new set of freshmen, who are just starting to adapt to the new culture of a higher education setting. During these 6 months in person, we have observed these freshmen. Some students and teachers would find some of them normal, while for the others, “interesting” or “wild.” Usually, it’s different for those to transition into high school. “As students enter high school, my hope is that they approach the challenges they face with what I like to call a “growth mindset.” (<https://www.insight-education.net>) Although, for this year’s freshmen, it may be different. Thanks to Covid. The last time the class of ‘25 had a full in-person school year was in 6th grade. So, for most of that time, the freshmen this year could not complete their full experience of middle school and would have to quickly mature or grow out of that middle school mindset. So, the question is, could the freshmen this year possibly still have that mindset where they still feel or act like a middle schooler? We will hear from a few freshmen ourselves to determine whether they still have this mindset and their opinions about this change.

High school in general can be stressful and the workload is different than middle

school, so that was an adjustment for the freshmen, or any of us after online school. Although freshmen year can be one of your easiest years and a year where you can meet new people and new friends, it can be a huge adjustment for some. “Freshmen year is going pretty well. It’s not that easy, and there’s still a lot of work,” freshman Bea Montances claims. “I feel like we weren’t as academically prepared as we should’ve been,” freshman Victoria Shats follows. During that adjustment, that also includes maturing and trying to seem more grown up as the class of ‘25 transitions to a new environment. So, do they really have that mindset, where they still feel like they’re middle schoolers? The answer is no. “I don’t think I have the same mindset as I did in middle school because I feel like I’ve grown up and matured a little bit when I can set my priorities straight,” Bea says. Even though some kids do seem childish around the halls, they don’t typically seem too immature. “I definitely don’t feel like I’m in middle school,” freshman Collin Sparrow responds. “People here are still childish, but a lot better than middle school, and I feel more independent.” Even though our freshmen have quickly escaped that type of mindset and had no problem making that quick transition into high school, they still had that feeling they grew up quicker than expected. “I do think we grew up too quickly,” Victoria states. “The standards that our generation sets are 100% unattainable and can completely change someone.” Luckily, they have friends by their side to make sure it wasn’t too alarming. “It was easy to adapt to since I had friends who were with me,” Bea says. As the year continues, it can impact all sorts of people, not just freshmen, but also our returning students. Especially after coming back from virtual learning. “It definitely impacts different people differently because everyone’s different, but maybe people feel the same,” Collin mentions. Even though Covid has taken away from some of our high school experiences or even middle school, online schooling had some benefit

for our students. Yes, it is different for everyone on how and when they would mature or how one student can be more childish than another, but online happened to help some students mature. “If anything, having to learn how to be alone for so long and transition out of codependency matured us,” Victoria agrees.

Even though some students and teachers assume how the freshmen haven’t matured or act like they’re still in middle school, the truth is, a majority of those students have actually developed. It was overall a misconception on what their behavior is really like. So just remember, the freshmen today are still growing and learning. So, some freshmen will mature at some point, and some have already reached that point in understanding. Looking at Victoria, Bea, and Collin’s high school experiences so far, they seem to find their understanding in maturation and continue their formal operational stage in their life as they become these wonderful, intelligent teens.



A then vs. now picture of the freshmen this year. From 6th grade to now, they have developed into teens both physically and mentally.

How Covid Affected Students' Responsibility

By Genesis Iglesias



Photo in Danna Stahl article "5 Academic Success Tips for Students with Anxiety Issues"

The two years of Covid and the almost full year on lock down has a strong influence on people's responsibilities, whether they are academic or real-world responsibilities.

From the research that has been gathered, students have felt a negative impact on their responsibilities due to the pandemic. "At school we would have had to be held accountable," junior Brittany Pate explained. "Since we were in person, we kind of had no choice but to tend to our deadlines, but when we went virtual, it felt like the days started going together. I felt like since it was online it didn't feel as mandatory, and it made me lose my motivation because I knew in the back of my mind that it was not as serious as in-person school."

Virtual learning was not something very serious for the majority of students all around the world. "I definitely became very irresponsible. I started losing track of my deadlines, missing a lot of my work. I didn't go to class a lot of the time, which is totally not like my character, but it became that way because of Covid," junior Brittany Pate stated.

Maturity may seem like it is the same as it was before Covid. "I still feel like I'm stuck in that time period or that I missed out on a lot of experiences that I was supposed to have," junior Brittany Pate said. "I don't talk a lot. I was pretty extroverted before we went virtual. I didn't even realize going back it was so hard to only navigate just regular conversations. I became so introverted that I really just stopped talking even when we came back. I hated doing group work so much now which I never did before, so it just feels good being in person again."

The pressure and stress has increased tremendously for some students. "We had been on lock down for so long that I feel

that as time goes on I'm getting more stressed with the school work since I had already gotten used to online school. It has become difficult to adjust to receiving all this work and completing them before they are due and at the same time working on the work from other classes," junior Pablo Rojas explained. "This has taken a toll on my personal life because I don't have enough time to do things like hang out with friends or family to socialize, and ultimately leaves me with a lot of stress."

On the other hand, there are some students who feel as though the pandemic has made them more responsible. "I feel like the pandemic has affected my responsibility in both my personal and academic life. Academically, it has changed the way we learn/do school work because we continue to use our computers to do more, to do deeper research, and it has just left us tired from using our computers every day for a whole school

year," junior Datriel Ward shared. "In my personal life, I've even had to become more responsible to prevent myself and others from getting sick, and I feel like now I am way more cautious about staying safe."

An infographic with a light blue background and a large number '5' in a purple dotted circle at the top. The title 'IDEAS TO REDUCE STRESS AT BEDTIME' is in bold, with 'STRESS' in a larger font. Below the title is the website 'WWW.MKEWELLNESS.COM'. There are five sections, each with an icon and a tip: 1. 'LIST MAKING' with a notepad icon: 'Hand write a to do list for tomorrow and leave it outside the bedroom'. 2. 'PRACTICE GRATITUDE' with a sun icon: 'Write what you're grateful for in a journal that you keep on your nightstand'. 3. 'SELF-TALK' with a brain icon: 'Keep your inner voice calm, collected and kind'. 4. 'RELAX' with a peace symbol icon: 'Practice deep breathing with one hand on your heart and the other on your belly feeling the breath move your chest and belly up and down with each inhale and exhale'. 5. 'ESSENTIAL OILS' with an oil bottle icon: 'Use lavender essential oil in a diffuser or on your body diluted in carrier oil of your choice such as fractionated coconut oil, jojoba oil or grapeseed oil (1 drop essential oil to 5 drops of carrier oil for adults)'.

Tips to deal with stress by editors at mkewellness.com

What is the Importance of Astrology?

By Kylie Beveridge

“We are born at a given moment, in a given place and, like vintage years of wine, we have the qualities of the year and of the season of which we are born. Astrology does not lay claim to anything more.”

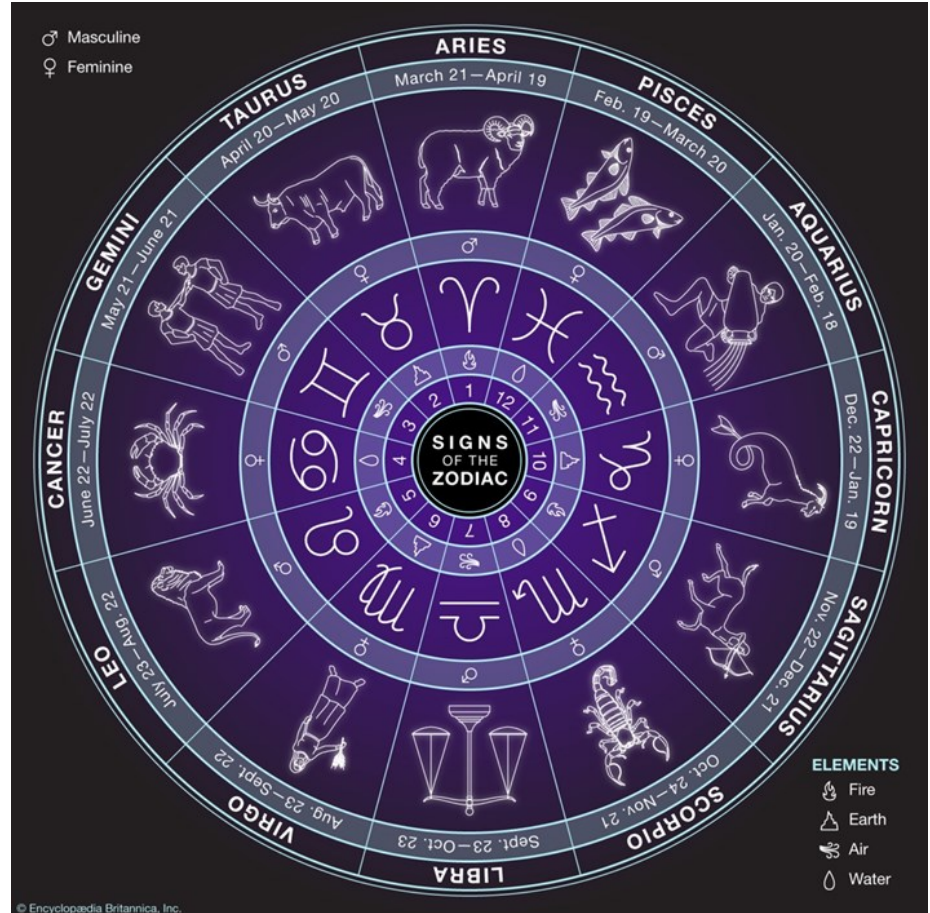
—Carl Jung

Since the early Egyptians, people have been trying to read the stars. Have you ever looked at the stars yourself, and wondered what it all means? Today, most people might know their star sign according to their birthday. You might have even read a horoscope once or twice. However, astrology in and of itself is not to be trusted. Many people use Astrology as a way to generate expectations about future events in their lives or to explain personal traits about themselves. Astrology has influenced numerous people for centuries. It is considered pseudoscience because there are no scientific facts that will support any of the outcomes or results.

“Astrology gives believers the reasons why some of the things happening to them are happening,” said freshman Anjola Kukoyi.

Astrology may shed light on those who need a better understanding. People want to know their future it may give them something to look forward too.” Anjola is an Aquarius.

“I’m an Aries, and my opinion on astrology is it’s cool and fun to talk about and compare with others about similarities you guys have within your signs,” freshman Torri Anhwe explained.



The horoscope also is divided into twelve houses, which make up the 24-hour period during which the earth rotates once on its axis. Each house deals with certain areas of a person's life, such as marriage, health,

work, travel, and death. Astrologers make predictions by interpreting the position of astronomical bodies within the signs and houses of the horoscope.

Seasons Affect our Mood, Part 2

By Desean Walker

My classmate Naza Nnagbo, authored an article last month about how the seasons affect our mood. I asked some students which season makes them depressed and which season brings them joy. “In the summertime, I feel more active and energized,” said junior Jamari Lewis. Whereas another junior Mehki Workman told me winter makes him more sad and less energized because of the dullness. The only thing that excites him in the winter is Christmas. Both students told me that summertime has a certain type of smell and feel.



Backlash for Cultural Appropriation in the Music Industry

By Chinaza Nnagbo

“Somebody of one culture trying to do or be something else of the other culture.”; Freshman London Harley explains what cultural appropriation is in her own understanding.

“Cultural appropriation in the music industry that I’m familiar with is Miley Cyrus,” senior Darrick Adams explained.



Miley Cyrus at the 2015 MTV awards



Child star Miley Cyrus chose to break free of her naive and innocent Disney persona. During the 2015 MTV awards, she wore blonde dreadlocks and Twitter exploded over it. “Miley Cyrus didn’t just abuse her whiteness and wore dreadlocks to the VMA’s,” said one user. “The dreads<” Chance The Rapper tweeted feeling. No need to say more.

Another one that can be very well ignored is when Elvis Presly covered songs by black artists like “That’s Alright Mama” and “Won’t be Cruel.” The original creator and writers didn’t get as much recognition or benefit as an artist.

Nicki Minaj was accused of cultural appropriation after wearing an Asian inspired outfit on Saturday Night Live May 21 2018. Many Asian traditional clothing is also often fetishized by the media and well-known artists.

David Yi best explains this in Teen Vogue “The Chun-Li challenge is the latest example of pop culture stereotyping Asian Cul-



Nicki Minaj wearing traditional Asian clothing as “props”

ture.” The challenge included people dancing and doing the slick choreography, but some took it as far to stereotype Asian culture and style their hair in double buns to mimic the hairstyle Nicki Minaj, herself, had in the music video.” Double buns have long been one of the most commonly appropriated ways to style hair in an Asian way, as popularized by many anime characters such as Kagura from Gintama, and Miaka Yuuki from Fushigi Yuugi,” David Yi described in detail.

Rapper Asian doll (who is African American) also joined the Chun-Li trend and danced with chopsticks in her hair, and Nicki Minaj reposted it on her Instagram story.

Winter Sports Season Survives the Winter Covid Surge

By Kevin Folgar

It’s currently 2022, but things don’t look much different from 2020. As you may recall back in 2020 is when we first went on lockdown because of Covid-19. It was a shock; we had never seen anything like that before in our lives. Today, Covid is still a big issue. Things are still being shut down because of it; we still have to wear our masks (until March 1, 2022), and try to social distance.

One of the many things impacted by Covid was sports, from professionals having to play in a bubble in Disney World to our own student athletes losing a season. Last year, winter sports were completely cancelled, and fall and spring seasons were

drastically different. Now, one key difference this year is that vaccines are readily available. All winter athletes must be vaccinated or subjugate to testing on Fridays during lunch to remain eligible for their sport.

Currently, multiple variants of Covid are still spreading, and consequently we saw a very large spike in cases. Several BCPS schools switched to virtual learning temporarily as a result, but Franklin stayed open in person throughout the surge. All after school activities including sports were cancelled for some time. Senior wrestler Chino Chika said, “I thought our season was over,” but a little more than a month later,

winter sports came back while all other after school activities were cancelled including regular one-on-one coach classes. This did cause some controversy, sparking the debate of whether sports are really more important or more safe than a coach class or tutoring. Now whether the right decisions were made, I’ll leave that up to you. Many seniors were concerned about the winter season, seeing that it was their last. When asked about the additional challenges Covid caused in addition to the normal challenges of just being an athlete, Vaughn Everette said, “We just got to do our best. It’s out of our control, so we work through it like any other challenge in life.”

Knives Out, a Masterful Who-Dunnit

By Matthew Luniewski

The “Who-Dunnit” genre was at a time immensely popular, almost becoming a part of the movie going experience itself. Nearly every grossing movie in the mid ‘60s to early ‘70s had to have a killer and a twist for the audience to predict. Ever since then, however, the genre had been suddenly dropped with just the remanence of their cultural impact left to be seen in recent films. That is until *Knives Out* directed by Rian Johnson was released, giving a new generation a classic “Who-Dunnit” styled film which successfully flips the genre on its head while still retaining the essence of those classic films.

Rian Johnson directed *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*, which had a very mixed reception. Ultimately, the biggest issue with the movie is that it doesn’t know what it wants to be. This is largely in part due to Rian Johnson picking up the series from J.J. Abrams had a widely different idea as to what direction he wanted to take the series in. With a universe as massive and as well-known as *Star Wars*, it had to be difficult to decide where to take the story. The failings of the movie were also in part due to Rian Johnson’s own merit, as most ideas rarely came full circle in the plot and characters felt uninteresting and void of any depth. When it came to his next project, *Knives Out*, Rian Johnson did what many directors struggle to do when beginning a new project: acknowledge their shortcomings in their works. All the problems that can be found in *The Last Jedi* are nowhere to be found in *Knives Out* as factors that made his previous works fall short like the plot devices and characters are the same factors that makes *Knives Out* so special.

The most prominent and most exceptionally done part of *Knives Out* is the plot. In comparison to something like *Star Wars*, *Knives Out* is significantly less ambitious in its world building and universe, giving it more room for a nuanced plot. But the plot isn’t just better than *The Last Jedi*’s, it is leagues above most films in general. The plot revolves around a famous murder mystery novelist death and his family who has been leeching off his success, fighting for the inheritance after his entire will signed for his caregiver – Marta. This plot concept may sound familiar, but it is how the story unfolds that makes the plot so riveting. What separates this movie from all the other “Who-Dunnits” is how Rian Johnson flips the script and creates an entirely new story multiple times in the story, essentially changing it to a sort of sub-genre of “Who Dunnit.” In the first fifth of the movie, it switches from trying to find who’s guilty, to escaping from being found guilty, and then continues to bend the plot in all sorts of new directions. Nearly every detail in the plot is crafted to have two or even three sides, only revealing its true meaning once the story is turned on its head. Everyone’s stories change in fear of being found out for their own crimes, objects are given entirely new meaning, and audience predictions are completely dismantled. Even though nearly everybody and everything are affected by these twists, the plot maintains its fluidity and tightness, leaving almost no gaps at all, almost.

The difference between how Rian Johnson handles his characters is also vastly different between these two projects. While *The Last Jedi* leaves its characters to rot in sacrifice for its grandiose scale, “*Knives Out* doesn’t” attempt to be ambiguous with its universe and finds an incredible balance between its realized scope and bite-sized characters. The movie doesn’t try to be a character study and understands it doesn’t need to do anything world changing with them. They’re just points for the story to weave itself around. In a way they feel as if they are altered by the story, while in a more character study oriented film, it would be the story that is bent by the characters. Both ways are valid methods of storytelling, but it is important to realize what should come first in a story based on the type of story you are writing, plot or characters. This understanding of the story is something that wasn’t present in *The Last Jedi*. The purpose of the characters in *Knives Out* is to develop a thoughtfully convoluted plot through lies and to bounce jokes off of. The simplicity of each character makes the movies all the better by keeping the story in focus. This simplicity doesn’t damage the characters’ enjoyability as the actors bring enough flavor to each character that keep them consistently engaging and successfully two-dimensional.



Knives Out Movie Poster from IMDB

The simplicity of all the characters is complemented by quality acting that doesn’t draw too much attention. Each actor brings just enough to the plate so that they’re developed but not overbearingly drawing attention to the point where it indirectly says “I am the killer” right in your face. Each actor hones these nuanced traits for their character to make them defined and memorable. Michael Shannon’s character was

written to be the character that brings the most humor to the movie and is only amplified by Shannon’s over-the-top voicing and movement. His improvisation is key to what makes his character feel so cartoonish, adding together to make this cocky, power-hungry leech of a son that is portrayed. There are certainly other commendable performances by Jamie Lee Curtis, Ana de Armas, Daniel Craig, and Toni Collette. Even Chris Evans who has often fallen down a rabbit hole of different run-of-the-mill blockbuster characters that feel copied and pasted from *Captain America*.

Nearly the biggest asset that this movie uses in order to create this nostalgic feeling of the murder mystery genre is the set design. Almost the entire movie takes place in a mansion filled with nooks and crannies. There is always something new to find in the background like little trinkets that the family has collected. They even say directly in the movie that the house is basically a big clue board, which is exactly the meticulous yet oddly cozy idea they were looking for.

The only major issue that can be found in the movie is a singular plot hole that can be found in the last third of the movie. It is sad to see after the rest of the plot was so calculated and exact, but it is undeniably apparent. It isn’t something that is so immensely irredeemable that it makes the rest of the movie void of purpose, but it is undeniable, even when every other part of the plot is so meticulously crafted.

Knives Out, like its plot, can be seen in 3 different lights. The first being an ingenious crowd-pleaser that rightfully earns its success, the second being a love letter to all the “Who-Dunnits” and murder mystery stories that came before it, and third, a self-imposed challenge by Rian Johnson. While the genre of the movie is clearly adored by Rian Johnson as there is clear influence from other works of the same genre, it seems as if the genre was chosen in order to focus on his two greatest weaknesses in previous films, plot and characters. The “Who-Dunnit” genre naturally emphasizes its small details and plot devices that were things Rian Johnson continuously struggled with. With his own story and not something like *Star Wars* where there is so much expectation, he is able to build his own characters and let them grow and function the way he pleases. While being a masterclass of its genre, *Knives Out* doesn’t try to reinvent the wheel, as it clearly understands what it wants and needs to be. It never tries to double dip with ideas or stay split on including too many concepts, rather it stays to its roots, which is why it flourishes with success. Hopefully, this ingenuity isn’t just lightning in a bottle in *Knives Out 2*, which comes out later this year.

Tennis Season Is Here!

By Laila Roodbari

"It doesn't matter what your background is or where you come from, if you have dreams and goals, that's all that matters." Professional tennis player, Serena Williams once said. Serena grew up in a rough neighborhood in Compton, CA. But she didn't let her circumstances reflect on her future of becoming a professional tennis player. The future can be unpredictable. Who knows, could you possibly become a famous tennis player?

This march, tennis season is coming back! "I am feeling great because I know that we will have great student-athletes competing at high levels while having the time of their lives!" Coach Sommer says.

Not only coach is thrilled for the upcoming season, but students are as well. As for junior, Gabriella Wiggins, the new manager, is glad to be taking this position. "Well, it seems like a cool job because I've never managed a team," she says. "I'm really excited for the season and how it will play out."

This excitement will be great for preparing for the upcoming matches as this is a very engaging sport. Players have been preparing for this since January, getting in shape and going over expectations. "They know that they need to show up in shape and ready to show their tennis skills as well as grit and a competitive spirit." Coach Sommer says.

There will be 13 matches which will take place in late March. From there players will move forward to tournaments such as county, regional, and states, which will take place in May. A lot is coming up, but it can be pushed through with motivation and growth.

"We always focus on personal and team growth through tennis skills and competition," Coach Sommer says. "We also will practice and play with our best players on the court to represent Franklin as we compete against other teams."

With these preparations, it will come into play when it comes to competing against challenging teams/competitions. Franklin's two biggest competitions are Hereford and Dulaney, but with the right attitude there is always a chance of winning.

"Any player or doubles team can be your toughest competition if you don't prepare and play like you want to win," Coach Sommer says. "The school doesn't matter."

Working together is key when it comes to sports. Supporting, motivating, and helping one another grow, is what makes a successful team. But do not forget about having fun!

If you think you have what it takes to earn a spot on the team, tryouts are coming up soon. On March 1st and 3rd from 2:40-4 pm tryouts will take place for girls. The boys try outs will be on March 2nd and 4th from 2:40-4 pm. If you're interested, come on by with a good attitude, good luck!



Team photo of the varsity Tennis team in the 2018-2019 school year.

The Gazette

St. Patrick's Day Word Search

By Mariana Noyola-Hernandez



Clovers
Cobbler
Coins
Gold
Green
Irish
Leprechaun
Rainbow
Saint Patrick
Shamrock
Shoes
Sneaky
Spring
Treasure

NOTE: some words are flipped

UIDBENIOWCBIOEWBCIOZPXU XCOBBLERIQXMDEWHIREFBHWX
GEYWBVLmZCOINSMBZUCFEBWOUWFEFNCUEWBZCMEOCROEWB
MBRWOUOMZBOUNWOUZMCBUOCBUOBQZCUOBQOZCUBOUQEBV
DJSVBVJSDIVEDSEOHVISDHVHUIGDSJDQOHADNVFDOABOPW
PIERWBWGOIHRBBHBZVSEOHSDVNIOEWHISFHWEBFQOWPOFR
EIWHFNJSDNBjVHDSVOOHSEIHnWIOQTEUIFACFHNXBZCXSNC
VMVLGKDHSGASYWDIRPRENYEOXUGZCASFAJKDIOGTPEWOIUW
TQWTRQWAFSBNBNVCMGJHEKPTRNYSVZFCCNBVNDBLMLFDGH
ASVCGHSDBVSKSSBJRIOGRWAUIHIIFWKJBVDFKBDTEKJBFONU
AHCERAINBOWDTWTYQVDCZXCVRJZJKLDFVIOHHREPOTRHBKO
JRBHVISDGYUHWQBvHFVYXHPovKVOIUWRHNSKDRAJIUBVAG
XBZHGFYUEIYPRUERYKAENSJBVMDBZCGSFDASKIETTHRITVN
JVSDHIGOEHRIYUWTGRFJGBHDBVXCJNUPKULHUDCTYREQEWZ
CFZHCUXDSGFYBHEUIGHERJNHIORJPEHUGHFRQVHBJWIOFHB
LHFBVNISOYHGSRQSWETTYUIOTRHJTRPIKODKGJVAKHGVCDSZ
OABVHJFRGFTIFHGiorJRFGTGQHTegwyHJKLHRBFUAJDGIKBV
VBXGZCVHJKRSRHBnFMETRjHBGOLDUIYHGEFVBjNNJCCFZXCE
EYGHFHNrJIGVUIREJBAPIERHIGOHERUIGJNIOIHFBVNODIHR
RRHGPGIRSBHGYWGBYQSYQHRJOGADFYBVkZFDBVNMGHPYHS
SHAMROCKBHJSDGYEQWUOSDCZXBHTGYUTRGNHKMILKPIYIOY
TMKNGYURBHFTVCGXCDZRPLQWZGVBCTREBHGBNEERGEJNKPI
OEQWDRZXBjKGFUHFJEOTRHOFHKLETAUIOEWJKSGONFRECS



The Gazette Editors:

Logan Dubel, News & Managing Editor
Simone Tillman, Features and Entertainment Editor
Kierra Richardson, Sports, Entertainment, and Social Media Editor
Lindsay Adjei, Business Manager, Social Media Editor, Copy Editor
Ms. Hodskins, Advisor and Editor-in-Chief

Thanks to Gazette Staff Writers and Contributors:

Lindsay Adjei, Kylie Beveridge, Gavin Burris, Noelle Cheeves, Brady Davidson,
Fiona Durante, Noah Eaton, Ronald Edmund, Kevin Folgar, Rachael Harbus,
Genesis Iglesias, Aryaan Khan, Matthew Luniewski, Jaida March, Jayden McClung,
Chinaza Nnagbo, Mariana Noyola-Hernandez, Kierra Richardson, Laila Roodbari,
Peach Schulman, Dannah Tinio, Tina Tran, Desean Walker, and Raul Williams.