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The Hoofbeat

J.W. Mitchell High School's Student Newspaper
2323 Little Road, New Port Richey, FL 34655
Volume No. 15 | Issue 1 | September 2016

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WILL YOU BE IN THE ZONE?

On September 7th, Chris Williams, the Director of Planning for the District School Board of Pasco County met with the Hoofbeat staff to answer questions about the 2017-18 rezoning of our school. This interview has been edited for space. The entire transcript of the interview can be found on our website <connect.pasco.k12.fl.us/jwmhsnewspaper/> or on Twitter @JWMHS_hoofbeat

Q. WHO MADE THE ORIGINAL DECISION TO FORM A COMMITTEE TO REZONE STUDENTS OUT OF SSMS AND JWMHS?

A. The decision to move forward with rezoning is made by the superintendent and staff, including myself. We look at a variety of factors such as current capacity of schools, current and future growth, how much growth can the schools currently receiving that growth absorb, and when future capacity will be built and where. Once the decision is made to move forward with rezoning then we form a rezoning committee.

Q. MANY STUDENTS ATTEND JWMHS FOR ONLY PART OF THE DAY, ELECTING TO TAKE ONLINE CLASSES FROM HOME AND/OR PHSC FOR DUAL ENROLLMENT COURSES. HAS THE STUDENT ENROLLMENT

DATA PERIOD-BY-PERIOD BEEN TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION WHEN DEEMING JWMHS OVERCROWDED TO THE POINT THAT REZONING WAS NECESSARY?

A. Period-by-period enrollment was not taken into consideration. Typically there is not a large percentage of students doing this. Prior, to moving to a 10-period day on the Wiregrass Ranch High School campus, we actually tried to do a "hybrid" model. The plan was to have a significant number of students sign up to take classes online at home and come to campus for part of the day. This would free up more space on campus. We began taking sign-ups and could not get enough students signed up to make a difference. We therefore implemented the 10-period day plan currently in effect at Wiregrass Ranch High.

Q. WHO WILL BE ON THE COMMITTEE TO DETERMINE THE REZONING?

A. Every time we do a rezoning we set up a boundary committee and that boundary committee is made up of every principal from all the schools that potentially will be affected. Each of those principals picks two parents to serve as representatives on the committee. I always encourage the principals to pick two parents

who are going to be objective and come in and look at data and make decisions based on that data and maps and things that we look at.

And (the principal should also pick) parents that are going to be in areas that are potentially going to be rezoned. Unfortunately, we can't pick a parent from every area that potentially could be rezoned because then our committee will be 100 people. It gets very difficult to do that. So we pick parent representatives, and we try and pick them from a variety of communities that may be affected.

We also have district staff like myself and area superintendents, people from the superintendent staff, somebody from the transportation department, as well as from our exceptional student education department.

Q. WHAT OTHER SCHOOLS MIGHT GAIN OR LOSE STUDENTS?

A. Seven Springs Middle, Mitchell High, Paul R. Smith Middle, Anclote High, Gulf Middle, Gulf High, River Ridge Middle, River Ridge High, and Ridgewood High. Not necessarily all of them, but certainly the committee will look at a variety of options and those are schools that potentially could be included.

Q. WILL SOME STUDENTS BE "GRANDFATHERED" INTO THE

SCHOOLS?

A. Next year's seniors will absolutely be grandfathered. We will talk about whether we can or would want to try to grandfather others in as well. It really comes down to numbers, because if we can't get an over-crowded school down, say we grandfathered next years 9th-12th graders or next years 10th-12th graders, but your school is still growing and is over capacity, then it's probably not going to work.

The committee will take a look at it and they will actually come up with a recommendation. Then the School Board holds two public hearings, first a reading, then a second reading of the proposed boundary and they will also talk about grandfathering. So there are two opportunities to go before the school board to talk about your thoughts or concerns.

Q. DO YOU KNOW WHICH AREAS OR NEIGHBORHOODS WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE REZONING?

A. We do not, because that is what the committee is tasked with, looking at those particular options in all those different areas. Obviously the closer to the school you are, the less likely you will get rezoned, but proximity to the school isn't always the driving factor. For example, if somebody lives four miles away from Mitchell High and lives five miles away from River Ridge, that doesn't necessarily

mean you will automatically go to Mitchell High because there are other factors that go into making the boundaries.

Q. ARE ANY NEW HIGH SCHOOLS GOING TO BE BUILT?

A. We will eventually build a brand new school on the west side. We don't have a site yet but we're working on a site, and that site will be expensive. The new high school on Old Pasco Road costed 65 million dollars to build. We don't have another 65 million to build a new high school. And one of the biggest things people complain about with government is waste of money, so it's difficult to justify to the tax payers to build a new high school to relieve Mitchell or Seven Springs Middle when there are under crowded schools surrounding it. So that's one of the challenges we deal with. It's difficult to do that because some people could say, "why are you wasting my tax payer dollars on a new school when you could do some rezoning and balance those populations out?" So there are plans in the future to build a new high school. But another thing to think about is, yes Mitchell High is over crowded. You are over crowded by about 350 students or so, Sunlake is over crowded by 200 or so students, so if you build a new high school in between, which is where we're
(Continued on page 3)

School clubs happen here

Be more involved this school year by joining a new club



ART CLUB
Fulton, Stugard,
Dotson
Room 333



DANCE TEAM
Bakomihalis
Cafeteria



ECOLOGY CLUB
Koslin
Room 323



ENGLISH NHS
Valk-Kerr
Room 519



FBLA
Glaves, Lamb, Tietz
Media



FCA
Dixon, Hinmon
Portable 6



CHESS CLUB
Causey
Room 730



WRESTLING CLUB
Crouch
Wrestling Room



GSA
B. Konrad
Portable 7



HOSA
Bruegger
Room 210



INTERACT
Martanovic
Room 704



KEY CLUB
Desiante, Hery
Media



MATH NHS
DeLeon, Kaelin
Room 332



THE MELTING POT
Daniel
Room 811



**FILM & GAME
CREATION CLUB**
Taylor
Room 740



NHS
Herring, Crabtree,
Causey
Room 210



SADD
Bombel, Mudry
Room 825



SCIENCE NHS
Braddy
Room 737



SOCIAL INCLUSION
Boyce
Media



SPANISH NHS
Pitcher
Media



SOCIAL STUDIES NHS
Gamel
Room 503



STUDENT COUNCIL
Braddy
Room 737



**STUDENTS CHANGING
THE WORLD**
Hall
Room 723



TEEN COURT
Stratman
West Pasco
Judicial Center



THESPIAN TROUPE
O'Hara, Gureck
Room 403



TRAVEL CLUB
Illig
Room 809



WELCOMING CLUB
Ruconich
Room 333



YOUNG DEMOCRATS
Daniel
Room 811



YOUTH BEATS
Vanno
Room 330



YOUNG REPUBLICANS
Hampton
Room 705



**ODYSSEY OF THE
MIND**
Crabtree
Media



WEIGHTLIFTING CLUB
Dixon
Weight Room

Editorial Policy

Published six times a school year, 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 constructed as the opinion or policy of the school administration, unless attributed.

The 2016-17

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Bailey Illig

Mackenna Shiver

Will you be in the zone?

Continued from front page

looking for a site, and say you built a new school for about 1,800 students, how many do you have now? Yes, you helped Mitchell, so maybe Mitchell is 1,400 kids, and maybe Sunlake is 1,400 kids, and the new school is 1,000 kids. Now you have 3 schools that are way under capacity, and you have to think about all the costs involved and all the overhead involved with running 3 schools; administration, and utilities, and it gets very expensive to run schools that are only half capacity.

Q. AS YOU LOOK FORWARD 5-10-20 YEARS DO YOU ENVISION A DATE FOR A NEW HIGH SCHOOL?

A. Well it's at least 5 years away, probably closer to 10 because again, we look at a lot of things. It depends on growth, but it also depends on budget. The challenge we face as a district is if it's just this area we have to worry about. But it's not just this area it's all along the 54 corridor, all the way from here to Wesley Chapel and into Land O' Lakes.

Q. WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM TO FORM NEW SCHOOLS?

A. People don't realize this but the school district is very restricted on how we can get money. The school board can't just vote to raise taxes to get more money. So they need primary sources for capital dollars, and when I say capital

dollars it means dollars that go to new schools and maintaining facilities. That's different from operating dollars, because operating dollars go to paying salaries and the expenses for running a school, and they're two different pots of money and we can't mix them. Capital dollars for the new facilities comes from property taxes, the Pennies for Pasco sales tax, and from some state dollars they give us (not enough) and also something called impact fees.

The state caps how much property taxes we can collect; impact fees are whenever someone builds a new home in this area, they have to pay an impact fee. For every new house that is built we collect about \$4,800. Every year we collect \$9 million in revenue for a new facility, so if you think about how much that new high school costs \$65 million to \$9 million doesn't go very far, and the property I'm looking at for a new high school is probably going to be about \$5 million, just for land. The district can't automatically say we want to raise school impact fees. It has to go to the County Commission who has to say yes.

We are planning on taking a revised impact fee to the County Commission within the next year, and we hope that they say yes.

By the way, currently as far as capital debt, we are over \$400 million in debt, that's half a billion dollars almost. So we can't just go borrow money and build new schools when we are that much in debt, and that's from all the growth from the last 10-15 years.

Q. IF CURRENT MITCHELL STUDENTS ARE ZONED OUT OF OUR DISTRICT, WILL THEY BE ABLE TO APPLY FOR SCHOOL CHOICE?

A. There's always opportunity to apply for school choice. The question remains whether you'd get in or not. Some people will say if you stop school choice at Mitchell you wouldn't have over crowding. That's not the case. If it were that easy we'd do it. We always want to provide opportunities for kids who have a mom or dad that teaches at the school, and they want to school choice in. Or if they want to be in a certain program that's not at other schools, we want kids to be able to choose in.

Q. WILL STUDENTS CURRENTLY HERE ON SCHOOL CHOICE AT MITCHELL HAVE TO REAPPLY IF THERE IS A REZONING?

A. That's correct. Any time we do a rezoning, for any school that's affected by the rezoning, school choice is reset. Everybody who wants to go to Mitchell that does not live in the new zone has to apply. I am not sure if seniors will have to reapply for school choice, but even if they had to apply, they would get it because they would be grandfathered in.

Q. THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE WHO BUY THEIR HOUSES SPECIFICALLY SO THEY CAN BE IN A CERTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT BECAUSE THEY LIKE THE WAY THAT SCHOOL IS

RUN. WHAT IF THERE IS A NEW PERSON COMING IN AND BUYING IN SO THAT THEY CAN GO TO MITCHELL, AND THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN WHERE THEY LIVE IS REZONED FOR ANOTHER SCHOOL. HOW WOULD YOU TAKE THOSE PEOPLE INTO CONSIDERATION?

A. That is the most popular thing I hear from everybody. "I bought my house so I could go to this school," whether it's Mitchell or Seven Springs. Usually I tell them in a nice way, that I understand that they bought their house to go to Mitchell High. Unfortunately, so did 2,200 other student families. So at some point we have to figure out how to rezone people. We as Pasco County, cannot guarantee that when you move into Pasco County you are always going to stay in the same school.

Q. IS THE DISTRICT CONSIDERING AN AUDIT OF CURRENT STUDENTS TO FIND THOSE STUDENTS NOT ON SCHOOL CHOICE THAT MAY LIVE IN OTHER ZONES, BUT ARE ATTENDING MITCHELL WITH FALSIFIED ADDRESSES?

A. The problem is there are a lot of legal issues with that. We have to be careful and look at what we can do legally. So we're working with our attorney on what the options are.

Q. BUT EVEN IF THERE WERE 100+ KIDS HERE ILLEGALLY, THAT WOULDN'T NEGATE THE NEED FOR REZONING?

A. Correct. And the number of kids rezoned will depend on if we think all of that growth will come to Mitchell. Or are we going to try to spread out and maybe send some to River Ridge? Then maybe you don't need to take quite as many out of Mitchell. The committee will take a look at that and figure it out.

Q. IS IT A POSSIBILITY THAT THE COMMITTEE MIGHT RECOMMEND THAT NO REZONING TAKE PLACE FOR 2017-18, BUT RATHER WE CONTINUE TO DEAL WITH OVERCROWDING?

A. This is ultimately up to the School Board, so they could decide not to do a rezoning. I don't anticipate the committee recommending that, although they could. As we discussed, no rezoning means more students for the next few years, more portables (cost involved with that), more traffic, more lunches, etc. while neighboring schools remain under capacity.

Important Dates

Boundary Committee Meeting
#1 Location: SSMS
Date: October 5, 7:30am
Boundary Committee Meeting

#2 Location: Anclote High School
Date: October 26, 8:00am
Boundary Committee Meeting

#3 Location: RRHS
Date: November 7, 8:00am
Parent Meeting
Location: RRHS Performing Arts Center
Date: Nov. 14, 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Harambe, our sweet prince

The legendary gorilla impacts student life around the campus.

Kaitlyn Klein
Reporter

In the nearly three months since the influential death of Harambe, the seventeen year-old silverback gorilla from Cincinnati Zoo transcended his lowly origins from some random zoo gorilla. In his afterlife, he acts as a superhero, a mega-meme, the internet's gorilla.

"I think the meme allows us commoners to revel in his light; to experience his presence even in his death," Holden Honor ('17) said.

The death of the primate sparked an almost religious movement; his followers using memes and sayings in

remembrance of his legacy.

"The death of Harambe made such an impact on people who didn't care about the death originally. At first, there was those animal rights activists who were all upset about it, because obviously, he died. But after a few weeks, I saw on twitter how people started using pictures of him as a meme, and acting as if he was some religious leader. I saw things like 'blessed be his name', and others," Ashley Drescher ('20) said.

The Cincinnati Zoo, the zoo that provided a home for Harambe for his entire life, responded

via Twitter to the memes in a less than positive way. They explained their dislike and unhappiness with the way the internet turned the death of their primate into a joke.

They told their followers on Twitter that they "are not amused by the memes, petitions and signs about Harambe." In an interview with TMZ, the director of the Cincinnati Zoo, Thane Maynard, said he is not happy and that the zoo is "still healing, and the constant mention of Harambe makes moving forward more difficult for us."

Those on Twitter referred



Harambe reflects on his short life at the Cincinnati Zoo. Photo provided by mirror.co.uk

to the zoo's response as an overreaction, though the zoo's displeasure may seem understandable.

"I can see why they'd be sad, because it must have been a tough decision to kill an endangered species and one of the main attractions to the Cincinnati Zoo," Guillermo

Madriz ('19) said.

The Harambe meme remains both ironic and sincere. While many may feel that continuing to proliferate it on the internet is equivalent to flogging a dead ape, one thing remains true: as long as the Harambe meme survives, so will the memory of Harambe, the fallen gorilla.

Homecoming Calendar

M	Character Day	Powder Puff at 6pm
Tu	Hawaiian Day	Rock, Paper, Scissors
W	Tacky Day	NHS Reality Showdown
Th	Western Day	Rodeo Games
F	Spirit Day	Pep Rally & Homecoming Game
Sat	Homecoming	Dance starts at 6:30pm

I know what you did last summer

Alyssa Magilligan
Reporter

Summer brings the opportunity to experience new places and step out of one's comfort zone. This past summer, some students able to seize these opportunities found themselves on the other side of the world.

"I went on a cruise to St. Maarten, St. Kitts, Grand Turk and Puerto Rico. We go on a cruise every summer and it is our family time," Demi Asensio ('18) said.

Enjoying beaches with clear blue water, and one on one moments with marine animals were a few activities included in one of her travel stops.

"St. Kitts was absolutely breathtaking. The views were amazing and I had never seen

more beautiful water. I also got to swim with dolphins at one of the ports, which I had done as a little girl, but this experience was even more amazing since I interacted a lot more with them," Asensio said.

Other students like Victoria Arvanitis ('18) traveled abroad over the summer, and found herself in a completely different country.

"I went to Greece to visit my family. Greece is just as amazing as everyone says it is. The water is either crystal clear or pool blue," Arvanitis said.

Traveling around the world leads to finding different activities to participate in; some of which are typically uncommon

things in America.

"I went horseback riding, cliff jumping, snorkeling, motorcycle riding, and had many other fun experiences including two Big Fat Greek weddings," Arvanitis said, "I also went to the club and did other things that you typically wouldn't be allowed to do in America because it's so different there."

Visiting unfamiliar countries, islands, and new places may hold the top spot on students' summer bucket lists. Viewing the scenery, experiencing different cultures, and meeting people are just some of the benefits of traveling over the summer.



A beach in Portokasiki, Greece.
Photo by Victoria Arvanitis

Seniors mark the spot

Sam Burchick
Reporter

Seniors had a new opportunity this school year to submit an application for a customized parking spot at the cost of \$30. Their designs required adherence to rules that restricted offensive language, pictures or symbols, negative or rude language, "gang-style" tagging, double meanings, and nicknames or girlfriend/boyfriend names. The application required students to draw out their plan and receive approval from the administration. On August 5th from 9am – 1pm, seniors decorated their spots. This initiated a new tradition that gave seniors the chance to make their mark on the school.

"By painting a custom spot I got to put my own stamp on the parking lot that resembles part of me, and I thought that was really

cool," BaileyBodden ('17) said.

While customizing their parking spots, each student got to express his or her personality and the things they enjoy. Some seniors took inspiration from things that hold value to them.

"I have a borderline obsession with Superman for years and I feel that painting his logo with an inspirational quote on my parking spot would express myself as a person," Lauren Sawyer ('17) said.

As well as personal values and interests, the pop culture industry, and designs seen throughout social media influenced some students on their parking spot theme.

"I was really inspired by my favorite childhood movie, which is Finding Nemo. Plus, the sequel



Student-painted parking spots.

Photo by Sam Burchick

just came out, and I'm on swim team so it all fit in so perfectly," Olivia Mathieson ('17) said.

Having designated parking spots helped make parking

easier and more individualized for seniors. There is not currently a make-up date for seniors who missed the opportunity to paint a space in August. However, it is

undecided whether or not there will be one in the future. Follow @JWMHS_cortier on Twitter for updates if still interested in painting a parking spot.

Wake up and makeup

Sophie Sajecki
Editor

The Marchman Technical College located in New Port Richey has been offering academic and technical training to the Pasco County community, and surrounding areas since 1984. One of the programs that they offer is Cosmetology, and students at Mitchell High School are taking advantage of the opportunity.

"The cosmetology program at Marchman Technical College is a two year program where I spend about three to four hours during the school day learning how to do things such as properly apply makeup and also how to do hair, nails and facials," Taylor Rodriguez ('18) said.

This program allows for future successes in not only the cosmetology field, but also gives insight and exposure into the real world.

"I am working towards getting my cosmetology license currently, but in the future I hope to get my bachelor's degree in business at a local community college. Since I am in the Marchman Cosmetology Program, once I graduate, I can have the opportunity to pay my way through college by using the license that I'm on my way to receiving now," Rodriguez said.

Other programs offered to high schoolers at Marchman Technical College include Air

Conditioning, Refrigeration and Heating technology, Automotive Collision Repair and Refinishing, Automotive Service Technology, and Marine Science Technologies. If interested in applying for any of these

programs, take a campus tour and call Kim Dunn at 727-774-1703. For more information or further questions, speak to a class counselor.



Photo by Emily Macdougall



Emily Macdougall ('17) after blow-drying a manikin's hair.

Photo by Emily Macdougall

Freshmen are friends, not food

Seniors give freshmen advice for their high school careers

Sam Burchick
Reporter

As the new school year begins, seniors look back on the advice previously given to them. As they are closing their high school chapter, they've had years worth of experiences, and have been given an abundance of advice. They reflect on what advice was helpful. We asked seniors to share advice for the class of 2020.

"Figure out your top priorities first, then determine what you really think is important to you. Time management is a key thing. Do not burn yourself out young," Dillon Shearer ('17) said.

High school can be the

starting point for students to find themselves and discover helpful habits.

"Time management is important but knowing your limits is important too, don't feel obligated to be a part of an extra club if you don't have time for it. You have four years left, pick another year," Marissa Stone ('17) said.

Throughout the years, some seniors found new ways to stay organized and study more efficiently. Having effective study habits and organization skills may help the school year go by easier, as grades will improve

and stress levels will reduce.

"Manage your time wisely. Be organized. This is very important because you need to keep track of when all your work is due. Using a planner, and studying with others is a great thing because you can get someone to clarify points you may not have understood," Jocelyn Espinoza ('17) said.

While looking into the different clubs and sports to join, it is important to plan accordingly. Time management and scheduling are suggested to be keys to success.

"Do your schoolwork first.

When I'm done with that I can do my fitness routine until sunset. I make sure to use my weekends wisely and plan my days out so I'm able to fit practices and certain amount of homework," Espinoza said.

In addition to time management and organization, being yourself and standing up for what you believe in is said to be essential.

"Be true to yourself and never give up. Don't always follow the status quo. Being original is the best thing you can be. Never be afraid of fighting for what you believe in. Standing up for

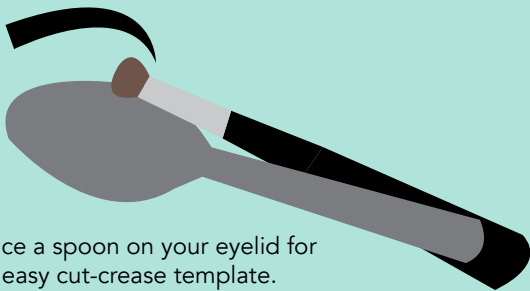
yourself and your beliefs is one of the most admirable qualities of a person," Liz Mott ('17) said.

Being involved and participating during high school is significant to obtain an enjoyable experience.

"Cherish your time in high school. Try to go to as many games and school activities as you can because one day you'll miss it, and regret not going," Alexis Zegan ('17) said.

Although freshmen year may be overwhelming, advice from experienced seniors can help ease the transition from middle school to high school.

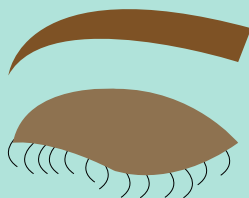
Makeup Tips and Tricks



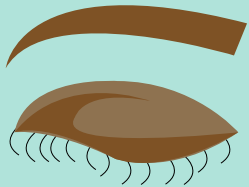
Place a spoon on your eyelid for an easy cut-crease template.



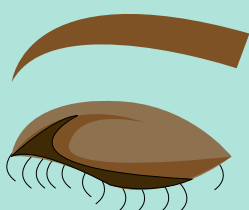
Align a piece of tape with the outer corner of your eye to create a precise template for your winged eyeliner.



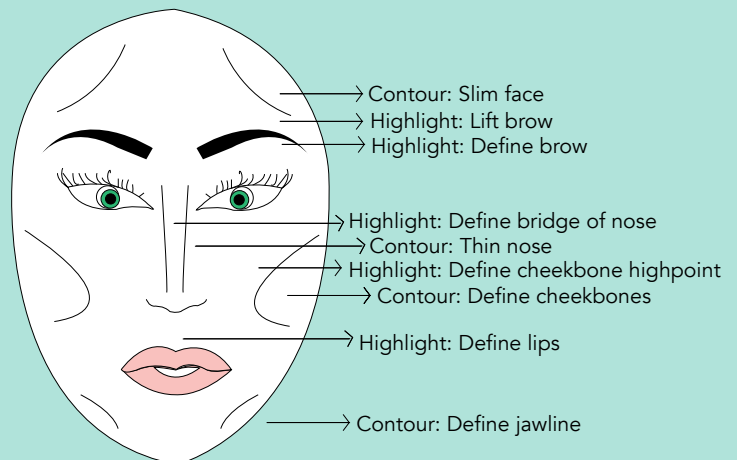
With a brush, apply your base eye shadow color on the lid and above the crease. Blend out towards the eyebrow.



Use your mid color eye shadow along the base of the lid, above the lash and into the outer corner.



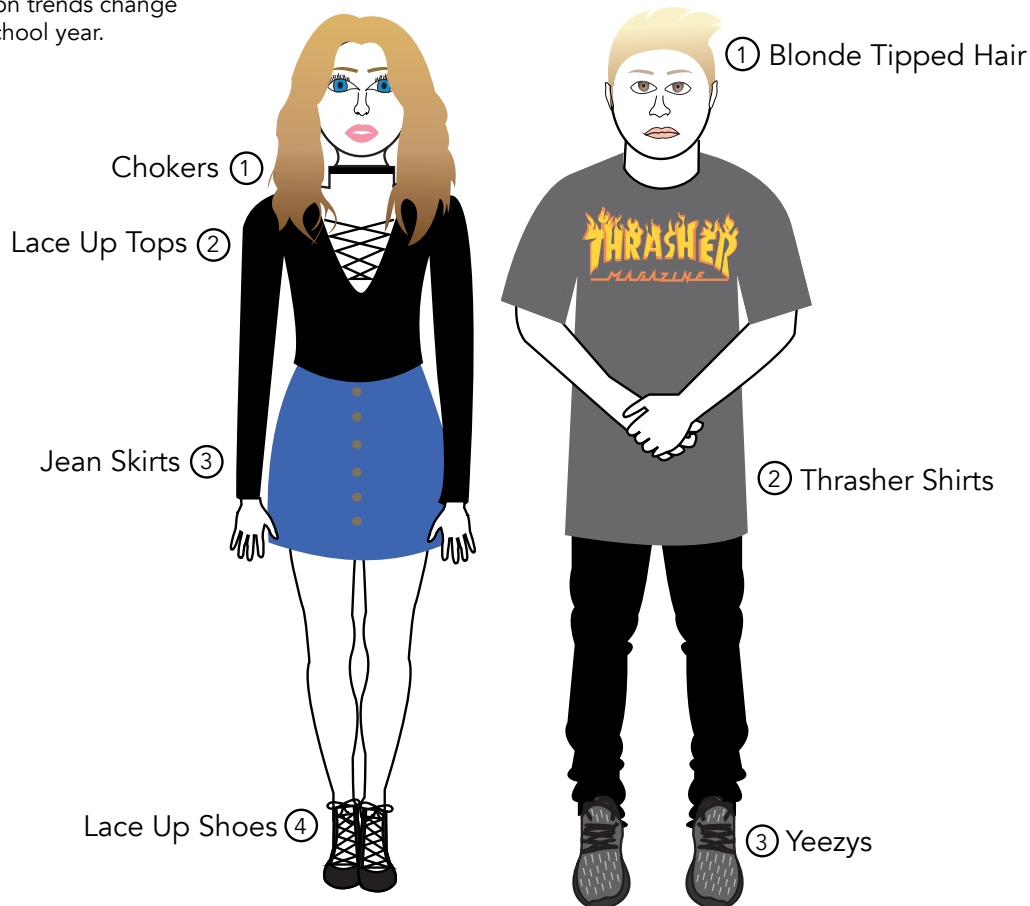
Now take your darkest color and apply it with an angled brush along the edge of the lash and across the outer corner of the eye. Blend.



→ Contour: Slim face
→ Highlight: Lift brow
→ Highlight: Define brow
→ Highlight: Define bridge of nose
→ Contour: Thin nose
→ Highlight: Define cheekbone highpoint
→ Contour: Define cheekbones
→ Highlight: Define lips
→ Contour: Define jawline

Out with the Old, In with the New

Students' fashion trends change with the new school year.



Thiiird apparel

Savannah D'Avila
Reporter

Preparing for the unannounced launch date, owners Sebastian Gonzalez ('18), Mazin Shehayeb ('18), and Joey Platania ('18), and employee Dax Reynaud ('19) plan on releasing their clothing line Thiiird (pronounced "Third Eye") in the near future.

"We came up with the name because there are three people, and three sets of eyes behind the brand," Gonzalez said.

Like many businesses, Thiiird was created as a solution to a problem.

"We've always had a love for fashion and clothes, but hate wearing what everyone else has. So, we decided to start making our own clothes to stand out and show our unique style," Gonzalez said.

The clothing line targets teens and young adults of both genders, and all sizes. Thiiird



merchandise will be available for purchase through their website once it is underway. Until then, visit their Instagram account,

thiiirdye.co if interested in checking out some of their upcoming designs, or pre-ordering any items.

A new nation

Max Trettin
Reporter

Salt Nation, a locally owned apparel company, all started when Jackson Rossi ('17) and partner, River Ridge student Aron Taylor, became dissatisfied with other fishing apparel brands currently on the market. According to saltnation.net, they set out to create high quality products that will appeal to all. Salt Nation is now starting Season Two, which includes a variety of new designs.

The product line currently consists of long and short-sleeved t-shirts, and headbands. All of these items are backed by Salt Nation's 100% quality satisfaction guarantee.

"The best-selling product is the Florida shirt with the topography design of the whole Florida state. Our second one is the Ice Blue shirt. Both of these are our original designs," Brian

Spicer ('18) said. Spicer was hired as the main marketer of the brand to help get the word out and guide buyers to their website.

Salt Nation donates 15% of the overall profits to the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, based in Clearwater, Fla. Students interested in giving back through purchasing a Salt Nation product can go to saltnation.net.

"The order will be sent to us and we'll contact our manufacturer and he'll send us the shirt and we'll send it to you," Spicer said.

The approaching release of Salt Nation: Season 2 should be available by the end of 2016, and the company expects the distribution of their new products will revitalize Salt Nation, as it was during their initial release.

Forever Film Company

Alumni Beau Beck ('14) and J.D. Hoppes ('14) grow their photography business

Jess Mason
Editor

Expecting to be the new recognized face of photography in the Trinity area by the end of the year, alumni Beau Beck and J.D. Hoppes continue aiming to grow their business, Forever Film Co.

In May of 2016, they created the business because, according to Beck, photography is something they are both passionate about, and have an eye for.

"I love meeting new people, I love being my own boss and how flexible it can be. I love being able to express my creativity, and of course, I love making money," Beck said.

Many factors played into the start of their newly found business, receiving his first digital single-lens reflex camera is what sparked Beck's interest.

"My mom is actually a professional photographer, so I've been around it my whole life. But I didn't get my first DSLR

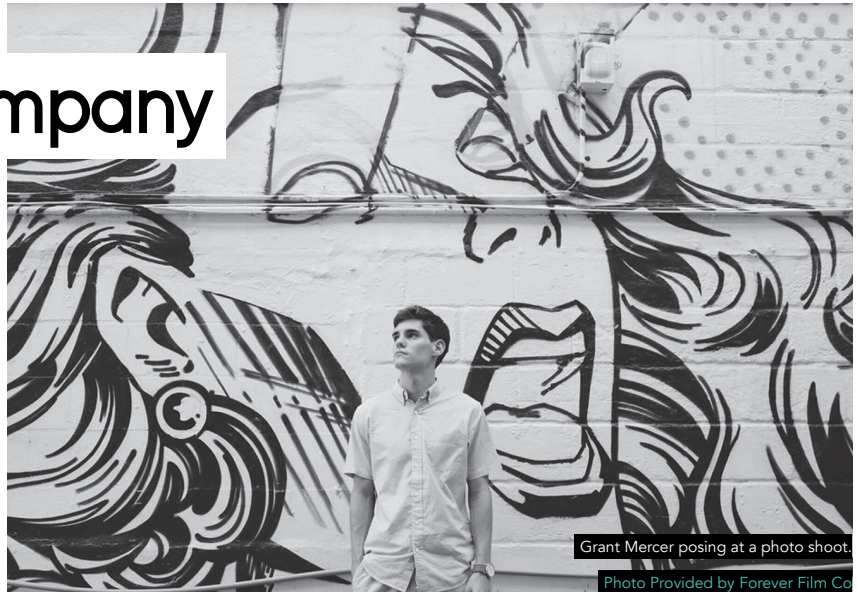
until December of last year, so that's really when I got into it," Beck said.

About 6 months after receiving his first DSLR (Digital Single lens Reflex) camera, and discovering the depth of his passion, Beck teamed up with Hoppes to start their venture into the photography business world.

"One of the benefits of having a partner like this is the fact that the both of us are good at different aspects of it. In my opinion, I have more of an eye for people, doing portraits and group photos; whereas, JD is really good at architecture and landscapes. Don't get me wrong we can both do really well, I just think we each have our strong suites," Beck said.

Although photography is something they both have a passion for, like with any business, there come challenges.

"The most challenging part is probably time. Both JD and



Grant Mercer posing at a photo shoot.

Photo Provided by Forever Film Co

I have full time jobs and go to school, so sometimes it's hard to work around that," Beck said.

In spite of the fact that finding time for their business has been an issue, opportunities like taking Alumni, Grant Mercer, to St. Pete to model for them have been memorable.

"We pretty much went exploring and found a lot of neat spots that I didn't know existed until then, and we got some

great shots too," Beck said.

As the past few months have been a series of new experiences, Beck and Hoppes strive to work towards growing their business.

"We're still new, and trying to get everything started up, so at the moment there's a little bit of a lack of content and information on our social medias, but I promise that will change soon. JD and I have both recently

made some changes that will allow us to put more time and effort into Forever Film Co.," Beck said.

While their business may be fairly new, Beck and Hoppes are focused in on success, and remain optimistic that one day they will be big enough to support themselves on photography alone.

Zeus, the helping paw

A service dog on campus drew the interest and attention of students

Josh Wagner
Reporter

Zeus, a black Labrador Retriever and Mastiff mix service dog, provides support and mobility assistance for Vivian Abry ('20). Students might have seen him roaming the halls, sitting at lunch, or even walking into classrooms.

"He performs mobility tasks like picking things up, and carrying things. He can take socks off, he can pull a wheelchair, tasks like that," Abry said.

Last August, Vivian found Zeus walking on the side of the road as a stray, and the dog was in poor



condition.

"When we found him, he was covered in fleas and his eyes were really swollen. He was only seventy pounds, and since we have had him he has gained fifteen pounds and is now healthy," Abry said.

Vivian then decided to train Zeus on her own, without much outside help apart from online friends who aided Abry throughout training.

"The only thing that we have done that has been outside of my training bubble has been

group obedience classes for socialization with other dogs," Abry said.

Zeus was considered task trained and ready to come to school in May of 2016, nine months after he was found and trained to be a service dog by the very same person who took him in.

"There are still tasks that he is learning, but for the most part he is finished [with his training]," Abry said.

Zeus helped improve Abry's life in the past year by helping her regain some strength that she may have lost. And Abry gave Zeus a home.

Party in the USA

Students who moved to the United States from foreign places share their impressions of America

Avery Phillion
Reporter

Every year, students come from all around the world to American schools. Students are able to go for a full year or just a semester. They come with their own money and insurance. They come from over 45 countries. Although it may be a hard transition, most foreigners end up loving it.

"I wanted to be a foreign exchange student because I wanted to learn new culture, study somewhere most people can't, and meet new people. It is so much bigger here and there is a lot more passion for learning and sports and the school itself. My school back in Hungary has only about two hundred kids and this school has over two thousand. The transition was a little hard but I really like it here," Sara Marriyak ('18) said.

Schools in different countries differ with how they teach, and a

lot of schools are smaller.

"This school is very large and also you can wear pretty much whatever you want unlike the school I came from in Columbia," Juan Paz ('17) said.

Foreign exchange students aren't the only ones who have a hard time with the transition. Students from other countries who have moved here have to adjust, too.

"My parents got a job over here in Florida so we had to move. I didn't know the language at all and moving schools was hard, too. It is much more in depth over here. The learning is more intense," Melanie Troche ('18) said.

Moving from one country to another, either permanently or just temporarily, can be a really hard transition, but have a good outcome.

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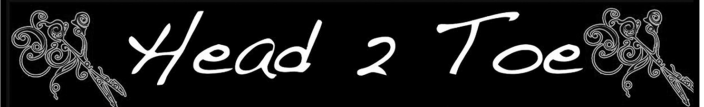
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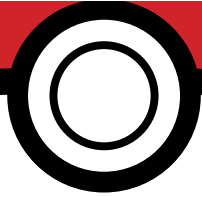
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POKÉMON GO: INSIDE THE CATCH-EM-ALL CRAZE

Michelle Cervera
Reporter

An original 90's manga, and popular anime called Pokémon provides gamers with a fun trading card game, as well as numerous individual video games. The franchise has done it again, only with a bigger and better understanding of today's pop culture.

Satoshi Tajiri announced the launch of Pokémon Go after working two years prior with the company Niantic and Google Maps. In the first five weeks of the games launch its revenue quickly climbed to a revenue of 268 million dollars. A success for the Pokémon franchise as well as the company Niantic. The man behind Pokémon Go and the CEO of Niantic John Hanke also worked on projects such as Ingress and Keyhole, the products that would eventually turn into

Google Maps.

As an effect of the games success, people all over the world have been playing Pokémon. Students and teachers find it hard to escape the trend with posts on social media showing off players pokédex, the amounts Youtube videos and vlogs about catching Pokémon, and helpful tips and tricks to evolve and battle the pocket monsters.

Although it takes some free time to travel across the land searching far and wide to play the main task here is to catch 'em all.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE GAME?

"I think that the game is fun, it's interesting that they have this platform where you can play. In Pokémon

you just battle what's there, it's more of a solid game in comparison to Ingress (an additional game by Niantic)," Ms. Schultz (FAC) said.

WHAT CHANGES WOULD YOU MAKE TO THE GAME?

"I would change it so you don't have a team, because I'm doing it as a collector. I never battle so I would just have a version where you would just collect things," Ms. Andrea Berry-Guth (FAC) said.

WHY ARE SO MANY PEOPLE PLAYING THE GAME?

"It's more of a trend thing because many different generations are playing it," Berry-Guth said.

WHAT IS POKÉMON GO PLUS?

A wearable accessory for the game. It looks like a watch and connects to a smart phone through Bluetooth.

WHAT DOES IT DO?

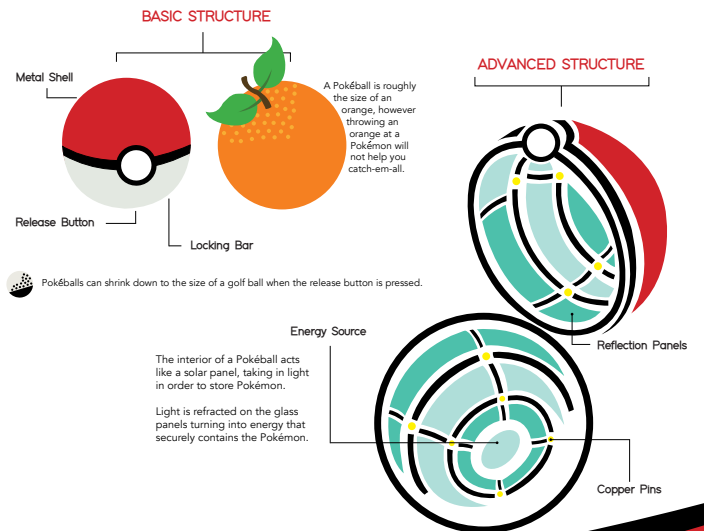
The device vibrates and lights up when players walk past a Pokéstop, allowing them to catch Pokémon with the click of a button.

WHEN CAN I BUY POKÉMON GO PLUS?

The device was released for purchase on September 16.

WHAT IS A POKÉBALL?

A Pokéball is an important tool trainers use to catch and store their Pokémon. By storing their Pokémon a trainer is able to journey long distances without fear of losing them.



On to the next level



Noah Stokes ('17)
Soccer

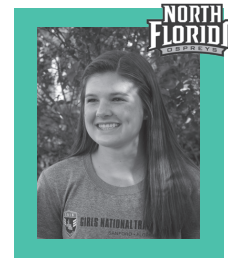
Coastal Carolina University
Loves the location of the school



Derick Stager ('19)
Baseball

University of Central Florida
Likes that the school is close to home

The athletic recruiting process takes time, effort, and patience. With strict NCAA rules regulating the communications between Division 1 college coaches and athletes, receiving offers has become more difficult than it used to a few years ago. Regardless, few individuals defied the odds and committed to play their sport at the collegiate level. Only about 3 percent of athletes have the opportunity to go from high school to being in the NCAA for Division 1 athletics.



Kendra Hoffman ('18)
Soccer

University of North Florida
Loves the coaching staff and location



Jakob Mattos ('18)
Baseball

Coastal Carolina University
The school and location feels like home

For the love of the game

Chris Wilson Reporter Sports extend beyond the range of high school and recreation.

Student-athletes spend hours practicing and participating in extracurricular sports to improve their athletic skills and abilities by working both on their own and with their competitive travel teams.

"I practice about three to four hours a day every day during the season," Hailey Profeta ('17) said.

Students all across the school play their favorite sports both competitively and for the high school teams. Dalton Brooks ('17), a competitive baseball player since birth, proved just how much playing at the next level helped improve his skills

when high school baseball came around.

"I've been playing since I was a kid then once I got to high school I tried out for varsity and made [the team]," Brooks said.

Because competitive sports take place year round with hardly any breaks during the season except around Christmas and Thanksgiving, competitive athletes can be found on the field or court almost daily.

"With soccer, we have at least one game a weekend; sometimes two. Then there are tournaments which can have three to four games depending on how far we make it through,"

Austen Fields ('19) said.

The high caliber work that competitive sports demands of students brings an even higher level of intensity to the game. This intensity is what drives athletes to compete at the next level.

"The increased amount of training in competitive sports and the higher stakes of winning are what makes them more intense than [high school]. Competitive sports are for students who want to increase their skill and enjoy the competition of playing at a higher level," Brian Horsburgh ('18) said.

Competitive, high level sport



Dalton Brooks ('17) and Hailey Profeta ('17) represent their travel teams.

Photo by: Lexi Clark

teams allow athletes to enjoy the sport they love while continuing to improve their skills in an

intense environment of constant practice and play.

Swinging their clubs to states

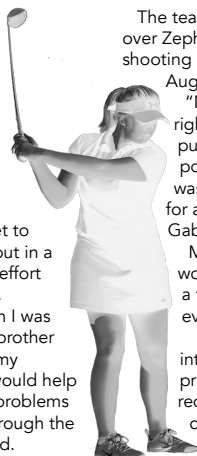
Will the golf team be able to achieve their goal of making it to states this season?

Josh Wagner Reporter

Golf season kicked off recently, both the girls and boys teams are swinging to a good start.

The boys team has some new faces this year to watch this year, one being Nick Gabrelcik ('20). To get to his current level, he put in a lot of hard work and effort to improve his game.

"I started golf when I was seven years old. My brother helped me develop my swing, and my dad would help me fix it when I had problems and help me work through the game," Gabrelcik said.



The team achieved a victory over Zephyrhills and Fivay, shooting 34 in the first match on August 25th.

"My iron play was going right that day, I was putting the shot in good positions to make pars. I was excited to be playing for a high school team," Gabrelcik said.

Members old and new work together to win as a team every meet and every practice.

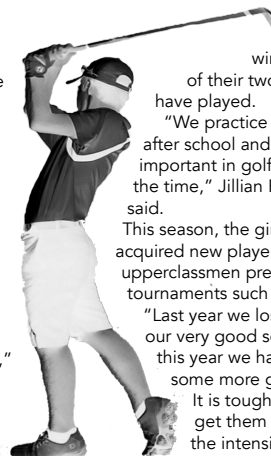
"We put all of our effort into every match and practice we hold, they require a team effort and competitive scores to win," Chris Swanhart

('18) said.

After last year's sixth place run at states, the team looks to the future for another promising season. As the team as a whole looks forwards to improving and competing, personal goals from individual members also hold an important position.

"My [personal] goals for this season are to go to states, and help bring Mitchell High School a championship," said Gabrelcik.

Meanwhile, the girl's team prepares for their next matches after



winning one of their two that they have played.

"We practice every day after school and that's important in golf, to play all the time," Jillian Peters ('18) said.

This season, the girls also acquired new players and the upperclassmen prepare for tournaments such as states.

"Last year we lost both of our very good seniors, so this year we had to recruit some more girls to play.

It is tough for us to get them ready for the intensity of our

matches and tournaments, but so far they have been adapting well," Peters said.

Both teams aim to play well and make it far in post-season play.

"[Our team goal this season] is to make it to states," Chloe Brennan ('18) said.

Both the boys and girls teams will swing for hole-in-ones this season, ready to improve their personal and team skills while representing the school with pride.

Oxygen is overrated

Mackenna Shiver
Reporter

The swim team thrives under new coaching staff.

Coach Kelly Erikson (FAC) stands on the side of the pool encouraging her swimmers to work harder and to keep going while Coach Terry Hekton (FAC) is on the pool deck coaching the new kids and helping them with their strokes.

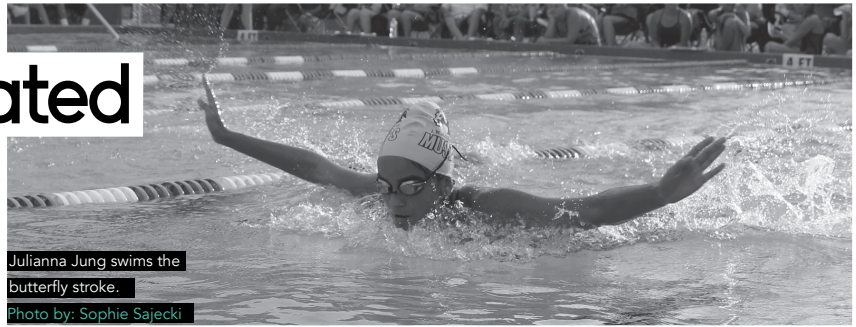
"I enjoy coaching all levels of swimming. I am happy to see the swimmers make adjustments to their training and swimming techniques, as well as working hard daily," Hekton said.

Erikson coached the team two seasons ago and took time off, but this year she intends on

making her comeback.

"I came back to coaching because I love the sport and I love the kids and families involved with this team. I feel privileged to have the opportunity to bring some of those lessons to these teens," Erikson said.

The team contains strong swimmers as well as three experienced coaches to help with a variety of things. Erikson's personal training experience she gained when she swam in high school helps with the dry land practices for when it rains.



Julianna Jung swims the butterfly stroke.

Photo by: Sophie Sajecki

"I bring the science I know as a certified personal trainer and group fitness instructor into the land and pool drills we do as a group. The team is getting to know Tabata timing very well. This type of training is ideal for high school swimming since all but one race we do is 200 yards (8 laps) or less," Erikson said.

Coach Kelly is all about positive

attitudes and success. She would love to see the kids that she has grown to love over the years make great accomplishments in their life.

"As a coach, my main focus is on mind set. I truly believe a positive outlook sets you up for success in the pool, in school and in life. "We are what we think" is a motto that I learned from my

coaching mentor and I have seen how optimism helps me and people I know throughout my life," Kelly said.

The new coaches not only help the team improve their swim techniques, but help them gain experiences, life lessons, and show them how Mustang pride looks and acts.

Olympic role models in Rio

This year's Rio Olympians inspire students to follow in their footsteps.

Morgan Fliss
Reporter

Eyes glued to the screen, the crowd of fans from all around the globe cheer on their countries as red, white and blue stars and stripes emerge triumphant representing hard work, dedication and honor for our country during the time of the Olympics. This year, the Olympics held in Rio included numerous competitors who inspired student-athletes all throughout the school to work harder towards their goals and defy expectations.

"[Track Olympian] Ashton Eaton's dedication helps us, as young athletes, to strive after our goals, even though it may be out of reach or difficult," Billy

Dorkowski ('17) said.

In addition, the once ordinary athletes with dreams became Olympians through their hard work and perseverance. They encourage student athletes to push past their limits and help them realize that their goals are attainable.

"It's more reasonable rather than a goal that only superstars can reach," Julia Walkup ('19) said.

The Olympics show student athletes that anything is possible if they believe in themselves and work hard towards their goals.

"[The Olympics] have helped me to become one of the better athletes in Pasco County, in track

and field, and I appreciate it. It also helps inspire my team," Dorkowski said.

The athletes on the Olympic team show student-athletes that they possess the ability to knock down barriers and do anything if they truly believe in themselves. Both the new and returning Olympians left an immense impact on the student-athletes that train every day to

achieve their goals.

"My favorite gymnast is Aly Raisman because it's cool how she came back a second Olympics and was even better. That's a really big inspiration," Sydney Marler ('17) said. Lastly, the Olympics proved to athletes that anything is possible when they put their mind to it.

"[Katie Ledecky] can do that, so why can't everyone else?" Walkup said.

Watching this year's Olympic games increased admiration towards athlete's hard work and optimistic attitude.

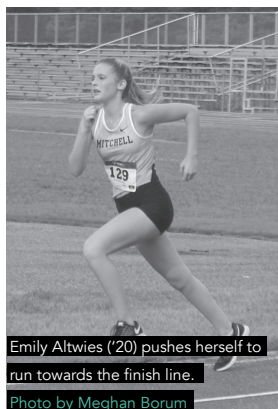
"Athletes appreciate gymnastics a lot more after watching the Olympics this year," Marler said.

This year's games not only represented a time of honor for our country, but also a time of motivation for student-athletes, inspiring to work immensely hard towards their goals of making it to the Olympics.

“
[Katie Ledecky]
can do that,
so why can't
everyone else?”
”

Chasing after their goals

To optimize success, the cross country team prioritizes team effort.



Emily Altwies ('20) pushes herself to run towards the finish line.
Photo by Meghan Borum

Meghan Borum
Reporter

The sound of feet pounding the ground fills the air as the runners advance towards the finish line, out of breath and filled with joy. Over the summer the boy's varsity team ran over 500 miles to help them to prepare for this season. The cross country team must work hard in order to achieve their goals and Spencer Edwards ('18) believes that the harder they work as a team, the better the team will be.

"Cross country is so team oriented and the better we do for each other the better we do

as a team," Edwards said.

Although this year's team is young, they prove themselves to be worthy of the varsity title at practices. Preparation for meets include lots of hard work, mileage, and focus to get runners ready to compete. Before a race begins, Edwards typically gives a pep-talk to the team right before the race.

"I just motivate them and get rid of any fears they might have before the race, and make sure everyone's focused for the task at hand. By then, there's probably

two minutes left. In that time, were all just really concentrated and no one is really talking, and before we know it the gun is going off," Edwards said.

The girl's cross country team keeps in mind big goals as they practice this season, putting forth a lot of effort to push themselves at meets and contribute to the team. Isabel Oliveto ('18) gives her all at practices and meets to lower her personal record in hopes of achieving her goal of making states this year.

"Another one of my goals

this year is to finish under 20 minutes," Oliveto said.

With improvement already developing so early in the season, the team's goals stand a good chance of materializing into a reality.

"We have a really good chance of winning conference [this season] and that's something the team hasn't done since 2004," Edwards said.

The constant hard work both teams give will be showcased at their meets. Anyone may attend and watch.



Photo by Lexi Clark

From mini to Mustangs

Sophie Sajecki
Editor

Mini Mustangs cheer helps young girls become cheerleaders from the ages of five to nine through the Trinity Mustangs teams. Cheerleaders at Mitchell high school help these little girls in making a fun experience through learning cheers, going to football games, and bonding.

"My favorite part of Mini Mustangs is to be able to cheer with the high school students and to be able to have the experience of going to the games. I cheer because I like to tumble and jump and get all of my energy out," Alexa Michael ('25) said.

Through the Mini Mustangs programs offered by the Trinity Mustangs organization, young girls and boys gain more experience and a better view into what the future holds for them, even if they have other interests outside of the program or if they are on the football team.

"I was always a dancer, so the only reason I did Mini Mustangs cheer was because my brother was on the mini mustangs football team, so this helped me realize cheer was something I would want to continue in the future," Brooke Allen ('20) said.

While the future is hard to predict, the more experience young girls have helps them decide what lies ahead for them.

"One piece of advice that I would give to a current Mini Mustang is to try hard and have fun with the program, because you never know if one day you might want to be a cheerleader," Lindsey Hoskins ('19) said.

Connections between cheerleaders on and off the field last a lifetime and make a memorable impact no matter how big or small.

"Hanging out with my friends and being with them while cheering was my favorite part when I was on Mini Mustangs, going to the football games was really fun too, being with the older girls was a such a great experience for me," Allen said.

The work accomplished by both the Mini Mustang and Mitchell Mustang cheerleaders inspires young girls continuously. Check for the Mini Mustangs clinic availability next summer for young girls interested from the ages of four through eleven.

“
Get up, stand up,
cheer! M-H-S!
”

#KNIGHTSOUT

Caroline Weyer
Editor

High tensions surrounded the stadium as the Mustangs and Knights battled it out on the football field August 26. The rivalry game was a tough challenge with both schools' student sections packing the stands to witness the event.

In the first half Mason Castricone intercepted a pass which led to a valuable turnover for Mitchell. Adam Rodgers recovered a fumble and Mychael Hamilton was able to run the ball in for a 2-yard touchdown, giving the home team a 7-0 lead at the half.

River Ridge was tackled in the end zone, giving Mitchell a 9-0 lead with the third quarter safety. JP Watt then responded with a 32-yard field goal bumping up the score to 12-0.

The Mustangs had an early 12-0 lead on River Ridge at the start of the fourth quarter. As the clock was running out River Ridge came back 12-7. Mitchell was forced to hold off the Knights during this close game before time fully ran out.

A turn of events in the form of a penalty caused the Knights to gain a touchdown followed by a field goal.

When time finally ran out the Stang Gang stormed the field, celebrating the team's success.

"I think everyone felt an overwhelming sense of shock because to have the school get a win against River Ridge felt amazing," Larry Dalla Betta ('17) said.

Going into the game the Mustang players had to mentally prepare themselves for the task they were going to face.

"We stayed focused on the win which is what motivated us to not give up any bad penalty's or say anything to River Ridge because we knew what was at stake," Dalla Betta said.

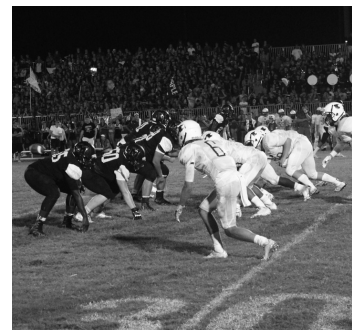
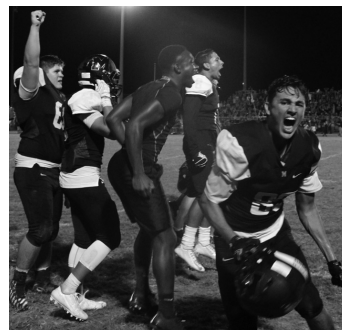
For the past two years the Mustangs have lost to the Knights, and this year with a close game, the Mustangs won bragging rights in the rivalry.



The Mustang football team defeats the Knights as the first game of the season for the first time in two years, 12-7.



Photos by Max Trettin





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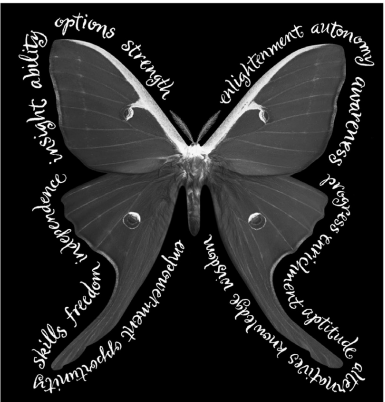
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OPTION 2: On-campus portraits **Oct. 11th** by appointment. Call Gigante for your appointment time. Sitting fee still applies.

CLASS OF 2017

SENIOR PANORAMIC
Date? Thursday, Nov. 10th
Time? 8:40am
Place? School gym

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DEADLINE: Friday, Dec. 16th
Any senior who wishes to purchase a dedication page in the yearbook must complete an online application and submit photos and payment by this date.
jwmhs.pasco.k12.fl.us/the-stampede-yearbook

CLUB PICTURE DAY
- Friday, January 13th
- all day
- in the gym

CAP & GOWN
- Friday, April 7th
- during lunches
- gym lobby

A drop into the Ocean

Frank Ocean's drops a new album for the first time in three years names "Blond."

Kristina Jautze
Reporter

Frank Ocean's new album titled "Blond" captured all of the recent buzz on Twitter. Four years ago he released "Channel ORANGE" and since then, the anticipation for a new drop has been high. The long interval between made loyal fans concerned as to if he would ever release more music. However, "Blond" received mixed reviews on social media.

"If I were to rate this album out of 10, I would rate it a 7. I can respect what he's doing and how he's trying to be creative and all, but it's just okay," Tyler Wellington ('19) said.

Ocean makes his own music, and wrote all the songs and to create the overall look, but he

left fans hanging.

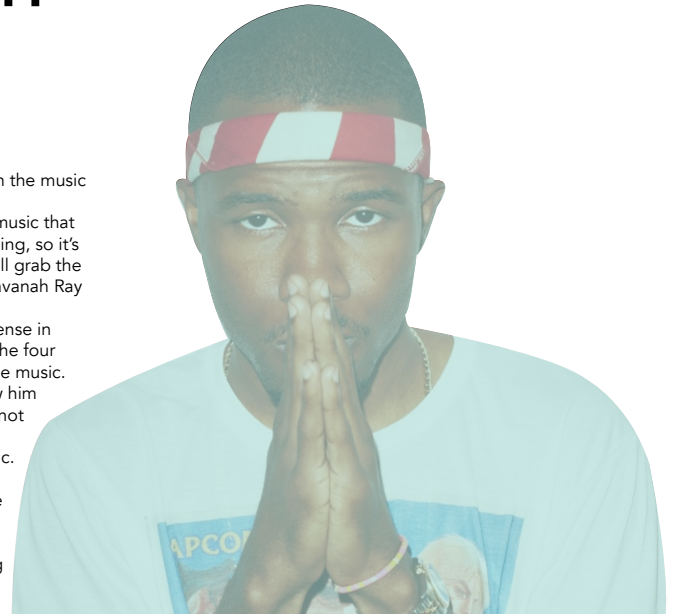
"The creative process takes a while to start working. Frank Ocean wanted to make something original and make it a big success. Although fans are mad that he took so long, it was worth the wait," Hailey Profeta ('17) said.

When Ocean dropped his new album, many opportunities came about with the new release. The New York Times, and Apple Music both supported Ocean, and advertised the album until his big release on August 20th. At first Ocean's album was exclusively offered on Apple music, and as of September 9th, is available on Spotify. By coming out with "Blonde", Ocean plans

to make a comeback in the music industry.

"I think he puts out music that other people aren't doing, so it's something new that will grab the people's attention," Savannah Ray ('20) said.

Ocean built up suspense in everyone throughout the four years he did not release music. These new tracks allow him to be known again by not only his fans, but also newcomers to his music. Although "Blonde" is causing some negative reviews, fans are still content with him and his path to constituting more songs.



Stranger Things happen on Netflix

The most talked about Netflix original series called Stranger Things.

Raleigh Illig
Editor

Stranger Things, a Netflix original series, recently made headlines everywhere. This mini series captured audiences with its unique plot.

"The 1980's aesthetic of the whole show was pretty cool. I just like the way it was laid out," McKenzie Morin ('18) said.

Netflix released season one of

this hit supernatural fiction on July 15th, and the series gained immediate attention. This season only had nine full episodes but left viewers wanting more.

"I watched the whole show in one Sunday. The way that every episode ended just made you want to watch the next one even more to see what happened,"

Morin said.

Shortly after its release, Stranger Things received a lot of attention, and word spread quickly, with social media as one of the largest ways it was spread.

"On Netflix they put up a preview of this new show coming out, and when I saw it I just had to actually watch the

whole thing for myself," Nathan Chittum ('19) said.

This series takes place in the 80s in a small town in Indiana. In the first episode, a young boy goes missing. After his disappearance, strange events take place within the town, including unexplained lights flickering, voices from the walls,

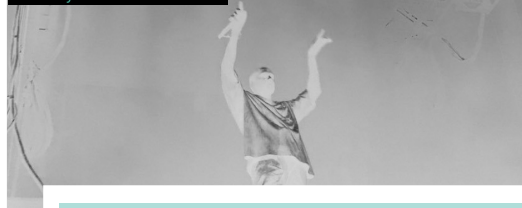
and further disappearances.

"In the show when I saw Barb get kidnapped it really took off from there, and I had to finish it," Chittum said.

A second season of the series will be released in 2017, picking up at the cliff hanger that ended episode nine of season one.

One of the special effects performed at the Drake concert.

Photo by Jonathan Lawrence



All Summer Sixteen

Drake's Summer Sixteen Tour and more upcoming concerts you won't want to miss.

Michelle Cervera
Reporter

On August 27, Drake and Future took the stage for the Summer Sixteen Tour. This tour received great reviews from critics and fans.

"My friends and I went to see the Drake and Future concert Saturday. When we got there we sat for at least 30 minutes and then the first act came on. The first act was Roy Woods, after a few other acts Drake came on

and came out very suddenly, he sang the first song 'Summer 16'. Fireworks went off, Drake was on for about an hour and then the song "Grammys" came on by Drake and Future. After the song Future was performing there was a lot of special effects: fireworks, lights and fire behind him. We were screaming and I lost my voice, basically future was on for like 45 minutes to an hour then

Future went back stage. And then Drake continued on so it was a lot of fun," Samantha Burt ('18) said.

With the special effects and overall great music, the Drake and Future concert was one worth while.

Upcoming Concerts

Charlie Puth October 3rd House of Blues	Ariana Grande April 15th Amway Center
Garth Brooks October 8th Amway Center	YG October 5th The Beacham
Led Zeppelin October 21st Hard Rock Live	Lukas Graham January 9th House of Blues
Shawn Mendes July 28th Amway Center	Chris Young November 10th CFE Arena

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Thespians plan fall play

This production involving conspiracy and paranoia opens on October 20th.

Kaitlyn Klein
Reporter

Thespians, a theatre based international honor society, allows the participants to expand their theatre knowledge without needing to take a class. The club also allows students to make new friends.

"You do not have to be in a class to join our club, just be prepared to meet some very outgoing and passionate individuals. Mr. O'Hara and Mr. Gureck are very welcoming to all new members and all of our students love to meet new kids," Kasey McNaughton ('17) said.

Thespians not only expands theatre knowledge, but students can learn valuable lessons from joining.

"Being a part of Thespians has contributed to my high school experience by teaching me professionalism, discipline, and being appreciative. Mr. O'Hara does

so much for all of his kids and he always pushes us to be the best we can be," Sydney Steele ('17) said.

The club performs multiple times a year at school and different events, giving members many chances to participate.

"Our most notable performances are our straight play, individual events festival, murder mystery dinner theatre, and our musical. We also encourage students to audition for theaters outside of school. We are preparing for our District One-Act festival. We are going for our third consecutive Superior at the One-Act festival which will grant us our third consecutive showcase at state," McNaughton said.

Thespians meet in the theater room 403 every Wednesday after school until 4:30, and any student

may attend.

"I wanted to attend a Thespian meeting because it would be an honor to be inducted. I would gain confidence and leadership skills I can use later in life, Paige Senatore ('20) said.

The club has begun working on their fall play, In Perpetuity Throughout The Universe. The play depicts how people choose to hate others for their own personal gain and find that they become desensitized to hate unless the hate is targeted at them.

This play will open October 20th and close October 23rd. The show starts at 7:30 pm and tickets for the Thursday preview will cost five dollars. Tickets for Friday and Saturday showings will cost ten dollars.

Movie Reviews

The Conjuring 2

Ready to have a heart attack? The Conjuring 2 came out, and it is the scariest movie of the year. This continuation of The Conjuring is about what happened before the Perron family moved into the cursed house featured in the first movie. The Warrens, a young couple, come into a single mother's house to cleanse the home of evil spirits, and things took an unexpected turn. This was an excellent horror film and the story line flowed very well from part one on to part two. This movie might be one of the most spine tingling horror films of the year. Overall I would rate this movie a 10 out of 10.

Lights Out

I hope your lights are on when you read this review about the new movie Lights Out. The movie began as a YouTube clip and turned into a motion picture that, to date, grossed \$145 million worldwide. Rebecca, a single mother, had an old friend named Diana who died a violent death when they were young. Diana came back in the shadows to haunt Rebecca and all those around her. There was a lot of jump scares and it was creepy, but not as scary as The Conjuring 2. Over all I think that the movie was a solid 6 out of 10.

Bad Moms

Everybody has been raving about the new comedy Bad Moms. This comedy is about great moms going bad, and they decide to revolt against PTA meetings and let their kids take care of themselves. The best character in the movie has to be Amy. Who wouldn't love a mom that lets her kid eat butter? This movie would get a 10 out of 10. It was laugh out loud funny. It is a must see.

Suicide Squad

The world's worst heroes are finally here. Suicide Squad is the newest hero movie out, and this movie was all over the place. The previews told nothing about the main idea of the story. There was some kind of witch? Where did that come from? The previews led viewers to believe that it was going to be the bad heroes fighting the joker. This movie was all over the place, so it gets a 6 out of 10.

Overcrowding on campus

Student population has increased dramatically this school year, affecting students and teachers.

Alyssa Magilligan
Reporter

As the school year rolled in, students found it difficult to carry out their regular morning school routine. Students show up late to class due to the limited walking room in hallways and an overcrowded parking lot.

"Overcrowding negatively affects everyone at school because hallways and lunchrooms are always packed. And since there are more students per classroom this year, teachers may not be able to give as much one on one help to students who need it," Hannah Farrell ('18) said.

The overpopulation of the school affects the tardies of students everyday.

"I really don't like the fact that

our school is overcrowded. It makes walking to classes take longer and it's more hectic," Brandon Cloud ('17) said.

Despite the negative feelings students possess towards the surplus of around 350 people, students find positive outcomes.

"Even though the halls are insane during passing time and nearly impossible to walk through, having more students at school than there is supposed to be can lead to meeting a bunch of new people as a result," Delaney Georgantas ('18) said.

Students have transferred from other high schools or middle schools in the district so they get the education that they think is best for them and their future.



Hannah Farrell ('18) struggles to get through the crowded hallways during passing. Photo by Sophie Sajecki

"If you think that our school is the best school to provide you with what you want, then you should be allowed to go here. You have to do whatever possible to have a successful future," Georgantas said.

Another result of overcrowding is the possibility of being late for class.

"If you are not zoned to go here, you shouldn't. The hallways shouldn't be as crowded as they are, the car lines shouldn't be as long as they are, and classrooms should not be as full as they are. I know a few people who are late to first period everyday because they sit in the car line for fifteen minutes in the morning trying to

pull into the school," Cloud said.

Overcrowding is a controversial topic on campus which may be resolved in next year's rezoning. But for now students make the best of it, even if it means being tardy for class.

Old school vs new school

The transition into the MyStudent grading system leaves students and teachers confused.

Morgan Fliss
Reporter

This year, the school implemented a new grading system for students and teachers to use called myStudent. In the past teachers and students used eSembler to enter and look at grades. Throughout the school, controversy rises about which one students and teachers prefer.

Students and teachers familiarized themselves with using the old grading system, eSembler. eSembler's positive aspects persuade students and teachers to want to use it over myStudent however, it also contains flaws, which make myStudent easier to use.

"Positive things about using eSembler is the access to the classes are much easier and to see your grades are a lot easier, while myStudent has everything on one site with one username and password. However, eSembler times you out after not using the site and you can't see which teachers gave you tardies, but myStudent is a new and big change to get used to," Millennia Mejia ('18) said.

From a teacher's perspective, eSembler contained positive features of a great grading

How to login to myStudent

- 1 Go to mypascoconnect.pasco.k12.fl.us
- 2 Use your Canvas username and password
- 3 Click on the myStudent icon
- 4 View your grades

system however, myStudent also provides useful characteristics.

"For me, the biggest positive thing about eSembler, was that it was easier to share information with my co-teacher which is a necessity for my job therefore, making it a negative for myStudent. However, with myStudent, I do like how the information is much more centralized overall and easier to see. I think it is going to be a

learning curve that I have to get used to," Mr. Chris Alas (FAC) said.

Students can access myPascoConnect by visiting the site: <http://mypascoconnect.pasco.k12.fl.us/>. To login, use student number and Canvas password. When students reach the dashboard, click on the icon labeled, MyStudent. This icon redirects students to their course grades.

Yes to the dress

Students differ in opinions when it comes to homecoming dress length.

Avery Philion
Reporter

Homecoming, one of the biggest events of the year. Curling your hair the right way, getting your makeup done and putting on the dress that was hand picked at least a month in advance. The opinions of students vary on whether wearing long or short dresses is better, why they wear them, and why some people think they are only meant for prom.

"I feel like we wear long dresses to prom because it is more of a formal event and you go with a date and homecoming is more of a social gathering and semi formal. But if you want to wear a long dress to homecoming then you do you," Cierra Cangeme ('18) said.

Although few long dresses are seen at homecoming the girls on homecoming court wear them.

"The girls are representing us and should be more formal, dressed up, try to look as good as they can and, stand out," Hallie Young ('19) said.

No matter which style students choose they need to be ready to dance all night on October 8, 2016.

BENEFITS OF WEARING A LONG DRESS:

"It makes you look taller and it's more elegant," Chrislyn Mariano ('19) said.

CONS OF WEARING A LONG DRESS:

"A lot of people just don't wear long dresses to homecoming. It's more semi formal and long dresses are hotter and harder to dance in," Megan Blankenship ('19) said.

BENEFITS OF WEARING A SHORT DRESS:

"I wear short dresses because it is easier to dance in and not as hot," Lydia King ('17) said.

CONS OF WEARING A SHORT DRESS:

"Depending on the length, you may have to keep pulling it down," Kaily Bredemeier ('19) said.

Give me Chick-fil-A or give me referrals

A staff editorial regarding the controversy between students and administration about leaving campus during their lunch period.

As students at J.W. Mitchell High School, we should be able to leave campus to eat and buy our own lunch. By allowing students to have the freedom to purchase their lunch off campus rather than in the cafeteria at school, students will be less likely to skip classes to go off campus to buy lunch, and students would have a better day overall by eating food that they actually want to eat.

If students were permitted to drive off campus to eat their lunch, they would be less likely to skip their classes as an attempt to leave school to eat. Currently, students at our

school are not permitted to leave campus unless advised to do so by a parent or guardian that has checked them out.

In the Pasco County Student Code of Conduct for the 2016-17 school year, the punishment for leaving school grounds without permission is a level two offense, titled Disruptive Behavior in the Rules of Student Conduct section. Other counties in Florida such as Hillsborough and Pinellas consider leaving campus for lunch an unexcused sign out, which is similar to the Pasco County labelling. The Florida Department of Motor Vehicles also has a

driver's license law which states, "students who attain the age of 14 and accumulate 15 unexcused absences in a period of 90 calendar days be ineligible to receive or maintain driving privileges." This statute provides students with another viable reason as to why getting caught off campus is potentially risky behavior.

An alternative to punishment for these "Disruptive Behaviors" and "unexcused absences" is allowing parents to grant permission to their children to leave campus for lunches. Having parents sign this paper would enable the school no longer to

be liable for the students after they leave campus.

While allowing students to go off campus during lunches sounds like an easy and harmless task, this is not true. The staff at J.W. Mitchell is liable for us at all times during the day, and if we are wandering all around the New Port Richey area, this raises potential for dangerous situations for students driving in cars and walking to restaurants.

Instead of making students go get the food they want, why not allow the food come to them? Different restaurants could cater food to the school campus or even take orders to make

deliveries to all of the different lunches. Not only could local companies gain more business, but also these restaurants could give a certain amount of money back to the school for allowing them to sell their food.

Permitting students to leave campus for their lunches is an issue because student safety is a top priority. With careful evaluation, administration should permit students the opportunity of enjoying off campus lunches. This idea seems not-so far fetched. We can't wait to someday get to eat our Chick-fil-A chicken nuggets in peace on campus.

Spaghetti is for eating, not for wearing

The on-going dress code issue continues to cause conflict between students and teachers.

Kristina Jautze
Reporter

A reoccurring topic for a number of years includes the school dress code. The policies hold great controversy over the students' school life. Students complain about the rules written for the length of shorts and the width of tank top straps.

"I can agree with parts of the policies, but when it comes to shorts length and tank tops. I do not agree with those because it is very hot in Florida. We tend to sweat a lot throughout the day," Alyssa DiVincent ('19) said.

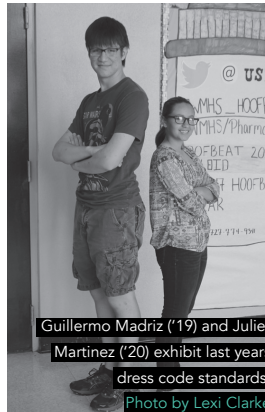
Principal Jessica Schultz (FAC) believes those who refuse to follow the dress code will meet consequences later in life.

"There's a general attitude for some people that the rules don't apply to them. I think that following the dress code is great preparation for what they are going to do in years from now when they go in to the workforce," Ms. Schultz said.

However, students understand that they need some sort of guidelines.

"Students need dress code to provide some sort of rules. Without it, kids would be crazy inappropriate with their clothing like [they would] wear short shorts and skimpy tops." Matt Dawson ('17) said.

Students want to add on to the



Guillermo Madriz ('19) and Juliet Martinez ('20) exhibit last years dress code standards.
Photo by Lexi Clarke

dress code policies and adjust them to fit their liking.

"We could improve the dress code by making it more flexible to Florida's weather. It's hard to dress in jeans, rather than shorts, all day and then walk around in the 98-degree heat. It makes it more difficult for us to be comfortable at school," DiVincent said.

Amanda Garcia ('17) appreciates the new flexibility in the dress code this year. Students can now wear sleeveless shirts, and they could not in the past. However, Garcia questions whether fellow students take advantage of this new rule.

"We are very fortunate this year to have some flexibility. I just hope that students don't ruin it by taking it to the extreme and wearing spaghetti straps or a tube top. That would ruin it for everyone," Garcia said.

The topic of dress code brings forth many opinions of the student body. Some students and staff appreciate such policies, but some don't. However, students must learn to live with it for the short time they are here.



Stang Gang cheering on the football team in the first game of the season.
Photo by Caroline Weyer

Stang Gang Gang Gang Gang

While the Stang Gang continues to evolve, students debate the changes.

Bailey Illig
Reporter

Stang Gang has grown over the years, starting with just a few students, and morphing into a large presence at pep rallies and sporting events. Last school year, Emily Mitchell ('17) ran the Stang Gang, and this year Jordan Winchell ('17) took over. Each of these leaders changed the Stang Gang in their own unique way.

Winchell, the current Stang Gang leader, took over Mitchell's position, and changed some aspects of the student section.

"Instead of the Twitter account promoting Stang Gang, he is using it to post funny comments and jokes. He got to work with a lot of the seniors last year, so I think that he's kind of kept it the same," Mitchell said.

Stang Gang plays a substantial role in school spirit, and participation increased over the past few years.

"Just the fact of having themes for every football game to try to get everyone more supportive so

they can have fun with it as well. We are trying to get as many kids out there as we possibly can, so that everyone has the good high school experience that they want. So we try to provide the information to everyone as much as we possibly can through social media," Winchell said.

Each year Stang Gang strives to fit the students' spirit needs. All students are invited to wear black and gold and join the Stang Gang section at any game.

Oldie but a Goodie

Jess Mason
Editor

By adjusting the 2016-2017 school year schedule, administration attempted to fix the problem of overcrowding at lunches. Contrary to the previous years in which school started at 8:40 and ended at 2:50, this year's first bell rings at 8:30 and the final bell dismisses students at 2:55, tacking on 15 minutes to each day. The fact that those extra 15 minutes are just a portion

of the time added into this year's allotted lunch period seems to cause controversy amongst students. The extra minutes added into lunch serves no purpose.

"I prefer the old schedule over the new schedule because school started ten minutes later and ended 15 minutes earlier. Plus, it feels like lunch just drags on now," Braedon Morecraft ('17) said.

Instead of putting the extra 15 minutes of our

school day into lunch, it would have been more useful to lengthen passing time. Taking into consideration the busy hallways due to this year's overcrowded school population, giving students just five minutes to get to class is unreasonable. If a student's schedule requires them to travel all the way across campus, it is likely

for them to show up late once in awhile. Therefore, it would have been a more beneficial decision to put the extra 15 minutes of the day into passing, rather than lunch.

"Next school year I would get rid of the new schedule changes altogether. I feel like the extra time isn't as beneficial as it was intended to be," Lindsey Hoskins ('19) said.

In addition to the unnecessary

lunch time addition, the new schedule change caused the ten minutes allotted for the school news show to be eliminated.

Although the schedule change was meant to be helpful, the additional time incorporated into the school day is useless and unnecessary. A future schedule change should be for the purpose of lengthening passing time, instead of lengthening lunch.

Obviously, the expectation for a change in schedule to please everyone is irrational; however, if the policy change concerns students, then students' opinions deserve consideration.



Break the News

Kaitlyn Klein
Reporter

After many complaints about last year's overcrowded lunches, the administration changed the school schedule. Extended by 15 minutes and separated by seven periods, the new school day starts at 8:30 and ends at 2:55. The new schedule includes 20 minute longer lunches, and three different lunch periods.

"Honestly, the lunches are the best part about [the new schedule]. I

mean you have sixty minutes for just whatever you want. Personally, I catch up on reading, and maybe do some homework so I don't need to do it at home. At first, when the new schedule was announced, I was upset because I thought sixty minutes would be too long. Honestly though, it's nice having a free period for such a long amount of time," Justin Seecharan ('18) said.

The longer lunches

help students keep up with work in difficult classes, as they now have extra time to socialize and finish assignments.

"I like that there is now a longer lunch period to eat, study, and even complete homework. This way, if I do not finish it all at home, I have time to finish it at lunch," Alana Cruichshank ('18) said.

Because the additional ten minutes belonging to first period got cut, the school news no longer airs at that time.

"As codirector and one of the main anchors of the Mustang News show, having the old schedule back would give us those ten minutes at the end of first again, so I'd be ecstatic. However, the only problem I have with the schedule is that I wish passing was

extended somehow, like maybe to six minutes, but that is just nitpicking," Seecharan said.

Although the new schedule may not please all students, the lengthened lunch and 15 minute extension was clearly added for their benefit.