



Great Vision Great Coverage

# The Gazette '21-'22

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## Final Moments for Seniors

By Noah Eaton



\*Well, \*well, \*well, would you look at the time, class of 2022. Three quarters down and half a quarter to go as high school seniors are basically down the homestretch for finishing grade school and moving on with their lives. There's a lot of excitement in the air about upcoming senior events such as, senior picnic, prom, senior awards, and graduation, but seniors must make sure to finish off strong academically. This is the first time since the 2018 – 2019 school year that a senior class can have all these major events due to the pandemic. As the year is coming down to the wire, it is also time to start thinking about what seniors will be doing after high school such as attending college, the army, etc. It is also the time to remember all the good memories from the last 4 years, so let's hear what the seniors have to say about their last final moments in grade school. "I'm honestly excited but nervous because once I leave high school, I'm going to be on my own and doing adult things," says senior Tyreese Savage. He

goes on to say, "My favorite memory was getting All County to play in the county all-star basketball game. I will miss playing basketball. My plan is to go to a community college to get my certificate in photography. On a scale of 1 – 10, I would rate my high school years a 7 because the pandemic really messed everything up, with a lot of people having to adjust to coming back to school and learn a different way." Senior Brianna Timmons said, "It's exciting because we get to start a new chapter in our lives, and experience new things. My favorite memory was getting my license because I got more independence. I'm going to Temple for criminal justice for my plans after high school. I will miss my freshman year when I leave high school. On a scale of 1 – 10, I would rate my high school years a 3 because Covid made it very boring, and the online schooling was annoying." Senior Jasmin Spruill had some very interesting thoughts and opinions as she said, "I'm nervous but also slightly excited. Not knowing what the future will hold brings a lot of anxiety and fear, but it'll be cool not being in high school anymore. My favorite memory was honestly losing my keys, and then finding them in my unlocked car in the crevice between the door and the driver's seat. For my plans after high school, I am planning on attending college for cyber security, but I don't want to be in too much debt because of college, so I'm probably going to go to CCBC first to do two years there and transfer. On a scale of 1 – 10, I would label my high school years a 7 because the Covid year was lame. Playing basketball was okay, but making new



friends and hanging out with them after school was cool, especially after I got my license. Last but certainly not least, Senior Sadaisha Polanco said something similar. "It feels weird; it's all happening too fast. I'm excited but anxious to see what's waiting for me after high school. The strange and amusing conversations I had with my teachers are my favorite memories. For my plans after high school, I'm going to a community college first, then I'll transfer my credits to a four-year college. The thing I'll miss the most are my teachers. On a scale of 1 – 10, I would rate my high school years a 6 because I feel like I didn't get the full high school experience because of Covid. According to these seniors, it sounds like they are all ready for a new chapter after graduating high school. Go for your big dreams you've been waiting for all your life! Congratulations Class of '22, and good luck!!



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### Colleges: Which One Should I Choose? Why Is This So Hard?

By Rachael Harbus

College Decision Day is coming up for Franklin High School's seniors on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022! I know, pretty stressful for those who have not chosen a college yet. It is understandable though. Choosing a college is typically a long and drawn out process. When asked what the hardest part about choosing a college was, two students and one teacher had very similar answers.

"The hardest part when choosing a college is seeing if you would fit into that school without actually being a student there. The experience from the outside perspective may be completely different from an inside perspective of an actual student there," senior Sofia Sanz said.

#### SOFIA SANZ

Loyola University Maryland



Major:  
Biology



Sofia Sanz's official commitment to Loyola University Maryland with a Biology major.

Instagram: @franklinseniors22

"The hardest part about choosing a college is finding a place that has a good program for your major but also a community where you feel accepted because both are so important for a good college experience," senior Riley Katz replied.

#### RILEY KATZ

West Virginia University



Major:  
Animal &  
Nutritional  
Sciences



Riley Katz's official commitment to West Virginia University with an Animal & Nutritional Science major.

Instagram: @franklinseniors22

"The hardest part about choosing a college for many students is the fact that all of the options are good. There is not one right answer and typically for the kind of student that really has their act together, they are used to getting the right answers. And then all of a sudden, they're left with options where none of the answers feel perfect. The choice also feels really important as it has been what you have working towards. The toughest part is taking the feelings out of the situation and just making a choice that you know will be imperfect because no choice is perfect," English teacher Ms. Boyd stated.

When it comes to making college decisions, one cannot just flip a coin, certain factors are considered. Students consider one or more of the following factors:

#### Friends

In a perfect world, we would be going to college with all of our friends. Unfortunately, this is not how the world works. Everyone applies to different colleges. Rarely does a group of high school friends end up at the same college. One of the hardest things about going to college is not knowing anybody and having to make new friends. This can cause a lot of anxiety as most people have grown up with a set group of friends and aren't ready to let them go just yet. Some people do end up going to college with someone from their high school, but it's coincidental to actually be friends.

#### Money

College is expensive. The only time it is cheap is if you get a full ride scholarship but think about the price you have to pay to get that. According to [accreditedschoolsonline.org](http://accreditedschoolsonline.org) and [myscholarly.com](http://myscholarly.com), less than 20,000 students per year obtain full ride scholarships to the college of their choice. That is less than 1% of each year's incoming college freshmen! However, scholarships are not rare. It is very possible to get scholarships, whether it be a merit, sport, or financial aid kind of scholarship; it all helps with the cost. When considering a college, you have to think about if you can pay the tuition and how much debt you will be in with student loans (if needed).

#### Location & Transportation

Not all colleges that students apply to are local. In fact, many students apply out of state or even out of the country. There are colleges everywhere. The important thing to think about is how you are going to get there and how much money it will cost to travel. You also have to consider how you will travel around campus and leave campus, especially since most colleges do not allow freshmen to have their cars parked on campus.

#### Housing

Living on campus is a college norm for most students and most students look forward to it. However, one thing to consider is how the housing works. For example, most seniors look at the sleeping arrangements, how many roommates they'll have, whether or not the room has a kitchen, the privacy in the bathroom, etc. Roommates are even harder to consider especially if you do not have any friends that are going to the same college as you. It can be very scary as you are basically having a sleepover with a random stranger every night for your entire college experience. Ironically, most people that are strangers and become roommates in college actually end up becoming really good friends. This is not just pure dumb luck because most colleges have the freshman class take personality tests to determine who would be the best roommate for them. And for the small percentage of people that have problems with their roommates, there is nothing stopping them from requesting a roommate change. But, like apartments, these dorms cost money to live in. The prices vary depending on the college.

#### Major

The reason people choose specific colleges in the first place is because they have a good program for their intended major. Generally, students want the best possible education related to what they plan on doing for the rest of their life as it ensures success.

#### Size

Believe it or not, but many students consider the size of the college. This is because some students work better in larger schools with larger classes or some students work better in smaller schools with smaller classes. Or a combination of both, it depends on the person.

#### Campus Life

The classrooms, teaching style, sports, restaurants, etc. are most commonly looked at by students as it will be the environment in which they live in for the next four years. The goal is to determine whether or not the campus will be a good fit and if a student can picture themselves happy there. This is exactly why we have college tours.

#### Faculty

During college tours, most colleges allow potential students to meet teachers and have conversations with them, specifically about their intended major. This gives students a good way to gauge what their education would be like if they did decide to go to that college.

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### Colleges: Which One Should I Choose? Why Is This So Hard?

By Rachael Harbus

*Continued from previous page*

#### What if it is not the college for me, even after I accept?

A common, but valid fear about choosing a college is that you will hate it. But you cannot make this conclusion without spending some time at the school of your choice. If it really is not the school for you, there are thousands of other colleges all over the world that you could apply to and transfer. There is nothing bad about that. You are simply doing what is best for you.

#### What if I do not choose the right major for me?

The good thing about college is that most universities do not require their students to officially declare a major until the end of their sophomore year or the beginning of their junior year. This gives lower classman some time to decide on what they really enjoy doing and what they want to do as a career. Personality tests related to college careers are also very helpful if you are an indecisive freshman or sophomore.

However, it is strongly advised that you weigh the consequences (positive and negative) before making any huge college change.

In conclusion, there is a lot to think about when deciding on a college. The process can be very time consuming, and it may require more help than you think. But no matter what college you end up choosing, it will be a brand new experience with a lot of fun and lifelong memories.

### Calling All AP Students: It's Now May!

By Laila Roodbari

Spring is here! The flowers are blooming; warmer weather and longer days are ahead of us. That seasonal depression is finally over, and the school year is almost over. But May is also a very important month for AP students, just one more thing to get through and freedom at last! That is the approaching AP exams.

The AP exams (Advanced Placement exams) are the standardized exams that AP students will take to measure how well they have mastered the content learned throughout the course. Everyone will have different exams on different dates since there are multiple AP classes.

The variety of these classes include English, math courses, science courses, social studies, and world languages. Students registered for the exams will be taking them anywhere from May 2<sup>nd</sup> to May 18<sup>th</sup>. Depending on when you take your exam, the date is here or right around the corner.

Like the SAT, many students seem to be stressed, but the pressure isn't as bad as the SAT. Since students are taking different exams, one exam may be easier than another. For example, junior Bradley Flam says, "I'm stressed out about calc mostly, but I don't think English will be as bad."

The thing about AP exams is that there are so many different subjects students can study if they take multiple AP classes. Meaning that they will have a lot of work to do if they choose to study. While your exam may be soon, there may be some time to get some studying in.

Students I have spoken with have gone with a popular strategy of using AP review books. You can buy them for two dollars and can be found in your teacher's classroom. But there are always other strategies you can use too such as watching videos, going over your notes, or any websites you can find that will help you.

"Go in with a game plan, focus more on the topics you struggle on rather than focusing on the material for the whole year," junior Margarita Alperovich states. Focusing on the overall material may be time consuming, especially if you already have a good understanding of it, which is why you should pick topics you struggle with and go over them instead.

other key factor to remember. If you are not mentally prepared for the test, this can make your experience even more challenging.

"Get a good night's rest the night before and eat breakfast!" English teacher Mrs. Hornberger advises. This is a common thing that students are told, but if it's done it could help you focus better.

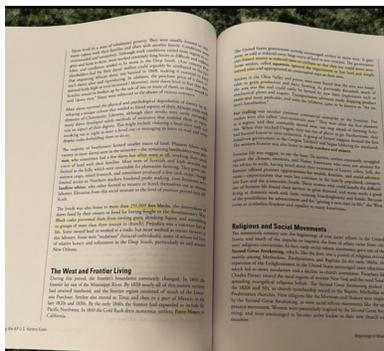
"Remember that this is just one test on one day and doesn't encompass all that you know or you're capable of doing," Mrs. Hornberger explains. "Your teachers know this! We are confident that you're equipped to do your very best."

Students tend to feel as if their test scores represent what they are capable of, but this isn't the logical way of gathering that information. It's important to remember this and have a good attitude, otherwise your experience may not be the best.

While the AP exams may allow you to earn college credits, your scores will not affect the chance of you getting into college. This is the big difference between the AP exam and the SAT. Nevertheless, it's still an important exam which you could benefit from in college.

Students should be able to check the date of their AP exam through the email they used for their Total Registration account. Otherwise you can contact Mrs. Stiffler to receive a copy.

Whether your exam is today, tomorrow, or next week, you got this and best of luck!



Bradley Flam's AP review book for APUSH.

Studying is not the only important prep for any testing. Having a positive mindset is an

### Out With The Old, In with Franklin's New Schedule

By Lindsay Adjei

Throughout the year, the newspaper has been reporting on schedule changes and the different influences around school that affect scheduling decisions regarding the next school year. Updates about the next school year show that we will be switching to 4 class periods a day with an alternating A and B day schedule. These changes were discussed at the beginning of the school year with student and teacher polls taken about the subject. The issue has divided students about what scheduling options they prefer and how they prefer to budget their time within school. Mrs. Moses, one of the administrators who manages scheduling, has taken surveys of teacher, parent, and student opinions and compiled this information to understand how the community feels.

Many students believe that this new scheduling will be a nice change of pace because it will allow for more time to do work and more time to spend with teachers in classes. "There's a lot of time wasted in our school day, we'll get time back from changing classes. We also waste a lot of time during classes as we start up and everyone then quits working 5 minutes before the bell. We won't have to do that as much anymore with lots of time in between." commented Dr. B, AP and GT Chemistry teacher. Next year, periods will be about an hour and 30 minutes, with students spending more time with teachers which would allow for student-teacher interactions and an overall better understanding of concepts with more time for classwork and homework to be explained. "I like it, but I don't love it. I'm an art student, and I like the fact that I can stay in class for 90 minutes. In pottery, 30 minutes does nothing for me because of the cleanup and prep time," said sophomore Desiree Miranda.

This also stops teachers from assigning lots of homework because they don't spend enough time with students. In order to bridge the gap caused by 40-minute class periods, lots of homework can be assigned and with eight classes each day, it

can pile up. Teachers will need to adjust their lesson plans, and Dr. B explained her approach to this new schedule. "I think it'll be a lot of figuring out as we go along. I need to learn how much you can learn in one day, so that kids aren't overwhelmed. I don't want a lot of dead time where you don't do work." With the new alternating schedule, students may feel less stressed without the pressures of homework and many class periods in one day.

Some students are still concerned about the amount of time we will now be spending in classes and how the new schedule will be carried out. Since our schedules are the same every day, it is easy to know which classes you are going to, what is assigned, and other important details about your day. There could be confusion on what schedule you are using and the things you need for class. It will be a big change from our schedules from this year and from even two years ago, and students have concerns about these adjustments.

Tenth grade counselor, Mrs. Scott who also coordinates the schedules for students, gave her opinions on the schedule and why we should make the change. "We are the only school in the county that has not been in a 4-period a day schedule... I think once we get used to it and work the kinks out, it's going to be fine, but I am on board with this because I think maybe it's time to do this. In order for us to be in-synch with the rest of the county, it is time to make that change." Mrs. Scott also talked about how the guidance department is doing training and preparing for creating all the schedules next year and what is to be expected. Around late May, schedules should start getting finalized and over the summer, the new system will be put in place.

This 4-period schedule has been adopted across many Baltimore County Public Schools and is even used at Franklin Middle School which could create an easier transition from middle school to high school for rising ninth-grade students. For

classes like art and chemistry, teachers would have more time to do hands-on lessons like labs or pottery projects which would make lessons more fun and engaging. "It'll be so much easier to do lab now ... it'll make it easier because class won't be as disjointed. You don't have a teeny little thing and then you have to leave. You'll be able to get bigger chunks of information and have it make more sense that way," elaborated Dr. B. With more time, lessons could be taught with more detail and have more information.

There are still mixed feelings about the changes overall and some students are not in support of the new schedule because of the uncertainty it brings and the amount of time they will be spending in classes overall. "I find it hard to stay focused in certain classes, and I feel like having a double period would just make it way worse. I think we'd have less homework, but then teachers would push it to get more homework done in class and with not being able to focus, I might not get it done in class," sophomore Makayla Hare said when explaining how she feels about the schedule we will be using. Mrs. Scott also talked about how she thinks the new schedule will work when it's in place next year. "I think the adjustment to the amount of time [spent in class] each day and the way that students do homework will be the tricky part... I feel like some students are worried about that but I think it's all going to balance out."

There are definitely mixed opinions within school between the teachers, staff, and students, but the change is definitely going to be the new and exciting thing for the upcoming year. As the school continues to adapt after the pandemic, we will definitely see more developments as time goes on.

### “Weren’t We Just Freshmen?”

By Fiona Durante

As another school year winds down to an end, that means summer break is coming soon. Although that’s not all. We go onto the next grade and go through the same process again in the fall. Although for some high school students, it can be different. Seniors this year are going their separate ways as they graduate in a month. Sophomores are preparing to transition into their hardest years of high school. Freshmen are eager for the year to end so they won’t be called “freshies” anymore, and a new set of freshmen will be coming, as they would prepare to adapt to the new environment. So that leaves us to the juniors this year. How exactly do juniors feel about becoming seniors next year? Preparing for college, going into their last year of school already, they missed so much over the years, especially since they got their freshman year cut and their sophomore year completely online. It all seems like they have grown up in just a blink of an eye. Let’s take a look at three juniors’ opinions of becoming a senior soon and their memories throughout their high school years.

All throughout junior year, it seems unreal that the class of ‘23 is about to go into their last year of high school. It’s a lot to take in for these group of students since they have to think about their future more. Although being an upperclassman can be both exciting and daunting. “I feel nervous since we missed a year due to Covid,” junior Kenneth Davis explains. “It doesn’t feel like too much time has passed.” Another student here at Franklin, also thinks it’s exciting to be going onto their last year of high school. “It’s exciting yet nerve wracking because now we’ll have way more responsibilities, yet we will finally be out of school,” junior Pahal Raval mentions. Pahal is right about the whole responsibilities’ thing. During junior year, students would have to do a lot in preparation for college or any future plans. Some students have to prep for multiple AP exams, most have to prepare themselves for the SAT or ACT, which is a stressful event for juniors to face. Towards the end of junior year, students even learn to write collage applications, so they can send them in, and by the time they turn into seniors, it becomes a suspenseful episode, figuring out if stu-

dents get into their dream schools. After high school, most students would decide to continue their education, going to college in order to get a high-paying career. Like Pahal and Kenneth, both want to go to college except one wants to stay in-state, while the other wants to go out-of-state. Although college is not the only option. Some students after high school would enlist in the military, take a break, or go straight to work. Throughout the years, people do have their moments and create memories that would last forever in high school. For most people like Kenneth, it’s about hanging out with friends. For Pahal it would be getting noticed by Jungkook. Although a memory of high school could also be about finding yourself and just looking back to see how much you have grown into a young adult. “This is more of an individual favorite memory but growing as a person throughout the years in and realizing my growth is something enjoyable to me,” Dannah Tinio comments.

agree, while others don’t believe it. “In lots of ways, I’m ready to be done with high school,” Kenneth admits. “It’s mainly because of the number of responsibilities and the way we have to multitask more now,” Pahal follows. Although due to Covid and the whole experience of being online for a year and a half, it may seem the upperclassmen aren’t really upperclassmen, getting ready to leave. “I don’t feel like I’m going to be a senior soon. I still feel like a freshman because of how fast time went by because of Covid,” Dannah points out. As we watch this year’s juniors grow up from freshman into young adults very quickly, let us hope they will be able to have a memorable last year of high school and hope for the best of their future after high school. Growing up is a part of life, and it’s important in a student’s life during their adolescent years, which is why some people like Dannah don’t want to go back to underclassmen years. Although some do wish they could go back to freshman year



*Student athletes of FHS are able to participate in the pep rally again, having fun with teammates and friends from other teams.*

It seems crazy to think that the class of ‘23 would be the next set of students to graduate once the class of ‘22 leaves. Last time we have seen this group of students in person was back in March of 2020, when they were freshmen. As close as they are to graduating, does the class of ‘23 feel like they’re really going to be seniors and graduate high school soon? Some actually

just to take in and make up those times before quarantine. “I wish as an underclassman, I did more clubs or sports and didn’t hold it off,” Pahal claims. Hopefully these juniors are able to make the best of their senior year when we come back in the fall.

### Is Social Media Pushing a Certain Body Type?

By Naza Nnagbo



*Showing varying body types  
Photo from Reel Rundown*

With recent years being more acceptable for everyone's different and unique body types, is mainstream media pushing a specific style/aesthetic for a specific body type?

When seeking out inspiration for fashion out of your comfort zone, what is one thing that is an obstacle? "Anytime I see a specific style on social media and I try to see another body type but for some reason it's harder to see diversity in physique in certain aesthetics," explained freshman May Acevedo.

"The rise of social media usage in today's society can have many different effects on body image and later development of eating disorders," explained best by Bella Fleps in *Social Media Effects on Body Image and Eating Disorders*. The rise of social media with younger age groups can affect their development when growing and accepting who they are as a person.



*Examples of the subversive style that has caught a lot of attention. Photo from fashion planet / carbon magazine UK.*

What's something you've noticed that happens repeatedly? "I've taken notice of the subversive fashion style that has been gaining popularity for a while now, but you never actually see body types varying in size becoming well known in the general media," sophomore Mitch Nguyen elaborated.

Undeniably every decade had a specific body type trending. In the 50's, curves were preferred and weight gain was popular. In the 60's, slim legs and a small chest was the trending body type. "The feminine form is one that is constantly changing," Jessica Benda says in *Turning Women's Bodies into Trends is out of Style*.

On the other hand, over the years, it has opened up the minds of people to accept everyone's different shapes but biases are still pushed within fashion and the media. A good example of these prejudices is in "America's Next Top Model" where contestants are judged based on their appearances and modeling abilities. Many judges are biased towards thinner models and will judge models who have curvier body types more harshly. This type of media has created bias within women across the country as these ideas are pushed.

While generally in decades past, conformity and harmful beauty standards were pushed on women. In today's society, people have become more understanding of each other and accept a variety of body types.



*Photo from reel rundown*

### What Shoes Are You Wearing Right Now? Let Me Guess ... Crocs?

By Kierra Richardson

The striking ideal summer shoe that has arisen once again like a rising phoenix are the shoes known as Crocs. Crocs are meant to be innovative, fun, and comforting for people who want shoes that conform to their personalities and lifestyles, offering a hip alternative to sneakers. When the warm weather comes around, Crocs are a better option than bare feet. Crocs even offers an option of fur Crocs for the cold times in winter. "My kids wear Crocs all summer long," Hal Ornstein, DPM, chairman of the American Academy of Podiatric Practice Management explained. "Instead of having to tell them to tie the laces on their sneakers and worrying about them tripping over untied shoes, Crocs are convenient, and they like them -- they're cool."



Rachel Harbus showing off her white classic clogs

Around Franklin, Crocs may be seen as the most worn shoes at school. Every day, we see more and more Crocs all around, different unique ones and some of the same. Not just at Franklin, Crocs are everywhere, from malls to parks to schools across America. With the variety of color choices and designs like camouflage, haze, and glam, Crocs are probably students' favorite footwear. "Yes, I wear my Crocs more than any of my other shoes," said senior Takiah Cheathon. While the Crocs project all the great reasons to wear the shoe, parents and teachers may wonder if the loose-fitting style of these cool kicks can actually pose a danger.

In May 2002, two friends in Florida made improvements on the Canadian Foam Creation's design and decided they wanted to market the ideal shoe. Crocs launched in November 2002 by Scott Seamans, Lyndon Hanson, and George Boedecker, Jr. The Croc shoe was first advanced as a boating shoe. Fun fact: the 13 holes in Crocs help with ventilation and helping let moisture out. They can also be used to customize your pair of Crocs with your own distinctive combination of Jibbitz. "I like my glow in the dark Jibbitz and candy ones," said senior Takiah Cheathon. The bumps in the Crocs insole are designed to create a subtle massage-like feel and improve circulation while you wear them. In addition to that, Crocs have the bumps to be useful in helping your feet stay inside the shoes without slipping and sliding.

Crocs present many advantages to all. People like them being lightweight, waterproof, and breathable for the days you're at the beach, pool, or lake and no one wants to have sand in their shoes for days. Crocs are also easy to clean, very cheap and comfortable. "Crocs shoes do provide protection, compared to going barefoot, or wearing flip-flops or sandals," Donna M. Alfieri, DPM, associate professor at the N.Y. College of Podiatric Medicine explained. "They offer some arch support and cushion, the holes in the shoe allow air in and keep the feet from sweating, and the antimicrobial properties of Crocs could help prevent infections in kids' feet." Crocs are a huge convenience for students waking up early in the morning, and wearing pleasant shoes that are breathable and moveable allows you to stretch your feet throughout the day. Athletes welcome Crocs to their feet often after playing their sport for comfort reasons, since Crocs provide you with good cushion and arch support. Podiatrists recommend Crocs for anyone recovering from a foot surgery. "The best benefit of Crocs is that they are easy to wear," said sophomore Steffy Garcia.

While the comfortable and easy shoe to slip on and off brings a great deal of bene-

fits, it has been concerning for parents of younger children to wear at school. "I start to have concerns when a child is doing any sort of moderate physical activity," Russell G. Volpe, DPM, a professor of orthopedics and pediatrics at N.Y. College of Podiatric Medicine elucidates. "Crocs provide little support, and they can easily slip off during recess, gym, or any other activity beyond walking." While this may be alarming for young kids, it's not as concerning for high school students who no longer have recess and most don't have gym. An easy solution would be to change shoes. There have also been worldwide media reports about kids wearing Crocs getting their toes caught in escalators in malls, airports, and other



Three students showcasing the purple classic clogs, pink fur clogs, and the new lucky charms Crocs.

transportation systems, including Washington, D.C.'s Metro stations. The subway system recently posted a warning to riders about wearing shoes like Crocs on the escalators. Doctors say that wearing Crocs for longer periods of time can eventually lead to calluses, nail problems, tendinitis, and other problems. Crocs are very comfortable to walk in and wait in long lines, but at carnivals or theme parks, they may come off during a ride and aren't allowed. Some may argue that the Crocs sports mode—wearing the strap on the back of the heel—is the solution to all of that, but we can only guess that it's up to the person running the rides. One problem of Crocs that is rather common for lots of people is when you're walking in the hallway and, out of nowhere, you trip on your Crocs, which always seems embarrassing, but really we've all been through it.

### Is This Really Necessary?

By Noelle Cheeves

Is the school system outdated? Are we learning some of the wrong things? If you think this is the case, this article is for you. High schoolers must learn about things like chemistry, where you learn about matter and how things react to each other, and world history, where you learn about issues from different countries and information about the past, and a mandatory second language. These things are important, but in this day and age, is it necessary for it to be mandatory? Sophomore Kielan Morant states, “I think we should be learning more

things that could benefit our adult life.” She was then asked, “if you could do something to change the school system, what would it be?” She then stated, “I would protest.” There used to be classes like home economics that taught you about things like financing, healthy cooking, and how to manage your home. There is geography, this teaches about states, continents, and countries. Although a suitable number of schools have this class, it is not mandatory to take. Freshman Tristan Richardson says, “I think we should have a financial literacy class to teach us different things about finances, so when we deal with different financial situations in life, we know what to do. And we will develop different skills like managing your money, creating a bank account, how to do taxes and other things of that nature.” When

asked, “If you could do something to change the school system, what would it be?” Tristan stated, “I would change the curriculum so that we would learn more things that we would use in the real world.” The things schools are teaching kids now are some of the same things that were being taught centuries ago. Society has evolved so much, and by the time the current generation grows to be adults, the things they are required to learn will most likely be redundant skills.



### How Did the Class of 2022 Affect Us?

By Desean Walker

The class of 2022 must probably be the strongest class of all the classes because their futures were the most affected because of all the trouble they’ve had the past two years. I asked a couple of seniors what the biggest hardship was they had to go through. My friend Ben Silberman said “having to not take my SAT. It sounds weird, but the colleges I’ve been looking at take SAT, so that affected me more in a bad way and my future.” My friend Rodney said doing virtual learning in the 11th grade. “Eleventh grade is the hardest year of high school, and doing it online

made it even harder, especially having less help to do it.” The class of ‘22 will probably be remembered for being the hardest working and strongest class. I also asked some juniors how did the class did of ‘22 affect them and all my friends Jamari Lewis, Jayden McClung, Victor Medina, and Mekhi Workman all said, “They inspired us and showed us we can get through anything.”

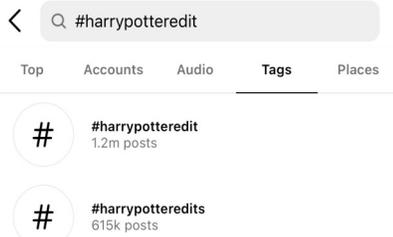


### The Makers Behind Your Favorite Edits

By Dannah Tinio

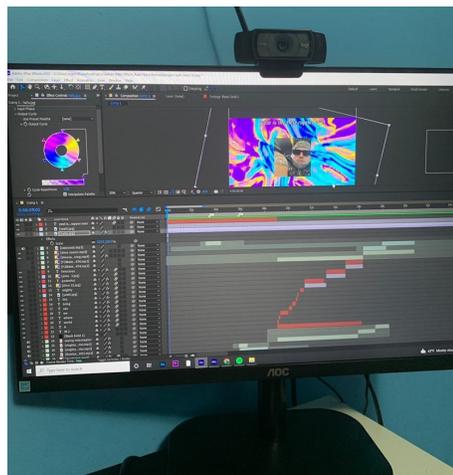
It's natural to pick up hobbies and interests growing up. Playing a sport, learning how to play an instrument, or being a dancer. These all take a person's time and dedication to become skilled in a chosen field of interest. One of the reasons why we choose to learn is to enjoy ourselves and see how capable we are. This is heavily seen in video editing. Here we will talk about the kind of video editing that teenagers tend to learn nowadays, which is finding pictures or video clips, then adding transitions between them to match the beat of an audio chosen for the edit.

Video edits are very popular all over social media, especially Instagram. Some make accounts to post all of the edits they make in one place, and to find edits of a specific media, you search “[name of media]edit” (example: #taylorswiftdit). However, behind the Instagram accounts are regular people living regular lives... So what inspired them to start editing?



An example of looking up edits on Instagram. Based on the number of posts we can see how popular they are!

Sophomore Carrie Anizoba started to learn how to edit around 2017 for the sole purpose of letting her creative freedom run wild. Whatever emotion she felt, sadness or anger, she went to go edit. “It was basically my escape from everything,” she says. With editing also being a form of interest where one enjoys themselves, Carrie



The editing application used by most video editors... Adobe After Effects.



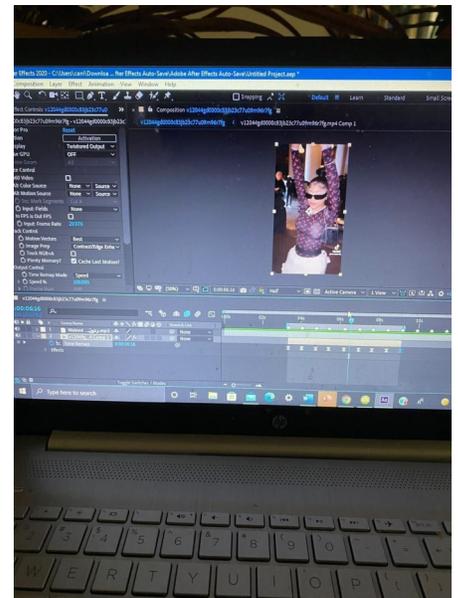
says that the fun part about it is that she got to see the results of all the hard work she did for days. Junior Lorenzo Toval feels the same way about editing, as he learned in order to express himself creatively. “I was never really good at drawing, painting or anything like that, so it was hard to find a creative outlet,” he verbalizes. Video editing has no limits since it allows people to be innovative with their work. Going back to how editing is popular throughout social media, Lorenzo mentions how editing is perfect since you can find people to appreciate your work throughout the internet.

Lorenzo and Carrie both use the editing application Adobe After Effects to create their edits, but it wasn't always easy to use. Carrie reveals that it was pretty difficult to learn at first and that she even quit a few times because she found herself comparing her edits to others. That is always a downside when it comes to wanting to be good at something, but it's important to know that you should keep going! On the other hand, Lorenzo said that learning how to edit wasn't hard but it definitely wasn't easy. “Now that we live in the 21st century, there is so much stuff on the internet to help you clarify any questions you may have,” he adds, then makes a comparison, “Editing is kind of like coding because you're creating a set of instructions to make a final product.”

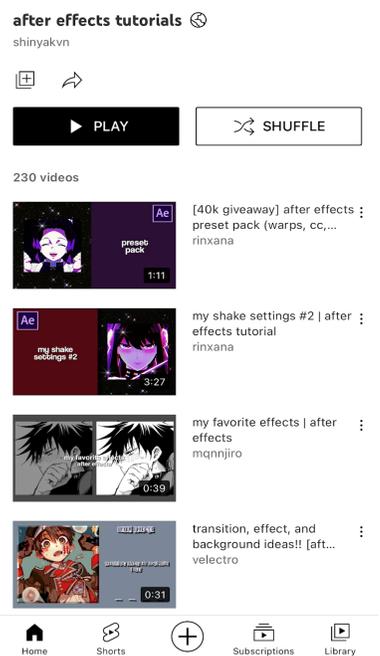
When it comes to sharing their work, they both gladly take pride in it. “Most people who knew me for a long period of time see the growth of how my edits are, and I like to show how much I've grown as an editor,” Carrie says. The more time one spends practicing their hobby or interest, the more they learn. With editing you become more creative as you learn how to do more transitions and effects and improve over time. They've even used their skills in video editing for school projects! Lorenzo, who's edited for assignments, said that editing allows his video to stand out more because of the engagement and cool effects.

A picture of Lorenzo editing his favorite rapper, Yeat.

Video editing is a fun hobby for people who mostly use it as a way to be creative. If you're planning on becoming an editor or have already started learning, don't give up and have fun with what you're making!



Carrie working on one of her edits.



For anyone who wants to learn how to edit or if you just started, don't forget you have the internet as a source! YouTube has plenty of tutorials if you need help.

### The Festival is Back in Town!

By Tina Tran



\*RING\* \*RING\* THE FESTIVAL IS BACK IN TOWN! Now you may be asking, "What festival?" It's the Ghibli festival of course!

Our local AMC theaters have a yearly event where they would play different Ghibli films at the end of every month, starting in spring and going all the way until the end of fall. This is called the Ghibli festival.

But what are Ghibli films?

Ghibli films are Japanese animated films for all ages and (usually) great movies to watch with the family. Studio Ghibli was founded by Hayao Miyazaki, Isao Takahata, Toshio Suzuki, and Tasuyoshi Tokuma, back on June 15, 1985.

Studio Ghibli got its name from an Italian noun that derives from Libyan Arabic's name for hot wind. The thought behind the name is that Ghibli films will "blow a new wind through the anime community."

Now Ghibli films have always been popular due to the nostalgic feel that they give off and beautiful animations. The films have fun and interesting plots that immerse you into the story.

"I like how it pulls you into the magical world so seamlessly because of how smooth the animation is," sophomore Mitch Nguyen expressed. "Its animation is on another level with their production quality."

"They have cool concepts and a beautiful design to them. They remind me of my childhood and gives off a nostalgic feeling," sophomore Kay Williams claims.

Ghibli films have gotten more attention in the past two years. A song from *Howl's Moving Castle* soundtrack called "Merry Go Round of Life" has gotten super popular on TikTok and brought more attention to the film. Shops such as Hot Topic and Box Lunch have started to carry Ghibli merchandise.

This year's movies that are being shown are *Princess Mononoke*, *Ponyo*, *The Cat Returns*, *Kiki's Delivery Service*, *Only Yesterday*, *Howl's Moving Castle*, and *Spirited Away*. The first film will be out April 3, 4, and 6. This year will celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Princess Mononoke* and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *The Cat Returns*.

### Dogs Are Key To Happiness

By Kylie Beveridge

Besides physical health, puppies can enhance your mental health. Dogs make people happy.

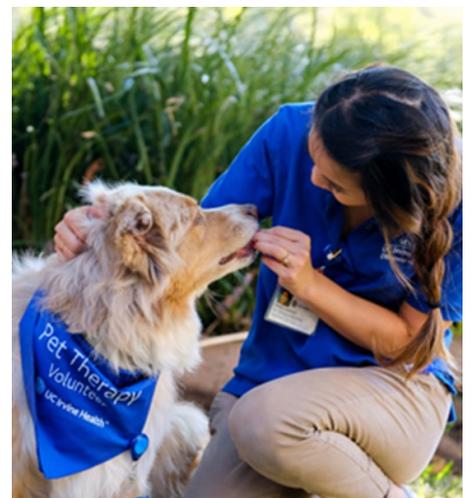
According to Lynette Hart, a professor at the University of California, "Studies have shown that Alzheimer's patients have fewer anxious outbursts if there is an animal in the home."

Having a pet is an important part of life. There are many benefits to having a pet in your family. There are numerous reasons having a pet is so wonderful. Pets can make a person more responsible, because if you have a pet then you have to manage your time better to make time for your pet. A person with a pet also has to be smart with their money. Having a pet also encourages a healthier lifestyle. People that have dogs take them on walks and play with them, which is a good way to stay healthy. Pets are also very compassionate. A person with a pet is less likely to feel lonely, or have terrible anxiety because pets give unconditional love.

"When I was a child, owning a pet helped me to feel comfortable and secure. The companionship I had with my pet helped me to overcome many problems I faced because I had someone to talk to when I felt isolated." says freshman Alexi Beveridge.

Pet owners learn to be responsible; owners have to take their dogs on walks, which is a good way to stay fit. Playing and taking runs with pets is also an excellent way to stay healthy. Getting outdoors is another benefit of having a pet that lives or enjoys going outside. Studies show that having a pet can lower stress and anxiety. Many types of animals can be therapy animals. Some therapy animals help blind people, or diabetic people.

"Pets are a great way to reduce stress," says junior Maya Rodriguez.



"It's not unusual to become frightened, discouraged or depressed when you're sick or in pain. Undergoing medical treatments or procedures also can be stressful.

*In times like those, the calming presence of a people-loving pooch may be the best medicine"*

Photo from ucihealth.org

### Encanto Review

By Matt Luniewski

*Encanto* is Disney's first animated musical film in what feels like forever. The reception from the movie was quite average at first as it didn't really do all too well in theaters. It wasn't until Disney Plus put it on their streaming service around a month after its initial release that the movie skyrocketed in popularity and received immense support and love from fans. But why? Is it because fans have been deprived of any Disney musical content since *Moana* in 2016? Or is it because *Encanto* creates a genuine connection with fans? It could honestly go either way with the movie being produced by Disney, who has an odd tendency to create good movies that feel like they came with instructions. Thankfully, this movie, while retaining the standard Disney plot formula, captures themes of generational trauma and expectations.

What makes *Encanto* so special is its choice to center the plot around a character who is normal in a world of tremendous specialties. Mirabel is the only descendant in her family who wasn't born with a special gift. Everyone else in her family can lift mountains, conjure thunderstorms, speak to animals, and predict the future. If Mirabel had her own power, there would be a false sense of weight that she bears from the rest of her family. Instead, she is cast aside by her family and silently deemed unimportant because of her normality. On top of this, her overbearing Abuela, the one who essentially directs the family, forgets about Mirabel entirely and treats her as more of a burden. When a new family member is scheduled to obtain his power, Abuela constantly tried to sweep Mirabel under the rug like she doesn't exist and separate her from the family so her misfortune doesn't rub off. While basic, each character's dynamics with other characters are carefully put together in order to portray this toxic and manipulative family structure and hierarchy. This is essential for a movie juggling themes of generational trauma because it beautifully manufactures this opposition between Abuela's idea that the family is required to use their powers for

the "greater good" and Mirabel's unbearable desire to be a part of and support her family.

Disney's gorgeous animation stays consistent but is never really used for anything but what is needed. This isn't really a positive or a negative, just something that could've been either/or. There is so much that could have been done with the figurative camera to frame Mirabel and her family to show contrast or opposition. Similar to the animation, the voice acting is very well done which is to be expected from Disney. The only exception is the voice acting of Louisa, the sister with super strength. It wasn't a poor job, but it did feel somewhat out of place, with her awkward voice given to massive, ripped person.

A key component of any Disney musical is, well, the music, which this movie amazingly delivers on. Lin Manuel Miranda, writer and lead performer of *Hamilton*, has put his talent on display yet again. He had an incredible year in 2021, releasing, writing, and singing in his own movie *Vivo*, writing all the music for *In the Heights*, *Tick, Tick...BOOM!*, and then *Encanto*. All these projects were great and the music in them were also especially great due to Lin Manuel Miranda. The raw energy and culture influences drawn for the music in *Encanto* is very commendable given how he is given the job of representing a massive part of Colombian culture in the soundtrack. But what makes the music even more impressive is how they're designed to get stuck in the head of their audience. Now that on its own isn't that impressive, but doing that on top of representing Colombian culture requires immense talent.

When it comes to complaints with the movie, it is essentially the same with nearly all other recent Disney projects. The ending of the movie feels oddly rushed even though they clearly have the budget and time to create a large build up. While the ending is satisfying, it doesn't feel very sequenced or deserved with how the family ends up resolving their prob-

lem. This point in the movie follows the Disney plot pattern to a T with the plot waiting around 20 minutes to introduce the central problem, attempting to solve the problem for until the movie is two thirds over, then a massive tragedy where the protagonist is at their lowest, and then a sudden solution so all the characters are all happy again. Additionally, the cause of the final plot point that forces the protagonist into their lowest point thus far was easily avoidable if the characters would just talk it out. Before this part of the movie, no one would stick up for Mirabel because she was treated as the burden of the family, but at this part she has someone to treat her like family, making it unreasonable for the family to collapse in an argument.



*Encanto* is undoubtedly a great movie, yet it is also hard to ignore the massive plot holes that leave the movie's logic shaped like Swiss cheese. Luckily, the amazing family dynamics make up for some of the odd decisions in the plot structure. The music creates this gorgeous festive vibe surrounding the entire setting that graciously works in tandem with the visuals. While the problems of the movie are the same that exist in nearly every other Disney animated movie, the problems have almost never been enough to completely bring the movie down.

### Movie Review: *Dog*

By Aryaan Khan



*Dog*, PG-13, Comedy/Road trip, 1 hour and 44 minutes

*Dog* is a comedy movie that was released in theaters on Feb 18, 2022, with a runtime of 1 hour and 44 minutes. The movie is about two former Army Rangers: a dog named Lulu and a man named Jackson Briggs, played by Channing Tatum. The movie is filled with heartfelt emotion between the two friends who rely on each other after both suffering from PTSD in the war.

It begins with Briggs wanting to get back into the Rangers after suffering from impairment injuries in the war. He can't do

so without the permission from his superior, and to be readmitted, he must take the dog to a funeral of another veteran that Briggs served with.

Both Lulu and Briggs can't go back to the military, because of their injuries they both suffered in the war.

With that, they also have the memory of traumatic events that follow up and remind them of how similar they really are.

One of my most memorable scenes in the movie, was when Lulu was trying to get out of the cage that she was put in while driving down the road. It was quite funny when Briggs would get angry, because of Lulu's whimpering and annoyance.

The movie definitely has a lot of mood shifts, and the dramatic tone that shifts throughout allows Briggs's true character to be shown. The tone getting more consistent signals his gradual coming to grips



*Scene where Lulu starts ripping the car seat*

with his new reality and the need to find meaning in life beyond being a soldier.

The movie has an interesting exploration of the effects of war on military dogs and how even they can suffer from physical and mental things. The long road trip gave great scenery, good changes of pace, and led into story points pretty naturally.

It was also amusing when Briggs goes inside the gas station to buy a snack and Lulu breaks out of the cage and starts chewing off the leather from the car's seats. Briggs starts to scream "No, no, no! You're just a demon!" which I thought was very funny.



*Scene where Briggs has an emotional conversation with Lulu*

## May Word Search

By Mariana Noyola-Hernandez

- May
  - Maypole
  - Spring
  - Mothers day
  - Cinco de Mayo
  - Flowers
  - Gardening
  - Nightingale
  - Taurus
  - Memorial day
  - May Day
  - Bumblebee
  - Butterfly
  - Sun
  - Blossom
- Note: some words are flipped.*

PQOWIRUWBAMZBCJIHFTAURUSLTNGUTIYMGBCVSCZSA  
WQWTEVDBGUYNHMLKJPIINCVZXASAWQTRWETRACZXC  
FGVDFVCYURGBNHOJUNOQWWD SXAXZVXBVMBMHKJLJP  
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TRYJHJMKNKMEMORIALDAYHYRTREDWQWAW SADTRYUG  
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