



Photo by Amanda Garcia

# STANG GANG

Amanda Garcia  
*Staff Reporter*

“Let’s go Mitchell, Let’s go Mitchell, Let’s go Mitchell,” the Stang Gang chants as the opening kick off for the Mitchell vs. Anclote game starts.

“Stang Gang is a lot of fun, we get a group of kids for the student section to come out and cheer on all our sports teams, and get them excited to support our sports teams,” Kevin Smith (‘16) said.

Students show their school spirit by taking it to another level.

“We dress up because we want to show our school spirit and support our teams. Last year we had a big rivalry

with River Ridge and that’s what really sparked our school spirit for this year,” Blake Perry (‘17) said.

Students continue the trend by dressing up on game days.

“We painted ‘Stang Gang’ on our biceps at the River Ridge game, and even brought the tiger back,” Luke Salm (‘17) said.

Leadership of the Stang Gang requires enthusiasm and charisma.

“Well I’m just crazy in general. I think it’s pretty easy for me to get out there and get everyone involved. I just want our school to give as much support to every

sports team as we can,” Kayla Widera (‘16) said.

During games students bring signs, flags, and wear black and gold to show their school spirit.

“I go all out because it’s fun and interesting and it gets everyone around you hyped for the game,” David Hawkins (‘17) said.

The Stang Gang was created two years ago by class President Patrick Davey-Bean. He wanted people to get more involved with school, and bring school spirit back.

“To join the Stang Gang all you have to do is participate in all the events

that happen at school, you don’t have to fill out a form to be accepted, everyone’s welcome,” Emily Mitchell (‘17) said.

Representatives of the Stang Gang plan to get the students involved and excited for sporting events.

“We are planning to have some themes for games. One theme we had in mind was Derby day, where students would dress up like they are going to a derby race. So girls have to dress up in big hats and fancy dresses and guys dress all spiffy,” Mitchell said.

The Student Section grows in numbers and spirit

each game.

“Our student section is much larger than others. When it comes to school spirit in the Stang Gang you go big or go home,” Tarra Kobrick (‘17) said.

Stang Gang looks forward to what this year will bring in regard to Mustang pride.

“Our goal is to get the students involved and for them to be proud to be a Mitchell Mustang,” Jillian Kirkpatrick (‘17).

For additional information on Stang Gang events and dates of future games, follow @jwmhsstanggang on Twitter.



# We the people remember

Alexis Clark

Staff Reporter

JROTC reflects back on the tragedy of 9/11 with a moving flag folding for onlookers.

The golf course grass glistening with morning dew, the birds chirping, not a single cloud in the sky, the students of Mitchell's JROTC Academy anxiously waited in the heat for their queue to step out on to The Eagles Golf Club course and present our nation's flag to all those who attended the ceremony for the Wounded Warrior Flag Folding.

"[The JROTC students] unfold the American flag right after the sky divers have landed on the course. These youngsters play a vital role in our morning ceremonies to pay tribute to our men and women in uniform, combat wounded vets, those who have paid the ultimate price for our freedom and those who were lost on 9/11," Freddie Jones (FAC) said.

Onlookers watched the ceremony with teary eyes as they remembered and honored the lives sacrificed and lost on this day fourteen years ago.

"My grandfather was a firefighter for 9/11 so seeing pictures and hearing stories from that day kind of hits home a little more," Ashley Stahl ('16) said.

With or without knowing someone involved in September 11th, the event touches people deeply.

"A lot of feelings come up when you think about it, to me personally I feel very prideful [to be involved with the flag folding], I'm very honored that I was able to do it because not a lot of people have that opportunity.

The fact that I could be there and be present to open the

flag and do color guard with everybody and all the veterans that were there, it just really means a lot," Lydia Dubeau ('18) said.

The JROTC students attend the Wounded Warrior Flag Folding event at The Eagles Golf Club yearly to unfold and present the flag to the golfers, veterans, and attendees.

"I think it really shows that our generation still cares, that we still commemorate it in a very significant way, and that we don't just blow it off. It still hits home just as much as it did then," DuBeau said.

The efforts of the Mitchell JROTC play a role in helping to keep the remembrance and respect of September 11th alive and strong within and outside of the school.



Photo by Alexis Clark

The JROTC cadets tilt their heads in prayer in remembrance of 9/11 while they await to unfold the flag at the Wounded Warrior Flag Folding ceremony.

## Growing our roots

Sophie Sajecki

Staff Reporter

The population of our school seems much larger this year and with that comes more difficulties to face such as new lunches, larger classroom sizes and more crowded hallways. Even though those are more prevalent examples of the increase, the larger population affects off-campus activities as well.

"Our bus was really crowded as were many other busses on the first day of school and someone was sitting on the floor. I told someone to take a picture of the kid on the floor and then I tweeted it at the Pasco County school board because I wanted it

fixed," Justin Seecharan ('18) said.

Tweeting problems or questions represents a smart and quick way to get in touch with the district and our school's administrators.

Population issues only increase as the years go by and as more people decide to move into the Trinity area.

"We are a great school and we have a great reputation. We have a lot of great programs [like] the medical academy, the business academy and our band program so there are people interested in coming here," Ms. Lamb (FAC) said.

As the campus begins to fill

with more and more students, teachers on campus improve the way they help students around the classroom.

"[I have been] incorporating as much technology as possible just for students to have more access to the course and the content when they're at home," Ms. Lamb said.

Our school continues to strive for greatness no matter how large our student body grows.

2000-2001



Photo by Stephanie Karibak

1,167 students

The student population increased by 58% since the opening of the school.

The school currently has a student to teacher ratio of 18:1

2015-2016



Photo by Kelsey Williams

2,001 students

## Editorial Policy

Published six times a school year, the student newspaper of J.W. Mitchell High School is a public forum with its student editorial board making all the decisions concerning its contents. Unsigned editorials express the views of the majority of the editorial board.

Letters to the editor are welcomed and will be published as space allows. Letters must be signed, although the staff may withhold the name upon request. The paper reserves the right to edit letters for grammar and clarity, and all letters are subject to laws governing obscenity, libel, privacy and disruption of the school process, as are all contents of the paper.

Opinions of letters are not necessarily those of the staff nor should any opinion expressed in a public forum be construed as the opinion or policy of the school administration, unless attributed.

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# Turning a moment into a movement

Jaelyn Moser  
*Lifestyles Editor*

It first began in the wake of July 2013 in Florida with the death of Trayvon Martin. However, continuing to flicker between a blazing inferno and steadily glowing embers, the Black Lives Matter movement forced itself into prominence in 2014 after the deaths of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, and Eric Garner in New York City.

Black Lives Matter, a movement created to campaign against what is seen as police brutality against black people in the United States, shot itself into the spotlight but now faces protesters and doubters. People young and old feel the effects of the movement. Among the protesters emerge people who believe that the movement should be about protecting more than

just black lives.

"I see a lot of torment in the different races, which is hard because I'm mixed. I'm black and white and believe they all matter. There is white on white and black on black crime. It's not a race thing for most, it's a hate thing," Alisha King ('17) said.

The creation of the Black Lives Matter movement developed in retaliation towards all of the recent violence by police towards the black community. According to The Guardian, an influential newspaper, of the first 547 people in 2015 whose lives ended at the hands of the police, 28.2% of the people came from black descent. These statistics come from a March study by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Projected rates show a tendency for the number of black deaths by police to increase within the next few years.

The media covers the various protests inspired by the movement around the country. The question on the population's mind focuses on the necessity of the movement to our society.

"My opinion is that it's an unnecessary movement because it's separating groups of people over a series of issues that the media blows out of proportion," Holden Honor ('17) said.

People face confusions on the Black Lives Matter campaign. It brings up various issues in our society having to deal with black lives, but leaves out those in other races and ethnicities. However,

the Black Lives Matter campaign continues to grow in strength and make itself known.



Community members in Baltimore link together to create a barrier between protesters and police.

# We want you for Mustang sports

Jessica Mason  
*Staff Reporter*

According to Eleanor Barkhorn, a reporter for The Atlantic, high schoolers that participate in athletic activities fall into a class more likely to graduate. With the school year recently beginning, sports and after-school activities play a large part in a student's schedule throughout the upcoming months. Numerous approaching opportunities allow students to become involved in school activities through sports teams.

Boys' soccer tryouts begin on October 12th and end on

October 13th. Girls' soccer tryouts begin on October 5th and end on October 7th. Both tryouts take place on the fields behind the football stadium. Coach Kuklec (girls' coach) and Coach Ubulis (boys' coach) both require returning players to try out. Dalanie Guerra ('18) plans to try out for the girls' team again this year.

"[Coach Kuklec] has been [coaching] for many years, and always produces a quality, winning team. We are a force to be reckoned with and hope

to take on States this year," Guerra ('18) said.

Winter season sports include Boys' and Girls' Basketball. Coach Tavo, who coaches girls' basketball, and Coach St. Charles, who coaches boys' basketball, hold tryouts for these teams in the gym in October.

"Trying out for a sport could bring students the push needed in order to get introduced to new friends.

"Basketball season was my favorite part of the year. It's a great way to get better at the

sport I love, and spend time with my teammates who are like family to me," Katie Cox ('18) said.

Coached by Regenia Dixon, girls' weightlifting also nears its start. Students looking to try out may do so in the weight room on October 18th. Students hoping to get a head start began conditioning on September 14th. To join conditioning, show up in the weight room on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays prior to tryouts.

"The meets are so much fun

and a great experience. You get to challenge yourself as well as work with your team to win for your school," Katelyn Arcaro ('16) said.

Taking Barkhorn's statistic to heart, that high schoolers who participate in athletic activities fall into a class more likely to graduate, the school offers plenty of opportunities to get involved in sports throughout the academic year.

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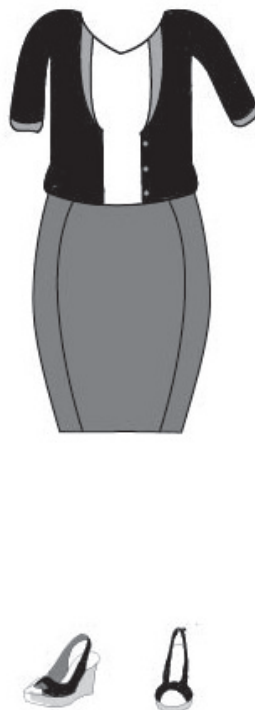
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# Fall Fashion Fever



**Preppy:** This men's style features jeans, a collared button up t-shirt under a pull over sweater with the collar showing, and loafer-like shoes. This look can be paired with a satchel or briefcase and narrow sunglasses.



**Classy:** This women's style features a knee length pencil skirt, blouse with blazer, and peep toe wedges. This style can be paired with a Jessica Simpson style purse and multiple bangles.



**Boho:** This women's style features ripped jeans, a tank top with a kimono, and gladiator style ankle high sandals. This look can be paired with festival headbands or flower crowns and a cross body bag.

Illustrations by Bailey Sassatelli

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# Funding for the future

Jaelyn Moser

*Lifestyles Editor*

Scholarships are a vital resource for seniors come graduation day. Hundreds of scholarships open up every year to help incoming college freshmen with the rising cost of a college education. Students receive a helpful sum towards their college fees and companies receive tax deductions when they offer out scholarships, making them mutually beneficial.

Scholarships vary in the subjects and the requirements. Florida Student Scholarship Grant Programs offers the Bright Futures Scholarships for students planning to attend a Florida state college or university.

The scholarships consist of three tiers such as the Gold Seal Scholarship, which may only be used to fund a career education or certificate program. As the level gets higher, the expectations for each scholarship increase.

To obtain the Florida Medallion Scholarship, a student must maintain a grade point average of 3.0, score at least a 26 on the ACT or an 1170 on the SAT, and must complete at least 75 hours of community service hours.

The highest tier, the Florida Academic Scholarship, requires the most from its recipients. Students must maintain a 3.5 grade point average, score at least 29 on the

ACT or a 1290 on the SAT and complete a minimum of 100 community service hours.

Different companies require various standards for those applying for a scholarship. Students should begin researching and applying for scholarships in the later half of junior year. Scholarships may be awarded in a person's junior year, with the payoff once they finish their senior year of high school. However, students must pay attention to all deadlines and the requirements for the scholarship. In some cases, scholarships require that a student must attend a specific college or university. Others may only be applicable for students already in college.

Many scholarships are offered for "weird" ideas. A prom dress made completely out of duct tape for the Stuck at Prom scholarship earned a \$10,000 reward.

To find free money for college, google "scholarships" and follow the links to the websites provided. Ms. Chamberlin (FAC) in the CRC also has current information about local scholarships.

# Life After High School

Bella Smith

*Staff Reporter*

For the class of 2016, senior year just began and students plan their lives after high school. For Mackenzie Scheu ('16), her dream to make dancing a career remains the same even after 12 years.

"After high school I want to pursue dance or musical theatre in New York City, as well as study special education," Scheu said. Scheu's passion for dancing began when she learned to walk. Dance became a huge factor in her life.

"On a typical day I dance anywhere from 3-5 hours with the exception of Friday and Sunday," Scheu said.

She continues to make sacrifices for dance.

"I just began to fill out my application for Marymount Manhattan, which is my dream school," Scheu said.

Realizing the distance between New York and Florida, Scheu struggled with her decision to apply.

"I will have to move away from my family which will be sad. But, it is what I have wanted to do for as long as I can remember," Scheu said.

In addition to outside of school activities, extracurricular school activities sometimes lead to future plans. Steven Ladue ('16)

participated in ROTC. After high school he plans on joining the Marines and then the reserves. One of the benefits of being in the marines includes getting a college education paid for.

"I will receive an education in the medical field and then join the fire department," Ladue said.

Ladue knew that he wanted to serve in the Marines since Freshman year. Sacrifices happen when joining the marines.

"Right after high school I will be gone for about eight months. Then I get to come home and do whatever I want from there. I'll have to go to active duty once a month throughout the year," Ladue said.

Students differ when it comes to planning their lives after high school. Evan Gaynor ('16), remains unsure of his future.

"I live hour to hour, day to day," Gaynor said.

Although some students choose to live in the moment, others see only half a school year remaining to decide the rest of their lives.



# Chamberlin's Corner

The Career Specialist's advice for each grade.

## Seniors

- Apply early
- Do not wait until October 30th, getting it done early alleviates stress.
- Apply for scholarships.

## Juniors

- Sign up for the SAT and the ACT.
- Start looking at colleges and scholarships now

## Sophomores

- Start to think about your future.
- Take the PSAT and practice ACT.

## Freshmen

- Take the PSAT as many times as you can.
- Work hard.
- Get involved.

# Making a **fresh** start

Raleigh Illig

*Staff Reporter*

Transitioning from being top dogs on campus to the bottom of the food chain can be a big step for the freshman class. A variety of clubs, sports, and classes become available to take part in when going into high school.

"Student Council's been fun, all the clubs I've joined like Key Club have been fun, and the marching band is always amazing," Connor Sherman ('19) said.

The first day of school jitters sink in and the newbies on campus make their way to

their first period.

"I was nervous that I was going to be embarrassed, walking from class to class because I didn't know where I was going, and I would have to keep asking people where to go," Emily Lawrence ('19) said.

A new year at a new school warrants changes in rules, one rule being dress code.

"It's more relaxed, especially with the flip flops. I've seen a lot of people wear what they want to wear and express themselves, where at the middle school everyone's

wearing similar things," Kaitlyn Killeen ('19) said.

Scary and nerve wracking for some, but also an exciting and refreshing change describes transitioning from middle school to high school.

"The atmosphere is different, there's so many different teaching styles, and there's such a large range of what you can choose from subject-wise and I think that's kind of cool," Killeen said.

In previous years, the middle school teachers worked to help their students in preparing

them for what lies ahead in high school.

"Taking advanced classes and harder classes my 8th grade year helped with what I'm taking this year," Brittney Mathis ('19) said.

One of the biggest changes that occurred so far is the social aspect of high school.

"Making friends with the older kids was going to be scary because they don't really like the freshman to begin with," Lawrence said.

After completing three years

of middle school, a fresh new and exciting start begins as their first year in high school continues with thrilling events drawing near.

"I'm looking forward most to the homecoming week dress up days, and homecoming. Also being spirited at our school pep rallies and getting everyone involved," Caitlin Connor ('19) said.

With four years of high school ahead of them, it is only the start in the next chapter of their lives.

## Meet your Admins and Counselors

Shyanne Dove

*Lifestyles Editor*

Among the staff on campus here to work towards bettering student's educations are the lovely men and women that make up the administration and guidance team. They are here to lead students towards making decisions for their futures.

To contact any of the staff members that work in these departments one may call the school at 727-774-9200 during the weekday office hours of 7:45 AM- 3:45 PM. They may also be reached personally at their school e-mail.

Follow the guidance and administration team on Twitter for updates on school events!



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### Freshmen



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# Life is a balancing act

Emily Fowler

Staff Reporter

School consumes a majority of students' time throughout the week. Each day consists of academic responsibilities, sports and clubs. Learning how to balance school with extracurricular activities brings success along the way for the school year.

"I'm taking AP language, AP psych, AP environmental science along with one honors class. I'm an editor for yearbook and I am in cross country and track. I'm in National English Honor Society, National Honor Society, and Key Club. I'm in a church organization that meets every Sunday night, and I attempt to see

my friends after school like two or three times a week," Meghan Bertig ('17) said.

Maintaining school-related responsibilities introduces the difficult part.

"It's pretty much a constant cycle of school, practice, homework and sleep. Some days I don't have much homework so I can fit in some fun things like shopping or hanging out with friends. Honestly, just keeping myself organized and busy is how I stay on track with everything," Mallori Page ('18) said.

At times, balancing everything turns into a hassle and problems may come along. For Peter

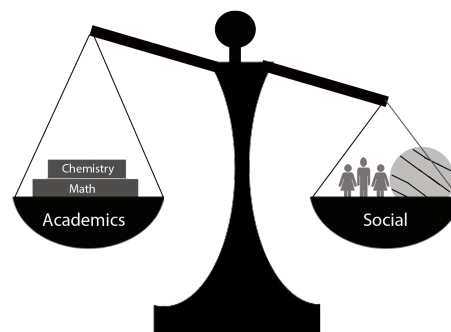
Guirguis ('16), the challenge of getting rest and getting homework done faces the football player.

"Some struggles I've had are coming back home tired and I procrastinate a lot," Guirguis said.

Students continue to struggle with homework and sleep, which gets in the way of the upcoming school day.

"I get really tired because I wake up at 5:30 to go running, then go to school, and when I come home I usually end up falling asleep reducing the amount of time I have to work on homework," Bertig said.

Positive thoughts and solving school struggles



helps with the balance of school and life.

"I don't let anything drag me down because it's my choice to be involved academically, sport and club wise so I try my best to prove to myself that I can do it because I chose it," Page said.

Balancing academics, sports and clubs all become

possible when students get a good night's sleep and avoid procrastination. Organization and perseverance increase students' ability to experience a more positive and successful school year.



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# SUMMER ADVENTURES

making memories all over the world

Katy White  
Staff Reporter

"My most memorable moment while in Alaska was when we went whale watching. The whales came right up to the boat and we got to pet them. There were a whole bunch of them surrounding the boat," Carmen Jimenez ('16) said.

ALASKA

CHINA

"Going to the Forbidden City is so historical, it was inspiring to be able to visit a place so many Chinese emperors called their home thousands of years ago," Ms. Bombei (FAC) said.

"The view was so amazing that I had to take a moment to sit back, eat a sandwich and enjoy the beautiful scenery," Nick Piccione ('18) said.

ITALY

"In Grand Turk we went scuba diving and swam with stingrays. I saw a little baby shark, which was really cool. There were so many pretty coral reefs and fish," Demi Asensio ('18) said.

GRAND TURK

MEXICO

"Seeing the Aztec Pyramids was one of my favorite things that I did in Mexico," Zachary Medina ('18) said.



# One hit changes everything

Jessica Mason  
Staff Reporter

Domestic violence in professional athletes often holds a top spot in the forefront of headline news. According to the National Coalition Against Violent Athletes (NCAVA), a three-year study shows that male student-athletes represent 35% of domestic violence perpetrators. Over the last several years, it seems as though athletes continue to get into trouble.

"They're trained to be very aggressive and somewhat violent on the field, that's the nature of the game and that's how they become important players," Teitelbaum of livescience.com said.

The 2014 Ray Rice incident remains a hot topic all throughout the United States. Even after Rice

punched his fiancé (now wife) in the face, his NFL suspension discontinued. Video of the punch aggravated fans throughout the sport. The former Baltimore Raven took heavy criticism, and still absorbs negativity from fans today. Rice continues to look for a new home in the National Football League (NFL), but nobody signed Rice once getting cleared.

"I think that they are able to get away with some things that should receive a harsher consequence," Riya Ghandi ('18) said.

Throwing domestic violence into the ring of boxing, officials accused Floyd Mayweather of violence against women on several occurrences in the last 14 years. Starting in 2001, and ending in

2010, Floyd committed four acts of domestic violence, one resulting in 60 days in prison.

Though, a few years later, he moves back into the ring, still a five-division World Champion with an undefeated record.

"It causes the leagues to become discredited and look bad as a whole," Evan Roberson ('16) said.

The two recent Florida State University (FSU) cases show that this degree of violence inhabits everywhere. De'Andre Johnson and Dalvin Cook both got involved in altercations this offseason. A video released of Johnson punching a woman that sent shock throughout the fan base. Cook however changed the outlook of FSU, because he was found not guilty in court.



Former Florida State University quarterback De'Andre Johnson got kicked off the team July 7th, 2015 for punching a woman in a club.

"[Domestic violence] sets a bad example because others look up to the athletes and their sport," Ghandi said.

Proven through the 2014 Ray Rice case, the 2001-2010 Floyd Mayweather cases, and the De'Andre Johnson and Dalvin Cook FSU cases, something bad must happen, in order to take

action.

"The athletes get what they deserve because any type of abuse is wrong," Roberson said.

The consequences given to these athletes grow more extreme each day, which shows a culture change throughout the sports world.

# The future starts now

Katy White  
Staff Reporter

Jameis Winston and Marcus Mariota showed superstar traits in their collegiate careers, but look to one up each other in the National Football League (NFL). Winston and Mariota made their names known by showing everyone their unique style of play and how they carried themselves on the field. Both men won the Heisman Trophy in college, and showed their true prominence and excellence on the football field.

In the 2015 Rose Bowl game, Winston and Mariota went head-to-head. Winston tried to lead Florida State to victory, but Mariota and Oregon exploded offensively, and pulled away in the second half winning 59-20. After this, both men declared for the 2015 NFL Draft, and comparisons between the two carried on for

several months.

"It should be interesting to see who becomes the better player as they continue to play in the NFL," Dylan Roosa ('17) said.

Heading into the NFL Draft, scouts and media members thought Winston looked like the better pro prospect. Winston played in an NFL offense in college, which inevitably made him the number one overall pick.

"Jameis understands NFL concepts, and won't have the learning curve Mariota has to overcome," Roosa said.

Subsequently the Tampa Bay Buccaneers selected Winston with the first overall pick, as the Tennessee Titans selected Mariota with the second overall pick.

The rookie quarterbacks played each other in their first NFL game

this season. Mariota performed admirably, sustaining a perfect passer rating. Winston showed promise, but struggled to keep up with Mariota once again because of interceptions.

"I think Mariota is more conservative and takes care of the ball better, which is key for a rookie quarterback to succeed," Zac Armstrong ('16) said.

The Titans defeated the Buccaneers 42-14.

These two players know the scrutiny that comes with the job description of playing quarterback in the NFL. The added pressure of these two adversaries competing against one another in their respective careers shows the intrigue of how they will fair out in the NFL.

## MARCUS MARIOTA AND JAMEIS WINSTON'S PATH TO THE NFL

December 14th, 2013 - Jameis Winston wins the Heisman Trophy in his freshman season  
January 6th, 2014 - Jameis Winston leads Florida State to a National Championship victory  
December 13th, 2014 - Marcus Mariota wins the Heisman Trophy in his junior year  
January 1st, 2015 - Marcus Mariota defeats Jameis Winston in the Rose Bowl 59-20  
April 30th, 2015 - Jameis Winston is drafted #1 overall, and Marcus Mariota is drafted #2 overall



VS



13/16  
209 Passing Yards  
4 Touchdowns  
158.3 Passer Rating

16/33  
210 Passing Yards  
2 Touchdowns  
2 Interceptions

# Working hard and walking tall

Allison Kaelin  
Staff Reporter

With fall sports underway, teams prepare for competition with workouts, drills, and analysis. Coaches worked hard with teams over the summer to make sure they start strong in the season ahead.

The JV volleyball team looks to improve this year because they analyze their mistakes.

"We have worked a lot on rotations because the first game we played, we had some issues, [and] we really keyed in on that," Kamdyn Mohr ('18) said.

The JV volleyball team strives to play hard against all of their competition this year, and some games mean more than others to the players.

"River Ridge is probably our biggest competition because of

the rivalry," Mohr said.

When looking at the varsity team, they started the season on fire. The team won their first ten games in convincing fashion. River Ridge and Springstead played them the closest in that time period.

The swim team began building leaders through hard work to take the next step this year.

In a long season, the younger swimmers seek out guidance from upperclassmen.

"I am most excited about my senior year swimming and also being captain," Katelyn Henderson ('16) said.

When new athletes enter the team, the swim team leaders teach them the ropes, and give them valuable experience they need in

the future.

Along with achieving things as a team, multiple individuals hope to achieve accolades they set for themselves.

"If I can make it to regionals that would be a great personal accomplishment," Henderson said.

Being able to beat the biggest competition takes a lot of time and practice.

"Our coaches have been making us practice for about 3 hours a day," Chloe Brennan ('18) said.

When competing on a high school sports team, countless teammates become best friends.

"Working as a team with everyone and getting to know all the freshmen that come in is awesome," Mohr said.

As the season goes on, strategy and hard work propel all of these teams and athletes to the next level this season.



Photo by Allison Kaelin

Swimmer Abby Erickson ('18) competes in his 100 meter butterfly event at the meet against River Ridge high school.

# Committing to their own destiny

Lexi Clark  
Staff Reporter



**Devontay Taylor**

Received football offers from Florida International, Florida A&M, and Temple. He is leaning towards Florida International.



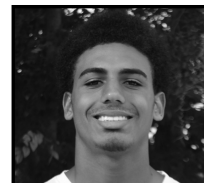
**Sydney Marler**

Verbally committed to West Virginia. She is excited to work with her team in competitive gymnastics.



**Noah Stokes**

Verbally committed to Coastal Carolina. She is excited to see the soccer coaches and try something different.



**JJ Lewis**

Received football offers from Florida Tech, Florida International, Bryant, and Ohio. He is leaning towards Florida International and Ohio.



**Kendra Hoffman**

Verbally committed to North Florida. She is excited for the opportunity to grow as a person and soccer player.



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# Fall into the thrill

## The Visit

Raleigh Illig  
Staff Reporter



Photo by The New York Times

Two of the main characters hide in fear of the wrath of the creepy grandparents.

A new thriller, *The Visit*, hit theatres on September 11, with the story of two kids at their grandparents' house.

A divorced mom with her two kids who have never seen their grandparents decide to go and spend a week over at their house. The mom and her new boyfriend go on a cruise while the daughter and son are away. Daughter Becca Jameson (Olivia DeJonge) and son Tyler Jameson (Ed Oxenbould), create a documentary of the exciting week they are going to spend at their

grandparents. All seems normal in the Jameson house the first day until nightfall. Strange events occur around the house, loud noises, the scratching of walls, and screams, leaving viewers on their toes about the events happening beyond the bedroom door.

Normal days turn to strange days followed by even scarier and stranger nights. Becca first thinks that because they are so old is why they act so peculiar. On a daily video call with their mom, Tyler expresses his concern about their grandparents but is assured it's just because of old age.

As the week draws to a close,

Becca and Tyler set up a camera at night to see what the strange noises are and an unexpected plot twist occurs, making viewers question how the movie will end.

Some viewers described *The Visit* as a suspenseful movie that lacked action. There were many build-ups to scary scenes, but nothing happened.

*The Visit* was also described as a thrilling film that had viewers jumping clear out of their seats. *The Visit* was a suspenseful movie that had bits of humor throughout, yet even an unexpected twist at the end could not save this dull movie.

Rating: ★ ★

## The Scorch Trials

Raleigh Illig  
Staff Reporter

With the premiere of *The Maze Runner: Scorch Trials* on September 18, Thomas (Dylan O'Brien), Teresa (Kaya Scodelario), Minho (Ki Hong Lee), and Newt (Thomas Brodie-Sangster) continue their journey of life after *The Maze*. *The Maze Runner: Scorch Trials* had viewers on the edge of their seats with suspense from start to finish. The awaited continuation of *The Maze Runner* series *Scorch Trials* picks up where *The Maze Runner* ended.

After escaping the terrors of the *Maze*, Thomas, Teresa, Minho, and Newt find themselves rescued from *WICKED* and brought to a strange new facility. Thomas suspects something unusual when Teresa gets taken away, and he is told he cannot see her. Little does he know, *WICKED* restored all of Teresa's memories from before *The Maze*. The longer Thomas stays there, the more suspicious he becomes of the new people. After sneaking around after hours, Thomas finds out that these people are working for *WICKED*. In efforts to save him and his friends, Thomas finds them and they escape into the sandy dunes of the *Scorch*. While running

from *WICKED*, Thomas makes some new friends that helped them find a group called The Red Arms. A strong alliance forms between the groups for an attempt at destroying *WICKED*.

As the red Arms plans a mission to get Thomas and his friends to the Safe Zone, the loyalty of one of Thomas's closest friends is tested. Throughout the movie, viewers question their loyalty to Thomas and wonder if they will be drawn back to the sinister clutches of *WICKED*.

A strong dislike from fans at the end of the film with a shocking twist in events leaves them in disappointment. Some details of the film are expressed as "unoriginal" and "repetitive in concept" with the reoccurring theme in other movies and TV shows, of the undead. Despite the minor dislikes, the intense continuation of *The Maze Runner* still keeps to the same question: who is *WICKED*? As the movie progresses, viewers learn more and more of the groups purpose and why they act the way they do.

The twist in loyalty and new suspense building between Thomas and *WICKED* makes *The Maze Runner: Scorch Trials* a must see in *The Maze Runner* series.

Rating: ★ ★ ★ ★

## Upcoming Concerts

### Brad Paisley

MIDFLORIDA Credit Union Amphitheatre

October 2

Starts at 7:30

Opening act: Justin Moore and Mickey Guyton

Tickets start at \$33.25

### Jason Aldean

MIDFLORIDA Credit Union Amphitheatre

October 23

starts at 7:30

Opening act: Cole Swindell, Tyler Farr, Dee Jay Silver

Tickets start at: \$42.50

### Taylor Swift

Raymond James Stadium

October 31

Starts at 7

Opening act: Shawn Mendes and Vance Joy

Tickets start at \$82.10

### Next Big Thing

MIDFLORIDA Credit Union Amphitheatre

December 5

Starts at 10 AM

Artists: 21 Pilots, Of Monsters and Men, Walk The Moon, Saint Motel, Glass Animals and more.

Tickets start at:\$35.60

# The VMA's in action

Sarah Nagy  
Entertainment Editor



The stars on stage soak in the spotlight and dress in their most memorable fashion to make a statement. Miley Cyrus (above) and back up dancers perform her new debut, "Do It." Taylor Swift joined Nicki Minaj (top right) to sing "The Night Is Still Young." Kanye West, (bottom right) accepts his Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award.

The 2015 MTV's Video Music Awards, also well known as the VMA's, experienced a social media outburst of trending topics regarding the famous musicians. Miley Cyrus, well remembered for her 2013 performance with Robin Thicke in Blurred Lines, hosted the awards.

Cyrus hosted the VMA's in her usual unusual outfits, along with her renowned demeanor. "The most shocking thing about the VMA's was all of the outfits that Miley wore and how she acted while performing and hosting," Eileen Hedger ('16) said. Cyrus also released a new, free

album entitled "Miley Cyrus and Her Dead Petz" and performed one of the rather controversial songs at the award show. The album consists of 23 songs and seem to not have gained equal popularity as prior albums such as "Bangerz."

Kanye West also sparked many topics of conversation with his actions. He won a very prestigious award, "The Michael Jackson Video Vanguard" award, arguably the most important award of the night. He exemplified his arrogant stereotype when he went up to accept the award. West stood and basked in the audience in silence

for a long time, and proceeded to ramble on about himself, and announced that he possibly will be running for president in 2020. A trending hashtag began to take flight on twitter: #KanyeForPresident. People came to question the validity of the announcement, or if Kanye used it just to talk about himself some more.

His words and actions often spark debates of controversy. "He is very arrogant and I don't really care for him, but he always seems to be just 'there,' wherever the spotlight is," Mackenzie Bennett ('16) said.

Kanye was not the only person who sparked twitter interest.

Miley Cyrus and Nicki Minaj argued over national television. Apparently, Cyrus previously 'bad mouthed' Minaj in an interview, which initiated the attack. Many are debating over whether the dispute was staged.

"Miley, what's good?" Minaj said.

Cyrus replied with a rebuttal blaming the press for misinterpreting her remark towards Minaj, and played it off by introducing the next award, avoiding conflict at all costs.

Year to year, the VMA's contain

events that will spark the public's interest for a long time to come, just like the 2013 VMA's led Cyrus into a topic of discussion that lasted for months; her "twerking" caused a worldly roar of discourse.

## Graveyard residents make a comeback

Shyanne Dove  
Lifestyles Reporter

Beware. The zombies returned and they're ready to eat some brains. The new spin-off of "The Walking Dead", "Fear The Walking Dead", builds anticipation for season six of TWD. The new show looks promising for anxious viewers. With a few episodes already under their belts, Dave Erickson, the creator of "Fear The Walking Dead," rocked the nation with the bloody gore and horror. "Fear The Walking Dead" aired August 23rd, 2015 and will finish around October 11th, in time for the new season of "The Walking Dead" to begin.

"Fear The Walking Dead" follows a dysfunctional family right before and during the outbreak that causes the collapse of civilization. The big difference between the two series is "The Walking Dead" begins in post-apocalyptic Georgia, and "Fear The Walking Dead" portrays a pre-apocalyptic Los Angeles. The end of this series comes close to the time Rick



Two of the main characters, Madison Clark and Travis Manawa, explore a church in hopes of finding answers.

Grimes (TWD) wakes up from his coma. The zombie apocalypse already terrorized Atlanta, and just starts to hit L.A. This allows the audience to see the fall of mankind they missed while Rick was unconscious.

"The goal was to loosely track the period of those four or five weeks that Rick Grimes was in his coma. When he wakes up and goes outside, it's done; the

world has come to an end," Dave Erickson (co-creator of FTWD) said in an interview with Zap2it.

The companion series committed to two seasons, with the next leg of the journey set to air in 2016. With promising details from the creators, the show plans to put quite a twist on what people thought they knew about The Walking Dead.



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## Opinions

## Changing the game

Brock Shively

Sports Editor

A Boston Red Sox batter makes contact with a 95 mile per hour pitch and slices it into the stands on June 5, 2015.

Unfortunately, a spectator gets hit in the skull, and ends up critically injured. The experience of one baseball game suddenly changes the outlook of a sport completely.

About 1,750 fans get hurt each year by batted balls. The odds of a fan getting hit with a foul ball are higher than a batter getting hit with a pitch. Major League Baseball (MLB) commissioner Rob Manfred addressed the idea of expanded netting, and showed serious concern for it. The debate of not expanding netting comes from the park experience.

"People tend to go the games for the thrill of catching a ball, and the nets take that opportunity away," Chris Lang ('16) said.

In Japan, all baseball teams use a net that extends from

foul pole to foul pole. It reduces risk of injury and

helps insure the best plan to protect fans.

"I feel the MLB needs to make a change, because people have been seriously injured,

and they can't let that happen," Dylan Roosa ('17) said.

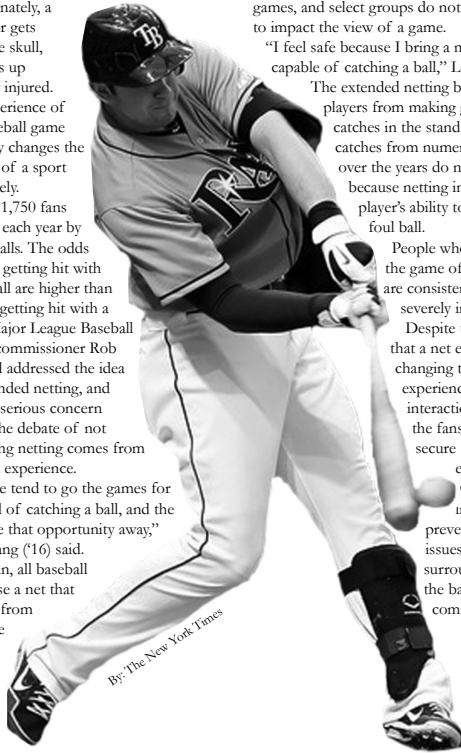
Spectators spend top dollar to go to MLB games, and select groups do not want nets to impact the view of a game.

"I feel safe because I bring a mitt, and I'm capable of catching a ball," Lang said.

The extended netting blocks players from making great catches in the stands. Heroic catches from numerous players over the years do not happen because netting impacts the player's ability to catch a foul ball.

People who support the game of baseball are consistently getting severely injured.

Despite the fact that a net extension changing the viewing experience and interaction for the fans, a more secure stadium environment will save lives and prevent further issues for those surrounding the baseball community.



By: The New York Times

## HOTTIES OR PLOTTIES

Alyssa Magilligan

Staff Reporter



Photo by: The New York Times

Rampant debate circles the Magic Mike movies due to the idea of them not having a real plot and sexualizing men's bodies. Though the debate continues, women ignore it and go to enjoy the company of actor Channing Tatum and his entourage.

In the world of movies, just as in the world of a teenager's life, events occur. Teenagers try to determine what events mean in their own life and in the life of others. In the movies, writers create meaning by introducing conflicts in the life of a character. The way a character responds to these conflicts contributes to giving a story its meaning.

Actors grow in popularity as they continue to star in upcoming movies and television shows, such as sequels, and spinoffs. Teenagers count down to the dates for releases and the continuation of their favorites, which brings about multiple emotions. Whether teenagers go to see movies for the actors or the plot becomes a matter of personal preference.

"I like movies that receive a reaction from me," Georgantas said. "I like movies that receive a reaction from me. For example, if I laugh, cry, or get scared," Delaney Georgantas ('18) said. "They can give you so many feelings and emotions depending on what kind of movie you are watching."

Teenagers may follow in their friends' footsteps when it comes to seeing a movie. Common interests among groups of friends influence viewing decisions.

"I feel a lot of people hop on bandwagons when it comes to actors," Georgantas said.

Friends hold the ability to change a lot of things in other people's lives, but the fact that viewing options easily get influenced actually stands as a common issue.

"My friends do not really have an influence in what I watch at all," MaryGrace Catrett ('18) said.

Teenagers tend to watch a movie or television show due to the appearance of a well-known actor/actress they follow. American Horror Story (AHS) follows several people in a series of terrifying acts, which attracts people due to the content.

**"I like movies that receive a reaction from me," Georgantas said.**

"I do plan on watching it. Not only because I'm addicted, but because AHS is a good TV show with everything I like in it, which is horror, comedy, and romance. But the main reason I watch it is because of Evan Peters, who will be playing Mr. March," Catrett said.

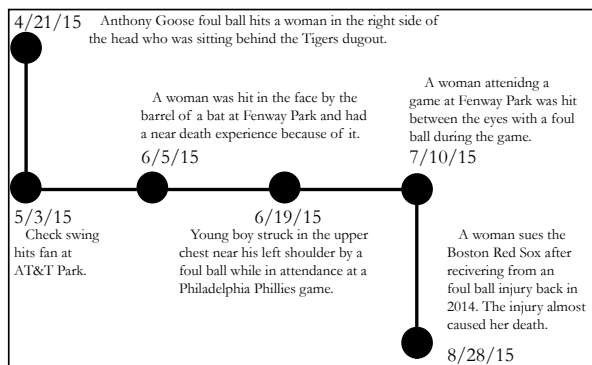
With Catrett, both content and cast members play a part in her decision, but cast members take the favorite with others.

"A new movie is coming out with my favorite NHL player in it so I am really looking forward to that," Georgantas said.

When cast members begin to determine viewing decisions, content fades into the background.

"People can do what they want. You get into it better if you like a television show for what it is, not who is in it. The hot actors are just a bonus," Catrett said.

Although the question of why teenagers watch specific things remains a matter of opinion, the trend continues to move towards the actors as the main event.



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Illustration by: Caroline Weyer



Schultizisms

## Advice to students

Interview by:  
Bailey Sassatelli

"I am profound. You need to know what I think and if I wanted to know what you thought, I would tell you what to think, which is what I am doing in this column."

## Topic of the issue: Dress code

"We are at a school and inherently we have class. But now, we need to add a "y" to it and bring classy back people. As we bring classy back, you need to make sure that what you see in the mirror is what you are comfortable showing to the world, because once you stop looking in the mirror, it become my problem, not yours anymore."

## The 4 inch rule

"It is not this difficult people...Buy yourself a ruler and mark it on your leg, whatever you need to do. I don't understand how people can be comfortable sitting in a plastic chair, where it is Florida: let's be honest, there's some sweating going on, and you are sticking to the chair. Usually when you go to the gym, they give you this towel with disinfectant so you can wipe off the equipment to be polite, but nobody is wiping off those chairs. You don't know..."

## Since when are shoulders sexy?

"Shoulders are not sexy! The reason for the rule is because nobody wants to see that. We are really trying to protect young eyes. It is because we need to make sure that we have decorum, but let me tell you, a jacket might cover it up for five minutes, but then we go back to that sweating thing happens. Ultimately, you are going to take that jacket off and you will be sweating and you will smell and nobody wants that."

## Bellies

"There are very few, fortunate people in this world who have bellies that the rest of the world wants to see. What can be seen cannot be unseen. We already have the Chubby Belly Gang (CBG) with the football team, so I can't even handle it if we have to deal with CBG throughout the whole school."

## Tight is not "tight" anymore

"I don't understand skinny jeans, jeggings, leggings fad. I mean that has got to hurt to put on. Don't they just stick to you when you are trying to pull those puppies off? There is nothing about those that are comfortable."

## Bringing classy back

"My teachers always told my friends that you need to leave something to the imagination. There are some things that are no better in this universe than a little black dress or a shirt and tie. For the love of all things Mustang, please follow our dress code. We don't want them wanting more; we actually want them wanting nothing. Let's bring classy back mustangs, we can do it."

## Get involved or get the grades

Bella Smith

Staff Reporter

Colleges consider multiple components when looking at student applications. These include a student's Grade Point Average (GPA), test scores and extracurricular activities. However, curiosities run wild when trying to figure out which of the factors weigh the largest on a student's acceptance to college.

"I think colleges look for the well-rounded student. This means someone that is involved in their community and school and challenges themselves with rigorous courses," Ms. Chamberlin (FAC) said.

Briana Armenia ('17) plans on applying to Penn State and Florida State University. Armenia holds officer positions in three clubs and is a member of the varsity cheerleading and weightlifting team. She believes her participation in extracurricular activities improves her chances with colleges.

"Extracurricular activities help for sure. The more you are involved in, the more you are going to look like you are well-rounded and you can balance things out more," Armenia said.

Tyler Wetherill ('16) already began his application for the University of Florida and the University of South Florida. Wetherill also participates in extracurricular activities.

"Test scores and extracurricular reflect not only your work ethic, but the things you know and how you apply yourself. At the same time it shows colleges the things that interest you and make you unique," Wetherill said.

Students understand the importance of extracurricular activities. According to Chamberlin, colleges find students that hold leadership positions in one or two clubs appealing.

"Find your passion, chair a committee, lead a group and make a change on the campus. In general, universities are looking for students that are going to make a difference on their campus," Chamberlin said.

Chamberlin believes students that maintain a decent GPA and above average test scores hold the ability to open doors to a variety of colleges.

"Students should have a combination of decent GPA and



Yasmira Naim ('17) and Briana Armenia ('17) work hard in class to ensure that their grades properly reflect their drive to go to a good school and succeed.

test scores," Chamberlin said.

Armenia feels that although GPA impacts admission decisions largely, test scores impact the decisions the greatest due to the concept of academics showing intelligence levels.

"I think colleges will definitely look at your ACT and SAT way more than GPA. I do not think that it should be that way. That is just how it is," Armenia said.

Different testing abilities prove that the weight of them means different things for different students and therefore act as an unequal determinant of acceptance.

"I believe test scores and extracurricular activities are more representative of a student than GPA is. GPA is essentially a reflection of work ethic more so than overall intelligence," Wetherill said.

Chamberlin believes that extracurricular activities make a student stand out against the crowd of other applicants.

"If a few students are very similar in the aspect then they will start looking into all of the extra things to see who is a better-rounded student," Chamberlin said.

Colleges look for a wide variety of components in applicants. Overall, people tend to agree that balancing these factors ensures the best chances when it comes to college acceptance.

## Techno-Teaching

Sam Burchick

Staff Reporter

The Florida Legislature passed a law in 2011 as part of the digital learning package to help prepare students for a technology-based world. Florida Virtual School offers over 140 different classes including Advanced Placement (AP), Honors, and Mobile-Friendly courses. As technology progresses, schools advance with it. Adding Canvas to classes helps schools stay up to date with technology.

"I feel that having the choice between online school or a regular classroom is an awesome change in the regular schooling system. This provides the ability for faster or slower paced learning for all students and the option to work alone and online for those of us who enjoy that," Megan Stone ('18) said.

Giving students the choice benefits them because students differ in learning. Students may grasp material better in a classroom than online.

"I would choose old school pen and paper classes over online. I feel it is easier to learn when I have a teacher right in front of me, so I can hear the lectures and get hard copies of notes whenever," Jackie Freitas ('16) said.

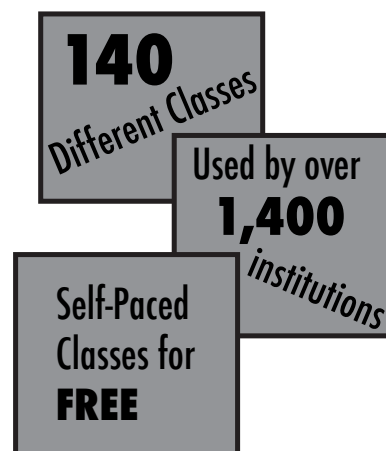
When students sign up for online classes, their teachers give out a pace chart, which lets students know when to turn in work successfully.

"The best part about online school is you can work at your own pace. The worst part is also the pace, because you might be inclined to slack off," Freitas said.

Whether students like learning online or not, schools now give their teachers the option to use Canvas. Canvas gives teachers the chance to personalize their class in order to help their students learn.

"I think Canvas is a great tool because there are calendars with reminders and you can easily contact another classmate or teacher within the site itself," Stone said.

Since taking an online class became mandatory, students found useful ways to incorporate the credit while doing



something required.

"I am taking sign language to take care of the online credit needed and the foreign language credit at the same time," Joshua Smith ('19) said.

The mandation of an online class in order to graduate causes new challenges in learning in this technological era.

"The fact that there is no physical instruction gives online classes a laxidassical feel. Without physical instruction, I feel like it is harder to understand and therefore there is no real application of the knowledge given," Patricia Borezyk ('16) said.

Even though students may find online classes a hassle, others find it helpful to get ahead and learn new things. Personal preference determines whether students take hold of the opportunities given to them.



## The perks of privileges



Photo by Kelsey Williams

## A right of passage

by Kelsey Williams

Every year as seniors walk the halls for their final year of high school, schools like Countryside High School, Palm Harbor University, and Osceola High School allow them to partake in special perks. Over the summer, the administration here deciding to award privileges to current seniors. Examples of these new perks include senior patio and designated parking. In the past, administration avoided providing seniors with such privileges, due to the resentment in the rest of the student body. Underclassmen began signing a petition to remove such perks. Looking at privileges from administration and the seniors' point of view provides an important perspective on the situation.

A privilege, a rare opportunity or advantage given to a group or person, awarded to seniors retains the ability to disappear if abused. To earn these privileges the senior class must prove their worthiness as a whole. After being deemed fit for such privileges a school may

award students with such perks.

Students spend approximately four years in the halls of their chosen high school. They dedicate themselves to supporting the schools sports teams, academic clubs, and pour hours of work into their education there. Proper reward for such dedication may include things like personalized parking spaces and a separate eating area during lunches.

Every class receives the chance to earn such privileges at the end of their journey in high school. One may not walk into a job with no experience and expect a high position without first working for it. A person must first prove their worth before being awarded something. For underclassmen it may prove difficult to accept that other students receive special privileges. Administration awards these perks after careful consideration. Every class has an opportunity to earn the right of senior privileges. Underclassmen's time will come for similar privileges.

## Underclassmen lives matter

by Kaitlyn Klein

Completely unfair senior privileges include eating lunch on the senior patio and having a senior parking spot. All the other students work hard every single day and deserve these privileges too. These privileges give the seniors, who already think they rule the school, another thing to show off.

The school's recent student population increase caused a change in the lunches, dividing lunch into three periods, rather than two like last year. With three lunches, and presumably fewer people in each lunch, the seniors regain their senior patio, unlike last year when students from all grades sat outside. The decision to no longer allow underclassmen to sit outside caused controversy. A sophomore student took matters into his own hands and started a petition to revoke this senior privilege and let anyone sit outside. More than one hundred students currently support this petition.

Last year, students filled both the

outside patio and the cafeteria, however so far this year little to no seniors sit outside while the cafeteria remains full. Restricting outside to only seniors contributes to overcrowding in the cafeteria. Taking that privilege away from the seniors, who may not use it, offers a solution to the cramped cafeteria problem, making it more of a positive than negative.

Senior privileges also include getting their own parking spot, which makes parking a struggle for the juniors and sophomores who drive to school. The number of cars in the parking lot already creates difficulties when finding a spot, and the privilege offers the seniors an unfair advantage.

Most kids in the school work very hard and deserve something as a reward for their hard work too. The senior class, prone to senioritis, shouldn't get privileges. Furthermore, some seniors may not use the privileges provided to their class. Every class may benefit from these privileges and should get them as well.

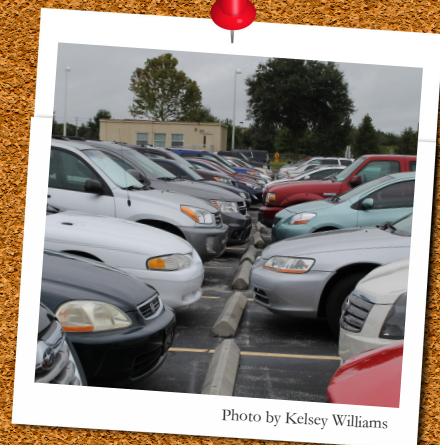


Photo by Kelsey Williams