

# TIGER TIMES



## Inside this issue:

North Salem News	2
North Salem Arts	8
North Salem Sports	13

## Highlights

### What's New with TGI

Page 3

### Nurse Rita Says...

Page 4

### New Faculty

Page 5

### Crumb Cookies

Page 6

### NSHS Hot Clubs

Page 7

### Reviews

Page 10

### Fall Fashions

Page 12

### Girls Soccer

Page 13

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## NS Celebrates Homecoming

By Alana Cerasoli, Emma Greenberg, and Joseph Stiehl

As students return from summer vacation, everyone is eager to participate in the homecoming festivities. The exciting week opened with the annual homecoming dance on the previous Friday night. Grades nine through twelve came together and had fun all night in the well-decorated high school cafeteria, where there was a DJ, pizza, candy, ice cream, and even a photo booth. Students left the dance looking forward to the exciting week ahead of them.

Everyone returned to school on Monday matching with someone to celebrate twin day, the first spirit week event.



Tuesday was a "color out." Each grade wore their assigned color and competed to see which wore it best. Freshmen wore red, sophomores wore green, juniors wore blue, and seniors wore purple. Wednesday was comfy day. Everyone came into school wearing their comfiest clothes, whether it was slippers, sweatpants, sweatshirts, or even pajama sets. Thursday was USA day. Students wore their red, white, and blue with pride. Flags flooded the hallways. Some people even wore the flags around their shoulders, or painted the flag on their faces using face paint.

Friday was North Salem apparel day. Athletes who participated in fall sports wore their team jerseys, warm-up shirts, or the homecoming shirts that were given to them. Students who did not play a fall sport wore their own North Salem attire and showed their school spirit. During eighth and ninth period, athletes were released early to line up for the pep rally. While some students thought that the pep rally was a fun way to kick off the homecoming games, there are many who think otherwise. One North Salem student claims that the pep rally "could use so much more school spirit." Some suggested that they let middle schoolers attend in order to fill up the stands and have more people cheer on the athletes. After the pep rally, the dodgeball tournament begins.



To conclude

**Homecoming continued on page 14**

## NSHS Students Lament Loss of Homeroom

By Remie Giordano

For the past couple of years, homeroom has been in between periods one and two, but this year homeroom isn't part of the schedule at all. Many students are upset about this and want homeroom back. This raises an important question: Why is homeroom gone anyway?

Mr. DiGrandi, the North Salem Middle-High School Principal, says, "Over the years, we have noticed that it has not added anything to the day in the sense of we were really only using it for announcements and TGI. So we were thankful to remove it as it's fewer transitions—one to

homeroom and one out of homeroom—and adds more time in class for each teacher and student." Basically, Mr. DiGrandi is stating that homeroom was not super beneficial to the day, and that it just reduced instructional time.



Now instead, extra minutes have been added to first period to act as "homeroom." The minutes that weren't added to first period have been added on to different periods.

Freshman Juliet Varga complained, "The change of schedules is confusing." The change was apparently confusing for many, making transitions harder, not easier. The announcements and the pledge play during the end of first period. TGI is also supposed to be played at the end of first period. However, many teachers disregard this and don't play TGI at all. Sophia Aqeel, a junior, says, "I don't get to watch TGI Friday because I have a core class, calculus." This is the case for many students. Because core classes like calculus are very important, teachers don't play TGI. This means that many students miss out on announcements and the fun Friday tradition. If homeroom was part of the schedule, this would not happen.

**Homeroom continued on page 14**

## Middle School to High School Transition

By Sydney Merriman and Kate Bevan

Every year, students have to survive a tremendous adjustment as they make the transition from middle school to high school. In high school, students are faced with many more responsibilities. As such, students need to learn to balance extracurricular activities, social interactions, and, of course, school work. High school is not just about academics; it is also a time where students will get to know new people, create new connections, and work on new skills that will help them to succeed later in life. Moving up into high school signifies a new sense of responsibility and accomplishment, which is crucial for students to evolve into more mature versions of themselves.

Balancing the new challenges of high school can be very demanding, often leading students to be overwhelmed, experience anxiety, and for some struggle with low self-esteem. All of these factors make high school even more challenging, often leading students to fail. While failing is often viewed as a bad thing, in reality, “failing can be a good thing,” says English teacher Mrs. Molloy. Failure can



help students learn, grow, and become more resilient. It also teaches students to move on from their mistakes and encourages them to try again and work harder next time.

According to teachers and students, the biggest transition is balancing the workload, tests, and quizzes. In high school, the bar is set much higher. Classes move at a faster pace, having multiple tests or quizzes in the same week instead of every couple of weeks. The teachers in high school don't communicate the way the middle school teachers do. In middle school, teachers meet regularly as a team, which allows them to coordinate and cater more to student needs. This coordination helps to ensure that students don't end up struggling with too much work at one given time.

In high school, the teachers teach in departments, meaning it is possible to have as many as 4-5 quizzes in one day! Because of the heavy workload in high school, students can become more stressed. Building new skills for time management and organization can be key to succeeding. In middle school, teachers hold your hand, making sure your work is fin-

ished or that the project due in a few weeks is started well before it is due. Teachers in high school expect students to be able to figure out how to effectively manage their time to ensure studying, homework, and projects are all completed on time. A critical part of getting work done on time is not procrastinating. Instead of waiting until the last minute, it is important that students start studying days before the test and work on projects as soon as they are assigned. Utilizing your time wisely and learning what methods of organization work for you is crucial to success in

high school and life. A student's future is also at stake during high school, thus increasing the pressure to do well. Students are creating a permanent educational record that stays with them for life. A student's actions and performance in high school impact their opportunities after high school.

Students at North Salem High School are in a unique situation because our high school and middle school are located in the same building, so the transition is a bit smoother. Since students are already familiar with the building and know some of the teachers and students, they feel more comfortable going into high school. High school allows students to make new friends in other grades through sports, classes, and after-school clubs. This gives students the ability to create new friendships outside of their grade level and current group of friends.

*Middle to High continued on page 14*



## Seniors Embrace Painted Parking Spot Tradition

By Jillian Staebler

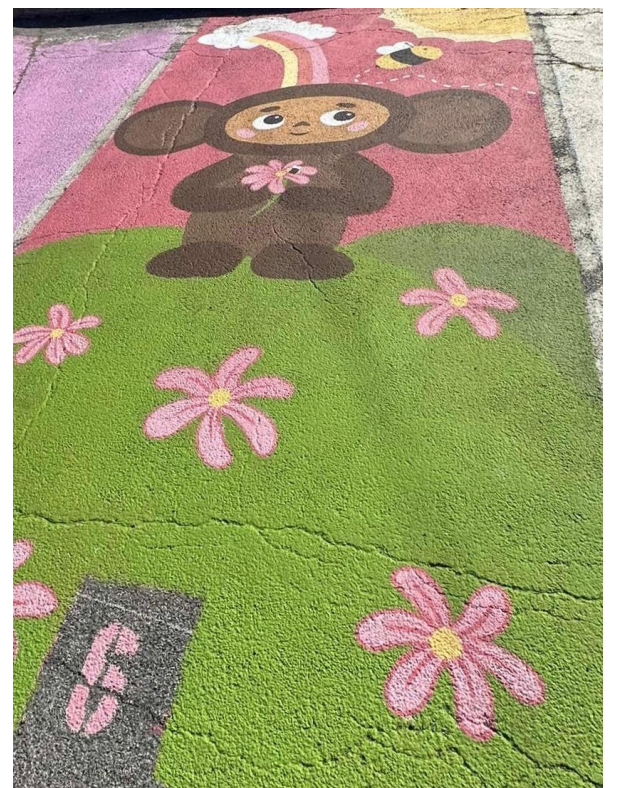
With one final year of high school, seniors at North Salem carry on the many traditions that make their last moments at the school ones to remember. These exciting traditions are passed on by senior classes each year, and they are activities that students at NSHS begin looking forward to in their earliest years at the school!

Stepping into senior year, some of the anticipated traditions include, but are not limited to, senior backpacks that re-

semble kindergarten backpacks, watching a “senior sunrise” before the first day of school, and walking through Pequena-konck Elementary at the end of the year to reminisce on where the journey began. The most popular privilege that students gain as a “senior rite” in their final year of high school, however, is painted parking spots!

As a senior, the yellow school bus is left in the past as the sole transportation method for school. Instead, students gain the right to their own designated parking spot in the school parking lot. This allows students to drive themselves to and from school, and even gives them the ability to leave the school during free periods – as leaving campus is yet another senior right – to go to local places such as Dunkin', Kingsley's, and Hayfields, where seniors refuel during the long school day.

Beyond the benefits of having access to cars at school, these are personalizable parking spots that decorate the parking lot in an array of colorful rectangles! Students are able to brainstorm what they would like their spot to look like – which is often done far in advance due to excitement – and then paint their spots to make their ideas come to life! These spots are unique to each driver. With the freedom to design them however they please, these spots often hold significant meanings. They can be comedic, include inside jokes, be a replica of a favorite cartoon character, or whatever the driver wishes to see as they drive into school every morning! These spots make the bland parking lot a visually vibrant place that represents the uniqueness of the individuals in the senior class.



The behind-the-scenes of these painted spots is the part of this tradition that is arguably the most fun! Many students spend the summer before their senior year traveling to the school parking lot with paint brushes, buckets of paint, and a handful of friends to collaboratively create picture perfect parking spots. This is an unforgettable memory of senior year, as dumping paint on school grounds with friends, and getting to do whatever you please with your parking spot is both a very fun and innocent, yet rebellious-feeling experience!

Upon driving through the senior lot, it is clear that this year's senior class of

*Painted Spot continued on page 14*



## What's New with TGI News?

By Ruby Molina and Lauren Ndreu

What's new with TGI, you might be asking? First off, TGI is a local news program we have at North Salem. It's a weekly news channel run by seniors discussing what's going on both inside and outside of school. We also have fun features highlighting peoples' creativity.

As for what's going on this year, meet your anchors, Ruby Molina and Lauren Ndreu, two of North Salem's seniors. Veronica Benvenuto and Tyler Spar, who have their own segment sharing their adventures, are also part of the crew.

Dr. Sandler, the faculty advisor of TGI, answered a few questions about this year's show and expressed how excited she was for the new personalities to showcase through their segments.



Tyler Spar and Veronica Benvenuto

**Ruby:** "How do you think TGI is going so far?"

**Dr. Sandler:** "I think it is going spectacular. We have had energy from week one and we finally transitioned back into a traditional school news program."

**Lauren:** "How do you feel about having two female anchors?"

**Dr. Sandler:** "I can't remember the last time we had two female anchors, but it never mattered to me because the energy and chemistry were there since week one with you guys."

**Ruby and Lauren:** "What differences have you seen between this year's TGI and previous years?"

**Dr. Sandler:** "I have seen more dedication and excitement from you guys. Especially the involvement you have with Ruby, considering you are the main editor. I can really rely on you to come in and put out your best work every week. Especially since last year's editing since you were a junior."

Considering that we no longer have homeroom and must keep our segments within the allotted time, navigating TGI has been both exciting and frustrating. We struggle to deal with the two-minute segments when we film over ten minutes worth

of content. When Lauren and I conversed with the middle school, they expressed that they wanted more engagement in their grades. As anchors, it is crucial to listen to feedback from the viewers because the middle school is our primary audience. And we try our best to make it entertaining.

When Lauren was asked to give her

honest opinion on what it's like to be an anchor, she reflected, "Honestly, I didn't think I'd ever become one," she stated. "But when I was given the opportunity, I was so excited. I remember moving to North Salem in 6th grade and watching TGI every week thinking it



Ruby Molina and Lauren Ndreu

was so cool. I knew I always wanted a segment, but being an anchor makes 6th grade me jump for joy."

Ruby agreed: "Ever since 6th grade I have always dreamed of being on TGI one day. The idea that I'm now a senior and fulfilling my sixth-grade dream is crazy. I truly enjoy being a part of TGI because I can express my humor and creativity throughout my segments and editing style. As the former TGI cast was to me, I wish to inspire the sixth graders today and serve as an example for them."

## Get Your Pink On

### NS Volleyball Team Raises Money for a Good Cause

By Sophia Aqeel and Bella LeClair

Breast cancer remains one of the most common cancers for women to be diagnosed with. Roughly one-third of all female cancer diagnoses have been breast cancer. This is why the annual Dig Pink fundraiser at North Salem is so important, and why it's necessary to recognize it in October, breast cancer awareness month. The Dig Pink events this year continued with the annual pink-out varsity games, a car wash at the Croton Falls Fire Department, and an additional fundraiser at BoBo's Cafe in Somers. All of which were very successful towards raising awareness and money for the Side Out Foundation.

Dig Pink has become a staple fall event for the North Salem community, and it has evolved into a multi-sport event with additional fundraisers at a local fire station and cafe. Even so, the North Salem volleyball team is always looking for ways to expand their influence and

awareness of breast cancer.

As a new tradition, Coach Fiore and the upperclassmen of the volleyball team took a little field trip to the elementary school, where they strived to spread more pink throughout the community. The volleyball players visited the younger students during their library blocks to tell them about what Dig Pink is and how we show our support at the high school, which is partly by elaborately decorating our hallways. Collaborating with the elementary students to create

the pink ribbon chains that were used as decoration at the high school was a great way to involve an even greater part of our community in the volleyball team's cause. Overall, the craft proved to be a rewarding experience for all grade levels and did a wonderful job in spreading a little more pink in our community. BoBo's Cafe, a popular spot among students, is a huge contributor to Dig Pink, with them allowing the volleyball to set up shop right outside their door at the Somers location. There they donated free, hot coffee to anyone who donated to the



Volleyball Fundraiser Stand

fundraiser, the practice being dubbed "coffee for a cure." This allowed the volleyball team to rake in a whopping \$1400 just from one day. BoBo's has been aiding this cause for the past three years in efforts to help the volleyball team raise money for the Side Out Foundation. Additionally, not only does BoBo's help, but the Croton Falls Fire Department graciously allows the volleyball team to use their facilities for a carwash. There the JV and Varsity volleyball teams worked enthusiastically together, either washing the cars themselves or trying to get the attention of drivers to visit the carwash. The car wash and BoBo's were a tremendous hit, with people from all over the community coming to support the cause.

By involving other parts of the community besides the school, Dig Pink was able to reach a greater audience, creating yet another successful year.



Victoria Gjushi, Isabella LeClair, Adeline Moia, and Mia Cerny are seen standing with a couple of the elementary students, holding the ribbon chain from their class.

## Nurse Rita Says... Best advice for staying healthy during cold and flu season

By Elizabet Reyes

"Getting sick is not fun; it only makes you miserable," asserts Nurse Rita, when asked about her best advice during cold and flu season, "Getting the flu can make you feel even more miserable!"

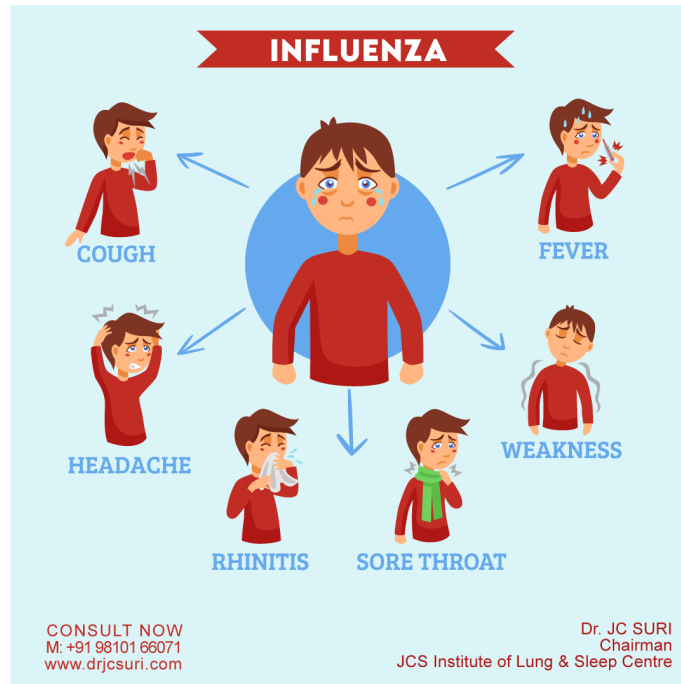
No one enjoys missing a whole week of school and coming back to piles of missed assignments and exams to make up. Especially when it is because of sickness, which is why, with the cold and flu season coming up, it is extremely important for everyone to keep up with good hygiene. It helps prevent getting not only oneself sick but also classmates, teachers, friends, and family members sick.

However, staying healthy may not always be the easiest thing in the world. Because of this, North Salem Middle School/High School's very own nurse, Rita, is here to assist! She gives her best advice to high school students and teachers on how to stay healthy.

Influenza, also commonly known as the flu, is an extremely contagious viral infection. All ages can be exposed to this virus, which harms one's respiratory tract and may lead to "severe illness" or sometimes even "life-threatening complications." An example of a life-threatening complication that the flu could cause is pneumonia. In most cases, the flu is "spread by breathing in droplets from coughs and sneezes that contain the virus." It is also crucial to be aware of what the flu symptoms are; symptoms include fevers, coughs, sore throats, runny or stuffy noses, muscle or body aches, headaches, fatigue, vomiting, and diarrhea. Nurse Rita makes it known that symptoms "can hit very quickly and may last several weeks." With the symptoms peaking after "two or three days," many should begin to feel better within "five to eight days." That being said, if

someone has medical conditions or is an older person, the flu can increase the risk of further complications developing and causing "serious illness" that can be "life-threatening."

Now that the causes and symptoms have been recognized, let's move onto ways that the influenza virus can be prevented. Nurse Rita has a direct message for people: "WASH YOUR HANDS, WASH YOUR HANDS, WASH YOUR HANDS!!" Proper hand washing plays a significant role in staying healthy, as it



is an easy way to prevent spreading germs around. However, many people do not wash their hands correctly, so if anyone needs any help, make sure to stop by nurse Rita's office!

Next, she urges individuals to "STAY AWAY FROM THE T-ZONE!!" For those who may not know, the T-zone includes the forehead, eyes, nose, mouth, and chin. Touching this area of the face can raise the chances of getting the virus, so avoiding this area is important. It is said that "the average person touches their T-zone more than 60 times per hour." After hearing that statistic, it is noteworthy to mention that some of the objects we touch daily, including phones and keyboards,

carry a serious amount of germs and bacteria that can lead to illness.

Also, individuals should always make sure to "COUGH IN YOUR ELBOW!!" Since this allows the spread of bacteria to be lowered. Similar to that, nurse Rita advises students to "TURN YOUR HEAD WHEN SNEEZING; DON'T SPREAD YOUR SPRITZ!!" This avoids the spread of germs and is the second-best thing to do if a tissue is not available.

One of the most major pieces of advice that nurse Rita gives is to "STAY HOME WHEN SICK!!" It is zero fun to be at school when sick; most people would rather be in bed resting. But that aside, when someone is sneezing or coughing, it is also the time that they are the "most contagious." So students and teachers should be resting at home when feeling under the weather to ensure the well-being of others. Additionally, Nurse Rita pushes for people to, "EAT HEALTHY, DUMP THE JUNK!!" A healthy diet protects the immune system; individuals should be eating a mix of vegetables, fruits, and whole grains. Fruits and vegetables act as great buffers; citrus fruits like oranges and grapefruit are great for the cold and flu season.

Lastly but definitely not least important is "GET A FLU SHOT." Getting the yearly influenza shot is the best way to protect oneself from the virus. Since the flu virus is constantly evolving, it is highly advised to get the up-to-date shot every year that scientists collaborate on in attempts to lower the spread of the virus strain.

Staying in good health should always be a top priority for everyone, meaning, everyone should be making decisions that are beneficial to themselves and others. Nurse Rita wants students to "Feel free to come to the nurses office if you have any questions especially when feeling ill." Students should feel comfortable going to the nurse if they ever need any help. Her final message to students is to "Stay well!!" Practicing good hygiene during the cold and flu season is a necessity. Many protocols can be taken, and people should be taking them seriously. Hope everyone and their loved ones stay healthy during this season!

## What happened to the FACS room?

### A start to something new

By Kayla Paulsen and Kate Gilchrist

As many of you know, the FACS (Family and Consumer Sciences) classroom is not the same. One of the best features of this classroom was the cooking equipment, which students were frequently able to use. One could have a tasty treat, or even a meal. Everyone would walk through the hallway smelling a variety of foods, such as popcorn, cookies, cupcakes, and more.

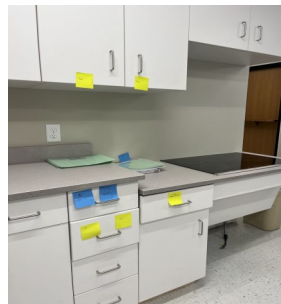
However, that changed this past summer. The FACS room has now moved to the middle school quad. The room was condensed, as well. There is no more cooking a delicious snack; instead, students who are enrolled in the class for the quarter are learning about entre-



preneurship and business skills. The program is called "MxINCedu," and students learn about entrepreneurship, explore career interests, solve problems, and build important real-world skills.

In this class, students identify and solve a problem, design an invention for that particular problem (something that would be beneficial), and then present it: "kind of like Shark Tank," former FACS teacher Mrs. Fodor remarks. They are also required to create a slogan, create an advertisement for their invention, and more. Through their experiences, students will develop important real-world skills, such as "collaboration, communication, design-making, and more," says Mrs. Doherty, another North Salem faculty member. Even though learning a new curriculum "makes life a little more challenging," claims Fodor, it is still an exciting adventure. Furthermore, it is possible that this new program, "MxINCedu," will expand to the high school. High school students could take the class if one is interested in business. The high school program is called "INCubatoredu."

On the other hand, over the summer, the FACS room changed completely into an apartment. This apartment is designed for students in the STEP (Structured Teaching Educational Program) 5 program to learn how to live independently. There are 4 other STEP programs: the first two are elementary school classes, the next two are middle school classes, and the last one, the fifth classroom, is for



older students around ages 17-21.

The room was designed to be like a real-world apartment. Students will be able to learn real-world skills to complete everyday tasks, and they will have "hands-on experiences, including but not limited to organizing and sorting, menu planning and grocery shopping, cooking, cleaning, laundry, and personal hygiene," says Mrs. Doherty. Inside this room, there is a pantry, a laundry room with a washer and dryer (which will be used to wash sports jerseys), a changing room, a school store (students will be able to learn about work-related skills), and a classroom (to practice school skills).

There are many qualities that make this room unique. For instance, there is an induction stove. This stove uses less energy, which makes it more efficient. This stove is designed

so that the cooktop does not get as hot as a regular stove would. So, if someone were to touch the stove, that person would not get burned.

These changes provide great opportunities for students in the STEP program and students taking the FACS class to learn new skills or build on existing ones. Mrs. Doherty agrees, noting, "I also feel that the new FACS curriculum is a creative way to teach our students innovative ideas and skills to be successful in today's rapidly-changing world."

There are many things to look forward to for the future inside the school. Dr. VanDerStuyf, who oversaw the transition as the former Pupil Personnel Director and our new Superintendent, states that "it is my hope that students practice job readiness skills in the classroom environment."

## Introducing Mr. Herodes

*A journey of growth, determination, and connection*

By Jack Gjoni and Mohammad Rao

We are excited to welcome Mr. Herodes to our school community! His story of working through challenges and growing personally has helped shape him into a teacher who really cares about both the academic success and personal growth of his students.

### Overcoming Academic Challenges

Mr. Herodes's path to becoming a teacher wasn't always smooth. He was always good at social studies and English, but math and science were much harder for him. He loved learning about history, politics, and exploration, and English came easily to him because he enjoyed reading and writing. But math was a different story. Like many students, he found math frustrating and difficult to understand at times. However, instead of giving up, he looked for help.

There were two important people who helped him overcome his struggles. The first was his high school math teacher, Mr. Kelso. Mr. Kelso didn't just teach him math; he also gave him emotional



support and taught him how to go on with something even when it's hard. He made Mr. Herodes realize that working through problems could help him not only in school, but in life.

The second person who made a big difference in Mr. Herodes' life was his assistant soccer coach, who was also a math teacher. This coach didn't just focus on soccer, but took a special interest in helping Mr. Herodes improve as a person.

### A Defining Moment

Mr. Herodes never stopped trying to overcome his difficulties. He worked closely with both his coach and another tutor named Mr. Fitz, who helped him with math. Mr. Fitz worked with him after school and helped him understand math concepts that had always been difficult. It wasn't easy, but with both of their help, he finally started to get it.

Mr. Herodes took the SAT two more times, and after a lot of hard work, his score improved enough to get into SUNY New Paltz. This wasn't just an academic achievement for him, it was a personal victory. Through hard work and support from his teachers, he learned the importance of perseverance, community, and how much of a difference teachers can make in a student's life. These lessons became a big part of how he now teaches his own students.

### Finding a Home in Teaching

After graduating from SUNY New Paltz, Mr. Herodes decided to become a

teacher because he wanted to help students the same way his teachers helped him. He started teaching at other schools, but he eventually found his true home at North Salem.

Mr. Herodes grew up in a big school where his graduating class had over 800 students, so teaching at a smaller school like North Salem, where he can really get to know each student, was a welcome change. He loves the close relationships between students, teachers, and parents that come with a small community. The personal connections make him feel like he belongs here, and he's excited to keep teaching and supporting the students.

### A Teacher Who Understands

Because of his own struggles with math, Mr. Herodes understands what it's like to face challenges in school. He knows how frustrating it can be when a subject just doesn't make sense—but he also knows how much a supportive teacher can help. His mentors helped him not only improve in math, but also grow as a person. They taught him that persistence and belief in yourself can make all the difference.

With his passion for teaching and his dedication to helping students succeed, Mr. Herodes hopes to be more than just a teacher; he wants to be a mentor who inspires his students to push through their own challenges, just like his mentors did for him.

We're excited to see how Mr. Herodes will inspire, support, and challenge the students at North Salem, both in their academic journeys and their personal growth. His story is a great reminder of how much a caring teacher can impact a student's life.

## Introducing Mr. Mulick

By Christina Sfarra

Hey North Salem...NEW TEACHER ALERT! His name is Mr. Mulick, and he is thrilled to be a part of the North Salem School District. It is Mr. Mulick's 15th year as a chemistry teacher, yet this is his first time being a school's ONLY chemistry teacher. Prior to becoming a North Salem Tiger, Mr. Mulick taught chemistry in Greeley, Chappaqua, and the Bronx, down in New York City. Some classes that he has taught previously include freshman Regents chemistry and a class taken by seniors after AP Chemistry; in this senior class, they focused on lab experience and acid, base, and equilibrium chemistry. But one fact is the most obvious: Mr. Mulick loves chemistry!

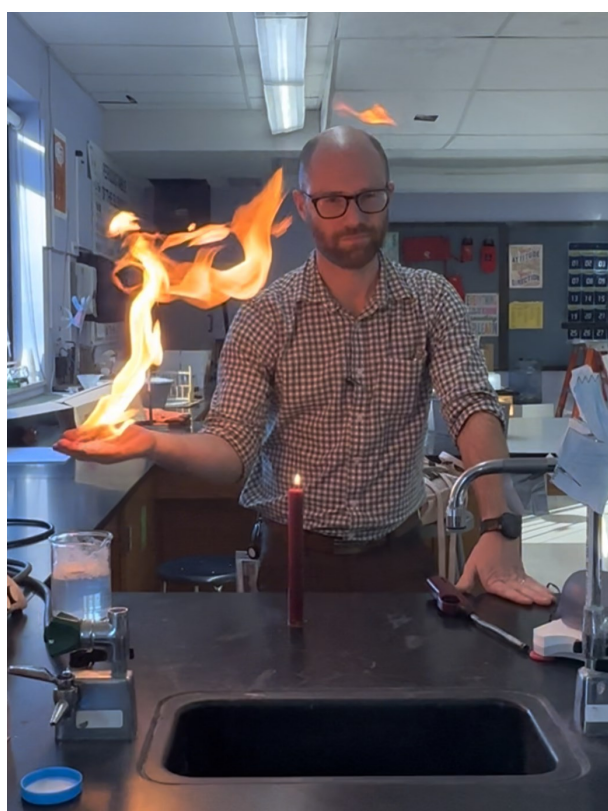
First off, Mr. Mulick believes chemistry is superior for a variety of reasons, including the amount of hands-on experience it offers through plenty of entertaining, engaging laboratories. In his unique room, at the end of the social studies hallway, there may be a lot of desks, but there is also an entire lab. He strives to perform as many labs with his students as possible. He believes that the participatory and collaborative aspects that

labs provide are the best way to learn and understand the concepts in chemistry. But, during labs, the most crucial factor is safety.

It is abundantly clear that Mr. Mulick finds chemistry beneficial for future situations, regardless of your future path. For example, Mr. Mulick uses immense knowledge of chemistry not only in the classroom but also at home while decorating for the holidays. Mr. Mulick makes cool Christmas decorations using sodium acetate and clear ornaments, which after some manipulation, resemble white snow. But aside from just teaching chemistry, Mr. Mulick is a busy man who engages in many entertaining activities. In addition to being a father of two children, ages one and-a-half and three-and-a-half, he also likes to travel and go hiking. Mr. Mulick loves new places, the outdoors, and observing the beautiful world that we live in.

If you are a student wondering if

you should take chemistry or even major in it in the future, Mr. Mulick has the answer: "Take the course!" Chemistry allows you to learn many practical skills and gives you knowledge for a lifetime. Taking a high school chemistry class



may spark your interest in the sciences. And, if you decide to achieve a chemistry degree in college, it will provide you with many opportunities to pursue different career industries after graduating. These include becoming a part of the medical field, science (scientists), engineering, or even a chemistry teacher. Although taking Regents, AP, or college chemistry courses may not be the easiest path, it is very worthwhile.

With Mr. Mulick's arrival, North Salem has gained an awesome teacher. We look forward to all the fun and amazing chemistry we will learn this year with him. Do not hesitate to say a warm welcome to THE chemistry teacher, our one and only, Mr. Mulick!

# What Do NS Students Really Spend Their Money On?

*A deep dive into the financial mind of a high school student*

By Emma Gautier

Many students hold jobs and have money set aside that is ready to be spent. It is well known that high school kids spend a lot of money—much more than they did when they were younger. So, what are their most frequent purchases?

## The Big Purchase

Concerts are becoming increasingly popular for high schoolers, and many have and continue to spend large amounts of money on tickets. As artists such as Taylor Swift, Gracie Abrams, Conan Gray, Billie Eilish, and Sabrina Carpenter, just to name a few, go on tour, it is hard to resist! Tickets can range from under a hundred dollars to thousands, depending on the artist, venue, and section. Last year, the top 100 music tours had average ticket prices



of about \$130. Most students interviewed have gone, plan to, or have a strong desire to attend a concert. The enthusiasm to go will continue to grow as long as musicians release new music and announce dates.

## The Smaller Purchases

However, students aren't spending money on concert tickets every weekend. More often, their money goes towards smaller purchases, most commonly food and drinks, clothes, and, for older students, gas.

These purchases heavily depend on the student. Purchasing clothing can vary, some students only spend their money on clothes every couple of months while for others, it can be as often as once or twice a week. According to students surveyed, Hollister, Aerie, American Eagle, Nike, Lululemon, and Shein are among the brands they most frequently purchase. Ultimately, food and drinks are probably the most common source of spending. For North Salem students, the food is likely coming from Bobo's cafe, the Danbury Fair Mall, and nearby fast food



restaurants. A multitude of students also often buy coffee, tea, and other types of drinks at places such as Starbucks, Dunkin', and again, Bobo's Cafe.

For students with a license (and a car), gas is a necessary expense. Some parents can pay for their kids' gas, while others leave it up to them to fill up their car. In high school, few students have to pay for all of their gas, but as they become older,

that responsibility will prevail, and gas will be something almost everyone will be buying regularly

Overall, what students spend their money on varies greatly. That being said, there are some common purchases many agree upon. Concert tickets are the biggest purchases that a great number of students believe are worth the money, whereas the

most frequent smaller purchases are for clothing, food, and beverages. Lastly, the gas should also be stated since although it only applies to those at least 16, and some rely on their parents for it, almost everyone will



eventually have to pay for it in college (or post-high school graduation) if not in high school.

# Top 5: Crumbl Cookie Flavors

By Anvi and Anya Ghosh

Crumbl Cookie has been tremendously growing recently on social media and has continued to maintain its popularity. Crumbl has been able to captivate consumers with its unique idea of changing the menu every week as well as not just serving cookies but other pastries as well. More and more unique flavors are created; however, that does not mean certain flavors will not return. Despite its growing variety of cookies and pastries, here are our top five Crumbl Cookie flavors of all time!

## #5: Cake Batter Blondie

It is a smooth cake batter cookie packed with white chocolate chips decorated with colored sprinkles on the edges, adding a nice crunch as well as making it visually pleasing. The cookie is notable when it appears in the menu; it can differ from colored sprinkles, sometimes being white, pink, and occasionally rainbow. This is one of our favorites because this cookie is simple and we love blondies, it has its own twists and different textures, and also a unique pop of white chocolate rather than regular milk or dark. However, from time to time it tastes more like a sugar cookie than a blondie. Despite its downside, it is still one of our all-time favorites.



## #4: Honey Bun

This cookie is soft, and rich and replicates a classic honey bun. The sweet honey glaze layered on top of the cookie. This is a simple, straightforward flavor compared to Crumbl's many creative and unique flavors, thus making it one of our favorites as the sweet soft cookie almost exactly replicates a Honey Bun. However, sometimes the flavor of the cookie can be dull, not as vibrant and noticeable as others.



## #3: Milk Chocolate

A classic and continuous returner on the menu, Milk Chocolate is a yummy soft cookie packed with just the right amount of milk chocolate chips. When eating it has an even mix between cookie and chocolate, never only cookie or just chocolate in each bite. Also, we personally believe the milk chocolate is better than semi-sweet, however, you can't go wrong with either. It's a classic thick and soft cookie that we love to see return often.



## #2: Galaxy Cookie

This is a fudgy brownie loaded with semi-sweet chocolate chunks and rainbow milk chocolate drops and topped with a decadent chocolate frosting. This cookie is



compared to a cosmic brownie because of its appearance to the brownie. Cosmic brownies have been a staple in everyone's childhood, and when Crumbl put this cookie on the menu, we were absolutely ecstatic. When we compared a cosmic brownie and the Galaxy cookie, we believed that the Galaxy cookie tasted better despite the heavy bias we held with the adored cosmic brownie. We hope it will start to appear more often in future menus.



## #1: Tres Leche Cake ft. Biscoff

This flavor is a special one as it is not a cookie but a cake. Served chilled in a square dish similar in size to their cookies, it is a lightly spiced cake soaked in classic tres leches milk. Then it is layered with the Lotus Biscoff cookie butter, fresh whipped cream, and finally topped off with Biscoff cookie pieces, along with a drizzle of melted Lotus Biscoff cookie butter. This is our top flavor of all time as we are suckers for Tres Leche anytime, but the added Biscoff cookie butter and cookie crumbs create an indescribable taste and texture making it much more enjoyable than a traditional Tres leches already is. These elements pushed everything aside and made the cookie cake, Tres Leches with Biscoff, our favorite of all time.



# Catching Up With Technology Class

By John Yates and Kyle Li

Welcome to Catching Up With Technology Class. Here, we will update you on the latest and innovative technology class updates, project shout outs, and club updates. Students have taken technology classes every year in middle school since entering North Salem Middle/High School, but many get out of touch with all the happenings going on in the class following middle school graduation. In this edition of Catching Up With Technology Class, we will get you caught up with some of the awesome things kids do in tech during high school as well as highlight a few awesome projects.

## Woodworking

Many students find woodworking to be a very enjoyable experience as well as an educational one. Last year woodworking student Isaac Mendelsohn put it, "Woodworking is an amazing class that is the perfect blend of hands-on fun and relaxation that allows you to be creative and create something truly unique." Students learn to use many of the more advanced tools in the shop such as the table saw, jointer, router, and even the CNC. The first year woodworking students get to make several projects including a more ad-



**Chalice made by Isaac Mendelsohn using walnut and maple on the lathe**

vanced shelf and a jewelry box. These projects give the students opportunities to learn various different skills including joinery, inlaying, and coving. All this to create some truly amazing results. Following the first year of woodworking, kids get to choose their own projects. Such an example is this chalice made by Isaac Mendelsohn. Truly an amazing class with some amazing projects.

## Engineering

Engineering is thought to be a deceptively challenging but equally rewarding class. Students are posed with various tasks and required to come up with their own ideas to solve such dilemmas within the requirements. Despite many setbacks, when asked about his experience in the engineering class last year, Tyler Spar tells us "...[the] experiences [in engineering class] served as a glaring reminder that managing time, testing often, planning things out before you complete them, and understanding that nothing works the first time around is paramount to being a good engineer." The Engineering 1 kids last year came up with some very interesting designs. Their projects included a crash car ejection seat, a slow car, and a sorting machine among others. Each one had its own set of challenges. Here is one such example of a crash car made by John Yates which fires a golf ball upon impact.



## Robotics Club

Robotics club takes place after-school every Wednesday from 3:00-4:00 for both middle and high schoolers alike. The focus of the Robotics club is to design and create new robots. Students take on daring challenges with the usage of self-made robots which will be programmed with coding and put together by hand. Evan DiBart says that the robotics club is "pretty awesome." Games such as moving blocks using cars and obstacle courses serve as fun moments for members of the club to bond with each other and get attached to their own creations. The official start date will be released in the next issue of Tiger Times.

## Technology Club

Craving more of your favorite class? Well technology club is the club for you! In the technology club, students get to create more projects than just the few offered in the class itself. Students get to choose between a large list of old projects, projects students wouldn't have time for in class, projects students want to do again, or even come up with their own project. As club member Ryan Yates puts it, "Technology Club is just like Tech, just after school. You get to hang out with friends and build projects you wouldn't have gotten the option to do previously." The club meets every Tuesday from 3:00-4:00. Official start dates will be released in the next issue of *Tiger Times*.

# North Salem's Hottest Clubs and Honor Societies

By Samantha Maza

## National English Honor Society

The transition from eighth grade to freshman year can be difficult. The National English Honor Society works to improve the community by assisting younger English Language Arts students. Recently, they visited the library to respond to inquiries from freshmen regarding the transition to high school. They also recently helped sixth graders with their Hall of History projects.

When applying to colleges, this club looks fantastic; it shows that you are interested in learning English and helping students. While it is not a demanding club that requires long hours of labor, NEHS provides students with recognition of their academic abilities. They are among the best clubs because of their unambiguous purpose—to assist younger students with English Language Arts skills.

NEHS is open to juniors and seniors. Applications for induction are available after the first marking quarter. Admission criteria include a minimal 90 GPA in English courses and overall, and recom-



mendations from ELA teachers. Because it demonstrates involvement, this club would be fantastic for students majoring in any subject, not just English.

## Model UN

Imagine pretending to be a FIFA Organizer. Students who wish to try something new will love this club. It entails getting to know new people from all over the world. There are even people from the Philippines. If you are invited, you will have the opportunity to spend time at universities like Yale. Model UN helps people develop their public speaking abilities.

Also, this club develops leadership abilities. Every student who requests feedback receives it. Many assume that

Model UN solely focuses on global issues, such as climate change. However, they also have fantasy issues such as

"Welcome to the Good Place" and "Disney Board of Directors." It covers a variety of subjects that will appeal to all. Students get to travel and experience life away from home. Being by yourself can prepare you for college if you plan on going far away. It also promotes independ-

ence.

All things considered, this club is where you can develop your confidence-boosting abilities.

## Tiger Times

Since you're reading *Tiger Times*, I'm sure you all know what it is. People can voice their thoughts and opinions in this club. Dr. Popken, the club advisor, allows students to come up with their own writing topics. Students' writing abilities are enhanced as a result. Because it gives readers a chance to hear from their peers and learn about current events, it is also educational for them.

All high school grades are welcome to write for *Tiger Times*. Participating in the school newspaper demonstrates your level of involvement in the school community. There is no minimum GPA requirement of any kind at this club. It's inclusive.

Anyone who submits before the deadline is eligible to join this group.

Since they ensure that everything is appropriate, the senior editors add even more appeal to this club. Due to the benefits it offers, this club is among the top three. Every newspaper they publish will have something of interest for everyone to read.



# Top 5 Places to Go on a Free for Seniors

By Nicky Berganza and Maggie Cassidy

**DUNKIN' DONUTS** is a popular spot among several high school students. There is a Dunkin Donuts located six minutes away from North Salem High School, which makes it super convenient to stop and purchase a quick refreshment and be back on time for class. Dunkin Donuts is super affordable, with a medium-sized beverage and a donut is for only about \$5.

**Bobo's Cafe** is a popular cafe located in Somers, New York. This cafe offers a variety of different breakfast and lunch options. Popular menu items such as the Maui Wowie Smoothie, chai lattes, barbe-



que grilled cheese, and their infamous acai bowls, which you can customize to your liking. When asked about Bobo's cafe, Senior Sophia Aversano says, "The menu has so much variety, I feel I could go there anytime and get something to eat because their menu is so big." Senior Sam Yoel echoes this claim by describing her favorite go-to item, a chai latte as "So delicious, and so worth the money." Though Bobo's might be a bit of a drive, the food makes it worth it. It will hit the spot.



**Bagelman** is an institution that serves fresh-baked bagels, muffins, and croissants daily. Their menu extends from breakfast to lunch options. Senior Taylor Fogle asserts, "Bagelman is by far the best bagel store around. There are so many options for food." It is located in Danbury, Connecticut, only a fifteen-minute drive from school. Bagelman is known for its delicious sausage, egg, and cheese sandwiches, which are a hit among several high school students. Bagelman is an easy go-to stop if you're craving a delicious breakfast sandwich in the morning. They also serve freshly brewed coffee to

go along with the sandwich of your choice.

**Starbucks**, a popular multinational coffeehouse chain, is perfect spot for any senior looking for a pick-me-up drink. They offer various coffee options, as well as popular refreshers perfect for any day of the week. Starbucks offers seasonal beverages such as the pumpkin chai latte, which is a popular menu item that is only available till the beginning of November. They also offer various bakery goods that are perfect for any time of the day, such as their cake pops, which are a nice little snack to get your day started on the right foot.



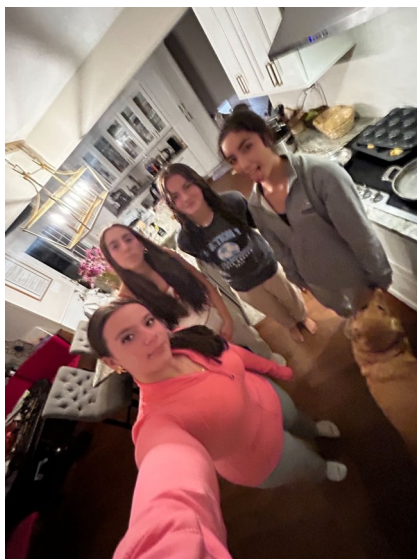
**Hayfields** is a locally owned and operated destination for the neighborhood and surrounding area of North Salem. They sell high-quality baked goods, small bites, and delicious coffee and smoothies. The food is homemade and fresh. Hayfields is less than a five-minute drive from school, which is perfect if you're looking for a quiet place to get some work done and get a quick bite to eat.

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## Recipe: Sadie's Birthday Cake

By Jolie Camaj, Jennifer Killeen, Sadie Matt, and Ally Maza

Today we gathered to celebrate Sadie's birthday by baking a cake. Together, we decided to use Pillsbury's Devil's Food Cake Mix, which has been a household staple since the company's founding in 1869. This easy-to-follow recipe allowed us to create a delicious and fluffy cake while making special memories with Sadie.



### Recipe:

#### Ingredients:

- 1 cup water
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 3 large eggs
- 1 box of Pillsbury Devil's Food Cake Mix
- Non-stick cooking spray or shortening
- A light dusting of flour (for the pan)
- Your favorite frosting (we used chocolate)

### Baking Instructions:

1. Prepare the oven and pan: Preheat your oven to 350°F. While the oven heats, grease the bottom of your cake pan with non-stick cooking spray or shortening to prevent the cake from sticking. After greasing, lightly dust the pan with flour. This ensures the cake will come out clean and intact.



2. Mix the ingredients: In a large mixing bowl, combine the Pillsbury devil's food cake mix, water, oil, and eggs. Use an electric mixer on medium speed to beat the mixture for about two minutes until it becomes smooth and free of lumps. Make sure to scrape down the sides of the bowl to mix all the ingredients evenly.

3. Pour the batter: Once the batter is fully mixed, carefully pour it into your prepared pan. The batter should settle evenly in the pan, so gently tap it on the counter to release any air bubbles.

4. Bake to perfection: Place the pan in the preheated oven and bake at 350°F. The baking time depends on the type of pan you're using:

- For a 9x13-inch pan: bake for 28-33 minutes
- For two 8-inch round pans: bake for 26-31 minutes
- For a bundt pan: bake for 38-43 minutes

To check if the cake is done, insert a toothpick into the center of the cake. If it comes out clean, the cake is fully baked.

5. Cool the cake: Once the cake is out of the oven, let it cool in the pan for 10-15 minutes. Afterward, remove it from the pan and allow it to cool completely on a wire rack. This step is crucial because frosting a warm cake can cause the frosting to melt and run. Once

the cake is cooled, add your frosting of choice!

As the cake came out of the oven, we were surprised by its soft texture, proving Pillsbury's recipes to be reliable. The brand has consistently provided easy and enjoyable baking experiences for over 150 years. According to Pillsbury's website, they offer a wide variety of dessert recipes designed to make baking accessible for everyone from the comfort of their homes. "I will definitely be looking into Pillsbury's recipes in the future," commented Ally. "We love using Pillsbury," says Jen. "Their recipes are straightforward, and it's fun to bake together."

Jen wasn't the only person who thought so. Our friend Jack Gioni and his brother Tony came over and tried the cake—a real judge. He concluded that the cake was of high quality. Since it was Sadie's birthday, her opinion was the most valuable. We gave her a slice and she loved it! "This was such a memorable experience, I love the cake. Thank you guys," she said with excitement.

Pillsbury's dedication to quality and simplicity made our day even more special. Not only did we enjoy a tasty treat, but we also created lasting memories as a group.



The views expressed on the editorial pages of Tiger Times are those of North Salem High School student writers. While we make every effort to ensure information is accurate, opinions are informed, and that authors are sensitive to the sensibilities and diversity of our audience, we also acknowledge that some of the issues they may confront are difficult and that opinions are varied.

Of course, we encourage a socially conscious student body, so we welcome submissions of counter arguments for subsequent issues from North Salem students eager to confront and explore the critical and complex problems and tensions that exist in our community, our nation, and the world at large.

## The Need for Global Law

By Samantha Tello

### Insight on Globalization

Globalization—a long-term transformation of innovation in the transfer that has made the experience of individuals accelerating—has existed for many years. The financial aspect is the examination of convincing individuals to be better tomorrow. Presently, we are all suffering.



### Global law and justice

The urgency of global law and justice has never been much required in an era of rapid globalization. With global warming reaching its peak, migration crises rising, terrorism, and human violations happening on a large scale across the globe, it's time we come up with global law and justice much needed to address these issues.

However, the means to do so are often fragmented, the concept necessitating

global governance.

### Evolution Of Global Legal Frameworks

The post-World War II conditions directly resulted in the growth of global law. The formation of the United Nations and its various bodies and intergovernmental organizations, along with the International Criminal Court are some of the developments that took place then. The objective of these institutions was to normalize state behavior as per the conventions set by them, and they could ensure proper trials of the ones that breach the laws. However, progress and efficiency have been intermittent, to say the least. Often, such organizations and courts find themselves helpless in the face of political realities, and powerful nations are unwilling to give away their supremacy.

As the 21st-century man battles global issues such as climate change, modes of global law should be developed. If we can't keep promises alive today, what kind of environment are we leaving behind for future generations is unimaginable?

Justice is as important as law, wher-

ever in the world we go. In global governance, justice is an important factor. The principle of justice assures that the crimes against humanity committed are not gone as if it never happened, and it ensures that the nations are keeping commitments to treaties. However, in-count cases, the current scenario shows that there has been a hegemony of populism and nationalism. These are forms of government where the state won't necessarily follow through with its responsibilities.

The injustices that have been perpetuated by globalization like the exploitation of labor, the destruction of the environment, and the robbery of resources. These types of inequality call for a justice-oriented approach like a commitment to global law and Justice by all countries. The issues the United Nations has started working for, as well as the people affected by globalization. The United Nations has likewise attempted to shape the goal in an economically sound manner.

Global law and Justice are not only concepts, these are the necessities for the development of humanity. An interconnected world like our own calls for leaders, not just heads of state at any rate, but civil society to use their gathering's capacity to push changes to guarantee that we really fill our need for reality.

## Welcome to Earth, J.D. Vance VP even more dangerous than Pres-Elect Trump

By Ana Brewster

What weird planet he came from and why he could be one of the largest incentives for voting blue this November

When one watches J.D. Vance's disastrous attempt at pretending he knows what to do in a donut shop, they may be left with the same question that many had posed towards Meta billionaire Mark Zuckerberg circa 2016: whose skin is he wearing?



For those who need context, this is the general sequence of the video: J.D. Vance stands in a donut shop awkwardly; he looks around awkwardly; he tells one of the employees, "I'm running for vice president," and the employee says, "Okay." They ask him what he wants; he replies, "A lot of glaze [...] cinnamon rolls, yeah, whatever makes sense." Vance then goes on to ask two employees how long they've worked at the store; to their replies, he says, "Okay" and "Okay. Good," respectively. It's horrifying. I recommend you watch it for full effect.

### Home Planet

However, J.D. Vance's connection to Mark Zuckerberg runs deeper than reptilian suspicions. In fact, J.D. Vance has spent much of his political career enmeshed in the world of tech billionaires. According to NPR, Vance became a "protégé" of PayPal co-founder Peter Thiel during his time as a venture capitalist in San Francisco. Thiel, who is

currently funding the campaigns of various Trump-aligned congressmen, also powered Vance's run for senate with a \$15 million donation.

Other (but not all) billionaires Vance has floated between include former tech executive David Sacks, a vocal supporter of fellow extraterrestrial Elon Musk and a "pro-Putin crusader," as per American magazine *The New Republic*; Richard Kurtz, a real estate developer; and Oculus VR's Palmer Luckey, who uses X to call Donald Trump "DJT," as if they're on a football team together. Let's return to Peter Thiel, Vance's somewhat mentor. As it turns out, there is a man who influences them both. Their Supreme Leader—and he's a blogger with a software start-up. Curtis Yarvin is a terrifying man of around fifty who looks kind of like he stepped out of an

Adult Swim cartoon and similarly espouses ideology fitting for a cartoon villain. In 2008, Yarvin proposed that our "unproductive" citizens be converted into "biodiesel," as in, murdered. Later, he would claim that he was "kidding," yet double down in the same breath, calling this plan and his goal a "humane alternative to genocide."

Yarvin and Vance both believe in arbitrarily firing thousands of government employees in order to shape the system to their liking. Vance stated both this and that he believes the current life and culture of America needs to be "rip[ped] out like a tumor" on the podcast "Jack Murphy Live." Yarvin is quoted in 2012 telling an audience that Americans "have to get over their dictator phobia" if they want change in their government. He has been an influence throughout Vance's short political career, and Vance continues to carry Yarvin's ideology with him.

### Vance as Vice President: What Makes This Dangerous

Curtis Yarvin may have influence, but (fortunately) he does not have the power to execute his ridiculous ideas. Vance is now in the position to gain that power. I want to lay out very clearly what it means now that Vance has become Vice President since Donald Trump won the 2024 presidential election. J.D. Vance is a political chameleon who, despite his Rust Belt working class roots (as touched on in his novel *Hillbilly Elegy*) and his generally smooth-talking exterior, actually worships a man who read George Orwell's *1984* like an instruction manual (I am being completely serious—look up *Patchwork: A Political System for the 21st Century* by "Mencius Moldbug"). Combine this with a totally receptive Donald Trump, who has recently stated that he would use the military against his political opponents, and we may just see these almost comically evil plans (in *Patchwork*, Yarvin envisions San Francisco being ruled by a corporation called Friscorp, who reserves the right even to mutilate its residents) come to fruition. They would upend America as a whole.

Additionally, because Trump is, frankly, old, something that is becoming more apparent in every one of his rambling speeches (Arnold Palmer?), as well as the subject of many an assassination attempt, it is entirely possible that his role would be left to the Vice President, which is literally J.D. Vance. Considering his background, I believe this could somehow be even worse than DJT himself.

### One Last Alien Joke

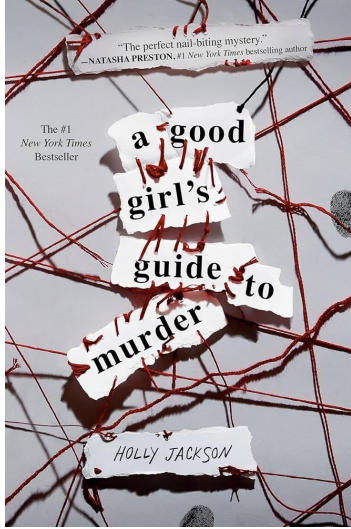
Immigration is, as we know, one of Trump's winning issues: he loves to scare voters into believing undocumented immigrants are the cause of all their struggles and that they are ruining our country. Unfortunately, the only alien I can see ruining this country is our Vice President-Elect.

## Book Review: A Good Girl's Guide to Murder

By Sophia Aqeel

With the turning seasons comes a page turner by Holly Jackson. *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder* is the first installment of a completed murder mystery trilogy.

Fall is the season of mystery, and there is nothing more mysterious than the unsolved disappearance of Andie Bell, the main focus of the story. Holly Jackson is on point with nailing the vibes and aesthetics that the fall season brings. Like many seniors here in North Salem, Pip, the main character, has to do a big project on something wrong in her community, Fairview, Connecticut. Pip chooses to investigate the murder of Andie Bell, the most popular student who was murdered by her boyfriend Sal Singh five years earlier. Teaming up with Sal Singh's brother, Ravi, they attempt to un-



cover the secrets that lie in their quaint town. However, as Pip becomes closer to the truth, dark secrets start to emerge that threaten her entire reality. It is clear that something more sinister lies in Fairview, Connecticut.

This book was such an easy read. It delves into themes of perseverance in the face of failure, loyalty, and the

line between past and present with an undertone of teen romance. I easily gave it five stars as it was, without a doubt, one of the best mystery books I have read. There are so many twists and turns this book takes you on that you can't even trust yourself anymore. I felt as though the book did not drag at any parts and was always fast-paced without getting boring.

Also, the formatting of this book was really unique. Some chapters were normal, while others were interviews with other characters and diary entries. I feel like this really allowed me to become more invested in the plot because it felt as though I was within the story and it made

for some shorter chapters. I genuinely read and finished the book in two sittings because I couldn't put it down.

*A Good Girl's Guide to Murder* is meant for any reader that is looking for suspense and mystery. It is also great for anyone looking to get into reading who just needs a book to ease into it. However, there are more serious topics that are mentioned, so tread with caution. With it being the start

of a trilogy, you will need to find a little commitment to stick with it to the end. I personally haven't read the rest of the series at this moment so I can't attest to their quality. If you finish the book and need more, there is a show based off the book out right now on Netflix (I thought the show did not do the book justice though). These are the perfect pairings to fill your afternoons if you have nothing else to do.

To truly convey how great this book was, let's look how long it has been on the *New York Times* Best Seller List: 157 weeks. Receiving multiple awards such as the Goodreads Choice Award Nominee in 2020 and British Book Awards Children's Book of the Year in 2020 as well, *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder* has gotten raving reviews from the start for a reason. If you pick this book up, it will not be put down.



Author Holly Jackson

## Music Review: Supercharged

By Dean Ellicott

On October 11, 2024, world-famous punk rock band The Offspring released their newest studio album, *Supercharged*. *Supercharged* replaces its predecessor, *Let the Bad Times Roll*, which was released on April 16, 2021, and had 14 tracks and a total run time of 40 minutes. The Offspring had released 10 studio albums before *Supercharged*, and it still fits with their fast-paced, loud style from when they evolved from a slower place in 1987.

Formed in a garage in Garden Grove, California, in 1984, originally as Manic Subsidal. The Offspring originally consisted of Dexter Holland, Gregory Kriesel, and James Lilja; James left before the band became mainstream, and Kevin "Noodles" Wasserman, who is still with the band, was asked by Holland to join. The Offspring have gone through some lineup changes but are still fronted by Holland with his unique and iconic voice as he



speeds through the fast-paced tempo of their tracks.

The first track for this album was "Make It All Right," and it was released four months before the album on June 7, 2024. *Supercharged* consists of 10 tracks and has a run time of 32 minutes. The track list in order on the album is

"Looking Out For #1," "Light It Up," "The Fall Guy," "Make It All Right," "Ok, But This Is The Last Time," "Truth in Fiction," "Come To Brazil," "Get Some," "Hanging By A Thread," and "You Can't Get There From Here." The longest track is "You Can't Get There From Here" at 3:55, and the shortest track is "Truth in Fiction" at 2:01. However, this does not take away from it being a good listen even with

that short of a time.

In terms of being as great as their prime in the 90s and 2000s, this album is not on the same level as albums such as *Smash* and *Ixnay On The Hombre*, as

these are two of the most liked albums ever released by The Offspring. Of all of the albums, I would not rank it as the worst, but not as the best, as it is more in the middle of the road on the rankings for myself.

The three tracks I like the most would be "Come To Brazil," as it has a more rock sound than punk, and the last 35 seconds

is Olé, so it sounds like a crowd is cheering. "Light It Up" is very fast-paced like most of their tracks, so it has a familiar feeling that I enjoy hearing, and it feels like the energy from *Dexter* is being sent to you through the lyrics. The third track I like



is "You Can't Get There From Here" because it starts tamer with the riffs and drums but starts building as the song goes on and is on the calmer side of The Offspring. If someone was starting out listening to The Offspring, I would give them *Supercharged* as the newer album to listen to but give them *Smash* to listen to some of their older work.

Overall, *Supercharged* is a fine album, and I like punk rock like The Offspring, so this is a refreshing thing to see in terms of the genre, as not many people listen to this genre unless they are die-hard punk rock enjoyers, they follow a few bands, or they have one band that they stick to. Bands that many know because of how famous they are include The Offspring, Ramones, Sex Pistols, Green Day, The Clash, Dead Kennedys, Bad Brains, Bad Religion, and many others. Some bands that fly under people's radars are The Adicts, Rancid, Discharge, in my opinion, Suicidal Tendencies, and many more as well. I enjoy the punk-rock genre, and as mentioned, *Supercharged* was something nice to sink my teeth into and a nice addition to someone's collection of punk-rock albums.

# Concert Review: Lana Del Rey At Fenway

By Sean Canellos

Boston's Fenway Park is famous for various reasons, but now it can add another memorable event to its scoreboard. On June 20th, 2024, Lana Del Rey arrived in the heart of Boston for one night only to play to a sold-out crowd at Fenway Stadium. While the night took a few unexpected turns, it was "One Very Special Show" that will be fondly remembered by all who attended.

The lines formed early in the sweltering heat while eager fans attempted to find shade from the sun. As everyone settled in, the sunset on the "Green Monster" and anticipation grew exponentially.

Around 8 p.m., a dark sky suddenly began to overtake Boston, and lightning was seen in the distance. Shortly thereafter, a dreaded announcement came over the loudspeaker, informing the guests to seek immediate shelter. Suddenly, thousands of people hurried into the humid hallways of Fenway. The concert was de-

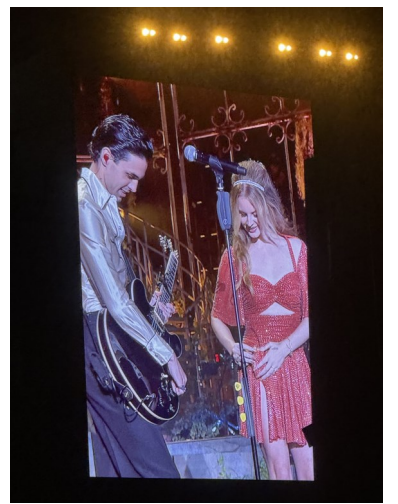


played, and now everyone was left with uncertainty, Fenway has a very small interior. Because of this, having nearly 40,000 people crammed into the small space was challenging. The stadium was incredibly hot, and anywhere you stood, there was a person in front of you, behind you, and on either side of you. Several people fainted. Despite these circumstances, fans were determined to make this night one they would never forget and began to sing her songs together.

After hours of waiting and hoping, Lana posted on her Instagram story and asked her fans to vote. She offered to either play a one-hour show that night after the storm or re-schedule the show for a few days later for a two-hour show. Word spread fast while fans feverishly voted. While it was close, most fans voted for Lana to play that night. Thirty minutes later, when the storm had passed, another announcement brought the fans back out to the stadium, fresh air and Lana Del Rey.

Lana played fifteen songs, including hits such as "Summertime Sadness," "Video Games," and also a fan favorite, "Pretty

When You Cry." What made this night even more special were the amazing guests she brought to perform with her. First, she brought out Mason Ramsey, who became well known on social media after yodeling in a Walmart and now creates more serious, quality music. Together, they sang his biggest song, "Blue Over You." Following this, Lana performed with Stephen Sanchez and sang a duet of his massive hit, "Until I Found You." Before Lana closed the show with "Video Games," she



brought out the third special guest, Quavo, and together they sang their new, unreleased (at the time) song, "Tough." Perhaps the most special moment was the crowd singing Happy Birthday to Lana at the strike of midnight.

Seeing Lana Del Rey live for the first time was undoubtedly a wave of emotions because she has been one of my favorite artists for many years. While the concert did not go as planned, it was a show I will never forget, and I will always cherish the experience of seeing one of the most stand-out artists of our generation.



# TV Show Review: Gilmore Girls

By Kylie Dell and Zoe Elias

*Gilmore Girls* is arguably one of the most classic fall TV shows. Originally aired on the WB starting in 2000, *Gilmore Girls* quickly became a well-liked dramedy. Starring Alexis Bledel and Lauren Graham, the series follows the lives of a single mom, Lorelai, and her daughter, Rory. What makes the storyline interesting is that Lorelai got pregnant at sixteen and moved out of her wealthy parents' house to live in the small town of Stars Hollow. At the ages of 32 and 16, Lorelai and Rory can easily relate to each other and are best friends and mother and daughter. It is seen as a fall show by many because the show centers around Rory's school year, which begins in the fall. Also, the characters are known for always having a hot cup of coffee and wearing sweaters and jackets. Stars Hollow is huge on seasonal decorations, so there are always pumpkins, wreaths, and string lights around



town. The show starts with Lorelai walking into one of the show's most famous backgrounds, Luke's Diner. She asks Luke for a cup of coffee, and later in the scene, Rory also asks Luke for a cup of coffee, setting the dynamic for their relationship. In the beginning seasons of the show, we meet many characters who are there to create comedic relief and set the path of the main characters' stories. These characters include Rory's love interests, Dean, Tristan, Jess, Rory's best friend Lane, neighbor Kurk, and many more. In the beginning seasons, Rory gets into the private high school Chilton, and Lorelai couldn't pay for it, so she asked her parents to help. Lorelai and her parents' relationship had been strained

since she got pregnant and left home. So when she goes to her parents and asks them to help pay for Rory's private school, they agree under one circumstance, family dinners every Friday night. During family dinners, Lorelai's messy love life and Rory's struggle with the expect-

ations of others are unmasked, while dealing with her love life going from her first boyfriend Dean, to the bad boy everyone advises her against, Jess. The later seasons cover Rory's college life and Lorelai's new business ventures. Rory decides to go to the Ivy League, Yale and initially struggles with the new environment. While in college, she pursues journalism and meets her third serious love interest, Logan. Lorelai had been working at a local inn but decided to open one of her own. It takes a lot of hard work and sacrifice. But she is finally able to be independently successful even though she couldn't take college courses until her thirties because of her young pregnancy. By the end of this show, the audience has a deep understanding and connection to each character. Familiarity brings so many people to re-watch this show every fall. This show had a major impact on pop culture, inspiring many styles and TV shows after the series aired.



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# NSHS Theatre: North Salem Drama Introduces CLUE

By Veronica Benvenuto

You heard it here! This year's fall production will be *CLUE!* The North Salem High School Drama Club is excited to announce this as their play this year. Mrs. Molloy has been working hard to make sure everything is up to par for the cast's big performance. Come see the big play on November 21st, November 22nd at, or on November 23rd.

For those who aren't familiar, *CLUE* is a comedy murder mystery based on the original board game. Six victims of blackmail are invited to Boddy Manor by an anonymous host who offers to address their blackmail situation. Upon arrival to Boddy Manor, each guest is introduced



with their pseudonym based on a color and is to participate in the dinner party. Following dinner, the guests meet their blackmailer, Mr. Boddy, as he presents each of them with deadly weapons. Shortly after, the lights flicker and their blackmailer is dead! Who killed Mr. Boddy? That is the question our guests Ms. Scarlett, Mrs. White, Colonel Mustard, Mr. Green, Mrs. Peacock, and Professor Plum wish to answer. Will they find the killer? Watch the play to find out!



**NOVEMBER 21, 22, 23**

line delivery. By this point in time, the cast is completely off book and has memorized all their lines for the big show. Thank you to the cast for their hard work and dedication to the production.

The stage crew is working diligently to create the perfect set for the play. Most of the significant pieces, such as the dining table, doors, and fireplace. Some furniture, such as the couches were donated by North Salem families. Thank you to those who helped make this production possible.

Of course no one can forget North Salem's light and sound crew! Big thanks to Matthew Graham and Matt Lehr for working on the lighting ques, and for Evan Dibart for his work on sound ques for the play along with Kyle Li.

Big thanks to Mrs. Molloy for directing all of these amazing individuals, the play would not have been possible without her.

Progress is smooth sailing for the production of *CLUE*. Everyone involved is doing their best to help make the play a success. The cast, the crew and many others have come together to work on the play in its entirety.

The cast is rehearsing everyday after school to perfect their scenes and

# Favorite Fall Fashions!

North Salem's guide to style

By Juliet Varga

As the days grow chilly and the leaves change color, many of us will begin to put away our shorts and various summer staples and reach into our closets for something cozier. Fall is one of the most stylish seasons of the year and inspired by the change in seasons, many students will start to wear their favorite fall sweaters, jeans, and fuzzy boots.

When asked what they saw as the most popular fashion trends for the fall season, North Salem High School students had a variety of responses. The top trends for Fall 2024 are:

**Darker, richer colors.** Perhaps inspired by the fall foliage, many students predicted that this fall would be all about darker, richer colors like burgundies, maroons, oranges, and dark browns. These colors are easy to mix and match with neutrals like dark denim or cream. Dark red nails were also mentioned as a popular fall trend.

**Darker makeup.** As the cold air flushes our cheeks, many students will opt for a darker,



more dramatic blush color. Freshman Kate Bevan predicted that "darker blushes like mauve" would be in for fall. And, to match the darker and more intense colors, many will wear darker eye makeup such as eyeliner or mascara.

**Gold jewelry.** Tying into the darker, richer colors of autumn clothing and makeup, gold jewelry will also be in this season. The gold adds a much-needed warmth to the whole outfit. According to freshman Jackie Moore, one of the most popular accessories for the fall is small gold hoops.



**Uggs!** Uggs, a beloved cold-weather classic for years, will again be seen all over North Salem High School this season. Freshman Shailey Ray said, "Uggs are always in for fall." The most popular kind of Uggs seen around school is the Mini Ugg boots. They are warm and cozy for fall and also convenient to wear anywhere.



**Off-the-shoulder tops.** Another item mentioned as a fall trend was the off-the-shoulder top. Whether on a soft sweater or cozy sweatshirt, the off-the-shoulder neckline adds a bit of fun to an other-



wise basic style. They can be paired with a nice pair of jeans for a dressier look.

**Open-leg sweatpants.** I guess comfort never goes out of style. With students balancing school work, athletics, clubs, work, etc., many are in the mood for a more relaxed vibe. This season, many will opt for a more open-leg style of sweatpants as a change from the basic sweatpant silhouette.



**Adidas shoes.** Gazelles! Campuses! Sambas! All of these Adidas styles of footwear are beloved by high school students everywhere. Pairing any outfit with these shoes adds a new life to the look, whether casual or formal. According to sophomore Leah Malvino, the Adidas Campuses and Sambas are some of the best shoes for the fall.



Now, you can incorporate these top styles for fall 2024 into your fashion repertoire, making them your by adding your own special touches to these styles. Happy fall!

# Girls Varsity Soccer

## Their quest to States

By Ashley Cindrach and Noemi Torres

“Together on 3” is what the North Salem varsity girls soccer team exclaims before and after each game, reminding each other that they are one family both on and off the field. This was something the Tigers had to remember well throughout the season, as they have had a difficult year, being forced to play multiple AAA schools and losing 9 very important seniors this past year, including their top scorer and captain, Cassie Pelosi. However, they still had a successful season, including wins over Westlake, Scarsdale B, and Roy C Ketcham.

Sign up numbers were quite low yet again this year, which led to a big question for coaches Bob Martin and Andy Pelosi: does it make sense to have a JV team this year? They decided that “having a JV team is good for the program and keeps the tryout process competitive.” However, that idea quickly dwindled after both the Varsity and JV programs were forced to battle many injuries from a variety of starters, removing some of their key players. After homecoming, the coaches decided to bring the two teams together, forming one Varsity team in order to try to keep all the athletes healthy for sectionals and provide the most competitive atmosphere possible. This created a very young team for the Tigers, including lots of freshmen and sophomores.

This year’s captains—Samantha Yoel, Nicky Berganza, and Taylor Fogle—remained very optimistic about their hopes for this year



regardless of the big shift in the team dynamic mid-year. When Nicky was asked about her hopes going into sectionals this year, she exclaimed that she wanted to “go as far as we can, for as long as we can,” as well as wanting to make her last season “a memorable one” and “make every moment count.” This seems to be a vital idea the whole team shared, as Sam Yoel had a nearly identical answer when reflecting on the team this year, also stating that the team has “always been hard working and supportive of each other.” The captains did an amazing job at keeping their fellow team members in each game and lifting them up, which is just what they needed with this roller-coaster of a season.



Chris Smajlaj Photography

Despite the now very diverse and young team, their strength was evident during a big week, taking on two big league opponents, Croton Harmon and Putnam Valley. Croton Harmon was the girls’ Dig Pink game, which made it one of the biggest and most anticipated games of the year, as well as the fact they had already played Croton and tensions were extremely high coming off a tie the first time they played them. The Tigers were hoping and ready to secure a win. In their two very competitive games, they acted as one unit and played full, complete soccer in order to defeat Croton Harmon 2-1 and to tie

Putnam Valley 1-1, continuing their tradition of being at the top of Class C going into sectionals.

Congrats girls on a great season!

## Word Search

### TEACHERS IN NORTH SALEM

By: Emma Wallace, Francesca Tornambe, Nyah Cuascut, Grace Barbarossa

P	E	R	R	E	A	U	L	T	G	D	O	R	E	G	A	N	L	G	M
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Perreault  
Johnson  
Orellana  
Willis

Regan  
Collea  
Valenti  
Birdsall

Bores  
Hendrie  
DiGrandi  
Vara

Fiore  
Popken  
Murphy  
DeMorris

## Homecoming

*Cont. from page 1*

There were many teams this year— the Senior Citizens, Skittle Team, Blue Team, Fullest House, and more. Ultimately, the Blue Team came out on top, and the Senior Citizens won best costume.

The dodgeball tournament was a preview to the games later that night. Varsity volleyball pulled through with the win, as well as varsity



field hockey. The following Saturday was the girls and boys soccer games. The girls tied their game after a tough fight, while the boys won their exciting game. The varsity girls soccer team gave the varsity boys homemade posters to recognize and celebrate each individual player after working hard in their games. This tradition has gone on for many years. The stands were filled with students, teachers, and families, all cheering loudly for North Salem. The sound of students cheering and chanting could be heard from far away. Everyone

was proud to support their teams, and it was a weekend filled with excitement, fun, and school pride.

Homecoming week had brought the whole school together to celebrate this one exciting weekend and show off our school



## Homeroom

*Continued from page 1*

Homeroom was also a convenient time for students to get breakfast. Now, kids are forced to pick it up when they arrive at school. Freshman Matthew Leher says, “[Homeroom] gives you time to get breakfast. Now when I get off the bus I’m late to class from getting breakfast.” This is a problem because some students rely on school breakfast, and homeroom was when kids were able to get it. Without homeroom, kids are late to class just because they just want something to eat in the morning.

Clubs were also run during homeroom. Junior Cailin Maloney reflects, “For student council [homeroom was] how we’d meet and now it’s super hard to coordinate

events.” Now that homeroom is gone, student council meetings are held after school. Unfortunately, not everyone can stay after due to other commitments and such. This makes it extremely difficult to plan events or activities.

Homeroom was also just a nice break. “I want homeroom back. Homeroom was a nice break in between my first and second period to talk to the friends I didn’t really get to see,” Sophia Aqeel notes. Homeroom was a nice way to ease into the day and get your head in the school mindset. Sophomore Leah Malvino agrees: “I want [homeroom] back, if I forgot to do homework then I can just do it then.” Homeroom was a good time to do work you forgot or missed, and if you were absent the day before, homeroom could be your time to check in with teachers and get work you

missed.

While all of these things are benefits of homeroom, some students agree with Mr. DiGrandi in the belief that homeroom was not beneficial harder. Lucas Pierra, a freshman, said “It’s good not having [homeroom]” Lucas thought homeroom wasn’t useful. Although for some students homeroom just seemed like an annoying block of time or a waste, there were many things that happened during homeroom that were important.

Consensus among many students is that homeroom should be part of the schedule again because it provided a window for students to eat, check in with friends, Gmail, Google Classroom, and generally take a breath to prepare for the day.

## Middle School to High School Transition

*Cont. from page 2*

The transition from middle school to high school can be difficult, but the teachers and counselors are very helpful in making it smoother. 9th grade students are offered a class called Freshman Seminar where they are taught critical and creative thinking skills, as well as soft skills like time

management and organization. Freshman Seminar is a great outlet for kids to learn these skills that are necessary for high school. The guidance counselors are also a great resource in making the transition smoother. They are there to help students with a variety of academic, personal, and social needs. Ms. Smith is the guidance counselor for both 8th and 9th grade, which is a great thing. During 8th grade, Ms. Smith creates a bond with each student, which enables her to know how to help students succeed before high school even begins.

Even though high school is much more challenging than middle school, the skills learned in high school will be used throughout life. High school is a big step, but it is an important learning and social experience that gives students the opportunity to make mistakes and make new connections, all while having fun. While challenging and stressful at times, there are many resources in place to help the transition be as successful and smooth as possible. Be sure to take advantage of these supports and try to enjoy the experience.

## Painted Parking Spot Privilege!

*Cont. from page 2*

2025 took the “make the spot your own” concept very seriously. The senior parking lot has been transformed into a light-hearted and playful place to drive through, with a great variety of creative painted parking spots on display! No two parking spots are the same (with the exception of the four unfinished red rectangles in a row, which the seniors are still eagerly waiting for to display the intended de-



sign of a massive four-spot large flag)!

A few of the stand-out spots in the parking lot are Makena Cooney’s, with her painting of “Cheburashka,” Chloe Matt’s, with olives on a stick, and Avery Schoenberg’s aesthetic sun portrait. Isabel DeMasi’s parking spot is a great highlight as well, with her colorful sunset design, which she decorated with the painted hand prints of her and her friends as a cute personalization of her spot that she made special to her!

Of the many last year of high school traditions, decorating the school parking lot to have a painted, personalized place to



park is a long awaited senior privilege that is, without a doubt, the best of the best. The spots painted by each senior represent the unique roads in life that each individual will drive on, full speed ahead, once they reach the end of this road, of senior year.

### Want to write for the paper?

Speak to the faculty advisor, Dr. Popken, or editors Veronica Benvenuto, Ana Brewster, Maggie Cassidy, and Samantha Maza for information on meeting dates. New members are always welcome!

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